

**International
Co-operative
Alliance**
Asia and Pacific

Annual Activities Report



**INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE
ASIA AND PACIFIC**



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ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2015

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YEAR END REPORT

Dear members,

It gives us great pleasure to present the International Co-operative Alliance Asia and Pacific 2015 Annual Activities Report.

The year saw a devastating earthquake strike Nepal in April affecting thousands of our co-operative members. The response from the apex organizations in Nepal and from the region to aid the victims was immediate and spontaneous. We collected close to \$500,000 dollars through the ICA earthquake relief fund and there was direct assistance provided in cash and kind from IFFCO, India and the JA Group, Japan. It was very emotional to hear Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal recount the tragedy during the board meeting in Antalya and his gratitude for the support received from members in the Asia Pacific region and beyond. We would like to recognize the contributions made by ACFSMC, China; Angkasa, Malaysia; BCCM and Capricorn, Australia; CLT, Thailand; JA-Zenchu, JCCU, JJC, and Zenrosai, Japan; Midland Co-operatives, UK; NACF, Korea; SNCF, Singapore; and VICTO, Philippines.

There were two important Regional Consultations held in Jakarta in October and Kathmandu in December. The consultations covered the role of co-operatives in countering the adverse impacts of urbanization (in formalization, migration from rural areas); addressing regional and global issues, namely, trade, finance, and people within the context of Sustainable Development Goals; and promoting legislative and regulatory environment to facilitate co-operative development. Among the recommendations put forth were the need for cluster approach to mitigate migration from rural to urban areas; skill development undertaken in a manner that results in the actual establishment and development of sound co-operatives; and provision of "start-up funds", not "subsidies" to stimulate and generate members' contributions to the development of co-operatives.

For the first time, an ICA-AP event was held in Ramallah, Palestine with the support of our member the Economic Social Development Center of Palestine. The workshop to promote women in business showed that despite adversities, women are engaging in co-operatives and seeking new opportunities. We released the Resource Guide for Advanced Training of Co-operatives on Entrepreneurship Development of Women and Gender Equality, developed under the aegis of the ICA-AP Committee on Women at two events: at the 59th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York and the Alliance Global Board Meeting in Singapore.

During the year we organized a two-day Round Table Dialogue on the role of co-operative banks and social finance institutions in promoting and financing social initiatives and social and solidarity enterprises with the Mont-Blanc Meeting's International Forum.

The Malaysia Business Office undertook workshops and seminars in the areas of co-operative-to-co-operative trade, e-commerce, fair trade, and halal certification. At the Annual Research conference in Pune, India more than 30 papers were presented by researchers from Australia, India, Korea, Malaysia and Philippines. The financial support of our members from China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand ensured that we were able to carry out trainings and workshops in agriculture, business development, ecommerce, consumer, trade, women and youth. We are thankful to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan for their continued support in the development of co-operatives in the region. We would also like to recognize the support received from DGRV, European Union, the International Labor Organization, and We Effect.

The number of members increased from 82 (from 26 countries) in 2014 to 89 (from 29 countries) in 2015. We welcomed the following new members: Supervision and Coordination Central Union of Rural and Agriculture Co-operatives, Iran; Maldives Fisherman's Association, Republic of Maldives; Office of Co-operative Societies, Papua New Guinea; Federation of peoples' Sustainable Development Coop, Philippines; Philippine Co-operative Center, Philippines; Co-operatives and Business Development services, Vanuatu; and Vietnam National Industrial, Handicraft and Commercial, Vietnam. We regret the move of Israel from the Asia Pacific to the Europe region.

In order to improve communication, the Regional Office started a monthly e-newsletter from September. The e-newsletter captures activities carried out during the month, upcoming activities and also features news from members.

This year also we are highlighting voices from our youth members and participants from workshops and trainings. Ms. Nguyen Thi Mai, from National Economic-Technical College (NETC), Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA) talks about the profound impact the Japanese work style and life style has had on her personally and professionally, while Mr. Kamaalannathan Kulanthavelu from National Land Finance Co-operative Society Limited (NLFCS), Malaysia mentions how he has started putting into practice the action plan he developed. Ms. Jacqueline Mtongolo of Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Co-operatives Limited (KUSCCO), Kenya a participant at the Palestine workshop highlights the critical need to document success stories for all women co-operatives to ensure we are able to monitor their growth and measure the impact of interventions. Ahsan Ali Thakur, Youth Representative, Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union, Pakistan narrates how being engaged with co-operatives has helped in his growth and development while the youngest member of the Youth Committee, Ngawang Gyeltshen, writes about the birth of Bhutan's first Social Co-operative following the seminar on "Youth Cooperation for young, by the young" organized in January. It is heartening to hear about the successes and the impact our trainings and capacity building efforts are having. We would like to thank the board and staff for their dedicated work during the year. We thank you for your active support and wholehearted participation!

Li Chunsheng
PRESIDENT

Balu Iyer
REGIONAL DIRECTOR



Solidarity with Nepal Co-operatives

A devastating magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Nepal on the morning of April 25. Following the big one, there were more than 49 aftershocks that measured over 4 on the Richter scale (two over 7, two over 6, 16 over 5, and 29 over 4; anything below 4, which were in the hundreds, were not reported). The earthquake, known as the Gorkha earthquake, killed more than 8,800 people and injured more than 23,000. Hundreds of thousands of people became homeless with entire villages flattened across the 14 affected districts. Co-operatives were badly affected with around 1,000 losing their lives and over 1,500 getting injured.

Within an hour of the quake hitting, the National Co-operative Federation, Nepal (NCF/N), put out an appeal to all its members for help. The National Agricultural Co-operative Central Federation (NACCFL) through the support of its members provided relief packets, medicines, and rescued people out of debris/ rubble from 85 villages.

The Alliance launched an immediate appeal to assist in relief and to rebuild co-operatives in Nepal. The assistance raised by Alliance members for Nepal earthquake totaled close to \$1 million dollars. This included in-kind assistance of \$250,000 from IFFCO, and monetary contribution of \$363,000 from JA-Zenchu group, \$183,000 from U.K. Co-operatives, and the rest from members in Australia, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Korea, Philippines, and Singapore.

There were two tranches released to NCF/N and the NACCFL. NCF/N provided soft-loan and grants to co-operatives/unions to improve livelihood and improve infrastructure.

The soft-loan of USD 70,000 was provided to 7 primary co-operatives/unions in dire need as well as to the co-operative based portal after the assessment. The grant of USD 30,000 was provided to 10 co-operatives to repair chilling vat, collection centres, processing centres, cold stores, service centres, co-operative building etc. The main objective of NACCFL is to support agricultural co-operative members in Dolakha, Sindhupal



View of the sites affected by Nepal quake



chowk and Kathmandu districts. The assistance was used to support income generating activities, provide vegetable seeds and seedlings for horticulture, and construction of a warehouse. Priority was given to single women, disadvantaged groups and those highly dependent on agriculture.

IFFCO aids in Nepal earthquake relief work

Within hours of the tragedy, Dr. U.S. Awasthi, Managing Director IFFCO and Mr. Aditya Yadav, Director ICA (Global Board) and IFFCO Board were on the phone with Mr. Keshav Chandra Badal, Chairman of NCF/N to see how they could respond. Based on NCF/N's urgent appeal, IFFCO sent some 10,000 packets of relief materials as an immediate response. The packets meant for one family had enough provisions (polythene sheet, mat, blanket, dhoti, saree, rice, pulses, sugar, salt, roasted gram, turmeric powder, tea, milk powder, pickle, matchbox, candle) to meet a week's requirement. The packets were packed in one of IFFCO's facility in India and transported in trucks across the border. NCF/N adopted very effective guidelines for distribution. Even before the relief material reached them, they had conducted block level meeting of co-operators and representatives and identified the most affected area and needy people. Days before the distribution of relief material, coupons were distributed to the identified people which was collected during the distribution. In most of the cases, the materials were distributed through the District Co-operative Union and District Administration Office and Central Disaster Relief Committee. In order to ensure safe passage of the relief material, the trucks were escorted by the armed forces and paramilitary forces from the border of Nepal to the distribution centres.

Being a farmer's organization IFFCO also took the initiative to help the affected farmers by providing 10,000 packets of vegetable seeds containing 10 packets of different vegetables in each; 4,500 packets of water soluble fertilizer and 200 sprayers to spray water soluble fertilizer and other chemicals.



Mr. Aditya Yadav, ICA Global Board Member and Staff of IFFCO flagging the Relief Convoy

Japanese Cooperative rally to support in rehabilitation of earthquake affected cooperatives in Nepal

The Japanese Cooperative Movement rallied as one to come to the aid of cooperatives in Nepal. In a span of three months, members of the Japanese Cooperative Movement were able to raise \$420,000 to support relief and reconstruction efforts.

A team of JA Zenchu officials led by Vice President, Mr. Toshi Yuki Morinaga visited Nepal on 23-24 November 2015. The purpose was to express their solidarity with co-operators in Nepal, share in the grief and loss, and hand over the contribution raised to the NCF/N and NACCFL, both members of ICA.



Mr. Toshi Yuki Morinaga and the Japanese Delegation with Nepalese Co-operators.

