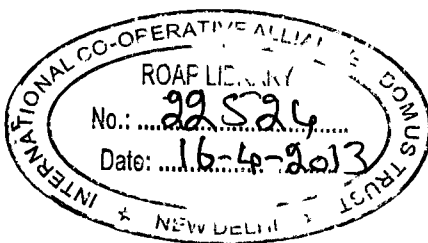


ICA 01381



ICA Library



ICA 01381

ICA in Asia & the Pacific



ica
ROAP

Annual Report 2000

Contents

Message from Mr. Mu Li, Vice President	1
Message from Mr. Robby Tulus, Regional Director	2
Asia-Pacific Co-operative Forum	3
Regional Assembly meets in Singapore	5
New Director General for ICA	6
Professional Management in Co-operatives	7
Workshop on Employment Generation, Poverty Alleviation and Human Resource Development	8
Professional Training of Co-op Managers at IFFCO	8
Regional Workshop on Co-op Data Bank	9
Collaboration with UN Agencies	9
ICA Regional Banking Association	9
First Asia-Pacific Research Forum	10
HRD and Research Activities	11
Application of Information Technology and Seminar on Interactive Learning & Training	11
Exploring Technology for on-line Financial Services	12
Consumer Co-operative Activities	13
2nd Asia-Pacific Regional Women's Forum	15
Regional Women's Committee meeting	16
Agriculture Co-op Development Activities	17
Development of Rural Women Leadership in Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia	18
Fifth Asia-Africa Women Farm Leaders Conference	18
Library and Documentation Services	19
ICA Membership statistics during the Year 2000	20

Message from the ICA Vice President for Asia and the Pacific



In 1998, when we held our Regional Assembly in Seoul, Korea, many countries in Asia and the Pacific were still suffering from the lingering financial crisis that struck the Asia Pacific region. A number of big enterprises sank in this financial storm. Co-operatives were not immune from the impact of the crisis, and we saw many of them collapsing as well. However, it is heartening to see that most of member-owned and member-driven co-operatives have outlived this crisis and are suffering much less as compared to private enterprises.

Co-operative enterprises, rooted in their local communities, are owned by and work for their members, hence held together but by quality service to members, and not by capital alone. This unique feature makes co-operatives different from other types of economies and could thus endure the crisis with increased vitality.

The process of economic globalization continues unabated until today. While facing unprecedented opportunities for development, co-operatives are also confronted with immense challenges from competition. Co-operatives must therefore work vigorously to shift from the traditional modalities and be prepared to undertake thorough reforms, while at the same time maintain the Co-operative Identity. The combined forces within our co-operative world must be maximized (Sixth Co-op Principle), and we must also be willing to learn from the strength of other sectors in the new economy to try and offset our weaknesses. Social safety nets are created if we implement the right shifts.

The 5th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference held in Beijing, as a culmination of the preceding events on legislative and policy reforms held

in Nepal, Bangkok, Vietnam, and the Regional Consultation in Singapore, are some of the successful efforts made under the good work of ICA ROAP. During the 5th Ministers' Conference in Beijing, 163 participants from 24 countries and 8 international organizations, including 16 co-operative ministers and high ranking government officials had lengthy and in-depth discussions on issues of importance for the development of co-operatives under the theme "Sustainable development of co-operatives into the 21st century" and came out with a Joint Declaration.

Many countries took immediate follow-up actions to try to amend their legislation, namely in Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Burma, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Iran. Improved legislation fosters a more enabling environment for further development of co-operatives.

Many other good quality programs have been launched under the leadership of ICA-ROAP to bring the co-operative movements in this region into new heights. Thus co-operatives, as the Third Way, must continue to play their significant roles to ease the suffering of many still left behind by development in this region.

We have our Co-operative Identity Statement well established through the consensus of more than 800 million members throughout the world. We must therefore use the strength of this Identity to garner more economic and business opportunities for the less privileged and in turn raise their living standard for more development equity and equality, while emphasizing the participation of women and youth.

Mu Li
Vice President

Message from the ICA Regional Director for Asia-Pacific



As we cross the threshold, and saw the coming, of the new Millennium with no serious Y2K hiccups, ICA ROAP captured the opportunity to break new grounds and ventured into programming areas not seen before in its scope and intensity. Indeed, the year 2000 was a very busy one for ICA ROAP. The Regional as well as Business Offices had to cater to an unprecedented workload, yet fresh innovations were created in an effort to beef up our service to members.

The First Asia Pacific Co-operative Forum (COOP FORUM 2000) was triumphant as we had no less than the Vice President of Indonesia, Megawati Soekarnoputri, as keynote speaker, with 24 other panel speakers and moderators from Asia, Europe, and North America. The attendance of what we call "member of members", hence not just the usual official/elected delegates, was also unprecedented. We launched the new ICA ROAP Website during that event, and conducted the Fourth REGIONAL ASSEMBLY without a glitch.

The success of the COOP FORUM 2000 led to a host of other innovative action programmes such as the ICA ROAP - ICFTU APRO Joint Workshop, the Inter-Co-operative Trade Network, the Co-op Directory, CEO Workshop etc., most of which could only be implemented in the year 2001.

Another busy period was triggered by the sale of the 'Bonow House', a development that poses a series of moves to temporary offices and repeated search for new premises in order to house the Regional Office. All in all, no less than 54 different activities were carried out in the year 2000.

Triumphant as it was in the programming area, ICA ROAP also had its share in the financial difficulties for meeting the rising costs of its operations. This is a hard lesson learned that will serve as a reminder for more cost cutting measures in the years to come. To rise to the challenges of globalization and social exclusion is to continue to be vigilant and prudent in meeting members' demands, yet within the confines of our limited resources.

Notwithstanding, the first year in the New Millennium gave us the right foundation to build more effective programs and efficient operations of ICA ROAP in 2001. The message of our ICA Vice President (Asia Pacific) is quite clear on this issue. Changes are therefore bound to happen, but with the great support offered by the Secretariat in Geneva, the Standing Committee of Asia Pacific, and all members in this region, there is no doubt that more focused programming and member-led activities will eventually be the core that will yield our value addition to members.

Robby Tulus
Regional Director



ICA ROAP Staff with Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President at the 'Bonow House', New Delhi

Policy, Legislation and Development activities



Mr. Bruce Thordarson, former ICA Director General, speaking at the Forum

Asia-Pacific Co-operative Forum

The co-operative movement in Asia-Pacific made history this June in Singapore. The First ICA Asia-Pacific Co-operative Forum opened on June 27, amidst ceremonies and message of hope from government and co-operative leaders that co-operatives will play an important role in the region.

The theme of the Forum was 'Co-operatives in the 21st Century: Are We Changing?'. There were several panel discussions on 'co-operative values', 'co-operative governance', 'capital mobilisation', 'innovation', and 'co-op trade'.

In noting the value of co-operatives to millions living in Asia-Pacific and around the world, speakers told us that all governments recognize the vital role co-operatives play in our communities and beyond.

In her keynote speech, H.E. Megawati Soekarnoputri, Vice President of Indo-

nesia, said that co-operatives 'should maintain adherence to the co-operative principles, focusing special attention on the need to reflect a true and genuine democracy'.

In her speech, to the over 300-Forum delegates, she said, "In my opinion, every economic sector, which constitutes the source of living of the people at large, as well as the rendering of services needed by the society, should be jointly run by the people and the government". Her Excellency encouraged co-operatives to maintain their adherence to the co-operative principles, focusing special attention on the need "to reflect a true and genuine democracy".

Honourable Mr. Abdullah Tarmugi, Minister for Community Development and Sports, Government of Singapore, inaugurating the Forum mentioned, "co-operatives are community enterprises. We need to examine existing mindsets to see if they should change to meet the challenges of the IT-based economy".

Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Chairman of Singapore National Co-operative Federation and Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President for Asia-Pacific spoke at the Forum. Mr. Bruce Thordarson, former Director General, ICA, mentioned that the co-op movement worldwide sustains one billion jobs.

ICA Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, Robby Tulus, who presided over the opening ceremony, noted that the lives of three billion people - about half the world's population - are made secure by co-operatives, mostly from the Asia-Pacific region. Mr. Lim Boon Heng, Minister without Portfolio, Government of Singapore and NTUC Secretary-General, in his thematic address on June 28, mentioned that



Mdm. Rahaiah Baharen, Chairperson of the ICA Regional Women's Committee making a present to H.E. Megawati Soekarnoputri, Vice President of Indonesia as Mr. Bruce Thordarson looks on.

globalization presents both challenges and opportunities for co-operative enterprises.

He further said, "globalization lead to more cross-border trade and investments, businesses tap into global financial markets for funds. Companies merge and acquire each other and achieve greater economies of scale. The internet has made information available at the click of a mouse. The new technology is about knowledge and talent. These changes will create many opportunities for business. Yet, it will also pose challenges - the challenge of widening income disparity."

"To respond to challenges of globalisation and stiff competition in the market, co-operatives must embrace talent and recruit new professionalism". He advised the co-operative community to constantly re-examine their strategies in tandem with the changing world, and if need be, reinvent themselves. "We either keep up or we are left out. This will help us to perform an

important role, as a social leveller, in the new globalised economy," he concluded.

Prof. Ian MacPherson summed up the deliberations of the Forum. In his speech, he mentioned that the issues brought forward by the delegates are: professional management; uncertain board/management relations; restructuring; stagnation; under-capitalisation; ennui; lack of identity; lack of focus; improper governance; need of government partnership; need for right allies; and lack of utilisation of information technology.

He said that the responses to these problems, which came out from the Forum are: maintain proper identity; keep focus; improve governance; get proper alliance, maximise use of information technology and engaging professional management.

Delegates felt that the Forum initiated by the Regional Office was a useful exercise and suggested that more such Forums be held in the future.



A section of the delegates at the Regional Co-op Forum. Seen in the picture are Mr. Robby Tulus, ICA Regional Director, Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President, H.E. Megawati, Mr. Bruce Thordarson and Mr. Tan Kin Lian

ICA Regional Assembly meets in Singapore



Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz, Vice Chair of ICA Standing Committee speaking at the Regional Assembly in Singapore.

The Fourth Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific was held at the Mandarin Hotel, Singapore on 29-30 June, 2000.

105 delegates and observers from China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Thailand, Vietnam, and Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU) attended the meeting. There were special invitees from ILO, CCA, DiD, CICOPA, AARDO and AGRI-TERRA.

The meeting was officially opened by Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President for Asia and the Pacific and Mr. Bruce Thordarson, former ICA Director-General. Mr. Roberto Rodrigues, ICA President joined the Assembly on 30th June, 2000. Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Chairman of SNCF welcomed the delegates.

The Regional Assembly accepted the recommendation of the Standing

Committee that Mr. Mu Li continue as the Vice President for Asia and the Pacific.

The meeting also elected Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz (Malaysia) and Ms. Hatsuko Omori as Vice-Chairpersons, Dr. Yehudah Paz, Mr. Chung Dae Kun, Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya and Mr. Luis Carrilo as members to the Standing Committee.

Mr. Mu Li, as Chairperson of the Regional Assembly, delegated his powers to: Prof. Ungku A. Aziz (Chairperson of the Standing Committee); Mr. Tan Kin Lian (Vice Chair of the Standing Committee and Chairperson of the Regional Assembly, and Ms. Hatsuko Omori (Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee and Regional Assembly).

Chairs of the ICA's Regional Specialised Committees reported to the Regional Assembly.

Mr. Roberto Rodrigues, ICA President, congratulated the ICA Regional Office and host organisation for the gigantic efforts they made in organising a series of events. He said that during the last Regional Assembly, economy in Asia-Pacific was shattering but with the 'inherent strength and will of the Asian People', they are bouncing back and booming again.

He further said that it is "essential to give a meaning to our lives - learning. Learning with love and justice to teach, to help people to build a better world. All of us have learnt a little more here today and by learning we are giving all together a meaning for lives. Learning here today we are all doing our best to a better world, because our children would be grateful to us".

The Philippines offered to host the next Regional Assembly.



A section of the delegates at the Regional Assembly

New Director General for ICA



During the year, the ICA Board appointed Mr Karl-Johan Fogelström, the then managing director of Swedish co-operative Centre (SCC), as new Director General, effective September 1, 2000.

Karl-Johan Fogelström is a Finnish citizen, born in 1940. He was first employed by SOK, one of the Finnish consumer co-operative organisations. His international career started in 1969 as an advisor to the Nordic co-operative project in Kenya. After that he became deputy-managing director of SOK co-operative society in Aland, Finland and co-ordinator of a Nordic co-operative project in Tanzania.

Since 1985 he has been employed by SCC. In 1990 he was appointed senior development officer in the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in New Delhi.

From 1993 he was first senior programme officer and then development director of SCC. In 1998 he was appointed as managing director of SCC.

Karl is no stranger to our member organisations and co-operators in this region. With Mr. Fogelström's such vast experience with co-operatives and ICA itself, we are confident that he will be of great benefit for the further development of ICA.



Karl Fogelström (second from right) at the inauguration of the ICA Japan Management Training Course. Also seen in the picture are Mr. D.K. Bhatt - IFFCO (extreme right), Mr. M. Kinoshita, First Secretary at the Japanese Embassy (centre), and Mr. Robby Tulus, ICA Regional Director.

