

# Annual Activities Report 2016

**Cooperatives: Power to Act for  
Sustainable Future**

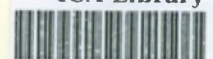


International  
Co-operative  
Alliance  
Asia and Pacific

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# Year End Report from the Chairperson and Regional Director

*Dear Cooperators,*

**W**e live in challenging times. The political outlook in many countries is turning inward, the wealth gap between the rich and poor is rapidly widening, the appetite for globalization seems to be diminishing, and the environmental cost of unbridled consumption is leaving the planet gasping. Amid this negativity, co-operatives offer positive hope. Openness, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination; member economic participation with benefits in proportion to business conducted; cooperation by working together through local, national, regional and international structures; and concern for the environment and community. In the region, we are doing our part to increase awareness of the co-operative model, counter interference on autonomy, innovate and provide efficient services, and position co-operatives as important players in new areas of the economy.

2016 saw us host a few landmark events - The Tagaytay+20 Third Regional Conference on Status of Women in Co-operatives, the First Asia-Pacific Youth Summit in Bali and the 12th Regional Assembly in New Delhi. All these events saw important declarations that as a region we are committed to implement. The theme for this year's International Co-operative Day was, 'Co-operatives: The power to act for a sustainable future.' During the Regional Assembly, our members showcased the impact their work was having and the role they are playing in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. To encourage young researchers to the field of co-operative research, we instituted the Dr. Mauritz Bonow Young Researcher Award at the Regional Assembly.

This year we made efforts to engage with the regional entities such as Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Gulf Co-operating Countries (GCC), Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) and the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC). There is lack of political awareness of the sector, limited access to capital, and insufficient education about the co-operative model. We hope to engage with these institutions to raise awareness, provide training and raise the technical capacity in cooperatives.

We carried out many training programs, workshops and seminars, all aimed at developing the capacity of our members. We are thankful for the financial support provided by our members from China, Japan, India, Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand. We appreciate the support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan for their continued support in the development of cooperatives in the region. This year we started implementation of the European Union supported project—"Co-operatives in development—people-centered businesses in action."The project is to improve, among others, social inclusion and economic empowerment, areas in which co-operatives play a fundamental role.

We have a new regional board consisting of committed leaders from across the region. The board is diverse in terms of age, gender and geography. We should be proud that we elected a woman Vice Chair and opted the Chair of the Women Committee to the Regional Board. This is a very progressive step and will be a model for members in the region to follow.

We are thankful to all of you, the staff of ICA-AP as well as staff of member organizations for their sincere work to help achieve our goals. We look forward to your continued support and wholehearted participation in 2017!

**Li Chunsheng**  
Chairperson

**Balasubramanian (Balu) Iyer**  
Regional Director



INTERNATIONAL  
12<sup>th</sup> Regional  
CO-OPERATIVE



# Highlights of the Year

# 12th ICA-AP Regional Assembly



National  
Co-operative  
Union of India

## INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE - ASIA AND PACIFIC Regional Assembly & 9<sup>th</sup> Co-operative Forum

CO-OPERATIVES : THE POWER TO ACT FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

17 - 18 November, 2016

Ashok Hotel, New Delhi, India



Mr. Radha Mohan Singh, Honorable Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, speaking at the joint opening ceremony

The 12th ICA-AP Regional Assembly, 9th Cooperative Forum and related events were held from November 15 to 19, 2016 in New Delhi. The events were hosted by the Indian cooperative movement led by National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI). The joint opening ceremony was attended by over 600 delegates from India and the region. Mr. Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister for Railways, Government of India and a keen cooperator, graced the opening while Mr. Parshottam Rupala, Minister for State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare addressed the closing ceremony.

Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of NCUI and Vice Chair of ICA-AP in his opening address extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries and cooperators and proudly mentioned that India had the privilege

of hosting the very first ICA-AP Assembly in 1995 and was happy to get this opportunity again. He said that while the Indian co-operative movement is largest in terms of numbers; it faces numerous challenges and needs to redouble its efforts to ensure benefits reach where it is most needed. He hoped the Forum would provide directions for the movement to follow. Mr. Li Chunsheng, Chair of ICA-AP extended his welcome to the delegates at the biennial Regional Assembly which is the highest authority of ICA-AP and provides a platform for cooperators to discuss issues of mutual concerns. He said the region is most energetic and despite the diversity, we share 'one goal' of attaining sustainable development. Cooperatives institutions have to reform, innovate and improve constantly to face the challenges of harsh market competition. They need to encourage women, youth, farmers and members to collaborate cooperatively to succeed.

Mr. Radha Mohan Singh applauded ICA for its commendable work in cooperative development and noted the growth in membership. He said that co-operatives are people's organisations and play an important role in reducing the gap between rich and poor. Co-operatives are not a new concept in India and are intertwined in the lives of people. While the number of co-operatives and membership has grown many fold in recent years; there are still farmers committing suicide and increasing number of poor. This sends out a clear message that all is not well and benefits are only garnered by people with access. While the government is providing enabling legal and policy environment, infrastructure and funds; cooperative leadership needs to reform and perform. Co-operatives need to look into areas of good governance, transparency, use of technology and inclusion of young people to sustain development. The Minister said that the recommendations coming out of the Coop Forum and Regional Assembly will be taken as guidelines to improve cooperative business in India.

Mr. Suresh Prabhu, in his keynote speech touched upon prevailing global socio-economic situation and the merging unconventional political changes caused by support of common people. He lamented the disconnect between people and governments, the chasm between grassroots needs and policy makers, and the widening gap between rich and poor. He said that co-operatives can fill the void and build cohesive relationship between social and economic policies. Therefore, let cooperatives be the 'way of life'! Cooperatives are owned by members; provide capital and democracy, and maintain the institution and pass it on to next generation. There are several successful examples of cooperatives and these models need to replicated, emulated.

Mr. Parshottam Rupala, speaking at the closing ceremony talked about the origin of cooperatives in India and appreciated the progress achieved. He expressed the need for cooperatives to look within to identify gaps in reaching out to all segments of the society as many people are deprived of benefits of cooperatives. He also appreciated the work of ICA and thanked all for organizing the event successfully.

The Assembly adopted several resolutions including strategic direction for the region, declaration from the Co-operative Forum, support to Japanese co-operative movement, constitution of committee on Co-operative Trade and co-option of Chair of Women Committee. The various committee events also showcased the role of cooperatives in achieving sustainable development.

We would like to convey our thanks to the NCUI and the Indian co-operative movement for successfully hosting the Regional Assembly and related events. The next Regional Assembly will likely be held in Iran in 2018. The video of the opening ceremony can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePt37rXRXR4&feature=youtu.be>

# 9th ICA-AP Co-operative Forum

The biennial Cooperative Forum held in conjunction with the Regional Assembly was dedicated to highlight the role co-operatives in the Asia Pacific region play in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their role as builders of sustainability. The sessions were tailored to cover the role of co-operatives in addressing hunger and sustainable agriculture; understand the trends to position co-operatives to efficiently and effectively bring about changes; and partnerships with stakeholders to deliver on SDGs.



Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Honorable Minister for Railways, Government of India delivering the keynote speech

The first panel focused on SDG 2 which is aimed at ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture. Dr. U.S. Awasthi, Managing Director of the Indian Farmer Fertilizer Cooperatives Limited (IFFCO) highlighted IFFCO's role in enabling farmers to prosper through timely supply of reliable, high quality agricultural inputs and services in an environmentally sustainable manner. IFFCO's Vision-2020 emphasizes sustainable development through integrated resource management, financial inclusion, and advanced agriculture practices to empower farmers and rural India. Mr. Navindra Liyanaarachchi, Chief Executive Officer of SANASA, Sri Lanka spoke about



their role in implementing the “Lassana Lanka” (Beautiful Sri Lanka) program as part of the “Sri Lanka NEXT Blue-Green Economy,” to develop 10,000 sustainable villages by 2020. Ms. Chitra Kumari Thamsuhang, Deputy General Manager, National Cooperative Federation (NCF) of Nepal made a moving presentation on the role Nepalese co-operatives played in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and in building resilient communities.