On the morning of the day of their arrival, the team visited areas around Kathmandu city to get a sense of damage caused by the earthquake. In a brief ceremony organised at NCF, Mr. Morinaga handed over a cheque of \$ 242,000 to the Chairperson of NCF. In the first phase, NCF will provide grants of \$ 8,000 to selected cooperatives in 14 districts to support reconstruction of warehouses, purchase of machinery, and aid in livelihood improvement. In the second phase, soft loans will be provided to cooperatives in these districts.

On the second day, the team visited Jeevanpur Small Farmer's Agricultural Cooperative Limited in Dhading. Later in the day, Mr. Morinaga handed over a cheque of \$ 121,000 to the Chairperson of NACCFL. The fund will be used for the construction of warehouses, reconstruction of irrigation infrastructure, and to support agricultural based income generating activities.

The Nepalese Cooperative Movement and ICA express their deep felt gratitude for the generous support provided by the Japanese Cooperative Movement.

EARTHQUAKE RELIEF IN THE NEWS

Co-operatives launch appeals to aid earthquake victims in Nepal

<http://www.thenews.coop/94854/news/co-operatives/co-operatives-launch-appeals-to-aid-earthquake-victims-in-nepal/>

IFFCO relief material brings smiles to Nepal

<http://www.indianco-operative.com/iffco/iffco-relief-material-brings-smiles-to-nepal/>

Nepal – doors with no walls

<http://www.ica-ap.coop/icanews/nepal-doors-no-walls-mr-balu-iyer>



Resource Guide on Gender Equality

The Resource Guide for "Advanced Training of Co-operatives on Entrepreneurship Development of Women and Gender Equality" was formally released by ICA President, Dame Pauline Green on March 10. The venue was a side event, "Co-operatives: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment" held by ILO-ICA in conjunction with the 59th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women/ Beijing+20, in March at the UN headquarters in New York. Ms. Baasanjav Otgonjargal, State Secretary, Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection of Mongolia and H.E. Od Och, Ambassador, Mission of Mongolia to the UN were guests at the event. The side event was attended by several co-operators and officials of the ILO network members and trade unions.

The Resource Guide developed by the ICA-AP Committee on Women is an advanced version of the ICA-ILO COOPNET leadership training manual for Women Leaders of Co-operatives 2005. It was developed following feed-back provided during training and the felt needs of co-operative members.

The Resource Guide was also released by ICA President at the Global Board meeting in Singapore on March 30, where Ms. Masako Shimbo, Chairperson of the ICA-AP Committee Women was also present.



(L to R) ICA President Dame Pauline Green, Mrs. Savitri Singh, ICA-AP and ICA Director General Mr. Charles Gould at the event.



Engaging with European Union: Policy Forum on Development

The Policy Forum on Development (PFD) under the auspices of the European Commission (EC) brings together civil society organizations (CSOs), local authorities (LAs) and private sector representatives from different parts of the world to dialogue on global development issues and contributes to EU development policies and programs. The gathering of CSOs and LAs from the Asia Pacific region took place in Bangkok on June 24 and 25. The backdrop of the gathering was to provide space for collective planning among CSOs, LAs and private sector to influence the agenda in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) negotiations; reinforce commitment to Asia Pacific's needs for Development Justice, and come up with policy recommendations on the how the EU can build and implement a just and transformative agenda for Asia Pacific.



Gathering of CSOs and LAs from the Asia Pacific region at the PFD meeting Bangkok, Thailand.

ICA has engaged with the PFD since its inception at the global and regional levels. The typology of the actors involved in the PFD's include: CSOs (including Trade Unions, Co-operatives, NGOs and Foundations in the large sense), LAs, organizations representing the private sector (including Chambers of Commerce and Employers Federations). In the Asia Pacific region the first regional consultation was held in Bali in 2013 and the June meeting in Bangkok was the second; in fact it was the first full fledged meeting involving all the PFD actors. The Co-operatives were represented by ICA staff from the regional offices (Asia-Pacific, Africa and Europe) and by National Apex organizations: Co-operative League of Thailand (CLT), Thailand; Malaysian National Co-operative Movement (ANGKASA), Malaysia; National Confederation of Co-operatives, Philippines; and National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Co-operatives, Mongolia (NAMAC).

The SDGs, a vision for universal development, follow the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were agreed by governments in 2000, and are due to expire at the end of 2015. The SDGs

comprise of 17 universal set of goals and 169 targets and indicators. In order to make the SDGs inclusive the UN has been undertaking the largest consultation program in its history to gauge opinions on form, process of implementation and funding. In a similar vein, donors, such as the EU have been providing platform for dialogue on the proper implementation and monitoring of SDGs in order to ensure the common objectives of eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities, providing dignity for all and developing in a sustainable way are achieved.



Representatives of co-operatives at the PFD meeting

The meeting in Bangkok provided the opportunity for the participants to hear about the EU Roadmap for CSO Engagement in this the, European Year of Development, updates on the 2015 SDG process, and the major EU programs in the Asia Pacific region. The Voices from the Region panel discussion provided the opportunity to hear from regional actors on the key challenges and opportunities of the post-2015 development agenda, in light of Zero Draft. The gathering called on the EU to champion Development Justice in its policies and actions in Asia and the Pacific. The five foundations of Development Justice: Redistributive Justice, Economic Justice, Social Justice, Environmental Justice, and Accountability to Peoples, provide a transformative framework that aims to reduce inequalities of wealth, power, opportunities, and resources between countries, between rich and poor and between men and women. A rights-based approach would ensure that the human rights principles of equality, equity, non-discrimination and inclusive participation and decision-making underpin its development cooperation in the region.



Round Table Dialogue to promote Social and Solidarity Enterprises

Mumbai, India was the venue for the two-day round table dialogue (RTD) held on the role of co-operative banks and social finance institutions in promoting and financing social initiatives and social and solidarity enterprises (SSEs). The RTD was organized under the aegis of the ICA-AP, National Federation of State Co-operative Banks, Eco Foundation for Sustainable Alternatives, the Mont-Blanc Meeting- International Forum of the Social and Solidarity Economy Entrepreneurs, the International Co-operative Banks Association and the International Association of Investors in the Social Economy. In attendance at the meeting were over 30 representatives from State and Urban Co-operative Banks, National Federation of Urban co-operative Banks, National Co-operative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks' Federation, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, UNDP, National Co-operative Union of India, Anupamma Pariwar Group, SEWA, IFFCO Foundation, and subject matter experts.



Chairpersons and CEOs of the Co-operative Banks, Coop Unions, Regional Director of ICA-AP and other participants at the round table

SSEs are composed of a plurality of organizational forms that produce goods and services to their members or to the community. They are based on the primacy of people over capital, hold a long-term perspective, emphasize participation of member's stakeholders in the governance of the organization and reinvest profits into their mission. SSE includes co-operatives and other forms of social enterprises, self-help groups, community-based organizations, common groups, associations of informal economy workers, service provisioning NGOs, solidarity finance schemes, amongst others. Its role has become even more significant in recent years, as it has proved to be a major anti-cyclical force in confronting the economic crisis. Given the importance of the SSEs, the RTD emphasized the need for concerted action at the global, national and local level. The MBM as an observer on the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on SSEs has been advocating for governments to promote innovative social and economic forms of organizations to pursue both Financing for Development and Sustainable Development Goals and foster a favorable framework, including a more favorable access to financing and regulatory systems to encourage SSEs. Social and Solidarity-based Finance (SSF), including Co-operative Banks and Social Finance, rooted in the territories, can generate local resources to promote sustainable development in India.



Governance: Regional Board Meetings

The first meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board, hosted by the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF), was held at Pan Pacific Hotel on Sunday, 29 March 2015. At the outset, Mr. Li Chunsheng, Chairman of the Board informed the meeting about the death of Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, Founder Prime Minister of Singapore on 23 March 2015 and offered his condolences to the people of Singapore. Dame Pauline Green, President ICA and Director General ICA Mr. Charles Gould were also present in the meeting along with 11 board members, observers and interpreters. Mr. Seah Kian Peng, ICA Global Member from Singapore extended his warm welcome to the board members. Dame Pauline Green addressed the meeting and said that advocacy on SDGs is very important. In the coming months it will be important for all co-operatives to advocate for the inclusion of co-operatives in the SDGs. ICA was also advocating with the G20 countries as they controlled 84% of the global GDP. In addition to routine agenda, the meeting discussed the following important items: ICA-AP membership situation; Israel's request to move from AP region to European region; revision of rules for election of Regional Board and AP President; engaging regional board members in ICA-AP Committees; and the 10th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference being held in Indonesia in April 2016. It was also decided to hold the next Regional Board meeting in Turkey in November 2015 in conjunction with the ICA General Assembly.



The Regional Board members with ICA President and ICA Director General in Singapore

The second meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held on 9 November 2015 in Antalya. Besides discussing the activity reports and plans, the board discussed the revision of rules for elections, the status of Ministers Conference and Regional Assembly. With regard to Israel's request to move regions, the global board had discussed this issue at its Buenos Aires meeting and put it to vote. A majority of the global board members consented to Israel's request to move to the European region with effect from 1 January 2016. Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, Chairman of NCF/N made a presentation on relief and reconstruction work undertaken by the NCF/N for earthquake victims. The results of the elections related questionnaire was presented and discussed. However, in absence of any consensus, the Elections Working Group was asked to consider the views expressed by members and put its final views at the next board meeting. The proposal to form an ICA-AP Committee on Trade and Business and development of Strategic Plan 2017-2020 was briefly discussed and will be taken up at the next meeting.