Professional Management in Co-operatives



Mr. B.D. Sharma, Director, SOWECA has a word of advice for the participants

Recognising the need for preserving and strengthening Co-operative Identity in the modern globalized and competitive environment, the ICA ROAP has been making earnest efforts to spread the significance of Value Based Professional Management in Co-operatives.

With the support of CCA-DID, Canada, the ICA ROAP is implementing a project on Co-operative Policy

Development and Value Based Professional Management in Co-operatives of Asia-Pacific.

As a follow up of an international seminar organised in Pune, India on the subject in 1998, a national workshop of co-op trainers from India was convened by ICA ROAP in collaboration with the ILO Coopnet from 10-14 July, 2000 at Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management, Pune, India.



Validation Workshop on Value Based Professional Management in Co-operatives in progress at Bangkok, Thailand. Mr. B.D. Sharma, ICA ROAP and Ms. Teresita de Leon of ILO Coopnet are also seen in the picture.

Workshop on Employment Generation, Poverty Alleviation and Human Resource Development



The Workshop being addressed by Ms. M. Horiuchi, Regional Director of ILO for Asia-Pacific

The ICA ROAP, in collaboration with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and ILO Coopnet, held a regional workshop on "Employment Generation, Poverty Alleviation and Human Resource Development: Perspectives of Co-operatives and Trade Union Movement" in Manila, Philippines from 18-20 November, 2000.

Eighteen delegates from India, Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Fiji, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, apart from experts from ILO and ICA ROAP, participated at the workshop.

The objectives of the workshop were to take stock of post-crisis situation of workers and labourers connected with and linked to co-operative enterprises and trade unions; take stock of the HRDU situation in the region; share ex-

perience and programmes of trade unions and co-operatives in addressing employment, poverty, social security and human resource development; look at the ILO programmes in the field of HRDU and poverty alleviation and the recent ADB policy shift for poverty eradication; explore a project on any aspect of HRDU by ICFTU and ICA; and identify partnership needed between public sector, trade unions and co-operatives.

The workshop, after extensive deliberations, formulated a common Agenda of Action; including organisation of a joint workshop on ILO Recommendation No. 127 by trade unions and co-ops; leadership development training; and implementation of a joint pilot project involving co-ops and trade unions to address the needs of the informal sector or child labour.

Professional Training of Co-operative Managers at IFFCO, India



Workshop participants had a meeting with Mr. D.K. Bhatt, Marketing Director, IFFCO in New Delhi. Mr.U.S. Awasthi, Managing Director, IFFCO, is seated in the centre.

One of the Key Result Areas of the ICA in Asia and the Pacific is the promotion of Value Based Professional Management in Co-operatives. The ICA-ROAP convened several workshops to develop an understanding of this important aspect among co-ops in the region. Based on feed-back received from participants of these workshops, the Regional Office, in collaboration with IFFCO and the CCA, organised a professional training for senior co-operative managers through an exposure-cum-internship programme in India during November 2000. Senior co-op managers and administrators from Iran, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal and Vietnam were exposed to the best practices adopted by IFFCO to promote value based professional management to strengthen their co-operative identity at the market place.

Regional Workshop on Co-operative Data Bank



Some of the delegates of the workshop at a reception given to them at ICA ROAP

The ICA Regional Office for Asia-Pacific, in collaboration with the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC), India, and the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA), held a regional workshop on Co-operative Data Bank at the NCDC Topic Training Centre in Gurgaon (near Delhi) during 3-7 April, 2000.

Twenty-eight senior management executives of co-operatives from Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India and the ICA Secretariat in Geneva met and discussed various aspects, problems and possible solutions for setting up co-operative data banks in member organisations and countries at the regional level.

The workshop was inaugurated by Robby Tulus, Regional Director and presided over by Mr. P.K. Mishra, IAS, Managing Director of NCDC and several co-operative executives and leaders attended the inaugural session.

The workshop was addressed by experts in the field of information technology from top-level Internet Service Providers, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and the National Co-operative Union of India.

ICA Regional Banking Association

One of the specialised Committees of the Regional Office is the ICA Regional Banking Association, which held its 3rd meeting in Singapore on 25 June, 2000.

The Committee elected Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya of Sri Lanka as its new Chair.

Collaboration with UN Agencies

Collaboration with international agencies like the FAO, ILO and other UN agencies, Asian Development Bank, etc. was one of the major co-operative development initiative of the Regional Office.

To this end, the technical officers and Regional Director of the office participated at several missions, including a mission to Nepal to study the co-operative development needs in that country. They also participated in workshops organised by these agencies.



Participants of the Regional Data Bank Workshop pose for a photograph

First Asia-Pacific Research Forum



New members to ICA in Asia-Pacific had an invocation ceremony in Singapore.

Researchers and scholars engaged in research on co-operatives in the Asia-Pacific region came together for the first time at the 1st Asia-Pacific Research Conference, held in Singapore on 24-25 June 2000. Organized by the Asian Co-operative Research Forum, the gathering included participants from Australia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Also in attendance were participants from Canada, the UK and the Netherlands.

Altogether 26 research papers were presented, covering a wide range of co-operative issues and sectors, they represented original studies linked to the two main themes of the Forum – namely: How to Operationalise the Co-operative Principles and The Co-operative Response to Present and Future Challenges in the Changing

Environment. These themes reflected the most important tasks facing co-operatives in the region. The studies sought to make contribution in identifying the best practices in co-operatives, thus helping the movement to find solutions.

The 1st Asia-Pacific Research Conference came from the realization that there are a good number of researchers and leaders in the region who are interested in co-op studies but they are isolated from one another, thus limiting their visibility.

The conference hoped to develop a network of researchers contributing to the advancement of co-op movement by bringing the gap between co-op leaders and researchers.

It was decided to hold a follow-up conference in conjunction with the next ICA Regional Assembly.



Research Forum Participants

Human Resource and Research Activities



Romulo Villamin, Secretary to the ICA Committee for HRD and Research addressing the members

Members of the ICA Committee on HRD and Research for Asia and the Pacific updated one another on their education and training activities in the region during the committee's 12th meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand on 24 February 2000.

Their reports indicated continuing adjustment in their education and training activities to meet the changing needs of various target groups. Such activities range from member education to leadership training to formal diploma

courses. Also discussed were the adoption and revision of ILO MATCOM training materials for use by member institutions. It was decided that such adaptation be left to individual institutions, with ILO expressing willingness to give permission for the purpose.

Twelve members from 6 member countries attended the meeting. Also in attendance were observers from Japan and a representative of ILO COOPNET.

Application of Information Technology and Seminar on Interactive Learning & Training

The ICA Committee on HRD and Research for Asia and the Pacific organized for its members a seminar on the application of information technology in co-operative training.

The main objectives of the seminar were:

1. look at advances in information

technology and its application in education and training, and

2. explore possibilities for application of IT in co-operative education and training.

Actual cases were presented during the seminar involving the delivery of virtual learning courses undertaken by various institutions in Asia. The seminar was in line with the Committee's thrust of encouraging members to upgrade their education and training systems with the use of IT.

It was concluded that while virtual learning methods were desirable, there was a need to develop staff capacity within member institutions.

The seminar was held on 25 February in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Committee also organized a seminar on interactive learning and training, as part of its efforts to create interest in information technology and its application in co-op education and training.

The purpose of the seminar was to expose members of the Committee to



Mr. Yehudah Paz, Vice Chairman of ICA Regional HRD Committee at a meeting

the concept of and mechanisms for an e-learning/training environment and the process involved in creating that environment.

The seminar featured the virtual learning model of the Universiti Tun Abdul Razak in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, involving the delivery of formal education through the internet.

Members of the Committee discussed the applicability of virtual training in co-operatives.

It was agreed that co-operative training systems in the Asian region could and should be upgraded to include the virtual learning approach by utilizing information technology.

The seminar was held in Singapore on 25 June 2000.



Royal Professor Ungku Aziz, Chair and Mr. Romulo Villamin, Secretary of the ICA Committee on HRD and Research

Exploring Technology for on-line Financial Services

The ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU) organized a Regional Conference on Exploring Technology for Online Financial Services in Credit Unions. Held in Bangkok, Thailand from 27 to 29 November 2000, the

workshop attracted 44 credit union leaders from the Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The conference established that technology appropriate for credit unions, given their level of development, already exists in the market. This includes software and systems specifically developed for credit unions.

The conference highlighted banking applications, network solutions and web-based applications to allow members to access credit through the internet. Inputs were provided by The System Works Pty. Ltd. of Australia, Decentralized Banking Solutions of South Africa, and Fern Computer Services Ltd of Ireland.

The conference concluded that the credit unions' best hope of utilizing advanced information technology to serve members better was to combine resources and establish nationwide networks.

The participants agreed to push forward development of online financial services in their countries.



Editors of Co-operative Publications in India met at a workshop organised by the National Co-operative Union of India

Consumer Co-operative Activities



Dr. Shoji Kato, Chairperson of Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organisation holds a meeting of the Board

ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia-Pacific

- Activities of the Committees for the last 2 years

In accordance with the Activity Plans approved by the committee, a Joint Buying Strategy Workshop was held in August 1998 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The participants of the workshop, were able to learn the actual concept and benefits of joint buying. The committee also published a report entitled "Joint Buying Strategies for Consumer Cooperatives - A report from the ICA ROAP/JCCU Workshop,"

A Consumer Co-op Forum, which is the first of its kind, was held at Bali, Indonesia, in December 1999. The concept of establishing a Consumer Co-operative Forum was a follow-up of the regional workshop on Joint Buying Strategies.

The purpose of the Forum was to exchange experiences and expand the

scope of the consumer co-operative movement. The Forum discussed several case studies under the overall title of "Values of Consumer Co-operatives in Asia".

Mr. Mats Ahnlund from ICA headquarters presented a report on International Co-operative Identity Statement of the ICA and Mr. Romulo Villamin presented a paper on 'Values of Consumer Co-ops in Asia'.

The participants presented, deliberated and shared experiences on the following subjects - (i) member participation, (ii) community impact; (iii) employees' education, (iii) trading among co-ops at international level, and (iv) joint buying at national level.

At the 32nd meeting of the committee held at Bali, it was decided to establish a Staff Training Programme Project.

Mr. A. Kurimoto, Japan, will chair the Committee and Mr. T.T. Adhikari, India, Ms. M. Climaco, Philippines, Mr. Poh Leong Sim, Singapore will be members and Mr. Juku Ozawa, ICA ROAP, will be the secretary of the project committee.

The 1st meeting of the project committee was held in Singapore in June this year, during the 33rd meeting of the ICA Consumer Committee. The committee discussed about the prospects of organizing study visit, workshops and training programmes, etc. in the Asia-Pacific Region for bringing in qualitative improvement in the management of consumer co-operatives.

The broad proposals given by the committee are as follows:



ICA Consumer Sub-committee on University Co-ops meets in Singapore

1. A regional workshop on management and training of senior officials of consumer co-operatives may be organized in Singapore for three days in October 2000. This workshop will be aimed at development of management techniques among the senior executives of the consumer co-operatives.
2. Regional and sub-regional workshops and seminars may be organized in different parts of the region, which might start with a few programs in India, to utilize the available infrastructure for the benefit of member organizations.

The committee also recommended formulating a training module for the consumer co-operatives with specific roles of member-organizations and ICA.

It was decided by the committee that such issues will be deliberated further in subsequent meetings. It was also decided that in the meantime the host country /sponsoring organizations might organize the workshops and training programs etc. in association with the ICA, JCCU and NFUCA.

It was also decided that ICA ROAP should primarily concentrate on organizing the seminars, workshops and training programs, etc. for the

senior level management personnel and the member-organizations should take responsibility for the middle level functionaries of consumer co-operatives in their respective countries.

It was agreed that all the programs would be on self-financing basis as far as possible.

However, the committee can consider the requests for financial assistance to some extent from member-organizations to implement the above proposals.

Action Plan of the Year 2001

1. To strengthen the network among consumer co-operatives;
 - 1.1 To organize the consumer committee meeting in Seoul in conjunction with the ICA General Assembly in October 2001;
 - 1.2 To draft a proposal to make the committee more active;
2. To support consumer co-operatives in the region to upgrade management skills and techniques;
 - 2.1 To organize a consumer co-operative staff training program project committee meeting;
 - 2.2 To support national seminars on consumer co-operatives;
 - 2.3 To organize a regional workshop on management and training of senior officials of consumer co-operatives in Singapore in October, 2000;
3. To strengthen and support university co-operatives and its network;
 - 3.1 To organize a sub-committee meeting in Seoul in October 2001;
 - 3.2 To organize the 3rd Youth Seminar in Tokyo, Japan in June 2001;
 - 3.3 To support the national workshops in the region;
 - 3.4 To publish the leaflet of university/campus co-operatives;
 - 3.5 To publish a newsletter of university/campus co-operatives.
4. To exchange activities on ICA ROAP Homepage.



Fourth Board meeting of APHCO in Kerala, India

Gender Activities



Ms Lydia Johnson addressing the Women's Forum participants

2nd Asia-Pacific Regional Women's Forum

Historically in Asian region, the male has taken leadership for a long, long time. The situation in co-operative organizations is not different and still continues to be so. Therefore, understanding gender issues and empowering women leaders are the main concern in this region. ICA ROAP is taking steps towards the improvement of the situation, in co-operation and collaboration with our member organizations.