The second panel focused on partnership between co-operatives and governments to deliver on SDGs. The panelists opined that the partnership could be actualized by government creating an enabling environment and through a balanced approach while safeguarding co-operative values and principles. Mr. Orlando Ravanera, Chairperson of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) Philippines, mentioned about the policies in the areas of governance and gender that have helped create an enabling environment for co-operatives. Datuk Hj Mohammaed Ali Hasan, Vice President, Angkasa, spoke about the National Cooperative Policy in Malaysia and the way co-operatives are transforming themselves through projects with high economic impact. Mr. Alireza Gharagozlou, Vice President at ICC, Iran spoke about the initiatives carried out with the support of their government.

The third panel focused on the need for co-operatives to understand the trends to position themselves to efficiently and effectively bring about changes. Ms. Dolly Goh, Chief Executive, Singapore National Cooperative Federation spoke of the rapid aging of society and the need for elderly care. Cooperatives in Singapore have stepped up to meet the growing demand for services for the elderly by offering a range of services across different areas, from employment to healthcare to tourism.

At the other end of the demographic spectrum is the need to attract and include youth. Mr. Ngawang Gyeltshen, Founder and CEO, The Youth Social Cooperative, Bhutan presented the way in which the Government in Bhutan is encouraging co-operative model of business to reduce poverty, include youth and achieve sustainable development. Dr. Saji Gopinath presented the initiatives by the Uralungal Contract Labor Cooperative Society Limited in organizing workers and laborers in cooperatives to compete in the open market. He said this was important in view of the rapid changes and competition in job market due to globalization which has impacted the poor negatively.

Dr. Seung Hoon Chae, Assistant Research Fellow, Future Strategy Department at the National Agriculture Cooperative Federation, Korea spoke about the need for innovation and adoption of technology to position the cooperative business model and use it to promote business.

## Resolution of the 9th ICA-AP Co-operative Forum

### Theme: Co-operatives: The Power to Act for a Sustainable Future

Adopted by ICA-AP members and stakeholders  
participating on November 17, 2016.

#### Preamble

Having witnessed poverty, hunger, social injustice and gross inequalities in our culturally diverse and ecologically rich region;

Recognizing the growing inability of people to have access and control over their natural resources due to unsustainable exploitation and profiteering at the cost of the planet;

Having established the potential and the power of co-operatives to act in our world's collective pursuit to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the international community in 2015;

Taking into account the Declaration coming out the 3rd International Summit of Cooperatives in Quebec City, Canada, and;

Appreciating the efforts of the ICA and its members in the Asia Pacific region towards implementing the ICA Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade within the context of the SDGs;

Understanding that sustainability is regaining ecological integrity as opposed to strategy of unethical economic growth which has sacrificed mother earth and the people at all costs and;

Resolving among other things, to harness the power of co-operatives collectively to act towards an inclusive sustainable future;

We, the participants of the 9th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Forum, having met at the Convention Hall of the Hotel Ashok, New Delhi on 17 November 2016, commit to the following resolutions:

1. Ensure peace and harmony in nations by active practice and propagation of the co-operative model of enterprise in line with the ICA Statement on Co-operative Identity
2. Enhance innovation in co-operatives by investing in education, training and research activities among members and relevant stakeholders of co-operatives
3. Effect a paradigm shift in the response of co-operatives in the following areas:
  - Food-security and sovereignty
  - Ecological integrity
  - Renewable energy
  - Gender mainstreaming towards 'equality',
  - Inclusion of youth for inter-generational sustainability,
  - Aid governments, bilateral and multilateral agencies towards elimination poverty and inclusion of the impoverished into the mainstream development process,

- Collaborate with policy makers and legislators, in line with ILO recommendation 193 and the overall ICA strategy for co-operative development, to create and maintain an enabling environment for a sustainable co-operative movement,
  - To positively explore and impact the global business community with growth and development of the co-operative enterprise and,
  - Continue to provide substantial support to members and their community suffering from ecological as well as man-made disasters and enhance individual as well as institutional capacities to cope with disasters, be better prepared, and mitigate related risks.
4. Implement the following recommendations made during the technical sessions of the 9th Co-operative Forum:
- Provide support to the global co-operative movement to enhance co-operative membership from 1 billion to 2 billion members by 2030,
  - Pledge to contribute to achieving the SDGs and report their progress at [www.coopsfor2030.coop](http://www.coopsfor2030.coop),
  - Enhance capacities of co-operatives through effective study, research, monitoring and evaluation in areas suggested by Alliance members
  - Revisit the relationship of national and regional movements with governments and regional associations of nations, in the interest of our concern for the community and development at large, and advocate with governments in support of the cooperative movement.
  - Pursue the principle of cooperation among cooperatives to enhance business and deepen the network and broaden opportunities by making use of electronic platforms.
  - Collectively address new demographic changes in Asia Pacific such as the 'youth bulge' in South Asia and 'aging populace' in countries like Japan, Singapore etc., through knowledge exchange and trainings.
  - Bring government policies on skills development and entrepreneurship closer to co-operative movements in order to benefit from national development strategies and funds.
  - Adopt, align and promote the co-operative identity ([www.identity.coop](http://www.identity.coop)), our symbol of collective identity which differentiates us from other forms of business.
5. Increase the confidence of people in co-operatives as partners in development and growth of societies and economies by increasing transparency, honesty and integrity while upholding the co-operative values and principles.

### **Closing Statement**

In a world dominated by big business, where economic control is in the hands of a few; where money is used to make more money, with utter disregard to the dignity of the people and the integrity of the environment; a paradigm shift has begun through co-operatives with their power to act for a sustainable future. We fully understand that the road ahead will be long and the climb will be steep, but we will certainly get there through our oneness and commitment because we firmly believe the DNA of co-operatives has come of age which are member-owned, value-based and sustainable enterprises.

## New Regional Board – 2016-2020



Newly elected office bearers of the Regional Board – (L to R) Dr. CPS Yadav, NCUI, India, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Li Chunsheng, ACFSMC, China, Chairperson and Ms. Chitose Arai, JCCU, Japan, Vice Chairperson

The Regional Assembly elected a new board of committed leaders from across the Asia-Pacific region. There are 13 board members of which 11 are directly elected and two (2) co-opted - chairpersons of the Committee on Women and Committee on Youth to represent cross-cutting sectors. The leadership consists of Mr. Li Chunsheng, Vice President, All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Co-operatives, China as Chairperson; Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President, National Cooperative Union of India, India and Ms. Chitose Arai, Vice President, Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union, Japan, as Vice Chairpersons. The other members of the Board are Mr. H.A.M. Nurdin Halid, President, DEKOPIN (the Indonesia Co-operative Council), Indonesia; Mr. Alireza Gharagozlou, Vice President of Economic and International Affairs, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Iran; Mr. Byeong Won Kim, Chairman, National Agricultural Cooperative Federation, Korea; Dato Hj. Abdul Fattah Hj. Abdullah, President, Malaysian National Cooperative Movement (ANGKASA), Malaysia; Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, Chairman, National Cooperative Federation of Nepal; Mr. Adolfo A. Ibanez, Chairman, National Confederation of Cooperatives, Philippines; Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong, Chairman, Singapore National Cooperative Federation, Singapore; and Mr. W. Lalith A. Peiris, President, National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka. The co-opted members are Dr. Sukesh Zamwar (from Buldana Urban Cooperative Credit Society), Chairperson, ICA-AP Committee on Youth and Ms. Masako Shimbo (from JCCU), Chairperson, ICA-AP Committee on Women. The term of the regional board is for four years.