Legal: Regional Consultations

In preparation for the forthcoming 10th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference the regional office has held two regional consultations, first in Jakarta for countries of ASEAN Region and the second in Nepal for countries of SAARC region.

Jakarta Consultation

The first Regional Consultation of High Ranking Government Officials and Co-operative Leaders from the ASEAN++ (including China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia and Timor Leste) was held in Jakarta from 30th September to 3rd October. The consultation held in collaboration with the Ministry of Co-operatives and SMEs and the Indonesian Co-operative Council (DEKOPIN) was attended by 40 participants from 11 countries. Minister Secretary Agus Muharram, inaugurated the consultation at the behest of Mr. AAGN Puspayoga, Honorable, Minister of Co-operatives and SME of Indonesia. The set of recommendations to participating governments included earmarking a specified amount of funds to match educational funds developed from within the co-operative movements themselves, to empower co-operative leaders, managers and members, especially women and the young; engaging co-operatives in program activities dealing with women and youth empowerment; providing access to digital technology for co-operative organizations equal to their public and private counterparts, urging the ASEAN Secretariat to involve co-operatives in activities of the ASEAN Economic Community above and beyond Agricultural ones; supporting the "young countries", i.e. in terms of their co-operative development phase, to undertake catch up work by way of practical comparative studies and technical cooperation; establishing a "Co-operative Rating Agency" by way of funding and financial technical know-how based on the feasibility study prepared by the ICA AP; committing themselves to empowering co-operatives to have access to social and financial services, while facilitating the inclusion of co-operatives in the process of reaching food sovereignty and security; and augmenting the role of co-operatives in pursuing the public-private partnerships, and in organizing returning migrant workers and people still trapped in the informal economy.



Jakarta Consultation in progress

Kathmandu Consultation

The two-day Regional Consultation of South Asia Co-operatives was held on December 14 and 15 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The opening ceremony was attended, among others, by the Honorable Chitra Bahadur KC, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Co-operatives and Poverty Alleviation, Nepal and Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa, Secretary General, SAARC; while the closing ceremony was graced by Mr. Bishnu Prasad Paudel, Finance Minister, Government of Nepal and Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada, Vice-chairperson National Planning Commission. The Regional Consultation discussed in earnest the issues relating to the Sustainable Development Goals, in association with the ICA Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade, with more focus on the following five thematic issues, Food Sovereignty, New Co-operative Approaches (Innovation), Co-operatives and the Transition of the Informal into the Formal economy, Regional and Global engagement of Co-operatives, as well as Enabling Environment. Country presentations by six participating countries in the South Asia Region, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, were followed by group discussions. The recommendations included cluster based approach in an effort to mitigate the migration from rural to urban areas; skill development undertaken in a manner that results in the actual establishment and development of sound co-operatives; provision of "Start-up Funds", not "Subsidies", to stimulate and generate members' contributions to the development of their own co-operative; strong and direct linkages built and developed between producers and consumers co-operatives, in an effort to stabilize pricing, to strengthen value chains and to establish sound co-operative branding; existing public-co-operative partnership strengthened, and new ones built, on an equal basis to channel government programs in a responsible, transparent and effective manner; promotion and establishment of broad-based engagement of co-operatives with multiple stakeholders, including the media, parliamentarians, international organizations, NGOs etc.; and the development of new co-operative legislation to be more responsive to contemporary issues and amenable to new co-operative approaches.



Kathmandu Consultation in Progress



Sustainability: Food Sufficiency and Sovereignty

Agriculture is the main stay of people in Asia-Pacific and a substantial portion of co-operative membership consists of farming and rural community. ICA member activities are focused on improvement of quality and quantity of agriculture production and marketing to enhance income and quality of lives of farmers and their community. The following programs were conducted during the year in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan and JA-Zenchu.

The 2nd Training Course on Fostering Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of Agricultural Co-operatives was held in Japan in collaboration with IDACA, Japan from 15 July to 8 August. The objective of the training course was to review improvement of business for its reinforcement including credit business, farm guidance and economic businesses.



Trainees at an agricultural product shop in Japan

These were reviewed from the view point of newly industrializing economies in South East Asia and South Asia. Eight participants from four countries (India, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand) attended the training course. Some of the key subjects covered were management of credit business, ways to embark on better living related businesses, methods of formulating business plans of agricultural co-operatives and strategic approaches. Besides classroom lectures, the participants also visited Iwate prefecture for study visits. The participants finalized their Action Plan based on the experience and knowledge gained during the training course.

The 2nd ICA-Japan Training course on "Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives-2014" was held in Thailand and Japan from 25 February to 4 April 2015. The overall objective of the training program was to assist fostering of the core leaders, who are expected to play leading roles in agricultural co-operatives and farmers' groups that will contribute to the improve the agricultural production and income of the farmers in the LDCs of Mekong river countries and South Asian countries.

10 participants from 6 countries, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal and Vietnam attended the training.



Inauguration of "Improving Capacity of Rural Women" training course in Thailand.

The ICA-Japan Training Project Follow-up was held in Indonesia and Myanmar from 8 to 20 February. The purpose was to assess the impact and effects of the past training courses held since 2013. In particular, to see how Action Plans drafted by the participants have been implemented upon return. The follow-up study was conducted through a questionnaire, exchange of views and ideas with ex-participants and site visits to some of the co-operatives where the former participants were working. The team held one-on-one meeting with the participants to discuss how the learning from the training was being used and implemented by them in the field and the problems faced by them in the course of implementation. The team also held meetings with the heads of sponsoring organizations for a briefing about the objectives of the follow-up program and their opinion on its usefulness. The report of the follow-up visits has been submitted to MAFF, Government of Japan.



A participant receiving certificate of participation at IDACA.

VIEWS FROM THE FIELD



MR. KAMAALANNATHAN KULANTHAVELU

Senior Assistant Manager, Kuala Perak Estate
National Land Finance Cooperative Society (w),
Malaysia

(Participant - 2nd ICA-JAPAN training on "Fostering
Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of
Agricultural Cooperatives, Japan)



The 2nd ICA-JAPAN training on "Fostering Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of Agricultural Cooperatives" was an eye opener course for me. There was a lot to see, learn and understand about agricultural cooperatives and its functions for the society and country. I am glad and very much thankful to ICA-AP and MAFF, Japan for coordinating such a wonderful and useful course. It was a life time opportunity for me to meet and establish a good network with new friends from organizing and participating countries.

This training course was well designed and coordinated by ICA-AP and IDACA with good lecture topics and knowledgeable resource persons. The training programme was well balanced with classroom lectures and field visits to Japanese agricultural cooperatives facilities and farming activities. We were amazed to see the facility, technology and system adopted by JA to support the farmer members.



Participants at the field visit.

As part of the training curriculum, I had prepared and presented an "Action Plan" during the course to

be implemented at my workplace. Keeping in view the background of declining average yield of Fresh Fruit Bunch (FFB) of Palm, the action plan was prepared to meet the following objectives,

- Improvement in yield and quality of crop produced.
- Reduction in production cost and increase of earning.
- Lesser dependency on manual labour/foreign labour by adopting mechanization.
- Bring youth back to agricultural/plantation sector

I have already started working on the implementation of my action plan. I have adopted the ideas and systems used in Japan and modified /adapted them to suit my operations. It is moving along very well.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank ICA-AP and IDACA management and staff for the wonderful experience and hospitality provided in Japan during my stay there. I wish ICA-AP will continue with more trainings pertaining to the cooperatives movement in years to come.



Capital: Co-operative to Co-operative Business

A Business development of Consumer co-operatives

The 15th ICA A-P Regional Workshop for Managers of Management of Consumer Co-operatives was held by ICA-AP Consumer Committee in Singapore from 2 to 5 June. The workshop was hosted by NTUC Fairprice (Singapore) and attended by 14 cooperators from Malaysia, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The objectives of the 4-day training workshop were to promote understanding of the socio-economic role of consumer co-operatives, the use of social media and to establish an international network of consumer co-operative leaders and managers. Mr. Seah Kian Peng, CEO, NTUC Fairprice and ICA Global Board member took part in the workshop along with his other colleagues and motivated the participants.

The first batch of the 2015 Training Program for Managers of Consumer Co-operatives was organized in collaboration with Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) in Japan from 17 July to 8 August. Coop Kobe and the Coop Net Business Association provided the training ground, facilities and resource persons. Five staff from NTUC Fair Price (Singapore) and Saigon Coop (Vietnam) attended the training which was designed to address the training requests made by the trainees. The trainees received 2-day orientation course at JCCU headquarters, where they attended lectures on the outline and product development policy of JCCU. At the Co-op Net Business Association, they received explanation on the structure of the business association and their social and environmental initiatives. In Coop Kobe, they were introduced to the organization and its various initiatives. The trainees elaborated on the competitive environment in the retail industry in both Singapore and Vietnam and discussed ways to enhance their competitiveness by improving staff skills and adding more value to customer service. At the end of the training, an Action Plan was drawn by the trainees to address what they intended to achieve upon returning to their home countries.



Participants of the Workshop

The 49th ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and Pacific meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on December 1, 2015. 8 Committee members and 11 observers from 9 countries attended the committee meeting. The meeting started with opening addresses by Mr. Amano Haruyoshi, Chairperson of the committee; Mr. Haji Nasir Khan Yahaya, CEO, ANGKASA; and Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP. Ms. Nishimoto Yuki Secretary of the committee, reported the Activity Report since last meeting in Bali 2014 and the activity plan for 2016. The committee members made presentations of their recent activities and business results, which were followed by active discussions. The next committee meeting is scheduled to be held in New Delhi, India, in conjunction to the Regional Assembly in November, 2016.