The 2nd Regional Women's Forum was held in collaboration with the women's committee in Singapore on June 26, 2000. The theme of the Forum was 'Transcending Glass Ceilings and Glass Ladders in the New Millennium'. 120 delegates from fourteen countries attended the 2nd ICA Regional Women's Forum. The Forum shared the common experience being faced with the "glass ceiling" and being in a "glass ladder" in their work in co-operatives.

Ms. Lydia Johnson, Chief Executive Officer of VanCity Savings Credit

Union shared her experiences at the Union and explained how VanCity could eliminate the "glass ceiling" and "glass ladder" syndromes. Later, five panelists exchanged their views and ideas with the participants. After the panel presentations, the participants were broken into six discussion groups, and they came up with useful suggestions and proposals of ways to break the "glass ceiling" and how to make a "glass ladder" less slippery.

The Forum suggested that co-operatives should:

- i. provide support services to enable women to be elected or to be in management position in co-operatives. These support services could be in the form of facilities for childcare while the women board member, for example, is attending a board meeting.
- ii. be represented by one male and one female delegate at local and international events.
- iii. set up a quota system (temporarily) that allows women to be represented on the board and in other key decision-making positions.
- iv. organize and conduct training for their leaders, staff and members – women and men – that aim to change their mindsets about the roles and status of women vis-à-vis men in society.
- v. address the needs of women whose poverty makes even harder to climb the ladder. Their needs could be addressed through training, group formation, and provision of affordable credit and through social nets such as group insurance.

It was felt that the ICA ROAP should hold the next Forum during the next Regional Assembly in 2002, possibly in the Philippines.



Second Regional Women's Forum in progress

Regional Women's Committee Meeting



Ms. Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Guest of Honour at the Forum addressing the participants

The ICA Regional held its second meeting at the Mandarin, Singapore on 25 June 2000. 12 delegates and 43 observers participated at the meeting.

The meeting approved the minutes of the first meeting held in Seoul, Korea, during October 1998. A report of the First Regional Women's Forum was also circulated at the meeting.

During the year, the ICA ROAP and the committee, in collaboration with the ILO Coopnet Project, were able to finalise a leadership development manual for women co-operative leaders. This manual will be validated during 2001. The committee requested member organisations to nominate a contact person in their respective organisation to report to the committee on women and gender activities. It was also suggested that the members of the women's committee should attend the Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference and pursue tackling of gender issues.

Due to the untiring efforts of the Women's Committee chairperson a sentence was included in the joint declaration of Beijing Ministers' Conference: "Removal of all legal and other barriers which limit equal participation of men and women in membership, leadership management and decision-making in co-operatives".

The committee decided that the Secretariat should issue a monthly electronic newsletter, giving on the activities that have taken place and proposed. (The newsletter started publication since early 2001) by the secretary of the committee, which is sent electronically to members.

The committee re-elected Ms. Rahaiah Baharen, Malaysia as chairperson and Ms. Hatsuko Omori, Japan as vice-chairperson. Ms. Prima Shanti Sooriyarachchi as the second vice-chairperson, in place of Ms. Rameshwari Ramachandra, who had resigned during the year.



Regional Women's Committee meets. Ms. Rahaiah Baharen (left), Ms. Hatsuko Omori (centre) and Ms. Nichole Tan (right) on the dias



Delegates of the ICA Regional Women's Forum at a group work session

Agriculture Co-operative Development activities



Participants of the 14th Training Course in Japan

ICA-Japan 14th International Training Course on 'Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia'

The 14th Training Course which had commenced on November 12 1999 came to a close in Japan on the April 22 2000. The training course, attended by 15 participants from nine countries from Asia, was held in India, Thailand and Japan.

The programme was funded by the Government of Japan in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries with the main objective of strengthening the management of agricultural co-operatives by providing training to key managers.

The programme was held with the active and technical co-operation of a number of institutions of higher learning in the region e.g., the Institute of Rural Management, Fertiliser

Marketing Development Institute of IFFCO, the IDACA, Japan, and ICA member-organisations in India, Thailand and Japan.

The participants were exposed to the management experiences of the Japanese and Indian agricultural co-operatives with special reference to 'value addition through agro-processing'.

The 15th ICA/Japan Training Course

The financial assistance of the Government of Japan was continued to be made available to the ICA to conduct specialised management training programme for the managers of agricultural co-operative in the region for the 15th year as well.

The 15th ICA-Japan International Training Course on 'Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia' will be held in India-Malaysia-Japan during the period November 16, 2000–April 28, 2001.

The inaugural session of the training programme will be held at New Delhi on 9th of January 2001.

15 participants from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam have been selected to participate at this course.



Participants of the 10th Women Leadership Training

Development of Rural Women Leadership in Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia



Co-operative women workers at a coconut processing plant in Malaysia

The 10th ICA-Japan Training Course on 'Rural Women Leadership Development in Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia' was held in Japan during August 27-September 16 2000.

The programme was implemented by the ICA in collaboration with IDACA, with the financial support extended by the Government of Japan in the

Ministry of Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries. The Course was attended by 6 participants from Bangladesh, Nepal and Thailand, two each country.

The main objective of the programme was 'to facilitate improvement of living standards of farm households through women's participation in agricultural co-operative activities.'

Fifth Asian-African Women Farm Leaders' Conference

The 5th International Conference of Women Farm Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia and Africa was held in Tokyo during August 27-September 06 2000. The conference attended by 32 women leaders from 22 countries of the Asian and African Regions, was jointly organised by the ICA ROAP, JA-Zenchu, Afro-Asian Rural

Development Organisation and the IDACA.

The conference discussed issues relating to the development and participation of women in agricultural co-operatives and rural institutions. The conference had recommended that national co-operative/rural development organisations and the respective governments recognise the importance of participation of women in co-operatives and rural institutions and facilitate the process by making suitable provisions and modifications in relevant laws, rules and other regulations.

The conference had also recommended that leadership development programmes be further strengthened, established and promoted where they do not exist to provide greater information and awareness among rural women.



Women Leaders with Dr. Daman Prakash, Project Director, ICA ROAP

Library and Documentation Services



Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President for Asia-Pacific (centre) visited the library

The ICA-Domus Trust Library was set up in 1960 as the ICA Regional Office and Education Centre Library to provide information and reference material to ICA and its member organisations.

The library collection grew to more than 20,000 volumes and more than 100-150 journals and newsletters were being received monthly catering to all sectors of co-operatives namely agriculture, trade, gender, co-operative movement, textile, consumer, fisheries etc.

Since the library is recognised by the UGC of India and ICSSR for co-operative research, many researchers from India and abroad, especially our member organisation from Asia and Pacific had the privilege of utilising these reference materials for their PhD thesis work.

The library provide reference material and subject literature to ICA ROAP technical projects; advisory services to co-operative scholars and organisa-

tions; and exchange of information, material and documents with member organisations and co-operative training institutions.

The year 2000 has been a tough one for the library as far as the maintenance of collection is concerned. After the sale of 'Bonow House' and shifting to a rented premises, a serious weeding-out had to be undertaken, reducing the total collection to some extent.

However, the collection of co-operative publications have been retained and are being referred to by our researchers worldwide.

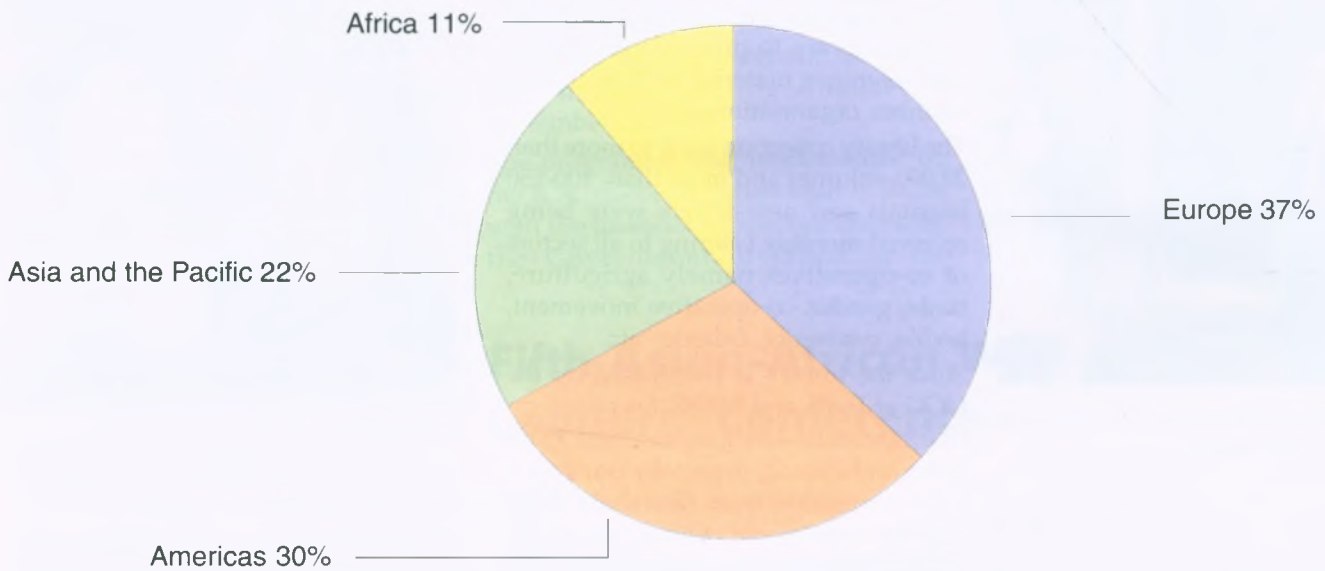
There is a proposal to upgrade this CIRC to World Bank Depository Library or Regional Library during 2001, which will strengthen the collection on development reports, provide free public access in member countries to the World Bank's published information and make the information centre more digital with access to CD's and videos etc.



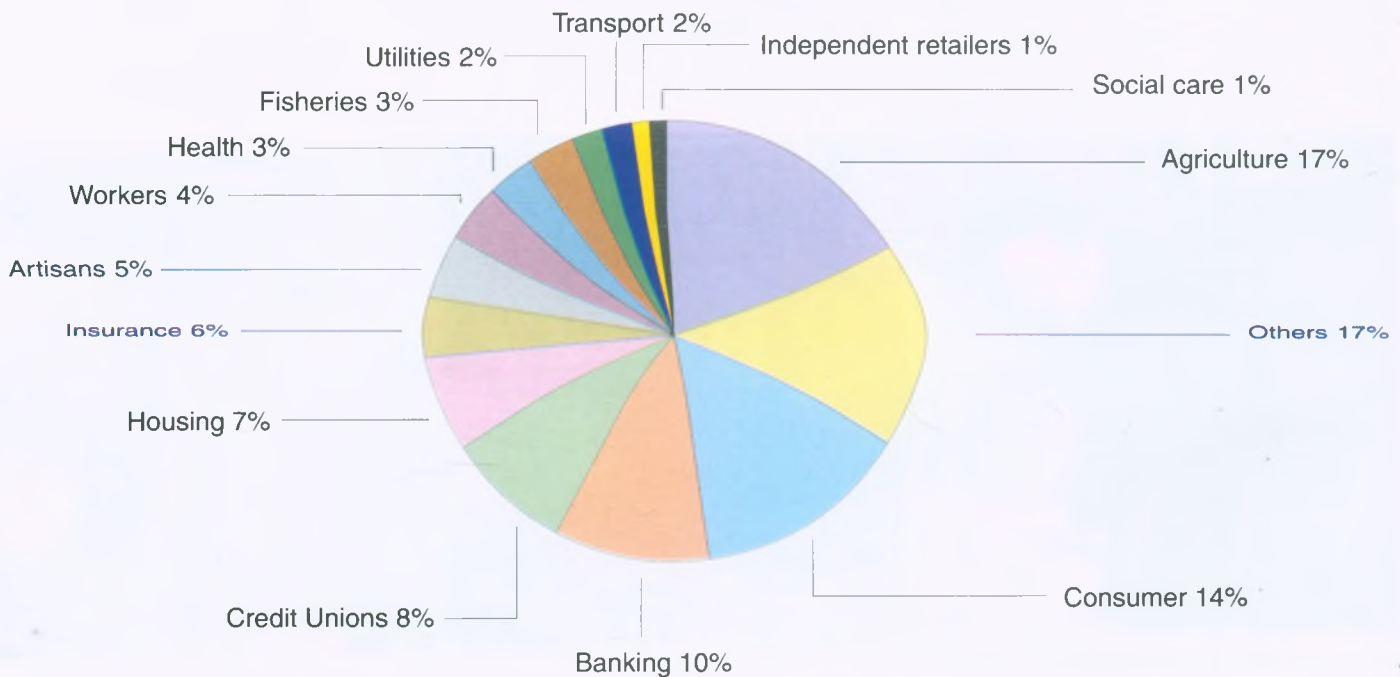
Dr. Roberto Rodrigues, ICA President, signs the visitors' book at the library