### **Co-option of Women's Committee Chair to Regional Board**

There are a significant number of women in cooperatives in the region and the ICA-AP committee on women is very active. ICA is striving for gender equality at all levels of cooperatives; especially at leadership, as the absence of women at this level is glaring. In recognition of the contribution of women and to give voice at the leadership level, the 12<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly in New Delhi approved the proposal to co-opt the Chairperson of the Women's Committee as representative to the Regional Board. Ms. Masako Shimbo, the current Chairperson of the ICA-AP Committee on Woman will serve on the regional board.

### **Dr. Mauritz Bonow Young Researcher Award**

Dr. Mauritz Bonow, President of ICA (1962-1975) was a strong advocate of co-operatives and was responsible for the development of co-operative movement throughout the world and particularly in developing countries. Dr. Bonow was a strong advocate of education and believed that the strength of the cooperative movement depended on the existence of a vast and enlightened membership. He urged training institutions, colleges and universities to have co-operative training programs, and called on them to award undergraduate degrees, postgraduate degrees and doctorates. He felt these students would later play important roles in the enlightenment of the average co-operative worker, making them better co-operators and agents for transforming society.

The Dr. Mauritz Bonow Young Researcher Award is a joint initiative of the ICA-AP and the ICA Domus Trust. The ICA-AP regional office was established in New Delhi in 1960 to provide a voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and coordinated action for and about co-operatives in the region. The ICA Domus Trust was set up in recognition of the valuable contributions made by Dr. Mauritz Bonow.

A sub-committee was set up during the 11th ICA-AP research conference to review and adjudicate the best research papers. The sub-committee consisted on Mr. Balu Iyer, Dr. G.N. Saxena and Prof. A Kurimoto. The First prize of US\$ 500 was awarded to Ms. Shefali Pardeshi, Research Officer at VAMNI-COM for her paper on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, "A case of Lijjat Papad," Pune. The Second prize of US\$ 300 was awarded to Dr. Lucia Veronica Granados Martinez and co-author Silva, C. Ibarcena, R. from Peru for their paper, "Green microfinance for the base of the pyramid market: A cooperative response to address the needs of vulnerable population and climate change impacts in Peru.

### **Formation of ICA-AP Committee on Trade and Business**

Strong trading network among the producers and consumer coops is an area that can transform the way co-ops do business. In line with Principle 6 – Cooperation among Cooperatives, the ICA-AP has been encouraging interactions among others, consumer co-operatives, co-operative Insurance and banking; exploring ways to promote exchanges; and conducting workshops to strengthen capacity of members in Co-operative-to-Co-operative Trade (C2C). The Malaysia Business Office (MBO), established in 2013 has been working to facilitate trade linkages. A lot of ideas emerged during the course of these interactions such as need of a trade portal, directory for co-op products, e-commerce, etc. For a more concerted action, it was felt necessary to constitute a Committee on Trade and Business that would provide direction and leadership in the area of C2C. The formation of the Committee was approved by the 12<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly on November 18, 2016. The overall aim of this committee is to promote the development of sound and effective trade and business and to develop appropriate policies and programs. In this respect, the committee will undertake suitable advocacy work and formulate viable strategies from time-to-time in order to build the trade sector. In terms of membership, the committee shall consist of persons/organizations working in the field of trade and business in the member-organization of the ICA in the region.

# Inclusive Growth

## “Tagaytay+20” Third Regional Conference on Status of Women in Co-operatives



Participants with the 'Gender Tree'

The world has made significant progress in the reduction of poverty. More than 1 billion people have been lifted out of extreme poverty since 1990 and the Millennium Development Goals achieved its target of reducing extreme poverty rates by half, five years ahead of the 2015 deadline. The UN Agenda 2030 has a bold target to end extreme world poverty by 2030. Co-operatives have an important role to play in this regard. However, the world is becoming a more unequal space with the gap between rich and poor ever rapidly widening. Inequality is both a political and moral issue and free markets will not automatically deliver widespread prosperity. The co-operative model with its focus on long-term sustainability and inclusive growth is even more significant these days. At ICA-AP, inclusive growth is not only economic but also social and environment and for all segments of a society irrespective of caste, creed and gender. Economic growth can be sustained not only by creating employment to meet basic needs but also by capacitating people to have equal opportunity to access resources (health

services, education) and development of skills. Women are an integral part of cooperative business as they contribute 50-70% labour in farming and allied activities. In the region, we believe, their active and equal participation is crucial in reducing poverty. We need to accelerate efforts to attract and include youth in co-operatives as the Asia Pacific region is home to highest number of young people, the millennials. Many countries in the region are having to address issues relating to rapid aging in their societies. Below are some of the activities carried out in the region to promote inclusive growth.

The “Tagaytay+20” Third Regional Conference on Status of Women in Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific was held from February 9-11 in Clark City, Pampanga, Philippines in collaboration with the cooperative movement of Philippines. The conference was held to mark 20 years since the first conference in 1997 and 10 years after the second in 2006. The conference was attended by more than 50 participants from 9 countries - India, Iran Japan Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, and Sri Lanka. Ms. Masako Shimbo, Chair of ICA-AP Committee on Women, in her opening remarks traced the history of the Women Committee and its activities to enhance participation of women, gender equality, and women in leadership. Ms. Pacita U. Juan, President Women’s Business Council of the Philippines, in her keynote address remarked that cooperatives are instrumental in building the institution and capacity building of women. The findings of the Second Data Study on participation of women and their role in decision-making in co-operatives was presented at the conference. Presenting the findings, of the Second Data Study, Dr. Nandini Azad, said that, “co-operatives are enhancing bargaining power of rural women and of women in the informal sector. While women representation at higher reaches is still not significant; the trends indicate a new threshold of change is happening.”

The Conference called for enabling policies; building capacity of women; collaboration with cooperatives, international agencies and government; funding for women development projects and more research. In terms of policies, ensuring balanced ratio of women to men members, employees; laws and regulations to promote Gender and Development (GAD); integration of GAD in the policies, programs and activities of cooperatives; establishing Gender Integration Committee in cooperatives; implement membership friendly policies that encourage both women and men to be members; and implement sex-disaggregated data collection and utilization system in the coop. In terms of building capacity - provide appropriate trainings to management, leaders and staff to enhance their capabilities and appreciation of the cooperative, its identity, principles and values; provide confidence-building trainings to women members (lack of confidence was identified as a big challenge to the participation of women); bring in men in the provision of GAD trainings/ (especially coops in “patriarchal mode”); and update coop trainings to the current needs of trainees/ demands of the changing times.

## ICA-AP Co-operative Youth Summit, Bali



Young co-operators from 17 countries at the Youth Summit

The paradise island of Bali (Indonesia) played host to 70 young people from 17 countries at the first Asia Pacific Co-operative Youth Summit (19-22 Sep 2016). The Summit held at the Zizz Convention Hotel was on the theme—**Youth, Co-operatives and the Power of Innovation and Entrepreneurship**. Alliance members **ACFSMC (China)**, **ANGKASA (Malaysia)** and **Buldana Urban (India)** sponsored parts of the event; **DEKOPIN** and **KOPINDO** from Indonesia participated as local hosts along with the **KubuGunung Credit Co-operative**, Bali and Zizz Convention Hotel. The Summit was conceived as a platform for youth in the region to interact with each other; hear from young persons who have started co-operatives; engage in team activities (such as rafting, traditional Kecak dance and biking in Ubud); and make friends from the co-operative movement, for life! Information about the summit and its key speakers can be found at: <http://www.ica-ap.coop/icanews/asia-pacific-co-operative-youth-summit-culminates-bali>