In conjunction with the Committee meeting, a seminar on Consumer Protection was organized. Ms. Indrani Thuraisingham, Head of Consumers International (CI) Office for Asia Pacific, made a presentation on "The Problems among Consumers in Asia and Pacific". CI, an independent organization advocates for the global voice for consumers and to protect and empower consumers everywhere. CI focuses their activities in four strategic areas - Financial Services; Consumers in the Digital Age; Consumer Justice and Protection; and Food Safety, Security and Nutrition". Among the issues touched upon were obesity caused by increasing consumption of fast food and their inappropriate promotion by global fast food corporations; and the haze caused by slash and burn methods in the Indonesian forests. It is important that consumers take action and express their opinion while choosing products. Ms. Hisa Anan, former Secretary General of Consumer Affairs Agency, Government of Japan, gave a lecture on, "The issues among Consumers' Policy in Japan – Realize the consumer civil society by power of Co-op!" Her presentation included a report on recent consumer issues in Japan, such as internet shopping, dishonest businesses targeting senior citizens and people with difficulties and relief systems for consumer-protection. She explained that there is an "isolation" of individuals and the need to realize the "Consumer Civil Society" through communication of Advising each other, Learning with each other, and Helping each other, in the community.

VIEWS FROM THE FIELD



MS. NGUYEN BICH LY

Director of Co-op Mart (Tuy Hoa) Saigon Co-op,
Vietnam

(Participant - 2015 Training Program for Managers
of Consumer Cooperatives in Japan)



It was my honour to attend the 2015 training program for Managers of Consumer Cooperatives in Japan. My fellow trainees and I got a deeper understanding about the spirit of cooperatives and learned a lot from the program. Some of which included, building and managing consumer cooperatives as community based, stable and reliable business, value of member contribution and member participation, and staff attitude and approach.

Based on the training, I have put into practice the following activities at co-op mart of Saigon Co-op and seen positive results:

Member activities: we invite customers and engage them as a group in four activities: childcare, health care, cooking and fashion. We allow them to chat and share their experiences and in the process seek comments on how we could improve customer service in the mart.



Member's room at co.opmart Tuy Hoa



Member's room at Miyagi COOP



Local products at co-op Mart

Train staff to improve their communication skill and customer service: focus on three actions to deliver strong and clear message:

- Always be well-dressed and ready to serve customers
- Always say thank you to customers with a bright smile
- Always receive and bid customers good-bye with folded hands

Promote Vietnamese Agricultural products: Similar to Sanchoku and Megumino in Japan, we provide an outlet to local farmers to showcase their products. We offer large shelves and clearly indicate the province from which the product is coming. We believe this offers the consumer quality and safe products and boosts the local economy.



Megumino in Miyagi COOP



Co-op Mart's" Commitment of Dedicated actions
"Dedicated delivery staffs at Miyagi COOP

The training provided us an opportunity to understand each other and to share ideas. We were welcomed wherever we went, by management and by our Japanese friends. Thank you!



Nguyen Bich Ly (in yellow) at the study visit

B Co-operative Trade

The ICA-AP and Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA) jointly organized the workshop on Development of Co-operative to Co-operative Trade through e-commerce in Hanoi from 13 to 17 July. The workshop in Hanoi was follow-on to the one, ICA-AP, ANGKASA and ACFSMC co-organized in Kuala Lumpur in 2014. The workshop focused on the opportunities through e-commerce and traditional methods. Experts in e-commerce were invited to share their experiences, strategies and solutions. The expected outcomes were as follows: (a) to improve understanding of the value proposition and opportunities in e-commerce; (b) to have a clear roadmap for MBO to carry forward Co-operative to Co-operative trade initiatives with co-operatives, research institutions and other interested organization; and (c) to strengthen cooperation among ICA-AP members.

Accelerating global trade between co-operatives is not only an important part of ICA Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade, but also a cornerstone for China Coop's international business strategy. ICA-AP and ACFSMC organized the Asia-Pacific Co-operative E- Business Summit in Kunming (China) from 8 to 12 October. The Summit was designed to promote C2C trade by taking advantage of opportunities brought about by the fast-growing e-business. 63 participants from 17 countries attended the Summit.

E-business has changed the landscape of world economy and trade. China Coop has identified the opportunities of e-business, and adapted its existing business networks to the new trend. Today 1,037 China Coop members offer online services to members and customers through their independent websites or leading third-party web portals. The Summit saw presentation of e-business initiatives from Australia, China, India, Korea, Malaysia and New Zealand. Interest was expressed by members from Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Turkey, and Sri Lanka to learn from other members and start in their respective countries. The conference culminated in a signed joint declaration to commit to the development of e-business in the Asia Pacific region.

The first China-Europe Co-operatives Business Summit was held in Shanghai on December 9 and 10. The Summit was organized to provide the opportunity for co-operative leaders from China and Europe to hear about the business potential and explore opportunities for engagement through direct face-to-face meetings. The 20 Chinese co-operatives representatives from Guangdong, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Chongqing and Beijing provinces were engaged in retail and wholesale trade, import and export food, beverages, fertilizers, and farm equipment. The European side was represented by 26 participants from 20 co-operative federations from Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Israel, Italy, and UK. Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of the ICA-AP region explained the importance of trade for China and that the "One Belt, One Road" linking Asia and Europe presented an opportunity for the development of cross-border trade e-commerce. Mr. Petar Stefanov, Global Board member, heading the European delegation spoke of the importance of the Summit in strengthening linkages between the two important regions. The presentations from both sides revealed the opportunities that exist for trade in a variety of areas such as food, beverages, agriculture inputs, and farm machinery.



Gender Equality: Capacity Building of Women

The meeting of Office-Bearers of ICA-AP Committee on Women took place in the premises of CLT in Bangkok on March 31. The meeting was attended by Ms. Masako Shimbo, Chairperson of the Committee; Mrs. Savitri Singh, Secretary of the Committee; Mr. Phanuwat Wanraway, Head of the International Affairs of CLT; Ms. Kruewan Boonrin, Member of the ICA Committee on Women represented by Asian Women Co-operative Development Forum and Ms. Nittay Na Mahachai, Chief of Bureau Data Analysis and project development, Board of Directors and Secretary of the Agricultural Co-operative Federation of Thailand. Three new members (2 from VICTO, Philippines and 1 from CCS-Myanmar) were admitted to the Committee. The current membership of the Committee is 14 members from 10 countries.



Participants at the Palestine workshop in September

Training of Trainers for Management Capacity Building of Women for Co-operative Development: Mongolia ranks 42 among 142 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2014 published by the World Economic Forum. It fares much better in comparison to some of the more advanced countries like Japan and China. Mongolian women have been ranked high in economic participation, higher education and in health and survival. Despite the many indicators reflecting positive socio-economic and political environment for gender equality in Mongolia, the notion of superiority of men persists. ICA-AP in association with the NAMAC, organized the training from 11 to 15 May in Ulaanbaatar City. The training consisted of lectures, hands-on exercises, and field visits and covered issues such as gender perspective and projects in Mongolia; status of Mongolian Co-operatives Business; ICA gender initiative and leadership development; leadership skills and personal management and financial management; and monitoring and evaluation.

A three days workshop on Enhancing the Role of Women in Co-operative Business was held in Ramallah, Palestine, from 15-17 September. The workshop was attended by 35 participants from five countries while the opening session was attended by 87 participants. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Naser Qatami, Deputy Minister in Ministry of Labor, Palestine. The opening session was also addressed by Mr. Mahmud Husain, Chairman of Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine (ESDC); Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director of ICA AP; Mr. Mohammed Khalid, Country Director of WE Effect; and Mr. Mounir Kleibo, ILO Representative in Palestine.

Ms. Savitri Singh, Advisor, Gender Programs and Communication of ICA-AP opened the business session with a presentation on, "Gender Integration and Situation of Women in Co-operatives in Asia and Pacific." Mr. Abed Yassien, ESDC Program Director made a presentation on Women's Co-operatives Impacting Livelihoods in Palestine. Ms. Hanan El-Youssef, Strategy Manger, ICA presented the international perspective about ICA Blueprint and Gender Equality in Co-operatives. Mr. Mounir Kleibo of ILO presented the ILO initiatives and program in Palestine to achieve Gender Equality. The workshop was characterized by active participation and discussion among participants. The attendees interacted actively and lengthy discussions took place on the presentations made at the information sharing session.

The 2nd ICA-Japan Training Course on Improving Capacity of Rural Women was held in Thailand and Japan from 16 September to 14 October. Eight women participants from seven countries attended the Training Course. The objective of the training was to assist in capacity building of leaders of rural women for promotion of more organized business activities in South-East Asia and South Asia. Part-I of the program was held in collaboration with CLT. Part-II of the program held at IDACA included extensive classroom work and study visits to agricultural co-operatives in Mie Prefecture of Japan. Some of the key subjects covered at IDACA were: (a) Development of Agricultural Co-operatives in Japan; (b) Women's Associations of Japanese Agricultural Co-operatives; (c) Rural Women's Entrepreneurship (marketing and local agro-processing); (d) Women's Participation in the Rural Development; (e) Finalization and Presentation of Action Plans; and (f) Reporting and Evaluation. Based on the experiences gained by the participants through classroom lectures, field visits in Thailand and Japan, the participants were able to prepare their Action Plan which they would be recommending to their respective organizations for implementation. A course evaluation was conducted at the conclusion of the training. The participants felt that the training course was very relevant for women leaders of agricultural co-operatives in Asia and it should be continued. The Training Course is funded by MAFF, Government of Japan.