ICA Membership Statistics during the Year 2000

ICA Membership by Region



ICA Membership by Sectors



ICA MEMBER ORGANISATIONS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

1. Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union (BJSU)
Dhaka, Bangladesh
2. All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives,
Beijing China
3. Fiji Co-operative Union Ltd, Suva, Fiji
4. National Co-operative Union of India, New Delhi, India
5. National Co-op Consumers' Federation, New Delhi, India
6. Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-op. Ltd, (IFFCO), New Delhi, India
7. National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation (NAFED),
New Delhi, India
8. National Co-operative Agriculture and Rural
Development Banks' Federation Ltd, Mumbai, India
9. National Federation of State Co-operative Banks Ltd.
Mumbai, India
10. Krishak Bharati Co-operative Ltd. (KRIBHCO)
NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh, India
11. National Co-operative Dairy Federation of India Ltd
Anand, India
12. National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks
and Credit Societies, New Delhi, India
13. Dewan Koperasi Indonesia (DEKOPIN)
Jakarta, Indonesia
14. Indonesian Workers' Co-operative Alliance (INKOPKAR)
Jakarta, Indonesia
15. Central Organisation for Rural Co-operatives of Iran
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
16. Central Union of Rural Agricultural Co-operatives of Iran
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
17. Iran Chamber of Co-operatives (ICC), Tehran, Islamic Rep. of Iran
18. Central Union of Co-operative Societies in Israel,
Tel Aviv, Israel
19. Co-op Blue Square Consumer Co-operative
Ramat Gan, Israel
20. Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives
(JA-ZENCHU), Tokyo, Japan
21. Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union (JCCU)
Tokyo, Japan
22. National Federation of Fisheries' Co-operatives
Associations (Zengyoren), Tokyo, Japan
23. National Federation of Forest Owners' Co-operative
Associations (Zenmori-ren), Tokyo, Japan
24. The Norinchukin Bank (Central Co-op Bank for
Agriculture & Forestry), Tokyo, Japan
25. National Federation of Agricultural Co-op. Associations
(Zen-Noh), Tokyo, Japan
26. IE-NO-HIKARI ASSOCIATION (Association for Education & Publi-
cations on Agricultural Co-ops), Tokyo, Japan
27. National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural
Co-ops. (ZENKYOREN), Tokyo, Japan
28. National Press & Information Federation of
Agricultural Co-operatives, Tokyo, Japan
29. Japanese Workers' Co-operative Union (JIGYODAN), Tokyo, Ja-
pan
30. National Federation of Workers and Consumers
Insurance Co-operatives (ZENROSAI), Tokyo, Japan
31. Union of Consumer Societies, Almaty, Kazakhstan
32. National Agricultural Co-operative Federation,
Seoul, Republic of Korea
33. National Federation of Fisheries Co-operative
Associations, Seoul, Rep. of Korea
34. National Credit Union Federation of Korea (NACUFOK)
Seoul, Republic of Korea
35. Korean Federation of Community Credit
Co-operatives (KFCCC), Seoul, Rep. of Korea
36. National Forestry Co-operatives Federation (NFCE)
Seoul, Rep. of Korea
37. Union of Agricultural Products Co-operative Societies,
Safat, Kuwait
38. Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies,
Safat, Kuwait
39. National Co-operative Organisation of Malaysia (ANGKASA),
Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
40. Malaysian Co-operative Insurance Society (MCIS)
Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
40. National Land Finance Co-operative Society Ltd.,
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
41. Mongolian Association of Private Herders' Co-operatives
Ulaanbaator, Mongolia
42. Central Co-operative Society, Yangon, Myanmar
43. National Co-operative Federation of Nepal Ltd. (NCF)
Kathmandu, Nepal
44. National Co-operative Union of Pakistan,
Islamabad, Pakistan
45. The Agricultural Co-operative Union, Palestine (Via Israel)
46. National Confederation of Co-operatives Inc. (NATCCO)
Quezon City, Philippines
47. Singapore National Co-op Federation Ltd., Singapore
48. National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka,
Colombo, Sri Lanka
49. Federation of Thrift & Credit Co-op Societies Ltd. (SANASA),
Colombo, Sri Lanka
50. Consumer Co-operative Societies' Federation (Sri Lanka), Co-
lombo, Sri Lanka
51. Co-operative League of Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand
52. Vietnam Co-operatives Alliance (VCA), Hanoi, Vietnam

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

1. Australian Centre for Co-operative Research and
Development (ACCORD), Sydney, Australia
2. Co-operative Federation of New South Wales Ltd.,
Sydney, Australia
3. Institute for Indonesian Co-operative Development
Studies (LSP 21), Jakarta, Indonesia

INTERNATIONAL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

1. Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions, (ACCU),
Bangkok, Thailand

79th International Co-operative Day

7 July, 2001

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

“The Co-operative Advantage in the Third Millennium”

Values, principles, ethics and business competence constitute the co-operative advantage for members and for the communities in which they operate. Co-operatives put people first; they are member-owned; they are controlled under democratic principles; and they are competitive enterprises which are at least as efficient in their business operations and use of capital as others in the marketplace. Yet, they are not driven by profit, but rather by needs. These important differences from traditional enterprises will enable them to compete and prosper in the new Millennium.

Flexibility is one of the greatest advantages of the co-operative form of enterprise. As we start the new Millennium, we know that a multitude of challenges await us, however we also know that these same challenges will prove to be some of the greatest opportunities for co-operatives to respond to the ever-changing needs of people who must quickly adapt to often difficult economic, social and cultural conditions. Despite tougher market conditions, co-operatives continue to be strong players in national and, indeed increasingly, in trans-national economies. The effects of globalisation have put the co-operative model to the test, and time and again, people continue to choose co-operatives to address their needs. In fact increasingly, people are starting new co-operative enterprises in such areas as social care and information technology. Women and youth are also choosing the co-operative form to start enterprises where they are able to define their own rules, establish their own priorities and put in place an entrepreneurial culture that places people before profit. Thus, co-operatives are creating new jobs and new opportunities.

However, members are not the only winners. The co-operative advantage extends to the users of co-operatives and indeed to the communities in which they operate. Co-operatives set industry standards by putting into practice their values and ethics. In some countries, co-operatives are seen as more trustworthy than traditional companies and corporations for just this reason. In others, co-operatives are seen as leaders in promoting food safety and security, in protecting the environment, and in providing decent employment. Still in others, co-operatives are building peaceful societies by promoting understanding and collaboration among people of different cultural and income backgrounds.

However, it is important to stress that co-operatives are not instruments of public policy. If they are to be successful, they require Governments to create an enabling environment for autonomous co-operatives to develop and grow. The important work undertaken by the International Labour Office and the United Nations in collaboration with the ICA in establishing policy reference frameworks which define the role of the State vis-à-vis co-operatives, merits further attention by co-operatives and governments alike.

Over 760 million individuals have chosen the co-operative advantage. They have demonstrated that the co-operative form of organisation can improve their lives in a way that allows them to define how their needs are best served by a business enterprise with a difference.

In short, the co-operative advantage is improving the lives of people everywhere.

The ICA calls on its members to promote the co-operative advantage through ever improving service to their members; to promote, use, benefit and promote the new **.COOP** Internet domain name to show their co-operative difference, and to open and strengthen dialogues with their governments to ensure that policies enable co-operatives to thrive.



ICA IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC : REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 2000 (1500)

Published by the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Edited by P. Nair, Communication Officer at the ICA ROAP

Printed at Document Press, New Delhi 110 048, India



Asia Pacific Coop News

(For Private Circulation only)

ISSN : 0971-7013

Vol. 7, No. 1, Jan-April 2000

A NEWS BULLETIN OF THE ICA REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA & THE PACIFIC

New Strategies for Regional Co-operative Data Bank



The participants of the workshop posed for a photograph with P.K. Mishra, IAS, Managing Director, NCDC and Robby Tulus, ICA Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific.

The ICA, in collaboration with the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) and the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA), held a Regional Workshop on Co-operative Data Bank in Gurgaon (New Delhi) during 3-7 April, 2000.

The workshop was held at the NCDC TOPIC Training Centre, Gurgaon (near New Delhi). Twenty-eight participants from Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India and ICA Head Office, Geneva, met and discussed various aspects, problems and possible solutions for setting up co-operative data banks in member organisations and countries and also a Regional Co-operative Data Bank at the ICA Regional Office level. The participants were senior management level executives from co-operative federations in different countries.

The objective of the workshop was to discuss and agree on the modalities of collection, processing and dissemination of data on co-operatives in the Region. The meeting also discussed and adopted a sample questionnaire prepared by the ICA Regional Office for collection of data.

The workshop was inaugurated by Robby Tulus, Regional Director of ICA, who emphasized the need for having up-to-date and relevant data in the changing economic situation for cooperative businesses to survive. P.K. Mishra, IAS, Managing Director of NCDC, who presided over the inaugural function, also spoke about the ever important need for co-operatives to have accurate data on their operations.

Resources were drawn from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD),

National Informatics Centre (NIC) and National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI), who are pioneers in data-banking of co-operatives in India.

During the workshop, a session was held by well-known e-professional, Prof. S.K. Majumdar, who explained about the finer points on e-commerce and how the electronic trade could revolutionalise the way the world do business.

Everyone felt that the workshop was a timely and of strategic importance for co-operative development in this Region. It was also felt that some follow-up workshops should be held in any country of the region, to evaluate the work done and to draw up further strategies.

The delegates also agreed to work on the database in their own organisations, using the sample database prepared by the ICA Regional Office. They also requested that the sample

Contents

New Strategies on Data Bank	1
APHCO Board meets in Kerala	2
Regional HRD Committee meets	3
14th ICA-Japan Management Training Course concludes	3
13th AARDO Conference	4
Second VCA Congress	4
IFFCO ventures into Insurance	5
Alban D'Amours	5
Development Journalism	6
SNCF new Millennium Team	7
CICOPA meetings in Singapore	7
NEDAC Exectuve Committee	8
NCUI celebrates Women's Day	8
Obituary - G.K. Sharma	8

Board of Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organisation meets in Kerala, India

The board of Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organisation (APHCO) met at the Co-operative Hospital, Thalassery, Kerala (southern India) during 27-28 March, 2000.

Dr. Shoji Kato, Chairperson of APHCO, presided over the meeting which was participated by 12 delegates, both members and observers.

The meeting opened with a welcome address by E. Narayanan, President of Tellicherry Co-operative Hospital. Dr. Kato, the Chair of APHCO, said that he attended an International Conference of NGOs on Public Health in Seoul, Korea. He mentioned that health co-operatives are forced to compete with the private enterprises and are facing financial difficulties and various other obstacles. In order to survive, the health co-operatives should improve the quality of services provided by them. Dr. Kato also reported that the Health Co-operative Association of Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union held a joint seminar with the Health Co-operatives in Korea.

Dr. Kato further said that in order for APHCO to be recognised as a regional committee of International

Continued from page 1)

database be supplied to all member organisations, so that they can follow the same pattern of collecting, processing and disseminating data. All agreed that it is important that all data collected should be compatible, to allow for easy electronic exchange between the ICA and its members and between members.

Mohammad S. Haq of the ICA Regional Office prepared the sample data base and the questionnaire, and was involved fully with the workshop. B.D. Sharma, Director and P. Nair, Communication Officer, at the ICA Regional Office facilitated the workshop with the active support of NCDC officers and faculty members. □



Delegates of APHCO board meeting. Seated in the middle is Dr. Kato

Health Co-operative Organisation (IHCO), each member organisation must have some official relationship with the International Co-operative Alliance. Hence he suggested that each member organisation of APHCO organise a federation and apply for membership of IHCO or ICA. Alternatively, the member organisations can associate themselves with existing ICA member organisations in their respective countries. Dr. Kato also requested members to send news about health co-operative activities in their respective organisations to the APHCO Secretariat in New Delhi through e-mail.

Members suggested that second-hand medical appliances/equipment used by developed countries could be offered to developing countries at nominal costs. The Chairperson requested members to give him a list of equipment/appliances required by the developing countries.

Members also requested APHCO to organise staff training and technical assistance as well as exchange programmes to develop health and medical co-operatives in the Asia-Pacific region. For this purpose, it was

suggested to establish an Exchange Fund.

The Malaysian Doctors' Co-operative Society Ltd. (KDM), Koperasi Pekerja, and the Tellicherry Co-operative Hospital were admitted as members of APHCO.

The Madampe Multi-purpose Co-operative Society was admitted subject to payment of subscription and the Kerala Co-operative Hospital Federation will be considered subject to production of documents..

The next meeting of APHCO board will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, during March 2001.

New address of ILO Coopnet Regional Coordinator

Teresita M. de Leon
Asia-Pacific Regl. Coordinator
ILO Coopnet/Coopreform
Programmes
Unit 1804 Jollibee Plaza
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
1605 Pasig City, Philippines

Fax: (63-2)636-7728
E-mail: mdeleon@quickweb.com.ph

ICA Regional HRD & Research Committee meets in Bangkok and holds seminar on Information Technology

The 12th Meeting of the ICA Committee on HRD and Research for Asia and the Pacific was held at CLT Training Centre in Bangkok on 24th February 2000. Eighteen participants from seven countries and three international organisations attended the meeting. The meeting reviewed the activities that Committee members are undertaking in the area of human resource development involving co-operatives in their respective countries.

The meeting was presided over by Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz, Chairperson of the Committee.

The matter of reviving the ILO MATCOM training materials was discussed during the meeting. A number of co-op training institutions in Asia used or are still using the MATCOM materials in their training, and it was felt that revisions and further adaptations of the materials were a matter for each institution to decide. ILO will welcome such initiatives.