The Summit also featured a battle of co-operative ideas - *Co-operative Pitch*- that provided participants an opportunity to present new and workable ideas about forming co-operatives in areas where they perceived real need. Seventeen ideas were presented that covered agricultural tourism, agriculture incubators, solutions for migrant workers, catering services (targeted at workers), modern transport systems, student housing, e-waste recycling, mobile fish vending vans, performance art collective, youth events - owned and managed by young persons, and e-commerce for co-ops. These ideas were judged by the key speakers at the event and the chairperson of the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation. The Best Pitch was awarded to Justine Lynn Limocon and Kevin Palson from LAMAC Multipurpose Co-operative, Philippines for their idea, Youth Engagement in Organic Farm Tourism and the Best Pitcher award was bagged by Shawn Hoh from Ngee Ann Polytechnic Co-operative, Singapore for his team's idea on providing co-operative solutions to migrant workers in Singapore. The Singapore team won the award for the first runner-up. The co-operative idea of Leonardo Desucatan from VICTO National, Philippines to recycle e-waste won him the runner-up award and Young-Gi Kwon won the honorable mention for his idea of having youth centred conferences, owned and managed by youth. Please follow the links on Facebook and the Youth website for photographs and other updates - [www.youth-asiapacific.coop](http://www.youth-asiapacific.coop)



## Member perspective



**Ms. Justine Lynn C. Limocon**  
Business Development Center Department Head  
& Youth Program Coordinator,  
Lamac Multi-purpose Cooperative,  
Philippines

The Asia Pacific Cooperative Youth Summit last September 19-23, 2016 at Bali, Indonesia with the theme “Youth, Cooperatives and the Power of Entrepreneurship and Innovation” was one of the best summits I have attended. It created a strong bond from the 70 participants coming from 17 countries.

It was not just a regular summit that we kept sitting down the whole day and listening to lectures; there was a mixture of outdoor activities such as rafting, hiking and cycling which made us appreciate wonderful Bali and active interaction with our fellow young co-operators.

The challenges we have encountered during these activities made us get along well and know each other at a deeper level. Aside from the fun learning activities, it was also a very inspiring experience to hear the different stories from our international speakers from New Zealand, Philippines, India, Bhutan, Canada and France. They passionately shared their experiences and their involvement in cooperatives. It opened our minds to a lot of possibilities that can only be achieved through the cooperative business model.

One of my most cherished and unforgettable experiences is when I joined the Cooperative Pitch Contest wherein all registered participants were given the opportunity to present cooperative business solutions that could cater to the needs and aspirations of the youth in their country. All the participants in the contest shared amazing cooperative pitches which made me realize that the future of the coop movement is in good hands because of these incredible and creative young minds.

I am very grateful and blessed to be able to participate in an international cooperative event. I never expected to receive the Best Cooperative Pitch for my project idea on Youth Participation on Sustainable Organic Farm Tourism. Congratulations to the organizers, to all winners and to all the participants of the contest and the summit! This is only the beginning, may we have more international youth gatherings for us to collaborate our projects to achieve a bigger impact. As I always believe in, being young is not an excuse to do great things and the cooperative is the alternative!

## Activities carried out to reinforce inclusive growth

- Training of Trainers on “Building Management Capacity of Women for Co-operative Development” held from April 18-22, 2016 in Udaipur, India.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> ICA-Japan Training Course on “Improving Capacity of Rural Women” held from September 6-30, 2016 in Thailand and Japan.
- Regional Workshop on “Enhancing Role of Women in Co-operative Business” held from September 27-29, 2016 in Korea in collaboration with ICA-AP member, iCOOP Korea.
- ICA-AP Youth Committee engagement with University Campuses in Delhi to increase participation of youth.
- Regional Women’s Forum on ‘Women in Co-operatives: The Power to Act for a Sustainable Future,’ November 16, 2016 in New Delhi, India.
- Asia-Pacific workshop on University/Campus Cooperatives in SAARC nations on Positioning Campus Cooperatives in the Context of SDGs the Sustainable Development Goals held on November 16, 2016 in New Delhi.

# Influence

The ICA strives to increase global influence to promote cooperatives as Value-Based business model that provides individuals and communities with an instrument of self-help and influence over their development. ICA influence is powered by extensive data and documented evidences to showcase the strength, power and contribution of cooperative business in the national and global economy. As per the World Cooperative Monitor, of the ten (10) largest cooperatives ranked by turnover over GDP per capita (the ratio of turnover over GDP per capita measures the turnover of a co-operative in terms of the purchasing power of an economy, in an internationally comparable way) there are five (5) from the Asia Pacific region with the top three ranks going to Asia Pacific!

In order to strengthen cooperative institutions in the Asia Pacific region, ICA-AP is making efforts to engage with the regional entities such as Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Gulf Cooperating Countries (GCC), the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) and the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC). The views emerging from these engagements is that there is lack of political awareness of the sector, limited access to capital and opportunities to raise capital, insufficient education about the co-operative model and persistent issues in relation to market access and supply chain logistics. The need expressed is adherence to the principles of cooperative and interests of citizens; training for members, boards of directors, and executive management; and the establishment of national institutes for cooperatives to raise the technical capacity in cooperatives. ICA-AP advocates the interests and success of co-operatives, disseminates best practices and knowledge, strengthens their capacity and monitors their performance and progress over time.

## **Third Gulf Cooperating Countries (GCC) Cooperatives Forum**

The Third GCC Cooperatives Forum was held in Kuwait from January 5 to 7. The forum was organized under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Aqeel Ahmed Jassim, Director General of the Executive Office of the Council of Ministers of Labor and Council of Ministers of Social Affairs in GCC States to discuss, "Role of Cooperatives under Market Economy and its Mechanisms." Delegates from Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Cooperative Union, and ICA participated in the Forum. The workshop was inaugurated by H.E. Ms. Hind Subeeh Barrak Al-Sabeeh, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development in Kuwait who spoke on the need for development of common goals and objectives in the GCC for the enrichment and diversity of cooperatives.

Among the recommendation of the Forum were the need to adhere to the principles of cooperative and interests of citizens; importance of and the need for training members, boards of directors, and executive management; establishment of a national institute for cooperative to raise the technical capacity in cooperatives; unify the financial, administrative and accounting systems in all cooperative societies; reduce the restrictions that limit the freedom of movement and creativity for cooperative societies; strengthen mutual trust between the government and cooperatives and avoid interference; collaboration among cooperatives on sales and marketing; emphasis on the authority of the General Assemblies in the regulatory and operational policies for the development of cooperative societies work; and the establishment of a Gulf Cooperative Development Fund to provide financial support for the development of cooperative sectors.

## Engaging with South Asian Association of Regional Co-operation (SAARC)



ICA-AP delegates with His Excellency Mr. Arjun Thapa, Secretary General, SAARC

His Excellency Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa, Secretary General of SAARC attended the Regional Consultation in Kathmandu on December 14 and 15, 2015. At the meeting, H.E. Mr. Thapa stated that co-operatives work for the common good of people and are key to achieving inclusive growth. He further mentioned there should be an endeavor to develop a SAARC Blueprint for Cooperatives and formation of a regional consortium of cooperatives for deeper integration. He called for the need to explore the possibility of having a memorandum of understanding with ICA-AP. In order to take forward ICA-AP's engagement with the SAARC and build on the commitment of SAARC towards cooperatives, ICA-AP staff attended a meeting with the Secretary General at the SAARC Secretariat on April 28, 2016. Prior to the meeting, ICA-AP consulted the NCF of Nepal and discussed 'ways to integrate the agenda of cooperatives within the SAARC development agenda.'

The SAARC Secretariat, organized a meeting on July 11, 2016 to introduce ICA-AP to its Directors from member countries. The meeting explored ways in which ICA-AP, as a regional body of cooperatives having a wide membership network in SAARC countries, and the SAARC Secretariat could work together for sustainable development. ICA-AP requested SAARC to organize a joint SAARC regional workshop focused on cooperatives to be held in 2017. As per SAARC rules, the request for a workshop should come through the concerned Ministry of a SAARC member country to the SAARC Secretariat. NCF, being the representative of cooperatives in Nepal is liaising with the Ministry of Cooperatives and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nepal to complete the procedural formalities and hopefully the workshop will be materialized in 2017.