Training of Women Co-operative Leaders in India

The IFFCO Foundation in India initiated a project in 2014 to impart leadership training to 100 women cooperative members in India and create a pool of trained women leaders to actively participate in the management of cooperatives. The Foundation approached ICA-AP to provide technical support in design and implementation of the training program as ICA-AP had developed a training manual on the subject and organized leadership training for women co-operators in the region.



Participants of the Training Program at Shahtalai PACS

The first leadership training was held from 14 to 17 January in Himachal Pradesh at the training center of the Shahtalai Primary Agriculture Co-operative (SPACS). The SPACS covers 5 gram panchayats (village development units), has 4,500 individual members, and an annual business volume of Rs.700 million. Women comprise 55% (2500 out of 4500) of the membership. For the 50 women attending the training, this was the first time they were attending a training of any kind and they had never heard about gender or gender equality.

Ms. Savitri Singh participated in the training as master trainer and conducted the training based on the ICA-AP Resource Guide developed for advanced training of co-operatives on entrepreneurship development of women and gender equality. Representatives of project partners such as Regional Director of the National Cooperative Development Centre; Principal and staff of Cooperative Training Institute, Shimla; Consultants of IFFCO Foundation and the National Center for Co-operative Education were also present.

Training Program on Women Empowerment – a Co-operative Corridor

The Punjab Institute of Co-operative Training Limited (PICT), India organized a “Training Program on Women Empowerment – A Co-operative Corridor” on 20 October 2015 at the PICT training hall in Chandigarh, India. The participants were women assistant registrars, co-operative inspectors, members of co-operatives and self-help groups. The objectives of the program were to help the participants have a good understanding of gender issues and self help concept and to enable them to improve their capacity to organize sustainable self help groups and co-operatives.

Dr. S.K. Batish, Managing Director of PICT delivered the welcome address and Mrs. Nisha Rana, Additional Registrar of Co-operative Societies gave an overview of women empowerment through co-operatives and self help groups. Mr. Arunjit Singh Miglani, Registrar of Co-operative Societies of Punjab was the Chief Guest. Mrs. Savitri Singh of ICA-AP was invited as a special guest and resource person. Punjab is one of the agriculturally successful states in India and women enjoy the reputation of being hard working and contributing to the largely agrarian economy. In spite of economic well being, gender discrimination is rampant here and there is limited mobility for women to explore newer areas of livelihood or in the



Dr. Batish, Mr. Miglani, Ms. Savitri Singh and Ms. Nisha Rana at the opening of the training program

expansion of existing businesses. The Co-operative Department in Punjab has shown support towards women's economic endeavors and their development through co-operatives. Ms. Singh shared stories from co-operatives in various countries and encouraged participants to share their own stories with others. A few participants informed the group about their access to markets in Delhi and that, they had been regularly participating at national and international trade fairs.

VIEWS FROM THE FIELD



MS. WANJALA JACQUELINE SALIMA

Senior Research and Consultancy Officer,
Kenya Union of Savings and Credit
Co-operatives Ltd. (KUSCCO)



(Participant-ICA- AP Workshop on "Enhancing
the Role of Women in Co-operative Business",
September 2015, Ramallah, Palestine)

LEARNING

Kenya is regarded as the home of co-operatives in Africa and ranked number seven in the world in terms of number, size and contribution to co-operatives. However women co-operatives in Kenya are relatively few and of these, very few have documented success stories. My visit to Palestine was very critical in helping me better understand how to enhance the role of women in co-operatives. There were very informative presentations that focused on the following themes: 'Gender integration and situation of women in co-operatives in Asia Pacific', 'Enhancing role of women in co-operative business including best practices in Palestine', 'Enhancing women's participation in co-operatives', and 'Gender equality in co-operatives'. There were also presentations on success stories and best practices by participant countries. A study visit was organized to 3 women co-operatives in Palestine which helped me better understand the operations of the same. Palestine has elaborate success stories of women co-operatives which are performing fairly well and are supported by various stakeholders like ICA, ILO, ESDC, WE EFFECT and the Government. The support by the various stakeholders has ensured growth and sustainability of these co-operatives.

I also had an opportunity to interact with people from different countries and cultures and established contacts that are going to be instrumental to me as a member of The Alliance Africa Gender Committee.

Take away

The most critical take away for me was the learning on documenting success stories for all the women co-operatives that we have worked with. This will ensure that we monitor their growth and thus are able to measure the impact of interventions of the various stakeholders. It will also ensure that future interventions are targeted in areas with greatest impact for these co-operatives.

Overall Impression

As a member of The Alliance Africa Gender Committee, I learnt the issue of women's low level active participation and their under-representation in decision-making and leadership is common in all regions. The regions that are making progress in addressing this issue are those that have come up with deliberate initiatives and programs to ensure gender concerns are mainstreamed in their co-operative structures. The success stories of women co-operatives in Asia Pacific gave me great insights, some of which we can adopt for our women co-operatives in Africa. The theme of the workshop "Enhancing the role of Women in Co-operative Business" was adequately expounded by all presenters and the quality of the presentations was very good. I enjoyed my stay in Palestine and our host made it a memorable one. The exposure we had will go a long way in helping us impact our women co-operatives positively. I am very grateful to ICA-AP for facilitating our participation in the workshop and I wish more of such forums are organized to help build capacity to better impact women co-operatives.

Thank you.

VIEWS FROM THE FIELD



MS. NGUYEN THI MAI

Head of Technology Science and International Cooperation Department, National Economic Technical College (NETC), Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA)



(Participant - 2nd ICA/Japan Training Course 2015 on "Improving Capacity of Rural Women," Japan)

Japan is a preferred destination for anyone wanting to go abroad. It is a country with long history, boasts a healthy and clean environment and its people while holding high self-esteem are very hospitable. When the announcement of the 2nd ICA/Japan Training Course on "Improving Capacity of Rural Women" was sent to us, I was very excited and immediately put in my application. I was honored to be chosen as one of the participants.

The training program was fully packed and demanding. I did not get stressed because I knew all the things I would learn would be useful and relevant to my job in Vietnam.

From the lectures at IDACA, I came to know how Japan, which was at the "bottom" of development before and during World War II dramatically developed itself to become a powerful, respected and admired country.

I was fascinated to learn about the history of the Japanese co-operative movement, especially the development of agricultural co-operatives. They were initially based on the Industrial Co-operative Law of 1900 and restructured following the enactment of Agricultural Co-operative Law

in 1947. The aim was to develop the co-operative organization of farmers to enhance agricultural production, improve the socio-economic status of farmers and contribute to the development of national economy.

The apex organization of Japan agricultural co-operatives is the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (JA Zenchu), which is the management body and covers all the prefectures. The members of JA consist of: (1) regular members who can contribute share capital and have one vote; (2) associate members who can pay share capital but have no voting rights; and (3) non-members who don't pay the share capital but can utilize the JA services. The main businesses of Japan agricultural co-operatives are farm-skill enhancement, marketing, manufacturing and processing, credit, supply of production materials, medical & health care services, mutual Insurance, welfare for elderly and shared-use facilities.

For me, one of the most interesting findings from the lectures and study visits was to learn about the JA Women's Associations (JAWA). During and after World War II, Japanese women, especially those in the rural areas led a very harsh and dark life. They used to be regarded as a tool to produce children and were expected to undertake all the work of their husband's family. In order to change the women's status and to empower them, the JAWA was founded with the aim to: (1) cooperate with each other to protect women's rights and improve social and economic status of rural women; (2) promote participation of women in JA's activities in order to reflect voices of women to the co-operative movement and take action related to the movement; (3) strive to create comfortable local communities with affluence, close contact with each other and mutual help through the co-operative activities. The activities of JAWA are focused on farm products processing, mutual help group, culture circle, farmers' market group, cooking study & extension group, sports club, local volunteer group, and farm guidance improvement group.

As part of the training, we were taken to Mie prefecture, Yamanashi to visit and observe different co-operative organizations, direct sales shops, supermarkets, road-side stations, entrepreneur women's associations, and facilities base for the elderly people etc. I could learn how the farmers and women run and manage their business and community activities. At "Nabana Sushi Workshop", I observed the group of women who make local sushi and deliver to surrounding office and also sell directly at shops/supermarkets. We worked with a group of women who made local sweets and sold them at the direct sales shops. All the places we visited, I noticed that high hygiene was maintained and strict adherence to food and food processing safety standards. At a sericulture house, I was heartened to see the owner try to preserve traditional sericulture farming even though it was hard work and generated fewer benefits than before.

After the field trip in Japan and study time in IDACA, I was impressed by (although it is not new) the way people there work diligently, think positively and treat each other in a friendly and hospitable way.

I, as well as the other participants, will never forget the warmth with which we were hosted everywhere we went and especially the long waves of hands when we said goodbye to any person.

After coming back to Vietnam, I notice that I am following the Japanese work (hard work, punctuality) and life style (tidiness, caring and politeness)! I would like to express my sincere thanks to ICA-AP and to IDACA for giving me a chance to participate in the training and visit Japan to learn about their co-operative movement.