A seminar on Information Technology was also organised on 25th February.



Participants of the HRD Committee meeting and IT seminar. Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz not in the picture.

About 35 participants attended the seminar. The objectives of the seminar were: appreciation of the value of information technology and its uses in co-operative education and training; and decision on next steps to take towards networking among co-operative training institutions in Asia

and the Pacific. Resource persons were drawn from the Asian Institute of Technology, UNDP and CISCO Systems.

The Committee agreed to meet on 25 June 2000 in Singapore, in conjunction with the 1st Asia-Pacific Co-op Forum and the 4th ICA Regional Assembly.

Fourteenth ICA-Japan Management Training Course concludes

The 14th ICA-Japan International Training Course on 'Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia' held by the ICA in India, Thailand, and Japan, during

November 16, 1999 to April 22, 2000 concluded at IDACA, Tokyo. The course was attended by 15 senior level managers of agricultural co-operatives from 9 Asian countries, i.e., China,

India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. During their participation in the programme, the participants studied at the Institute of Rural Management (IRMA), Anand in India and IDACA, Japan and visited a number of agro-processing activities of agricultural co-operatives. The theme of the training programme was 'Value Addition through Agro-processing'. The programme was funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan and implemented by the ICA in collaboration with JA-Zenchu, IDACA and its member organisations.

The closing session was addressed by Mr. Toyoshi Miyanaga, Director of the Overseas Technical Co-operation Division of MAFF. The programme was directed by Dr. Daman Prakash, Senior Consultant of the ICA Regional Office.



Participants of the course with Mr. Toyoshi Miyanaga (seated fourth from left), Dr. Daman Prakash (second from left) and Mr. Yoshitada Nakaoka (third from left).

13th Conference of Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation

Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO) - formerly Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation - held its 13th General Conference on 23-24 January, 2000 at Hotel Ashok, New Delhi.

The Conference was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. G.M.C. Balayogi, Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha (lower house of the Indian Parliament). Dr. Bahar Munip, Secretary-General of AARDO welcomed the delegates. The conference was also addressed by H.E. Mr. Gehad Madi, Ambassador of Egypt, H.E. Mr. S.K. Mubukwani, High Commissioner of Zambia, and H.E. Mr. Sunderlal Patwa, Minister for Rural Development, Government of India.

Delegates from seventeen (17) AARDO member countries, namely, China, Egypt, Ghana, India, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Oman, Philippines, Sudan, Yemen and Zambia attended the Conference. Delegations from Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and representatives from Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) and Mr. Robby Tulus, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific of International Co-operative Alliance also attended the conference.



Robby Tulus, ICA Regional Director (wearing red-tie) with Dr. Bahar Munip (left) and other delegates.

AARDO Conference is the supreme body of the Organisation, which meets once in three years, alternatively in Asia and Africa and determines the policies and programmes of the organisation for the subsequent triennium.

The Conference reviewed the activities of the AARDO for the last three years and approved technical work programme and budget estimates for the next three years.

The next Conference will be held in Cairo, Egypt, during January, 2003.

More information could be obtained from the Secretary General, Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation, State Guest Houses Complex, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, India.

Tel. (91-11)410-0475

Fax: (91-11)467-2045

E-mail: aarohq@nde.vsnl.net.in.

Second Congress of Vietnam Co-operative Alliance

Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister of Vietnam, addressing the Second Congress of the Vietnam Co-operative Alliance, said that the Government has created favourable legal framework for co-operative economy to develop and assured that there will not be undue interference in the sector by the government. He mentioned that there was a genuine need for establishing more co-operatives and that the role of small and medium scale co-operatives should be given due attention, especially in the farm produce processing sector and consumer goods. 'Co-ordination between co-operatives themselves and between co-operative and other sectors should be promoted

for developing household economy and to generate more income for rural workers', he said. The co-operative sector accounts for more than 10 percent of Vietnam's gross domestic product.

438 delegates representing more than 18 million co-operative members and workers attended the Congress. Delegations from Singapore, Japan, China and the International Co-operative Alliance also participated. Co-operatives in these countries have very close relationship with the Vietnamese co-operatives.

Romy Villamin, Director-South East Asia, represented the ICA Regional Office at the Congress. Over the years,

ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, has been closely associated with the Vietnamese Co-operative movement in various activities.

Villamin mentioned that the VCA can take advantage of the ICA Regional Web-site to promote co-operative trade and that ICA will facilitate promotion of co-operative business in Vietnam. ICA is also hoping to help Vietnam in promoting workers' co-operatives, apart from assisting the Vietnamese Co-operative movement in organising campus co-operatives.

Villamin also mentioned that there is a possibility of ICA Regional Office facilitating English language courses for selected leaders and staff of VCA.

IFFCO ventures into Insurance

IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Ltd.) has decided to diversify into General Insurance to serve the needs of farmers, trade, industry, and individuals.

The products proposed would be a mix of existing and new products, which will be developed with the joint venture partners. A special package for covering industrial risks, especially in fertiliser industry will be provided.

Another package policy covering the risks of property, livestock, farm implements, health and crop is being studied for development.

The total equity investment would be to the tune of about INR 1 billion, of which IFFCO will have a majority share-holding of INR 740 million.

The project has a good synergy with IFFCO's vast marketing network.

Achievements

IFFCO registered the highest ever production of 5.276 million tonnes of fertilisers, comprising 3.364 million tonnes of urea and 1.912 million tonne of NPK/DAP, during the financial year 1999-2000, as against the previous best production of 4.921 million tonnes of fertilisers during 1998-99.

This was announced by U.S. Awasthi, Managing Director of IFFCO at a Media Conference organised by IFFCO recently. Other achievements are highest production at Kandla and Aonla II units and bagging of ISO 9002 certification by Aonla unit. IFFCO's Kalol unit and the Marketing division had already achieved ISO 9002 certification in the earlier years.

Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers, said that IFFCO has registered exceptional performance in the realms of production, marketing, and employees' relations during the year 1999-2000, which is an incredible record by any fertiliser producing organisation in the country.

Information Technology

IFFCO also aims to take benefits of the Information Technology to the farmers' doorsteps. A Geographical Information

System (GIS) will be developed with the help of ISRO utilising their satellite imagery, which will provide information on land use, land cover, crop area changes, irrigated and rain fed areas, soil type and soil constraints, etc. IFFCO would set up computers in co-operative kiosks where information will be available to farmers.

Joint Venture Projects

IFFCO will be participating, with KRIBHCO and Oman Oil, in a joint venture project to manufacture fertiliser in Oman. 50% of the production will be available to IFFCO to market through their channels.

Another joint venture is in a phosphoric acid plant at Senegal, which is being set up at an estimated cost of US\$250 million, of which IFFCO's contribution will be US\$20 million.

A second phosphoric acid plant will be set up in Tunisia in a joint venture with GFCL and Group Chimique Tunisia (GCT).

IFFCO is also proposing to set up a potash plant in Argentina with Indian Potash Limited and Potasio Rio Colorado S.A. (PRC), an Argentinean partner.

Co-operative Development Programmes

IFFCO plans to adopt and develop 1500 co-operative societies and construct 150 storage-cum-community centres at an estimated financial outlay of INR 177.5 million, over a period of five years up to 2001-2002. Training of co-operative personnel will be imparted at these centres.

IFFCO information centres will provide agriculture-related information to farming community.

Human Resource Development

IFFCO has taken up multi-faceted programmes such as training of personnel in multiple skills and newer tools by introducing the concept of Job Enlargement and Job Enrichment.

IT will be a major tool of decision-making support system in IFFCO's management.

Alban D'Amours elected President of Mouvement Desjardins

ALBAN D'AMOURS has been elected President of the Mouvement des caisses Desjardins for a term of four years. He will take over from Claude Béland in March 25. Claude Béland has been President of the Mouvement since 1987.

With total assets close to \$76 billion and some 41,000 employees, the Mouvement des caisses Desjardins is the largest financial institution and private employer of the province of Québec in Canada.

D'Amours has been a member of the Mouvement Desjardins executive for 12 years. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Desjardins' security fund, the Corporation de fonds de sécurité de la Confédération Desjardins.

D'Amours has an M.A. in Economics from Université Laval and a Ph.C. in Public Finance, Monetary Theory and Econometrics from Minnesota University.

We, at the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, wish to collaborate with the new President, like his predecessor in the past.

Dates of Singapore Meetings

24 June, 2000

ICA Regional Sub-Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives.

24-25 June, 2000

Research Conference

25 June, 2000

Regional Consumer Committee
Regional Women's Committee
Regional Agricultural Committee
Regional Banking Association
Regional HRD & Research Comtee

26 June, 2000

2nd ICA Regional Women's Forum

27-28 June, 2000

First Asia-Pacific Co-operative Forum

29-30 June, 2000

4th ICA Regional Assembly

30 June, 2000

CICOPA Executive meeting

Development Journalism - new 'Mantra' for Co-op journalists

In an attempt to sensitize editors of co-operative journals towards development of communication objectives, a workshop was held in New Delhi during February 21-25, to improve the editorial content of co-operative publications.

The five-day Editorial Workshop was organised by National Film and Fine Arts Co-operative (NAFFAC) in collaboration with the National Centre for Co-operative Education (NCCE).

The workshop brought together on a common platform, editors and publicity personnel from co-operatives all over India and was resourced by eminent academicians and journalists. The latter used their experience and expertise to guide the participants on ways to incorporate development communication objectives in their publicity endeavours. Emphasis was laid on the need to fan out reporters to rural pockets and districts and focus on human-interest features that highlight the problems at the grassroots level. The latest trends in journalistic writing and printing techniques were also imparted to the participants.

At the outset, senior officials of the co-operative sector gave the participants a thorough grounding on the co-operative scenario.

In his opening address, Dr. P.S. Sharma, an expert on co-operation, emphasised that the quality of a co-operative journal depended upon the vision of the editors, and their enterprise in getting information from various sources. The editorial content of co-operative journals should maintain a homogenous balance between being research-oriented and information-oriented. A right balance of news and views coupled with issue-focussed journalism would be a step in the right direction, Dr. Sharma noted. Editors were called upon to develop co-operative journalism as a specialized field of journalism in the same lines as financial journalism. The need of the hour is to develop a strong database on the entire co-operative movement, which would provide many more information for the general masses.

Jyoti Raghavan*



Participants of the workshop with the organisers

Describing journalists as the intellectual nerve of the co-operative movement, Dr. Neb, Senior Consultant, NCCE, called upon editors to inform and teach the public about the good aspects of the co-operative movement. The co-operative movement has made immense contribution to the economy, but has not developed a brand image for itself, he noted. Dr. Neb called upon editors to work in the direction of developing a brand image for the co-operative sector by publicising its achievements and also correcting perceptions in the minds of people.

Among the speakers at the workshop were Dr. Ajit Bhattacharjee, Director, Press Institute of India and Editor of publications - Vidura and Grassroots. He cautioned editors to protect the co-operative movement from the worst effects of consumerism. This was particularly vital in today's times when the thrust was on globalisation, marketing and liberalisation which he said aimed only at the individual and not at the community. Dr. Bhattacharjee delineated the objectives of the co-operative journals, which should aim at the following:

- to keep members informed of the latest developments in the co-operative sector;
- to reach out beyond its own community and to project the co-operative movement as one that is successful and has a role in the society;
- impress upon donors that it is a worthwhile movement;
- to establish the credibility of the movement as a development endeavour.

He asked the co-operative journalists to play a pro-active role to promote the movement and publish diverse points of view. Emphasis, he said, should be upon presenting the situation from the grassroots-level rather than function as a government mouthpiece. This is the only way that the movement can acquire greater credibility in the minds of the people.

* Ms. Jyoti Raghavan, Media Executive at National Film and Fine Arts Co-operative, organised the workshop.

"Mantra" is a vedic hymn meaning 'instrument of thought'.

The academic input to the workshop came from senior faculty members of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication. Prof. J.S. Yadava asked editors to keep in mind the aspects of 'comprehension, relevance, credibility and context in their message formulation. He said communication alone cannot be the panacea but the need for journalists is to function with a social conscience. He asked editors to be more concerned with development issues rather than make journals merely event or news-oriented. Negative and positive stories should be included to make communication more credible and effective for the readers, he noted.

Prof. M.R. Dua covered both technical and academic aspects of print journalism. The two-fold responsibility of co-operative editors should be - to write simply, clearly, cogently and precisely; secondly to be as objective as possible and straight forward without being biased.

He noted that while keeping in mind the dictum that 'news is sacred and comment is free,' editors should ensure that their comments are constructive and friendly. Success stories coupled with interviews would add colour to the co-operative journals, he noted. He also provided the editors with useful journalistic tips on articles, reports and feature writing.

Senior journalist from the Times of India, Mr. Sunny Thomas, instructed participants of the workshop on the finer nuances of writing. He emphasised upon good writing, fine-tuning and feature writing. A proper organisation of ideas, focus and clarity were vital for the fine writing. As development communicators editors have to learn to change the psyche of the people which entailed:

- ◆ creating a revolution in thought to create awareness of development plans;
- ◆ to make people participants in the development process; and
- ◆ to evaluate the programmes of the development projects.