## The power of cooperatives for regional economic development



Melanesia, which includes the island nations of the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Fiji, and FLNKS, is an important regional partner in the Asia Pacific region and cooperatives have a major role to play in the development of the region. ICA and ICA Asia Pacific was represented at the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Co-operative Development meeting held in Honiara, Solomon Islands on September 19, 2016 by Alexandra Hordern, General Manager of ICA member, the Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM), the national body for cooperatives in Australia.

The MSG has taken an interest in co-operatives as a vehicle to drive social and economic development in the region. This has been championed by Mr. Ridley Joseph, Director and Registrar of the Office of the Registrar of Co-operatives and Business Development Services in Vanuatu, and Mr. Henry Sanday, Private Sector Development Advisory at the MSG. The workshop was attended by heads of the various co-operative registries and departments in the MSG countries, with the exception of Fiji who were unable to attend. The workshop commenced with an outline of the issues being faced by these departments in their aims to develop co-operatives in country. Co-operatives were prevalent across Melanesia for several decades until they started to decline in the 1970s. By the time political unrest came to the region, the majority of co-operative businesses had closed, and by the late 1990s they were mostly non-existent. Issues raised by the group included lack of political awareness of the sector, lack of access to sufficient access to capital and capital raising opportunities, lack of sufficient education about the co-operative model and issues in relation to market access and supply chain logistics.

Ms. Alexandra Hordern from BCCM, representing ICA, spoke to the group, providing a background on the ICA and the work the ICA does globally, and in the local region. Emphasis was placed on the need to engage with the ICA, noting the large number of important networking and trade events held by the regional office and the head office. The meeting closed with recommendations encouraging greater engagement with the ICA, the BCCM, and a renewed sense of the co-operative purpose.

## ASEAN Co-operative Business Forum



**Mr. Orlando Ravanera, Chairman CDA, speaking at the opening of the ACBF-2016**

In recognition of the valuable role cooperatives play in building an inclusive and people centered economy, the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Philippines in collaboration with partner cooperatives and institutions organized the 6th ASEAN Cooperative Business Forum (ACBF) from November 28 to December 01, 2016 in Manila, Philippines.

In his speech at the opening of the forum, CDA Chairperson, Mr. Orlando Ravanera lauded the efforts of the delegates to come together to respond to the challenges of the ASEAN Economic Community, which officially began last year. "Cooperatives are the cutting edge for a sustainable future. They strongly advocate for sustainability specially on food sovereignty. Now, we come together to explore intra-trading among the 300,000 agriculture co-ops in the ASEAN region."

The 6th ACBF forum provided a platform to discuss key challenges and opportunities confronting them in their effort to establish an economic community within the framework of Social Solidarity Economy. The gathering signed a declaration that commits to promote and advance agriculture, strongly advocates sustainable agricultural technologies and promotes local industries towards sustainable livelihoods and conservation of natural resources. A complete reading of the declaration can be found at:

[http://asianfarmers.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Final-2016-ACBF\\_Declaration\\_draft5.pdf](http://asianfarmers.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Final-2016-ACBF_Declaration_draft5.pdf)

Following the Forum, the attending farmer's organizations/groups led by WeEffect organized a Post ACBF CSO Forum on December 1 and 2. The ICA-AP was invited to both the events and asked to present successful cooperative models from the region. Ms. Savitri Singh, Program Director of ICA-AP made presentations and explained ICA initiatives in building cooperatives as a sustainable business model. Ms. Singh discussed in detail the operations of two co-op agriculture business models from the region i.e. NACF, Korea and JA-Zenchi, Japan that could be replicated in other countries for enhancing agricultural business.

## Solidarity with the Japanese co-operative movement



Mr. Akira Banzai, former President of JA-Zenchu, the Agricultural Cooperative Union of Japan approached the 12<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly in New Delhi and appealed for solidarity against the recent attempt made by Government of Japan to demutualize agricultural cooperatives in the country. He recollected the solidarity demonstrated by ICA when the government made a similar move in 2014 to dismantle the multipurpose agricultural cooperatives and the impact it had on softening the stand of the government.

The Regional Assembly demonstrated solidarity with the Japanese co-operative movement by adopting the following resolution—“We, cooperators participating in the 12<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly of the International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific in New Delhi on November 18, 2016, express our deep concern on the Japanese Government’s move that may interfere with the autonomy and independence of cooperatives and express our strong support to the Japanese Co-operative Movement.”

## Member perspective



**Mr. Kenki Maeda**  
Manager,  
International Department,  
JA-Zenchu

About three years ago, there was a move in Japan where the government intended to dismantle multi-purpose agricultural cooperatives. When it happened, the ICA global board was very supportive to our position against the move. The ICA global board sent a Contact and Study Group to Japan and supported us in organizing seminars. In June 2014, the ICA issued a statement saying that the Japanese government’s move totally ignored the cooperative values and principles. At that time, many ICA member organizations from the Asia-Pacific region were very supportive to us as well. We received kind letters of support from member organizations of China, India, Korea, Mongolia, etc.

As a result of all your support, when the Japanese government announced its official policy in June 2014, they still wanted the credit business of the multi-purpose agricultural cooperatives to be separated and transferred out and they still wanted to see agricultural cooperatives’ status

to be converted to limited companies, but they did not make it compulsory in the policy. They left it to members to decide. On our part, under the amended agricultural cooperative law that came into effect in April 2016, agricultural cooperatives have been actively promoting their own business reform.

However, on 11 November 2016, the advisory council to the prime minister, the Regulatory Reform Promoting Council, issued a new draft recommendation for further reform of agricultural cooperatives. In the new recommendation, they wanted Zennoh, the national federation of economic business of agricultural cooperatives, to stop their joint purchase business. They also wanted Zennoh to convert their marketing business from consignment sales to purchase sales. They wanted make these points compulsory. The recommendation also said that, if there was no progress, the government should set up a new organization (a second Zen-noh).

The recommendation further said that the credit business of multi-purpose agricultural cooperatives should be transferred to the Norinchukin Bank, which is the national federation of credit business of agricultural cooperatives. The recommendation wanted to see a reduction in the number of the agricultural cooperatives engaged in credit business to half of the current number in the coming three years. All these proposals are unfair interference to private organizations such as agricultural cooperatives and they go totally against the cooperative principle about autonomy and independence.

In the ICA-AP Regional Assembly held on 18 November 2016 in New Delhi, Mr. Banzai, member of the board and Senior Advisor of JA-Zenchu, shared such situation with the participants and the RA made a resolution to support the Japanese cooperative movement unanimously, which said, "We, cooperators participating in the 12th Regional Assembly of the International Cooperative Alliance – Asia and the Pacific, in New Delhi on November 18, 2016, express our deep concern on the Japanese government's move that may interfere with the autonomy and independence of cooperatives and express our strong support for the Japanese cooperative movement."

This resolution was a great support for the JA Group and other kinds of cooperatives working with the JA Group in pushing back the unfair recommendation.

After being studied by the ruling parties, the recommendation was made moderate and integrated into a revision of the government's "Plan to Revitalize Agriculture, Forestry, Fishery and Rural Communities" made on 29 November 2016. Although most of the proposals that JA Group opposed were erased, the government has pledged that the authority will check Zennoh if they follow their business reform plan.

We, Japanese cooperators, will continue to work with the international movement to develop cooperatives and to realize appropriate policy environment for cooperatives.

## Activities carried out to Influence

- “Tagaytay+20” the Third Regional Conference on Status of Women in Co-operatives held from February 9 to 11, 2016 in Philippines.
- International Day of Cooperative celebrated in July 2016 by members and represented by the ICA-AP.
- Asia-Pacific Regional Seminar on ‘Coop: Building a better world’ held from July 4 to 8, 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Network for Development of Agricultural Cooperatives (NEDAC) workshop and General Assembly held from July 11 to 12, 2016 in Nepal.
- ASEAN Cooperative Summit and ACOTEX-2016, represented by Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director.
- Youth Summit held from September 19-22, 2016 in Bali, Indonesia.
- Research Conference and Award held on November 15, 2016 in New Delhi, India.
- Regional Women Forum held on November 16, 2016 in New Delhi, India.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Cooperative Forum held on November 17 in New Delhi India.
- 12<sup>th</sup> ICA-AP Regional Assembly held on November 18, 2016 in New Delhi, India.