Catch them Young: Inclusion of Youth in Co-operatives

Engaging with Youth in Thimpu & New Delhi

The ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation (ICYC) initiated pilot projects in Bhutan, India and Nepal to establish youth and youth-led co-operatives. The project is in line with the theme of the 7th Annual Meeting – Financial Literacy for Youth Cooperation.

The campaign in Bhutan was carried out by Mr. Sangay Rinchen, member-ICYC in Thimphu on January 11. The Minister of Agriculture along with the Secretary and the Registrar from the Department of Cooperation graced the Seminar on Financial Literacy for Youth Cooperation with emphasis on “Youth led Social Co-operatives”. Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP and Honorary Member of the ICYC, in his keynote address highlighted the core values of cooperation and gave examples of successful youth led co-operative movements in Japan and Europe. The Resolution of the seminar was to set up a core group of youth volunteers and mobilize youth movements into a co-operative with social benefit.



Mr. Balu Iyer addressing students of SRCC during ICYC Pilot Activity

The pilot activity in India was carried out by the students of the Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) under the guidance of Dr. Mallika Kumar, Assistant Professor on February 4. The seminar was chaired by Dr. Sukesh Zamwar, Chairperson ICYC. Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director gave a special address on co-operative awareness and the benefits of working on one's own rather than working for another enterprise. Heads of various societies of the SRCC shared their achievements and challenges as student groups functioning in the campus. Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, Secretary ICYC gave a thematic presentation on the situation of youth-led and youth based co-operatives in the Asia Pacific region and urged the students to partner in the proposed ICYC project. Dr. Navin Anand, moderator of the Microfinance Community of the UNDP Solution

Exchange shared his thoughts on co-operatives and areas of work in financial sector for youth. This was followed by a panel discussion chaired by Mrs. Savitri Singh, ICA-AP. Based on the key recommendations of the pilot activities in Nepal, Bhutan and India, the Youth Committee will continue to develop new initiatives related to establishing youth co-operatives that are tailored to local interests.

Regional Workshop for Youth and Campus Co-operatives

Over a hundred youth participants representing twelve countries gathered to work and strategize on moving towards a Sustainable Growth and Development in the Co-operative Decade #coops2020 at the Asia Pacific Workshop on Youth and Campus Co-operatives. The event was hosted by CLT in association with the Consumer Co-operative Federation of Thailand from 17 to 19 September. The regional workshop was jointly convened by the ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives and the ICYC. These two committees also conducted their annual meetings on separate dates. The workshop saw student members of university co-operatives from Japan, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, India, Philippines, Thailand and a delegation of youth officers/managers of credit co-operatives in Nepal, work in small groups on three topics: (a) ethical consumption, (b) career development, and (c) financial literacy for youth cooperation.

Lectures delivered by international resource persons included Mr. Matthieu Cognac, Youth Employment Specialist from the ILO (Bangkok office), Mr. Aditya Yadav, youngest Alliance Global Board member, Dr. Yashvantha Dongre from the Mysore University (India). The participants shared their experiences and finally adopted a Resolution on Role of Youth and University Co-operatives in moving towards Sustainable Growth and Development in the Co-operative Decade on 19 September. The Regional Director of ICA-Asia and Pacific shared the commitment of the ICA to highlight youth movement in co-operatives at the right global platforms. He encouraged participants to engage with ICA-AP by sharing ideas and information on their experience and challenges in the co-operative sector.



Participants taking selfie at the Workshop

VIEWS FROM THE FIELD



AHSAN ALI THAKUR

Youth Representative, Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union, Pakistan; Vice Chairperson – ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation; Executive Member, Global Youth Network of the ICA



My relationship with the co-operative movement via the ICA began when my organization, Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union (KCHSU) Ltd., was welcomed to the Alliance membership. The rainbow flag of cooperation was handed over to Mr. M. Sharif Bhajji in Singapore, 2007. It was a momentous day as it opened the gates to enormous opportunities and information that our co-operative had not imagined before. The same year, I attended the 1st Regional Youth Committee meeting organised by the SNCF in Singapore. I am proud and honoured to be a part of this committee since it was constituted fully, as a full ICA-AP Committee. Earlier, issues related to youth were addressed via the ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Co-operatives. I have come a long way in my discovery of co-operatives and the opportunities for its development in the region and must thank the ICA-AP to have helped me continue my professional journey beyond the region.

The Youth Co-operative Wing of Pakistan (YCWP) that I consider an achievement of the KCHSU was inspired from the activities of the Youth Committee. The YCWP carries forward the co-operative movement in the interest of Pakistani youth through workshops, training programs and other social activities such as blood camps. This will have an impact on future engagement of youth with Co-operatives in Pakistan.

ICA has supported the co-operative movement in innumerable countries by gathering intelligent minds and discussing issues relating to co-operatives at various platforms. It continues to develop its influence through the trainings it organises in collaboration with various institutions and organisations. A dedicated training programme for youth may be designed by the ICA to start the process of free sharing of knowledge on co-operatives and best practices from an early age. I have met many youth co-operators with the help of my membership at the ICA committees. I show particular gratitude to the Co-operative College of Malaysia and the Government of Malaysia that collaboratively organise the Malaysia Co-operative Training Programme at extremely subsidised costs for youth.

My experience with the ICA-AP and the committee in 2015 was tremendous to say the least. The first collaborative workshop of the Youth Committee and the University/Campus Committee increased my understanding of youth focussed activities in universities and educational organisations in other parts of the region. Youth Committee's activity on Financial Literacy that was piloted in Bhutan, Nepal and India have resulted in the formation and registration of Bhutan's first social co-operative; formation of 200 savings clubs in schools in various parts of Nepal; and in cooperation with co-operatives in Philippines and Thailand. The YCWP too, has initiated engagement with the

education sector to target youth by organising trainings of school teachers on co-operatives. The ICYC members also attended the ICA General Assembly, Antalya, Turkey and optimised the great opportunity to interact with youth from the other regions. The Global Youth Network Executive Committee elections resulted in the retention of Dr. Suresh Zamwar as Vice Chairperson and my position as Executive Member. The efforts of Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, who is part of ICYC as secretary, have been most helpful for the committee's development.



Participants at the 8th Meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation

VIEWS FROM THE FIELD



MR. NGAWANG GYELTSHEN

Founder Member – Youth Social Co-operative,
Thimpu, Bhutan
Member – ICA-AP Committee on Youth
Cooperation



Bhutan, the Land of Happiness as many have come to know it, is a young nation long clouded from the outside world by myth and mysticism. It was only in 2008, that the young nation opened her doors to the most celebrated of western ideologies; democracy. An ideology founded on values of liberty, freedom and equality. Democracy in Bhutan was gifted to the people by the royal throne, an institution loved and revered in Bhutan till this day. It was the Fourth King of Bhutan, His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who also gifted Bhutan and the world the ideology of Gross National Happiness (GNH).

Gross National Happiness

Bhutan's rich Buddhist tradition and culture has led the nation on a path seldom travelled by other countries. Under the leadership of the fourth King or the Great Fourth as many affectionately address him, Bhutan values the Happiness of her people over the materialistic growth of the country. Such a developmental paradigm has ensured that any developmental activity needs to keep at heart the very purpose of economic progress; wellbeing of the people. Bhutan's internationally celebrated success in environmental conservation is credited to the country's vision of happiness over wealth.

The Birth of Bhutan's first Social Co-operative: A retrospective

12th January, 2015: More than 150 youth in Bhutan gathered in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan, to participate in the national youth seminar, "Youth Cooperation for young, by the young". The seminar exhibited one quintessential thing needed in making democracy work, cooperation. The event was supported by ICA-AP office in Delhi and the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Co-operatives, MoAF. The event was coordinated by youth leaders and Sangay Rinchen, founder and CEO of Happy Green co-operative. Sangay Rinchen, a retired civil servant turned farmer is a pioneer in Bhutan. He is widely respected for his innovative ideas and humility. The participating youth, numbering in hundreds, learned how the co-operative principles could help Bhutan in her quest for GNH. The seminar was a workshop of creativity, innovation and a glaring example of how 'Youth is NOT wasted on the young'. But perhaps the highlight of the seminar was the birth of Bhutan's one of a kind youth co-operative called, Youth Social Co-operative, Y Co-Op. Y Co-Op aims to inspire, unite and strengthen the youth of Bhutan; to bring out the best in the youth in realizing the dream of GNH. The main motto being 'Innovate- Inspire'.

Y Co-Op's first two projects were collaborations between various non-governmental organizations and private enterprises. Script Weavers, the first project, was an oral history documentation project with Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy. The project involved members from the co-operative documenting oral histories of people aged above 60, in attempt to preserve their life tales and help bridge a growing divide among the young and the old. The documented stories will soon be published for the general public. The second project was making of a short youth movie to generate awareness among the general public about the growing youth issues. The entire movie-crew consisted of the youth. Both the projects were featured in Bhutan's first newspaper, The Kunsel.

Being the youngest member of ICA-AP Youth Committee

My experience as the youngest member of ICA-AP youth committee has been a journey of self-discovery. The support from member colleagues of ICA-AP youth Committee has helped our small co-operative reach new heights in our understanding of co-operative ideology and in our progress. The Renowned Economist Joseph Stiglitz in his article, moving beyond market fundamentalism to a more balanced economy, states that inequality is perhaps the biggest threat the global economy faces now. I understand that in this fight against inequality, Co-operatives play a very vital role. My humble contributions to this cause as a member of ICA-AP Youth Committee will always be one of my proudest achievements.