Graphics expert, Mr. N.N. Sarkar, emphasized the importance of graphics for the purposes of effective pre-

sentation and packaging. The need for proper typesetting, colour, harmony and balance in page layout was taught to the editors to make their journals aesthetically pleasing and popular.

Among the major outcomes of the Editorial Workshop were the useful interaction and exchange between participant editors of different co-operative publications.

It was felt that all editors from national, state, district and multi-state co-operative societies should pool in their expertise to create a useful information data bank for the co-operative sector.

It was felt that a co-operative feature service was the need of the hour and a useful journal incorporating the best success stories from various co-operative publications would be a step in the right direction.

Development communication was considered vital and editors discussed ways to publish more human-interest stories from the grassroots. It was felt that an effective interfacing network with the field officers in rural projects would provide good feedback material for human-interest features.

Editors felt that workshops like these should be organised more frequently in future to pool in ideas and improve the quality of publications.

The need to establish better access to the mainstream newspapers was emphasized. The co-operative sector finds very little mention in the mainstream press and it was felt that editors could float a regular supplement in the national dailies once or twice a year on the co-operative movement.

To keep up with the cyber age, it was decided that editors should work towards putting their publications on websites. This would publicize the successful programmes of the co-op sector and would also enable interface of information and ideas between different co-operatives.

Another follow-up workshop was mooted within the next six months as an evaluation exercise aimed at further bolstering quality of co-operative publications. □

CICOPA meetings in Singapore

The Executive Committee of CICOPA has decided to hold its next meeting, in conjunction with the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia-Pacific, on 30 June, 2000 at the Mandarin Hotel, Singapore.

CICOPA's development activities and the next CICOPA World Conference are among the important items on the agenda.

Of particular interest to Asian co-operators is the consultation meeting with CICOPA member organisations in Asia-Pacific, which will be held in the afternoon of the same day.

The main topic of the meeting will be the establishment of a regional CICOPA. The meeting is in line with the decision of CICOPA to establish regional committees of CICOPA in every region, and a follow up to the first exploratory meeting in Seoul in 1998.

This meeting is the first of three such meetings scheduled to take place in conjunction with ICA's Regional Assemblies this year.

SNCF has a new Millennium Team

At its 7th Triennial General Assembly on 27 November, 1999, the SNCF have elected a new team of management.

New Board of Trustees:

Mr. Goh Chee Wee	Chair
Mrs. Yu-Foo Yee Shoon	Dy. Chair
Mr. Anthony Pragasam	Member
Mr. Victor Pang	Member
Mr. Anthony Samy	Member
Mr. Paul Tan	Member

New Executive Council:

Mr. Tan Kin Lian	Chair
Mr. S. Moganaruban	1st Dy. Chair
Mr. Chan Tee Seng	2nd Dy. Chair
Mr. K.T. Samuel	Member
Mr. Thomas Thomas	Member
Prof. Poo Gee Swee	Member
Mr. Ismail Mohd. Yusof	Member
Mr. Nithiah Nandan	Member
Mr. Seah Kian Peng	Member
Ms. Nichole Tan	Member

NEDAC Executive Committee meets

The Executive Committee of NEDAC - Network for Development of Agricultural Co-operatives - of the FAO met at the FAO Regional Office for Asia-Pacific in Bangkok.

B.D. Sharma, Director (SOWECA), represented the ICA Regional Office at the meeting.

Based on the Joint Statement between NEDAC and the ICA Regional Agricultural Committee on development of agricultural co-operative in the region, the executive committee formulated NEDAC Work Plan for 2000 & 2001.

In order to provide long-term policy perspective for development of agricultural co-operatives, it was decided that the ICA ROAP and NEDAC should jointly formulate and implement a Strategic Action Plan to deal with various issues raised in the Joint Statement.

FAO should consider to finance implementation of such strategic action plan.

The meeting also urged FAO to invite both ICA and NEDAC in the forthcoming Global Conference of Agricultural Ministers scheduled to be held in Tokyo later this year.

NCUI celebrates International Women's Day

National Co-operative Union of India, the apex body of co-operatives in India, celebrated the International Women's Day at the NCUI board room on March 8, 2000.

More than 100 women leaders and field workers participated at this function, where well known women leaders spoke about the need for women to come into the mainstream of co-operative activities, so as to fully utilise the potential of women.

Ms. Savitri Singh, Dy. Director in charge of women projects, organised the Women's Day celebrations.

Ms. Sabitha Venkatesan, represented the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

G.K. Sharma passes away



Mr. G.K. Sharma, former Asia-Pacific Regional Director of ICA, passed away due to a massive heart attack at his home in Delhi on March 4, 2000. Mr. Sharma is survived by his wife, Mrs. Kamla Sharma, and son, Mr. Piyush Vyas.

The ICA staff assembled on March 6, 2000, at the Regional Office to pay respect to the departed co-operative leader and passed the following condolence message.

"We, at ICA ROAP and ICA Global, are shocked to learn about the sad and sudden demise of Mr. G.K. Sharma, former Regional Director of ICA ROAP. Mr. Sharma was one of the few who devoted his entire life for the cause of co-operative movement. Starting his career as an official in the Department of Co-operation, Govt. of Rajasthan and occupying high positions in NCDC and NAFED, Mr. Sharma made significant contributions to co-operative development - both within India and at global level, particularly in Asia and the Pacific. In NAFED, where he reached the position of Managing Director, Mr. Sharma was pioneer in the field of foreign trade, market interventions and price support operations for the benefit of farmers of India. He promoted a number of co-operative institutions, notable being COOPTOUR, Agricultural Development Foundation and Konark Jute Mills. He was also Vice Chairman of ICA Global Agriculture Committee.

Before joining ICA, Mr. Sharma was ILO Regional Advisor on Co-operative Development and was based in Bangkok.

Mr. Sharma joined ICA ROAP as its Regional Director at a very crucial time when the ROAP was struggling to get over the problem of resource crunch. As an astute cooperative manager, he not only managed well the Regional Office for nearly a decade but also added new dimensions to co-operative development in Asia and Pacific region in the areas of Co-operative Policy, Law, HRD, Consumers and Gender. Institution of Regional Consultations and Co-operative Ministers' Conferences for creating conducive environment through Co-operative Policy and Legislative Reforms were conceived by him.

He was also the author of a comparative study of Co-operative Law in the Region.

After retiring from active services of ICA, Mr. Sharma plunged into the mainstream of Indian Co-operative Movement and became Chairman of Rajasthan State Co-operative Union, Member of NCUI Governing Council and Chairman of COOPTOUR.

May God grant his soul eternal peace and courage to his family members to bear the irreparable loss inflicted by his sudden death."



Asia Pacific Coop News

(For Private Circulation only)

ISSN : 0971-7013

Vol. 7, No. 2, May-July, 2000

A NEWS BULLETIN OF THE ICA REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA & THE PACIFIC

First Asia-Pacific Co-operative Forum – A Historic Event



H.E. Megawati Soekarnoputri, Vice President of Indonesia, delivering the Keynote address at the Forum

The Co-operative Movement in Asia-Pacific made history this June in Singapore. The First ICA Asia-Pacific Co-operative Forum opened on June 27 amidst ceremony and messages of hope from Government and co-op leaders that co-ops will play an important role in the region.

The theme of the Forum was "Co-operatives in the 21st Century: Are We Changing?" There were several panel discussions on "Co-operative Values", "Co-operative Governance", "Capital Mobilization", "Innovation" and "Co-op Trade". Mr. Lim Boon Heng, Minister without Portfolio of the Government of Singapore mentioned: "Globalisation lead to more cross-border trade and investments. Businesses tap into global financial markets for funds. We must constantly re-examine our strategies in tandem with the changing world, and if need be, re-invent

ourselves. We either keep up or we are left out. This will help us to perform an important role, as social leveler, in the new globalized economy".

In noting the value of co-ops to millions living in Asia-Pacific and around the world, speakers told us that all governments recognize the vital role co-ops play in our communities and beyond.

"In my opinion, every economic sector, which constitutes the source of living of the people at large, as well as the rendering of services needed by the society, should be jointly run by the people and the government", Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia H.E. Megawati Soekarnoputri, told the over-300 Forum delegates and dignitaries.

"The spirit of gotong-royong (mutual co-operation) in executing development for the people should become the term of reference for the development of co-operatives."

She said that this mode of understanding will provide a place for a co-operative in every nook and cranny of life of the society.

Her Excellency encouraged co-ops to maintain their adher-

CONTENTS

First Asia-Pacific Co-op Forum	1
HRD Committee IT Seminar	3
RCBA Meeting	3
Research Conference	4
Women looks for ways	5
Women's Committee meets	6
Agri. Committee meetings	6
Consumer Committee has a new team	6
University Sub-Committee	7
ICA holds Regional Assembly	7
Mr. Mu Li visits India	9
ICA/FAO Mission to Nepal	10
IFFCO signs MOU with Tokio Marine	10
ADB unfolds strategy	10
Integrating Value Based Management	11
New members inducted	11
Dr. Sisodia: New President of NCUI	12
Tamilnadu Housing Fed. gets award	12

MacPherson's Summing Up

"I am afraid these are only one person's (my own) perspectives." "I thought there was considerable urgency throughout the meeting, especially over globalisation and the changing role of governments. Some view it positively, others negatively. I think it is important that ICA ROAP take serious note on the fairly widespread concerns".

Glass half empty...

1. The pressures for professional management. I would like to see more involvement by Asians in this matter, working with northern experts but building up their own research base and resources;
2. Uncertain board/manager relations;
3. Restructuring. This applies to federations, government partnerships, strategic alliances, inter-sector relations;
4. Stagnation and concern that the movement, especially in agriculture, was facing a real crisis;
5. Under-capitalisation;
6. Morale. There seems to be low esteem in some sectors, and uncertainties caused by government changes, the limited capacity to do new things.

Glass half full...

1. Keep pushing and using identity page;
2. Stress the importance of co-ops to keep focused on their core businesses and improving how they carry out their activities;
3. Review the way that co-ops govern themselves and collect 'best cases';
4. Government partnerships. Perhaps there is a need to have further discussions on how such partnerships take place and some sharing of information on those that are working well;
5. Alliances – with other co-operatives and governments;
6. Information technology. The Asian movement needs to embrace the new technology more quickly.

The Sum-total

ISSUES

Professional Management
 Uncertain board/
 management relations
 Restructuring
 Stagnation
 Under-capitalization
 Ennui
 Identity
 Keep focus
 Improve governance
 Government Partnership
 Allies
 Information Technology

RESPONSE

Identity
 Keeping focus
 Improved governance
 Government partnership
 Alliance
 Information Technology
 Professional Management

He spelt about the words 'pursue' and 'ikigai' (a Japanese word meaning a pursuit through which you can find fulfillment, that life is worth living) as follows:

PURSUE

Professional
 management
Uncertain board/
 management
 relations
Restructuring
Stagnation
Under-capitalisation
Ennui

IKIGAI

Identity
Keep focus
Improve governance
Government
 partnership
Allies
Information
 Technology

ence to the co-operative principles, focusing special attention on the need to "reflect a true and genuine democracy."

Honorable Mr. Abdullah Tarmugi, Minister for Community Development and Sports, Government of Singapore, inaugurating the Forum mentioned that co-operatives are community enterprises. "We need to examine existing mindsets to see if they should change to meet the challenges of the IT-based economy".

Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Chairman of Singapore National Co-op Federation and Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President for Asia-Pacific spoke at the Forum.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, former Director General ICA, mentioned that the co-operative movement worldwide sustains one billion jobs.

ICA Regional Director for Asia Pacific Robby Tulus, who presided over the opening ceremony noted that the lives of three billion people - about half of the world's population - are made secure by co-operatives,



A section of the audience – Robby Tulus, ICA Regional Director, Mr. Mu Li, H.E. Megawati Soekarnoputri, Bruce Thordarson, Tan Kin Lian, and others at the Forum.



Mr. Bruce Thordarson, ICA Director General, presenting a memento to H.E. Madam Megawati Soekarnoputri

mostly from the Asia-Pacific region. Mr. Lim Boon Heng, Minister without Portfolio, Government of Singapore and NTUC Secretary General, in his thematic address on June 28 mentioned that globalisation presents both challenges and opportunities for co-op enterprises.

"Globalisation lead to more cross-border trade and investments. Businesses tap into global financial markets for funds. Companies merge and acquire each other and achieve greater economies of scale." "The Internet has made information available at the click of a mouse", he said. "The new technology is about knowledge and talent. These changes will create many opportunities for business. Yet, it will also pose challenges, the challenge is the widening income disparity."

HRD Committee organises IT Seminar

A seminar on interactive learning and training was held for members of the ICA HRD Committee for Asia and the Pacific in Mandarin Hotel, Singapore on 25 June.

The seminar featured a presentation by Dr. Mohd. Salmi Mohd. Sohod on the concept and mechanisms for e-learning/training environment and the process involved in creating that environment. Dr. Salmi is the CEO of the United Multimedia Sdn Bhd, an IT Company based in Kuala Lumpur.

"To respond to challenges of globalisation and stiff competition in the market, co-ops must embrace talent and recruit new professionals in order to attain professionalism." He advised the co-operative community to constantly re-examine their strategies in tandem with the changing world, and if need be, reinvent ourselves. "We wither keep up or we are left out. This will help us to perform an important role, as a social leveler, in the new globalised economy," he concluded.