# Sustainable Development

**S**ustainable development is development that stays with the current generation and passes on to future generations for their development and growth in areas such as education, knowledge, infrastructure, environment and natural resources. In other words, sustainable development is a continuous process of retaining as well as improving what is gained. To achieve sustainability in development, there is constant need to improve productivity and explore new avenues for productive employment.

The ICA Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade seeks to position cooperatives as builder of sustainability by 2020. ICA has established through data and evidences that cooperative enterprises make a positive contribution to sustainability encompassing all the three components of development – economic, social and environmental. The 2030 Agenda explicitly recognizes co-operative enterprises as important players within the private sector to achieve the SDGs, creating an opportunity for co-operatives to position themselves as partners with global, national, regional and local institutions to achieve sustainable development.

The ICA as well as our members are well aware of conserving resources – natural and human resources. Members in countries like Japan, Korea and others are practicing and propagating ethical production and ethical consumption, safety and reliability of food, local production and local consumption, traceability, and good agricultural practices. The ICA-AP region implements a number of programs that build the capacity of members to achieve sustainable development:

## Workshop on Cooperative Financial Services and Rural Development



A three-day workshop, from July 27 to 29, on Cooperative Financial Services and Rural Development was held in Dali, China. 23 participants from India, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam attended the workshop supported by the ACFSMC. Financial services are the bedrock of cooperatives and in many countries, cooperatives had their start by meeting the credit needs of people. At the core of any business is the need to manage finances in an environment that is uncertain and unpredictable. With rapid advancement of technology and new forms of payments and players, the workshop looked at how cooperatives could cope and manages finances. Mr. Li Chunsheng, Vice President ACFSC and President ICA-AP, in his opening remarks stressed on the importance of finance and called for the need to develop innovative delivery systems and transparent mechanisms.

The opening ceremony was attended by Mr. Yang Jian, Governor of Dali Autonomous Prefecture, Mr. Li Lingbo, President of Yunan Cooperatives, Mr. Adolfo Ibañez, Chair, NATCCO, Philippines, and Mr. Balu Iyer. The resource persons for the two days included, Mr. Huseyin Polyait (Turkey), Drs. Robby Tulus (Canada), Mr. Thierry Weishaupt (France), Mr. Lee Wook (Korea) and Mr. Shen Zato (China). ICA-AP regularly organizes training, workshops and seminars that help development of cooperatives in the region. These are in terms of technical and human resources development. This is possible because, in most cases, the larger and more developed cooperatives in Asia-Pacific region step up. The support is not just the finances they provide; it is the genuine interest to see the development of cooperatives. This is a true reflection of Principle 6 – cooperation among cooperatives.

## **Workshop on Co-operative to Co-operative Trade**

A two-day workshop was held in Kuala Lumpur on March 28 and 29 to explore opportunities for C2C trade. The purpose of the workshop was to provide each organization a platform to advertise its top five cooperative products; enlighten participants on the development and solutions in C2C trade; and find trade opportunities and enhance their network within ICA-AP. 100 cooperators from 14 countries – India, China, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Nepal, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Vanuatu, and Vietnam attended the workshop, presented their top five co-operative products and discussed opportunities in the business matching sessions.

The top products were mainly agriculture related and in varying stages of value addition. Mr. Ridley Joseph, from Vanuatu who was participating in an ICA event for the first time said, “I am seeing for the first time products that we don’t see. We usually throw away bones and skin, but here these have been converted to usable products. I see many opportunities for us to collaborate.” Mr. Christopher Emille Jayanta of Kommunitas Orgnik Indonesia felt that the workshop provided the opportunity for his organization to have deeper engagement with cooperatives in Malaysia where the focus is on developing health spas through cooperatives throughout the country. Speaking at the Welcome Dinner, Ms. Hajah Hawa Binti Mohammed Saleh, Deputy Executive Chairman of the Malaysia Co-operatives Societies Commission spoke about the Commission’s commitment to enhance engagement of co-operatives in economic activities and in promoting trade.

## Seminar on Sustainable Supply Chain Management



Participants at the Supply Chain Management Seminar held during the Regional Assembly

In a globalized society, “Supply Chains” are spread worldwide and involve a complex web of locations and people. While it is believed to be effective for economic development, the negative issues relate to oppressive labor conditions, child labor, and environmental damage. The seminar on, “Sustainable Supply Chain Management,” held on November 16, 2016 in New Delhi, India was focused on transparency and respect which seeks greater equity among stakeholders in an environmentally sustainable way.

Mr. Devagiri Nihal, LEED Project Manager ILO Country Office for Sri Lanka and the Maldives made a presentation on, “The Labour Problem in Sri Lanka and Introduction of LEED PROJECT.” The LEED Project was started in 2011, to support the post-war recovery efforts and to bridge the North and South of the country. The LEED project focuses on connecting agriculture co-operatives (paddy, fruits and vegetables and fishery) in the North with retailers in the South and enabling assured sourcing and steady income stream for the producers. In 2016, the project has connected 5,000 fruits and vegetables producer households with 8 exporters and grossed US\$2 million in total turnover. More information on the LEED project can be found at:

[http://www.ilo.org/colombo/whatwedo/projects/WCMS\\_397563/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/colombo/whatwedo/projects/WCMS_397563/lang-en/index.htm)

Mr Siva Devireddy, CEO of Gocoop, gave a presentation on “Sustainable Supply Chain – experience of Gocoop.” India is one of the major handmade textiles producing nation in the world and has over 24,000 small scale producer co-operatives/artisan groups. To reach customers, most of these co-ops/groups go through layers of middlemen; as a result the producers earn a pittance while the same is sold to consumers at 3-5 times the initial price. Gocoop founded in 2011, directly connects the co-operatives and artisans with consumers and bulk buyers through an online platform. The aim is to ensure sound supply chain by reducing the middlemen, ensuring stable income to producers, and bringing a range of products to the consumers at a fair price. More information on Gocoop can be found at <http://gocoop.com/>

## Workshop to develop Malaysian Dairy Co-operatives



Participants during visit to a dairy farm

The workshop to develop Malaysia Dairy Co-operatives was designed to support and share the Korean livestock experience. The workshop held from October 12 to 15, 2016 was one of the follow-up items from the visit, Angkasa delegates made to NACF's livestock business in May 2016. The Malaysian side was represented by 30 participants from Angkasa member organizations, government officers and cooperators; while the NACF side included cattle breed specialist, dairy consultant for feeding and a farmer. The experts from NACF have experience working in Myanmar, Pakistan and Philippines; and they had recently completed a training program with the Ugandan government in relation to a US\$3.5million investment.

The workshop participants visited a dairy farm where a farmer was rearing 70 (of which 40 were lactating) cows. The NACF specialists checked the conditions of the cow, diagnosed quality of feed and showed techniques of proper feeding, ways to identify diseases, and maintain the cattle. The specialist felt that in the short-term, it would be possible to increase production of milk by changing the quality and quantity of feed. In the long-term they felt that Malaysia would have to develop local variety of cows and breed them.

NACF gets requests from many governments (from Asia and Africa) to train their farmers who have experienced failures working with global companies. The private companies signed on to consult, train and sell products; but ended up mainly selling their products. One of NACF's aim is to promote C2C collaboration and is looking for partners. The ANGKASA-NACF collaboration has the potential to match the skills and expertise of NACF with the willingness and resources of ANGKASA to the benefit of farmers and members. Both organization expect the collaboration to yield good results and hope to formalize an agreement soon.