Ngawang Gyeltshen, a TEDx Speaker, is the founder and CEO of Youth Social Co-operative (Y Co-Op). Currently studying Economics and Innovation at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan. He happens to be the youngest member of ICA-AP youth Committee.

The 2nd data study on Status and Participation of Women and Men in Co-operatives commissioned

The ICA-AP commissioned the Second data study on Status and Participation of Women and Men in Co-operatives” to review the situation-progress or lack thereof. The study will look at the state of affairs as it relates to participation of women and their role in decision making in co-operatives and provide data on the changes that have happened on status of women since the information was last collected in the first data study, Engendering Database in Co-operatives in 2005. In February 2016, ICA-AP will hold the Third Regional Conference in Tagaytay (Philippines) to review the situation 10 years after the second conference and look ahead to see how gender mainstreaming can be further consolidated in co-operatives. The conference will also make recommendations to the 10th Co-operative Ministers Conference.

Regional Co-operative Research Conference

The 10th ICA-AP Regional Co-operative Research Conference was held at Vaikunta Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management (VAMNICOM), Pune, India, on November 5 and 6, 2015. The theme of the conference was Governance of Co-operatives: Issues and Challenges. Financial support for the conference was provided by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), NCUI, and district level banks.

The opening ceremony was attended among others by Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and President of NCUI; Er. Sanjeeb Patjoshi, IPS, Director of VAMNICOM & CICTAB; and M.V. Ashok, Chief General Manager, NABARD. In his inaugural address, Dr. Yadav stressed on the upon the need for co-operatives to emerge as autonomous entities started and operated by members community. He provided a historical sketch of the contribution of co-operatives in India and said that co-operatives



Research conference in progress

help hold different segments of the economy on a balanced footing. In his key note address, Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP underlined the importance of research in strengthening the co-operative movement.

The Research Committee had invited research papers on the following sub themes:

- Theories and models of governance
- Structure and processes of governance
- Political and economic democracy
- Member participation
- Women and youth participation
- Legal environment affecting governance
- Role of board and executive
- General body powers and limitations
- Co-operative leadership

Out of 60 abstracts received, 35 were selected through a process of blind review and 30 research papers presented by authors from Australia, India, Korea, Malaysia and Philippines in two parallel sessions on the above sub themes. Each session was well attended and at the end of each presentation there was a lively exchange of questions and answers. The papers presented in the conference will be further reviewed and selected papers will be published in the form of a book shortly.

Research Conference in Iran on Capacities and Advantages of Co-operatives for Economic and Social Development

The Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare, Islamic Republic of Iran organized a two-day international conference on the theme "Advantages and Capacities of Co-operatives in Economic and Social Development". The Government of Iran is committed to ensuring that cooperatives contribute to 25% to the national GDP. Dr. Kalantari, Deputy Minister in-charge of Cooperatives and his team convened the conference around pathology of the cooperative sector, where the challenges and shortcomings that cooperatives encounter today and what they may experience in the run up to the culmination of the Co-operative Decade in 2020. The conference was attended by Iranian policy makers, international agencies dealing with cooperatives such as the ILO Coop, Huia.coop (New Zealand), Cooperative Bulk Handling (Australia), and scholars, researchers and representatives from universities from Iran and outside. Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, Vice President – ICA Asia and Pacific and the President of the National Cooperative Union of India led the Indian delegation. Ms. Savitri Singh and Mr. Santosh Kumar from the ICA-AP regional office attended the conference and presented papers on pathology of cooperative sector development, gender equality and participation of youth.

Activities in Malaysia

Malaysian Carnival of Co-operatives' Products and Services

The second Malaysian Carnival of Co-operatives' Products and Services (MACCOPS) was held at the Malacca Trade Centre from November 20 to 26, 2015. The event in its second year is promoted by ANGKASA to showcase co-operative products and services from Malaysia and the region. The theme for this year was, "Bersama-sama Mengukuhkan Jaringan Ekonomi Koperasi," which translates to "Together to strengthen Economic Co-operative Network." The Malaysian National Co-operative Policy has co-operatives playing an active role in the following clusters: financial; wholesale and retail; agriculture and agro-based industry (including plantations); tourism and health; community development; real estate and construction; and in innovation, technology and telecommunication. In line with this, the co-operative fair had over 227 stalls displaying an array of products and services ranging from neatly packaged food products, halal certified products, hydroponic gardening, traditional health products, handicrafts, banking and finance. The food products were aligned with the Makanan Selamat Tanggungjawab Industry (MeSTI), or the "Food Safety is the Responsibility of the Industry", a food safety program undertaken by the Ministry of Health. On the lighter side, the Co-operative Artists groups provided entertainment to the people visiting the fair. The conference also provided the opportunity for co-operatives from neighbouring countries to show case their products. Taking advantage were the Co-operative League of Thailand, DEKOPIN from Indonesia, Samakaya from Brunei and CHAM Business Network from Cambodia. During MACOOPS, Angkasa launched the site <http://www.mykoperasi.coop/> to encourage co-operatives to register for the COOP domain and marquee.



Improving Value Chain through Fair Trade and Halal Certification

A seminar to explore opportunities to improve value chain through Fair Trade and Halal Certification was organized in Kuala Lumpur on December 2 and 3, 2015. The seminar was hosted by ANGKASA, JCCU, and NACF, Korea and attended by 40 participants from 12 countries - China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka Singapore and Vietnam. The seminar had presentations from

experts in the field, experience-sharing by co-operatives involved in the activities, and field visits. Mr. Erwin Novianto provided an overview of Fair Trade International, the premium that fair trade products commanded, and the opportunities for co-operatives. Ms. Han Geumee, traced the history of iCoop's association with fair trade since 2007 and about their partnership with 17 producer organizations from 12 countries. Ms. Elizabeth Dellina, from Panay Fairtrade Center Philippines spoke about their co-operative's association with iCOOP Korea in sourcing products such as mascobado sugar, ginger, and banana.



Participants at the Halal Development Corporation

Mr. Jamie Rammie, from the Halal Development Corporation (HDC), presented an overview of the \$1.5 trillion Halal market and HDC's role in promoting halal business. Mr. Mohd Naim Aziz, explained the requirements of JAKIM (Malaysian Halal certification) and its recognition in over 63 countries. Mr. Rushdi Siddiqui, Co-founder and CEO of Zilzar gave a comprehensive overview of Zilzar, the leading e-Halal e-commerce platform. Mr. Kim Moon from NACF spoke about the importance they were attaching to halal products and their target to export \$200 million by 2020.



New Members

The Alliance membership from the Region has been increased from 82 members from 26 countries in 2014 to 89 members from 29 countries in 2015. The following were the new members accepted to ICA.

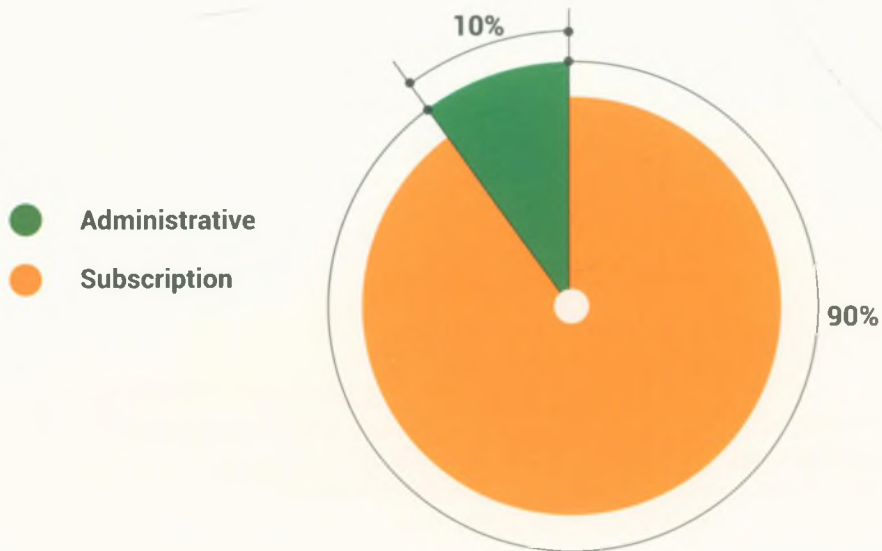
1. Supervision and Coordination Central Union of Rural and Agriculture Co-operatives (SCURA)
Tehran, Iran
2. Maldives Fisherman's Association (MFA)
Boduthakurufaanu Magu,
Male, Republic of Maldives
3. Office of Co-operative Societies (OCS-PNG)
Boroko, National Capital District
Papua New Guinea
4. Federation of peoples' Sustainable Development Coop
Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines
5. Philippine Co-operative Center (PCC)
Quezon City, Philippines.
6. Vietnam National Industrial, Handicraft and Commercial
Coop Enterprise Association (VICCA)
Hanoi City, Vietnam
7. Co-operatives and Business Development services (ORCBDS)
Port Vila, Vanuatu