Mr. Ian McPherson, a renowned researcher from Canada, synthesized the whole Forum and came out with a synopsis. Delegates to the Forum felt that such Forums should be held in the future too to tackle problems faced by the co-operative movement. □

Third meeting of RCBA

ICA Regional Banking Association (RCBA) held its 3rd meeting in Singapore on 25 June, 2000.

The meeting reviewed the trend of co-op banking and finance and deliberated strategies for widening the membership base of RCBA.

The Committee elected Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya of Sri Lanka as its Chair and Credit Union League of Thailand and Urban Co-op Banks and Credit Societies, India were elected as Vice-chairs.

THE SPEAKERS

Inaugural Speech:

Mr. Abdullah Tarmugi, Ministry for Community Development and Sports, Government of Singapore

Keynote Speech:

H.E. Megawati Soekarnoputri, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia

Thematic Address:

Mr. Lim Boon Heng, Minister without Portfolio, Government of Singapore, and Secretary General, NTUC, Singapore.

PANEL SPEAKERS

Co-operative Governance

Chair: Ms. Lynne Toupin
Speakers: Dr. Peter Davis
Prof. Ungku A. Aziz
Dr. Harvey Brooks

Co-operative Legislation

Chair: Mr. Ravi Shankar
Speakers: Dr. Hans Münkner
Dr. David Guiney
Mr. Garry Cronan

Globalization

Chair: Mr. Ghislain Paradis
Speakers: Mr. Yehudah Paz
Dr. Sri-Edi Swasono
Mr. Shil Kwan Lee
Ms. Lydia Johnson

Innovation

Chair: Mr. Zahid Qureshi
Speakers: Mr. Tan Kin Lian
Mr. U.S. Awasthi
Mr. Akira Kurimoto

Capital Mobilization

Chair: Ms. Teresita de Leon
Mr. Hans Dahlberg
Dr. Daniel Côte &
Dr. Benoit Tremblay

Co-operative Trade

Chair: Mr. Don Kinnersley
Mr. Euclide Chiasson
Dr. Martin Kunz
Mr. Shozo Shinohara

Synthesis & Summation

Dr. Ian MacPherson

Research Conference recognizes need to form network of researchers

The decision to increase the contribution of research work to the advancement of the co-operative movement in the Asia-Pacific region was a decision made at the First Asia-Pacific Research Conference. It noted the need to bridge the gap between co-operative leaders and researchers.

Two main themes were discussed: How to put the Co-operative Principles into operation and; the Co-operative Response to Present and Future Challenges in the Changing Environment. They reflect the most important tasks facing co-operatives in the region. Co-operatives have to make a contribution in identifying best practices, thus helping the movement to find solutions.

The Asian Co-operative Research Forum was created within the framework of the ICA Asian Committee on HRD and Research and has met under the Chairmanship of Mr. Akira Kurimoto, of the International Department of Japanese Consumers Co-op Union, in Singapore, July 1999, on the occasion of the opening of the ICA Business Office. The first Organizing Committee meeting was held in Seoul, October 1998.

More than fifty contributors answered the call for papers. The meeting

brought together researchers and co-operative leaders from Australia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand with five researchers participating from other regions such as Canada, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Professor Ian MacPherson from Victoria University, Canada made the keynote speech entitled "Research on Co-operatives in Asia, an Observer's Respectful Views".

The Chairman of the ICA Research Committee Professor Roger Spear, (Open University, U.K) reviewed the global trends of co-operative research.

The twenty-six papers, covering a wide range of co-op issues and sectors, were presented at the seven parallel sessions. These covered participative democracy, value-based management, gender and youth, strategies and structures, creating employment, renewal, innovation, and supporting



Akira Kurimoto, Chair of the ICA Regional Research Committee speaking at the Forum

community. Mr. Madane (India) summarized the discussion and suggestions were made on the themes for the second Asian Research Conference to be held in conjunction with the next Regional Assembly in 2002.

The venue of the Conference will be the same as the Regional Assembly.

The closing remarks were made by Mr. Yehudah Paz (Israel), ICA Board member, in which he hoped that a good start had been made to increase the contribution of research work to the advancement of the co-operative movement in the region and reduce the gap between co-operative leaders and researchers so that both could learn from each other and generate synergy in their efforts.

He also hoped that this first venture would lead to the establishment of a network of researchers in the region and integrate them into the global one.



The Researchers get-together

Akira Kurimoto

Women look for ways to 'Transcending Glass Ceilings and Glass Ladders in the New Millenium'

Madam Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Senior Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Community Development and Sports, Singapore was the Guest of Honour at the opening of the Second Regional Women's Forum at the Mandarin Hotel, Monday morning. The theme of the Forum was 'Transcending Glass Ceilings and Glass Ladders in the New Millenium'.

A large gathering of more than 120 delegates and observers, apart from several dignitaries representing the Singapore Co-operative Movement, was present on the occasion.

Madam Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, in her speech commended the ICA Regional Office for making concerted efforts to integrate women's issues in co-operative development programmes, leading the formation of the ICA Regional Women's Committee.

She hoped that the Committee would succeed in cultivating an environment where women can fully participate and contribute at every level in the co-ops. She said that the co-ops today face many challenges in the rapidly changing economic environment. The co-operatives need good people to run the business enterprises and they can ill-afford to neglect the potential contributions of women. Women are a valuable resource, both present and future, for the advancement of the co-operative movement.

She hoped that the platform of this Forum will provide an excellent opportunity to discuss and examine the role of women and the opportunities for them in the movements by changing the mindsets.

Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Chairman of Singapore National Co-operative Federation,

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director-General, ICA, Madam Rahaiah Baharen, Chairperson of ICA Regional Women's Committee and Mr. Robby Tulus, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific of ICA were present on the occasion.

Mr. Robby Tulus, in his address, congratulated Madam Rahaiah Baharen, the Chairperson of the ICA Regional Women's Committee, in holding the Second Women's Forum in the Region in as many years. He said that it is heartening to see that men from the ICA membership and leadership are beginning to realize that they have to take an active part in 'gender mainstreaming'. Since the problem is that the upper casings of the 'leadership ladder' are very slippery, women tend to fall down the ladder, even when they reached closer to the

very top. There is a need to incorporate gender responsiveness of both men and women in co-operative with an 'inclusive' - not 'compartmentalised' - strategy.

He said that there is a need to eliminate the notion that men are natural leaders and women are natural followers.



Ms. Lydia Johnson delivering the Keynote Address

Ms. Lydia Johnson, Regional Manager at the Vancouver City Savings Credit Union - popularly known as Vancity, made the Keynote address on the theme.

She explained about her work at the credit union and how the gender balance is maintained in her co-operative. More than 56% of Vancity members are women, who took decision on financial planning. Nearly 40% of the executive management are female and two-thirds of branch managers are female. She said the link between gender equity and Vancity's commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility has been the key to the success of Vancity. The Forum had panel presentations by Ms. Rahaiah Baharen, Mr. Paul Sinnappan, Ms. Teresita de-Leon, Mr. Fujioka and Ms. Kamakshi Balakrishnan, who have given overviews of the situation in countries of the Region.

After the panel presentations, the delegates were divided into six discussion groups. The groups came out with useful suggestions and comments on how to break the glass ceiling and make the glass ladder less slippery.

The Forum ended with definite strategies to achieve the goals and looking forward to the next Co-operative Forum in 2002.

The ICA Regional Office and the Regional Women's Committee plan the next Forum in conjunction with the 5th Regional Assembly.



Ms. Rahaiah Baharen (right), Chairperson of the ICA Regional Women's Committee discusses a point with Mdm. Yu-Foo Yee Shoon. Ms. Akiko Yamauchi from JCCU, Japan, looks on.

Women's Committee meets in Singapore



Second Women's Committee meeting in progress

The ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and the Pacific had its second meeting at the Mandarin Hotel, Singapore on 25 June, 2000. Twelve delegates and 43 observers, many of them from Japan, participated at the meeting, presided by Ms. Rahaiah Baharen, chairperson of the Regional Women's Committee.

The committee approved the minutes of the first meeting held in Seoul, Korea during October, 1998. Report of activities since the first meeting has been presented by Juku Ozawa, Secretary to the Committee. An action plan for the next two years has also been presented.

The meeting discussed the need for nominating contact persons in each member organisation and also holding a survey of legislative hurdles in the countries of the region, hindering participation of women in decision making positions. The committee plans to set up a website under the ICA Regional Office website (<http://www.icarop.org.sg>), apart from producing a newsletter at regular intervals.

The meeting also discussed and agreed on the need for formal and informal networking of women co-operators. The Secretary also informed the meeting that the Co-op Women Leadership Development Training Manual, prepared in collaboration with the ILO

Coopnet, is now ready and that a validation workshop for the manual is expected to be held later part of this year.

The Chair informed that the office bearers of the Committee met three times to discuss and formulate the activities of the Committee.

The Committee requested member organisations to hold national level women's Forums. Vietnam requested for technical support for conducting national forum and Committee committed to support Vietnam in this respect.

The Committee unanimously re-elected Ms. Rahaiah Baharen, Malaysia, as its Chairperson, and Ms. Hatsuko Omori, Japan, as its Vice Chairperson. The meeting also elected Ms. Preema Shanti Sooriyarachchi from Sri Lanka as the second Vice Chairperson.

The participants of the meeting had interaction with the women co-operative leaders from Singapore. A presentation on the NTUC Childcare co-operative activities were also very interesting to the delegates.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at the same venue as the next Regional Assembly. The meeting requested the office bearers of the Committee to have informal meetings before the next formal meeting in 2002.

Agricultural Committee looks at impact of globalization

The ICA Committee on Agriculture for Asia and Pacific held its 33rd meeting at the Mandarin hotel, Singapore, on June 25.

The main focus of the discussions was the role of agricultural co-operatives in sustainable development and food security, in view of the possible adverse impact of globalisation and WTO policies.

The Committee requested the members to conduct a detailed study on these issues, before the forthcoming meeting of Agricultural Ministers organised by FAO during August this year.

The meeting also discussed the joint ICA-NEDAC Strategic Action Plan for agricultural co-operative development in the region.

Ms. Anne Stael of Agriterra, Netherlands, who was a special invitee to the meeting, presented a paper on the activities of Agriterra in agricultural co-operative development.

Mr. Deepak Prakash Baskota of Nepal was elected chair and Mr. Shil Kwan Lee of Korea as the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

Consumer Committee elects a new team

The ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific held its 33rd meeting on June 25, 2000 at the Mandarin Hotel.

The meeting, chaired by Mr. Okayasu was conducted by Mr. Kurimoto. Twenty-eight delegates from India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam participated.

The meeting re-elected Ms. K. Tanaka and Mr. K. Okayasu as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively.

The meeting elected Mr. Mohammad Iqbal from Indonesia as the second Vice-Chairperson of the committee.

The next meeting will be held in Seoul, Korea, in conjunction with the ICA General Assembly in 2001.

ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University Co-ops meets in Singapore



Consumer Committee and University Sub-Committee members at Hogang Point NTUC Fairprice Supermarket in Singapore.

The sixth meeting of the ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University Co-operatives was held on June 24 at the Mandarin, Singapore.

Thirty-three delegates from India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam attended.

The meeting was opened by Robby Tulus, ICA Regional Director, chaired by Leow Peng Kui, Chief Executive of Singapore National Co-operative Federation.

The meeting elected Mr. K. Okayasu of Japan (Chair), Prof. Poo Gee Swee, Singapore, and Mr. Mohd. Iqbal, Indonesia (Vice-Chairpersons).

The delegates of the Committee meeting, together with the Consumer Committee members, had a study visit to NTUC Fairprice Supermarket at Hogang Point, Singapore.

The Committee will next meet in Seoul, Korea, in conjunction with the ICA General Assembly in 2001.

Mr Mu Li mentioned about the remarkable survival of the co-operatives from the economic crisis.

Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Chairman of SNCF, warmly welcoming the delegates, appreciated the good efforts by the ICA and especially its regional office in providing exchange of ideas and discussions on the impact of the financial crisis in the Region, which has greatly contributed to the upswing the co-operatives are experiencing now.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson talked about the well-organised Asia-Pacific Co-operative Forum, where more than 300 people participated and said if we include the other events like the Research Conference, the Women's Forum, etc., the number would be over 500.

He said the ICA changes its rules to give more regional approach so that co-operatives in the regions can decide how they want their region to develop. He hoped with a substantial and realistic agenda, the meeting will be able to decide future strategy and policy for the region.

The Regional Assembly accepted the recommendation of the Standing Committee to be post of Vice President of ICA from Asia-Pacific.

The meeting elected Prof. Ungku A. Aziz and Ms. Hatsuko Omori as Vice-chairpersons, Dr. Yehudah Paz, Mr. Chung Dae Kun, Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, and Mr. Luis Carrilo as members.

ICA Regional Assembly meets in Singapore

The ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and Pacific held its 4th meeting at the Mandarin Hotel, Singapore, on 29-30 June, 2000. 105 delegates and observers from China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Thailand, Vietnam, Canada and ACCU attended the meeting. There were special invitees from ILO, CCA, DiD, CICOPA, AARDO and AGRITERRA.

The meeting was officially opened by Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President for Asia-Pacific, and Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director General.