## Member perspective



**Ms. Sylvia Paraguya**  
CEO, NATCCO,  
Philippines

The participation of NATCCO at ICA-AP is very much aligned with the 6<sup>th</sup> principle of cooperation among cooperatives, a manifestation of solidarity with other cooperatives, because cooperatives are not designed to be alone. This principle strengthens the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.



**Group photo of the participants of the Tagaytay+20 Conference hosted by NATCCO**

The ICA-AP is a very strong resource for all cooperatives. It provides a venue for exchange of experiences; where one can learn from the strength of the other country and one can share her strength. Thus, the cooperation and partnership can bring the cooperative movements to another level of development. It also builds solidarity as countries come together and celebrate the many similarities and appreciate and respect the differences. We are indeed one big family.

The ICA-AP allows the cooperative movements in the country to be proactive by sharing the trends that may affect the cooperative movement; and decide on shared action plans to move forward.

The programs of ICA-AP can be mind-changing and life changing. In 2016, I was fortunate to have joined the training program of ICA and IDACA. How I wish I have done this earlier. My learnings has greatly deepened my understanding of multi-purpose agricultural cooperatives; how these multi-purpose cooperatives become the partner of the smallholder farmers at the primary cooperative level. I have seen how the federations are specialized in supporting the primary cooperatives; the similarities of structures and processes of specialized savings and credit federations across the world. There is much to learn from cooperative movements across Asia; the answer to our questions can be learned from our neighbors. I have seen how the cooperators from the NATCCO member cooperatives have become better providers to their members because of the exposure to the program of ICA-AP.



**One-on-one interaction with farmers and how they bring their products to the farmers market owned by the JA**

We also feel good that NATCCO and the Philippine cooperatives are able to share its strength on gender and development. We are happy to have hosted the Tagaytay+20 to take stock of where the Asia-Pacific cooperatives are and how the agenda can be advanced.

## Activities carried out to reinforce Sustainable Development

1. ICA-AP Japan Training on Fostering core leaders of cooperatives held from February 14 to April 09, 2016 in Thailand and Japan.
2. ICA-AP and NACF, Korea joint workshop on Agriculture System in Korea held in South Korea from April 25 to 29, 2016.
3. 16<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific regional workshop on Management of Consumer Co-operatives held from May 31 to June 03, 2016 in Singapore.
4. ICA-AP-Japan training on Fostering leaders to reinforce business development of agricultural cooperatives held in Japan from July 17 to August 06, 2016.
5. ICA/COOPFED Workshop on Development of Consumer Cooperatives in Sri Lanka held on December 07, 2016 in Sri Lanka

# ICA-EU Partnership on Co-operatives in Development



International  
Co-operative  
Alliance



Co-funded  
by the  
European Union

## “Co-operatives in development – people-centered businesses in action”

The International Co-operative Alliance and the European Commission signed in Brussels a framework partnership agreement (FPA) for a global development program to benefit and advance the co-operative sector worldwide. The FPAs lay down terms for European Union support for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), which are acknowledged to be pivotal actors of governance and key contributors to policy-making. The partnership agreement is to improve, among others, social inclusion and economic empowerment, areas in which co-operatives play a fundamental role. Titled “Co-operatives in development – people-centered businesses in action”, the programme is to run from March 1, 2016 until 31 August 2020.

## “Kick-off’ meeting

ICA staff members met in Brussels, Belgium to formally ‘kick-off’ the EU project on Cooperatives in Development. The meeting held from June 21-24, was led by Coops Europe and represented by Alliance staff from its offices in Belgium, Costa Rica, India, Kenya and the United States.

This kick-off meeting gave staff involved in the implementation of the project the opportunity to interact, get to know the implementation process and the international team better. The meeting gave an overview of the project aims, results and activities and financial planning. The project will focus on



Participants at the kick-off meeting

developing capacities of co-operative federations, building ICA as an institution and strengthening policy and advocacy work. The work of the Alliance will be spearheaded by a Strategy Unit comprising of Regional Directors and the Director General; the Coordination Unit comprising of staff from ICA Global office and Cooperatives Europe; and the Programme Unit comprising of regional staff. The overall supervision will be ensured by the Grant Oversight Committee comprising of the elected global board members of the Alliance.

## Road to 2030: Youth Panel on Co-operative Policy

A seminar, **Youth Panel on Co-operative Policy**, was organized in conjunction with the ICA-AP Youth Summit in Bali on September 22, 2016. The day was opened by a thematic speech by Mr. Suruto, Chairperson of National Association of Socio-Economic Cadres, Indonesia and followed by a thematic presentation by Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP.



The youth panel was moderated by Mr. Balu Iyer and saw the participation of Ms. Teepee Gile, Founder, Red Roots Artists Co-operative, Philippines; Mr. Ilham Nasai, DEKOPIN-Indonesia; Mr. Sangay Rinchen, Founder- Happy Green Co-operatives, Bhutan; Mr. Francois Hastir, Credit and Mutuels Canada; Mr. Sebastien Chaillou, Solidarité Étudiante, France; Dr. Sukesh Zamwar, CMD, Buldana Urban Credit Co-operative Ltd., India and Ms. Caroline Sekyewa, Project Manager, ICA-Africa. The panel deliberated on the role of youth in the implementation of SDGS and leveraging the power of co-operatives. All present realised the importance of youth as future members and leaders in the cooperative movement. Asia-Pacific region comprises of 60% of the global youth population and needs to actively engage youth to realize the Agenda 2030 of the SDGs and the vision set out in the ICA Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade.

The outcome document – **Asia Pacific Youth Statement** adopted on 23 September 2016 calls on the co-operative movement to:

- Enhance youth engagement in co-operatives and further the awareness of youth on the co-operative enterprise model by mainstreaming youth in co-operatives.
- Ensure youth become advocates for gender equality inside and outside the co-operative movements to build an equitable society.



- Create an enabling employment environment for youth to be engaged in work driven by passion and empathy towards others as well as co-operative values and principles, rather than competition and profit making.
- Increase the participation of youth in co-operative management and leadership boards to enhance inclusion and to prepare youth for the future of co-operatives
- Encourage youth to carry out research on co-operatives, form school and university co-operatives, and educate others on the values and principles that drive co-operative enterprises.
- Promote development programs through co-operatives to sensitize youth on skills and ethical and value based entrepreneurship, efficient use of technology and resources to help spread the message of co-operatives, education to a wider section of society, essential education through co-operatives on youth rights, learning on sexual education and responsible and consumerism and life under water and on land, inclusion of indigenous persons in the co-operative fraternity, and partnerships among organizations working in the interest of youth and co-operatives globally.

## Stakeholders' Meeting on Collective Entrepreneurship



Representatives from co-operatives, academia, and development agencies participated in the two-day stakeholders' meeting on collective entrepreneurship, organised at the UL Cyber Park on 18 and 19 August 2016. The meeting was organised by the ICA-AP in collaboration with the NCUI, the National Labour Cooperative Federation (India), CICOPA (ICA's sectoral organization on artisanal, industrial and service co-operatives), and the Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society Ltd. (ULCCS). The meeting was aimed at providing a platform for sharing expert knowledge on industrial, artisanal and service-provider co-operatives in India, in particular and South Asia, in general.

The meeting focused on understanding the ownership and management model of 'workers' co-operatives and 'social' co-operatives and the role they could play in building a sustainable society. The meeting was attended by key stakeholders from the labour co-operative movement of India, the International Labour Organization (Colombo), and Action Aid India. Ms. Vasudha Mishra, Managing Director of the National Co-operative Development Corporation and Mr. N. Prasanth, District Collector and District Magistrate of Kozhikode were the key government representatives who shared their ideas and facilitated discussions on the subject matter. Dr. Thomas Issac, noted academic and finance minister of Kerala delivered an address on cooperatives and collective entrepreneurship on 19 August 2016.