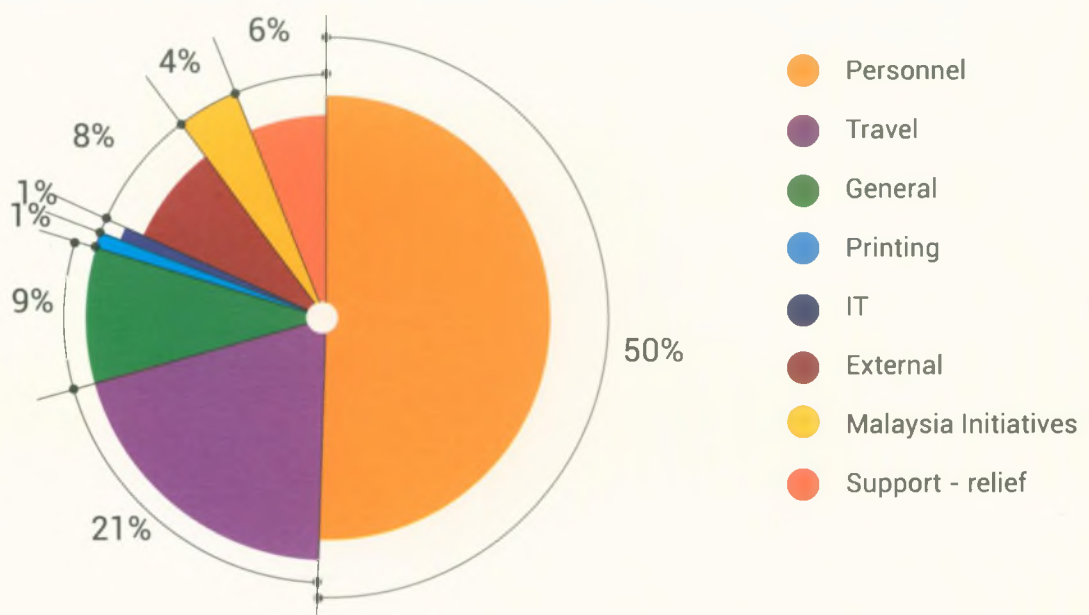
Income and Expenditure - 2015

The income for the Asia Pacific region comes from two sources – subscription redistribution, and administrative contribution for projects. In 2015, the total income for the region was \$ 431,200 of which \$ 388,200 was subscription and \$ 43,000 administrative income. The expenditures were mainly towards personnel, travel, Malaysia activities, support for earthquake relief and operations.

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



2015 Calendar of Events

S.No.	Activity Details	Sector / Committee	Partners	Location	Period
Quarter 1 - January to March					
1	Financial Literacy for Youth - Pilot Projects	Youth	DAMC, Bhutan; SRCC, India; JCCU, Japan	Bhutan, India	9-14 January
2	ICA-Japan Training Courses - Follow-up Visits	Agriculture	IDACA, MAFF, Japan; ICA-AP	Indonesia, Myanmar	8-20 February
3	ICA-Japan Training Course on Fostering Core Leaders in Agricultural Cooperatives.	Agriculture	MAFF, IDACA Japan; CLT, CPD, Thailand	Thailand and Japan	25 February to 4 April
4	Release of Resource Guide	Women	JCCU, ICA	New York, USA	10 March
5	ICA-AP Regional Board and Global Board Meetings/ Release of Resource Guide	Governance, Women	JCCU; SNCF, Singapore	Singapore	29-31 March
Quarter 2 - April to June					
6	Meeting of the Office Bearers of ICA-AP Committee on Women	Women	JCCU, CLT	Bangkok, Thailand	
7	Conference on Social Banking ICBA and Mont-Blanc Meeting	Banking	ICBA; NAFSCOB, India	Mumbai, India	2-4 April
8	Research on Cooperatives in Sri Lanka	Consumer	JCCU; COOPFED, Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	26-30 April
9	Training of Trainers for Management Capacity Building of Women for Cooperative Development.	Women	JCCU; NAMAC, Mongolia	Mongolia	11-15 May
10	15 th ICA-Fairprice Workshop for Managers on Management of Consumer Cooperatives	Consumer	JCCU; NTUC Fairprice, Singapore	Singapore	1-4 June
11	ICA-ACFSMC Training Course on Small Cooperative Finance and Risk Management	Trade	ACFSMC, China	Nantong, China	8-13 June
Quarter 3 - July to September					
12	Workshop on Development of Cooperative to Cooperative Trade through E-commerce	Trade	ACFSMC; VCA, Vietnam	Hanoi, Vietnam	13-17 July
13	ICA-Japan Training Course on Fostering Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of Agricultural Cooperatives	Agriculture	MAFF; IDACA; CLT	Japan	15 July to 8 August

14	ICA-JCCU Training Program for Managers of Consumer Cooperatives	ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Cooperatives	JCCU	Japan	27 July to 9 August
15	Workshop on Enhancing the Role of Women in Coop Business.	ICA-AP Committee on Women	JCCU, ESDC, Palestine	Ramallah, Palestine	15-17 September
16	2 nd ICA-Japan Training Course on Improving Capacity of Rural Women	Agriculture	MAFF, IDACA, CLT	Thailand and Japan	16 September to 14 October
17	8 th Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation & 7 th Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Cooperatives	Youth and University Cooperatives	JCCU; KCHU, Pakistan; BUCCS, India; CLT; NFUCA, Japan	Bangkok, Thailand	17-20 September
18	Regional Consultation of Cooperatives in Asean (++) Countries : Jakarta Consultations	Advocacy	DEKOPIN, Indonesia	Jakarta, Indonesia	30 September to 3 October
Quarter 4 - October to December					
19	Asia-Pacific Cooperative E-business Summit	Trade	ACFSMC	Kunming, China	8-12 October
20	10 th ICA-AP Regional Research Conference (Theme: Governance of Coops: Issues and Challenges)	Research	IFFCO; VAMNICOM, India	Pune, India	5-6 November
21	ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting	Governance		Antalya, Turkey	8-13 November
22	ICA-JCCU Training Program for Managers of Consumer Cooperatives	Consumer	JCCU	Japan	23 November to 6 December
23	49 th Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Cooperation, Fair Trade and Halal Seminar	Consumer, Malaysia initiative	JCCU; ANGKASA, Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1-3 December
24	Regional Consultation of Cooperatives from SAARC Countries: Kathmandu Consultations	Advocacy	NCF, NACCFL, NCDB, NEFSCUN, Nepal	Kathmandu, Nepal	14-15 December
24	Engendering Database in Cooperatives	Women	JCCU	ICA-AP	Started in July, still continuing
25	Publication of ICA-AP Newsletter and 2014 Annual Report	Communications		ICA-AP	January to December

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Agriculture Committee	Mr. K.Srinivasa Gowda	Chairperson, Board member	Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO)
	Mr. Hajme Haguchi	Vice Chairperson, Executive Director	Central Union of Agriculture Coops (JA-Zenchu)
	Mr. Ashok Kumar Taneja	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific
Consumer Committee	Mr. Haruyoshi Amano	Chair person	JCCU, Japan
	Mr. Poh Leong Sim	Vice Chairperson	NCCF, India
	Mr. D.S.K. Pathirana	Vice Chairperson	COOPFED, Sri Lanka
	Ms. Yuki Nishimoto	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific
Co-operative Research	Dr.G.N. Saxena	Chairperson	IFFCO, India
	Mr. Akira Kurimoto	Vice Chairperson	Consumer Co-operative Institute of Japan
	Mr. Ashok Kumar Taneja	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific
Credit and Banking Committee	Mr. Shivadasan Nair	Chairperson	NACARD
	Ms. Divina C. Quemi	Vice Chairperson	NATCCO, Philippines
	Mr. K. Kukreja	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific
Forestry Committee	Mr. Shigeyoshi Satoh	Chairman, President	National Federation of Forest owners' Co-operative Associations
	Mr. K.G. Wankhade	Vice Chairman	Indian farm Forestry Development Co-operatives Ltd. (IFFDC)
	Mr. Ashok Kumar Taneja	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific

Gender Committee	Ms. Mashako Shimbo	Chairperson	JCCU, Japan
	Ms. Maria Elena Canda Limocon	Vice Chair	Women's representative to NATCCO board, AWCf
	Ms. Savitri Singh	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific
HRD Committee	Dr. Dinesh	Chairperson	National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI)
	Mr. Jose Romeo B. Ebron	Vice Chairperson	National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO)
	Mr. K. Sethumadhavan	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific
University/ Campus Committee	Prof. Furuta	Chairperson	National Federation of University Co-operative Association, Japan
	Prof. Park	Vice Chairperson	Korea University Cooperative federation (KUCF)
	Dr. Azlan	Vice Chairperson	ANGKASA Malaysia
	P. Santosh Kumar	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific
	Prof. Zenaída S. Diola	Co-Secretary	Metro manlia Federation of Consumers Co-operatives, Philippines
	Prof. Yashwantha Dongre	Co-Secretary	University of Mysore, India
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	Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur	Vice Chairperson	Karachi Cooperative housing Societies Union Ltd. (KCHSU)
	Mr. Ukwaththa Liyanage Udaya Prabath	Vice Chairperson	Consumers Co-operatives Societies federation of Sri Lanka Ltd. (COOPFED)
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CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Voluntary and Open Membership

Co-operatives are voluntary organisations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

Democratic Member Control

Co-operatives are democratic organisations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary co-operatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and co-operatives at other levels are also organised in a democratic manner.

Member Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-operative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Autonomy and Independence

Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-operative autonomy.

Education, Training and Information

Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives. They inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

Co-operation among Co-operatives

Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Concern for Community

Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.



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