Mr. N. Satyanarayana, CEO, NCU; Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP; and Mr. Hyungsik Eum, CICOPA, among others facilitated panel discussions that were organised to determine commitments from stakeholders and future action. ICA-AP proposed to undertake a report on the status of industrial, artisanal and service-provider co-operatives in India and share the same at a regional workshop to be held during the ICA-AP Regional Assembly in New Delhi in November.

## Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Industrial and Service Co-operatives

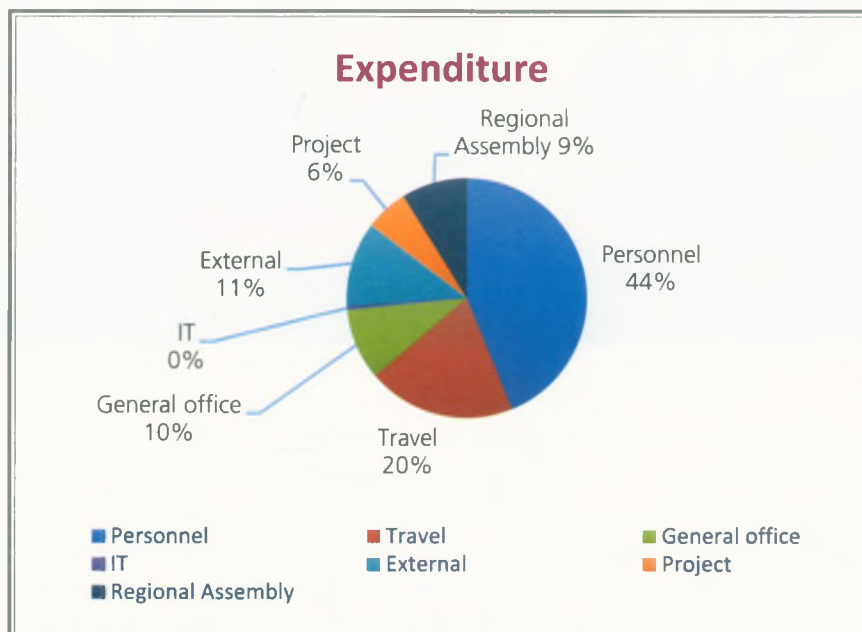
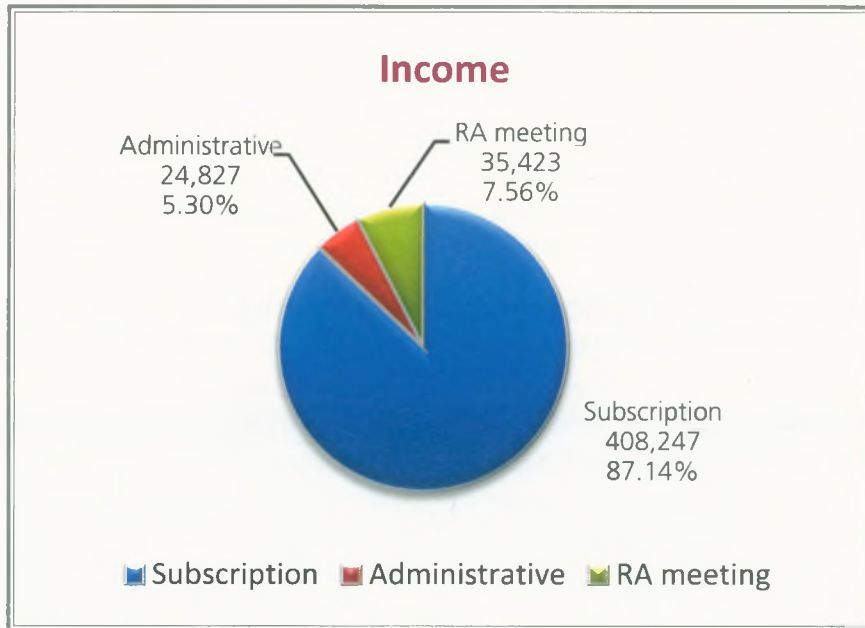
The knowledge sharing workshop on Industrial and Service Co-operatives held in New Delhi on November 16, 2016 was a follow-up to the Stakeholders Meeting on Collective Entrepreneurship organized in Kozhikode (India) in August, 2016. The workshop was attended by over 30 delegates from India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, and Philippines.

Mr. Bruno Roelants and Mr. Hyungsik Eum of CICOPA, facilitated the workshop as knowledge partners. Case studies were presented by the Korean Federation of Workers Co-operatives, the Japanese Co-operative Workers Union, and the Labor Co-operative Unions from the Philippines and India. The Iranian Chamber of Co-operatives discussed the potential to organize industrial and service co-operatives in their country. Drs. Robby Tulus, former ICA-AP Regional Director shared the nature of circumstances of workers' movements and co-operatives in Indonesia. The participants from India included the ULCCS, Action Aid India, Books for Change, and the Kerala State Labor Co-operative Federation.

The half-day workshop resulted in commitment to develop thematic research projects and strategize the formation of networks of 'work and co-operatives'. Earlier in August, ICA-AP had a consultative engagement and meetings with the ILO Sri Lanka office, SANASA Federation, National Federation of Handicrafts Co-operatives, Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation the National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka, and the EU Delegation for Sri Lanka and Maldives, in Colombo.

## ICA-AP Income and Expenditure for 2016

The income for the Asia Pacific region comes from three sources – subscription redistribution, Regional Assembly registration fees and administrative contribution for projects. In 2016, the total income for the region was \$468,497 of which \$408,247 was subscription, \$35,423 from registration and \$24,827 administrative income. The expenditures were mainly towards personnel, travel, external services, Regional Assembly expenses, and general operations.



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	Mr. Ashok Kumar Taneja	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance–Asia and Pacific
Consumer	Mr. R. P. Singh	Chairperson, Director	Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd
	Dr. Abdul Rahman Shaik	Vice Chairperson, Director General	Cooperative College of Malaysia
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Co-operative Research	Mr. Akira Kurimoto	Chairperson	Consumer Co-operative Institute of Japan
	Dr. T. Paranjothi	Vice Chairperson	Vaikunth Metha National Institute of Cooperative Management, India
	Mr. Min Raj Kadel	Vice Chairperson	National Cooperative Federation of Nepal
Credit and banking	Mr. Shivadasan Nair	Chairperson	National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd., India
	Ms. Divina C. Quemi	Vice Chairperson	National Confederation of Co-operatives, Philippines
	Mr. K. Kukreja	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance- Asia and Pacific
Forestry	Mr. Seok Hyung Lee	Chairperson	National Forestry Cooperative Federation, Rep of Korea
	Mr. S.P.Singh	Vice Chairperson	Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd
	Mr. Ashok Kumar Taneja	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance-Asia and Pacific
Women	Ms. Mashako Shimbo	Chairperson	Japanese Consumer Cooperative Union
	Dr. Nandini Azad	Vice Chairperson	National Co-operative Union of India
	Ms. Savitri Singh	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance–Asia and Pacific



HRD	Mr. R. P. Singh	Chairperson	Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd
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University/ Campus Co-operative	Dr. Azlan Yhaya	Chairperson	Malaysian National Cooperative Movement
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	Mr. P. Santosh Kumar	Secretary	International Co-operative Alliance-Asia and Pacific
Youth Co- operation	Dr. Sukesh Zamwar	Chairperson	Buldana Urban Credit Cooperative Societies, India
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	Mr. Ukwaththa Liyanage Udaya Prabath	Vice Chairperson	Consumers Co-operative Societies Federation of Sri Lanka Ltd.
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# ICA Co-operative Identity Statement

## DEFINITION

A Co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

## VALUES

Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, Co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

## PRINCIPLES

The Principles of Co-operation are guidelines by which Co-operatives put their values into practice.

**First Principle: 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.

**Second Principle: 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.

**Third Principle: 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.

**Fourth Principle: 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.

**Fifth Principle: Education, Training and Information:** Co-operative provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees, so that 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.

**Sixth Principle: 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.

**Seventh Principle: Concern for the Community:** Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.



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