4th Regional Assembly in progress. Bruce Thordarson, ICA Director General, Robby Tulus, Regional Director and Tan Kin Lian, Chairman, SNCF on the dais.



Roberto Rodrigues, ICA President speaking at the Regional Assembly

Mr. Mu Li, as Chairperson of the Regional Assembly, delegated his powers to: Prof. Ungku A. Aziz (Chairperson of the Standing Committee); Mr. Tan Kin Lian (Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee and Chairperson of Regional Assembly); and Ms. Hatsuko Omori (Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee and the Regional Assembly).

Mr. M. Harada, President, JA-Zenchu, congratulated Mr. Mu Li for having been re-elected ICA Vice President. He explained about the situation in agricultural co-operatives in Japan. He appreciated the efforts of Mr. Robby Tulus, ICA Regional Director and Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Chairman of SNCF, Singapore for the efforts they made in organising these epoch-making meetings.

Chairs of all specialized Committees of the ICA in the region made reports on the various meetings.

Ms. Rahaiah Baharen, Chairperson of the ICA Regional Women's Committee, reported on the 2nd Regional Women's Forum, while Mr. B.D. Sharma, ICA Director (SOWECA) reported on the Fifth Ministers' Conference recommendations. Mr. Akira Kurimoto, Chairman of the ICA Regional Research Forum reported on the First Asian Research Conference. Ms. Teresita de Leon, Regional Coordinator of ILO Coopnet/Coopreform talked on the

ILO Coopnet/Coopreform programmes in the Region.

Mr. Romy Villamin, ICA Director (SEA) reported on the First Asia-Pacific Co-operative Forum, which discussed various panel themes like co-operative governance, co-operative legislation, globalization, capital mobilization, innovation and co-op trade. He said the evaluation results of the forum was very encouraging, with the participants rating the forum as better than the average.

Ms. Lynne Toupin, Chief Executive Officer of Canadian Co-operative Association, was happy to learn first hand about the issues, challenges and opportunities for the co-operative movements in this region. She mentioned that 40% of the total international co-operative development resources of CCA is directed to the Asia-Pacific region. She further said that CCA pledges its continued alliance with the ICA Regional Office and the co-operatives in this region.

Mr. Pierre Giguire, Regional Director of Developpement international Desjardins (DiD) mentioned that the DiD is celebrating this year as its 30th anniversary and the 100th Anniversary of movement Desjardins. He said DiD intervenes in the field of financial intermediation, particularly in savings, credit and insurance sectors in 27 countries. He thanked the ICA for providing an opportunity to share ideas.



Ms. Lynne Toupin, CEO of CCA speaking at the Forum

Mr. Roberto Rodrigues, ICA President, said though he could not attend the meeting on June 29, due to various other engagements in other regions and the UN, his love for the Asia-Pacific region and Asian co-operative movement compelled him to come, even though late.

He congratulated the ICA Regional Office and the host organisation for the gigantic efforts they made in organising the series of events in Singapore. He said that during the last Regional Assembly in Seoul, Korea, the economy in Asia-Pacific was shattering but with the 'inherent strength and will of the Asian people', they are bouncing back and booming again.



Tan Kin Lian, Chairman, SNCF addressing the Regional Assembly.

He said that he was happy that the spectacular resilience shown by co-operatives during the financial crisis has proven that co-operatives is a bulwark against any crisis.

He said that it is 'essential to give a meaning to our lives - learning. Learning with love and justice to teach, to help people to build a better world. All of us have learnt a little more here today and by learning we are giving all together a meaning for lives. Learning here today we are all doing our best to a better world, because our children would be very grateful to us".

Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice-President visits India and signs MoU



Dr. S.S. Sisodia, Mr. Mu Li and Mr. Rong Jun at the meeting at NCUI.

Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President for Asia-Pacific and Vice-President of All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives, visited New Delhi, along with two officers during 2-4 July, 2000. The National Co-operative Union of India coordinated the visit.

The NCUI has organised a meeting for Mr. Mu Li with the representatives of national level co-operative federations, such as IFFCO, KRIBHCO, NAFED, TRIFED and National Co-operative Development Corporation. Mr. Mu Li's delegation had detailed discussions with these organisations.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Mr. Ajith Kumar Singh, Chairman of National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and Mr. Mu Li, on behalf of the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives for future trade.

Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President of NCUI, welcomed the guests. He felt that in view of the various challenges facing co-operative movement due to globalisation, it is necessary for both China and India to get closer to promote socio-economic welfare of their people. Since both the countries are endowed with abundant natural resources and judicious exploitation of these resources are needed to serve the

mankind. Dr. Sisodia also said that there is a need for more good will and exchange visits between the co-operatives of the two countries, to augment direct trade through the co-operative channel.

Mr. Mu Li observed that co-operation between China and India will further strengthen the socio-economic development of the people. He further

said that China, and particularly his organisation, now give great emphasis on diversification of trade with neighboring countries.

Before arriving in Delhi, Mr. Mu Li and his delegation comprising of Mr. Rong Jun and Mr. Meng Zhou visited Mumbai on July 1, 2000, which has been arranged by the National Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Banks Federation.

Prior to this, the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Federation signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Metro Manila Federation of Consumer Co-ops, in Singapore during the recently held ICA Regional Assembly.

Mr. Mu Li's delegation also visited Indonesia during this period to explore trade opportunities.

To read / down-load papers presented at the First Asia-Pacific Co-op Forum and the Research Conference, log on to:

<http://www.icaroap.org.sg>



Mr. Ajith Kumar Singh (right) and Mr. Mu Li (centre) signs a MOU. Also in the picture is Mr. Rong Jun (left).

FAO-ICA Mission to Nepal on institutional strengthening of agricultural co-operatives

The FAO and ICA undertook a joint mission to Nepal to critically examine the present status of agricultural co-operatives and to suggest parameters of a National Action Plan.

The mission was sponsored by FAO at the request of National Co-operative Development Board and His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

The Mission held extensive discussions with the officials of the government, National Co-operative Development Board of Nepal, National Dairy Development Board, the Planning Commission, co-operative leaders at primary, district and national levels, and international organisations based in Nepal. The mission also visited co-operatives at the grassroots level.

ADB unfolds its strategy for poverty reduction

The important highlight of the 33rd Annual General Meeting of Asian Development Bank, held in Chiangmai (Thailand) from 6-8 May 2000 was its strategy to remove poverty from Asia-Pacific Region.

Mr. Tadao Chino, President of ADB in his address emphasized that despite significant progress, close to 900 million people in the region still live in poverty; and, therefore, over-arching role for Asia and the Pacific and for ADB should be to reduce the poverty. ADB's new poverty reduction strategy visualises that ADB operations should contribute to reducing poverty.

Keeping this visualisation in view, ADB has undertaken country-specific poverty analysis in consultation with the government, stakeholders and other agencies. The poverty analysis will form the basis of country operational strategy.

Important components of poverty reduction strategy are : (i) pro-poor sustainable economic growth, based on policies and programmes that facilitate employment and income generation

Based on these discussions, the mission identified ten key priority areas for development of agricultural co-operatives:

- i) formulation of specific co-operative policy;
- ii) co-operative legislation reforms;
- iii) structural reforms;
- iv) areas for diversification;
- v) co-operative marketing;
- vi) co-operative production of fertilizers and agricultural inputs;
- vii) development of dairy co-operatives;
- viii) co-operative financing;
- ix) redefining the role of support services institutions; and
- x) restructuring co-operative HRD.

The mission recommended that a pilot project be initiated and based on the results of the pilot project, strategies for development of agricultural co-operatives may be formulated for replication countrywide.

The important components of the project may be (a) co-operative policy and legislative reforms; (b) institutional restructuring and capacity building; (c) human resource development – HRD.

The members of the mission were Mr. Wim Polman, Regional Rural Development Officer at the FAO Regional Office for Asia-Pacific, Bangkok and Mr. B.D. Sharma, Director (SOWECA)- ICA ROAP.

IFFCO signs MOU with Tokio Marine

The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited (IFFCO) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Co. Ltd., Japan, for setting up a joint venture company for undertaking General Insurance business in India.

The company hope to "win the Trust of individuals, trade, industry and commerce and protect citizens, corporates, co-ops and international investors in India", while the vision is to "build customer satisfactory through fairness, transparency and quick response; provide innovative products and services to suit every customer's needs; be cost conscious and price competitive; and create a niche in the rural segment".

The company try to sell business in the targeted area from all variety of customers such as co-ops, public, government, and private sector, including MNCs and individuals. With the 130-odd years of experience and global reach of Tokio Marine and the inherent strength of IFFCO's standing in India, the joint venture company is expected to do well in its business.

– S.K. Mahajan

Integrating Value Based Professional Management in Co-ops

Recognising the need for preserving and strengthening Co-operative Identity in the modern globalised and competitive environment, the ICA ROAP has been making earnest efforts to spread the significance of Value Based Professional Management in co-operatives.

With the support of CCA-DiD of Canada, the ICA ROAP is implementing a project on Co-operative Policy Development and Value Based Professional management in Co-operatives of Asia-Pacific.

In 1998 an international seminar on value based professional management was organised in Pune, India.

The seminar, among others, recommend various steps to integrate VBPM in the management and operations of co-operatives and emphasised that HRD institutions should play increasing role in organising training programmes on the subject for the benefit of members, leaders, employees, CEOs, policy makers and administrators. The seminar also recommended framework of training modules.

Based on the recommendations of the seminar, ICA decided to manualise and revalidate these modules. To this end, a national workshop of co-operative trainers from India was convened by ICA ROAP with the technical and financial support of ILO Coopnet from 10-14 July, 2000 at Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management, Pune.

The National Council for Co-operative Training of National Co-operative Union was the collaborating organisation in India. In all twenty-two co-operative trainers from India participated in the workshop.

Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President of NCUI delivered valedictory address to the workshop. Dr. B.B. Barik, Director, VAMNICOM gave welcome remarks and Dr. K.A. Asaithambi, Secretary, NCCT proposed a vote of thanks at the valedictory function.

After extensive discussions the workshop drafted following modules that will constitute the manual on value based professional management in co-operatives:

Module 1 Co-operative Identity

- Module 2 Co-op Governance, including role and responsibility of Co-operative leadership
- Module 3 Legal framework for co-operatives
- Module 4 Leading change in a co-operative
- Module 5 Public Policy and co-operatives.
- Module 6 Business development plan
- Module 7 Business ethics and values
- Module 8 Developing linkages
- Module 9 HRD
- Module 10 Productivity in co-operatives
- Module 11 Integrating value based professional management in co-operatives.

Draft of modules for discussions was prepared by a core consulting team of co-operative trainers namely Mr. D.P. Neb, Mr. B.K. Jain, Dr. Pranjothi and Dr. N. Pasricha. Ms. Teresita de Leon, Regional Coordinator of ILO-Coopnet and Mr. B.D. Sharma, Director (SOWECA) provided resource inputs to the workshop.

New Members inducted

At a grand ceremony on the June 27, 2000 at the Mandarin Hotel, Singapore, new members of the ICA from the Asia-Pacific Region were inducted.

A large gathering of delegates and members was present at this ceremony. Bruce Thordarson, Director General, ICA, accompanied by Robby Tulus, the Regional Director, welcomed the new members.

The newly inducted members are: Co-op Blue Square Consumer Co-operative, Israel; Iran Chamber of Co-operatives (ICC), Iran; National Forestry Co-operatives Federation (NFCF), Korea; Australian Centre for Co-operative Research & Development (ACCORD), Australia; Co-operative Federation of New South Wales Ltd., Australia; and Institute for Indonesian Co-operative Development Studies, Indonesia.



Some of the newly inducted members with Bruce Thordarson and Robby Tulus.

Dr. Sisodia elected President of National Co-operative Union of India

Dr. S.S. Sisodia, a veteran co-operative leader and Chairman of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies, has been elected as the new President of National Co-operative Union of India, the apex body of all co-operatives in India.

Dr. Sisodia is a lawyer by profession. He was associated with the co-operative movement for over 40 years at district, state and national levels.

He was a former Union Minister of State for Finance; a former Member of Parliament and a member of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly, where he also was a member of the Council of

Ministers; Chairman of the Finance Commission of Madhya Pradesh; and the Food Corporation of India.

He is currently the Chairman of Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and a board member of most of the national level co-operative federations in India.

He is the founder Chairman of the Indraprastha Films Co-operative Industrial (Production) Society, New Delhi and written and produced two films (Vikas Ganga & Naya Savera) on co-operative themes.

He also has a number of books to his credit.



Dr. S.S. Sisodia

Tamil Nadu Co-operative Housing Federation receives HUDCO award for excellence

The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Housing Federation has received the HUDCO (Housing and Urban Development Corporation) award for six years for its all round excellence. The Federation has also received the national award for one year from the National Co-operative Housing Federation for the best-managed apex

co-operative housing federation in the country. The Jury selected Tamil Nadu Co-operative Housing Federation's project titled 'Rural Housing Scheme in Dharmapuri District' for the first prize, of Rs.100,000/- in the 'Low-cost Housing Competition' jointly sponsored by HUDCO and Hari Om Ashram Trust, Gujarat.

Mr. Chengai Sivam, MLA, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Housing Federation and Vice-chairman of the National Co-operative Housing Federation of India, received the award from Mr. Jagmohan, Hon'ble Union Minister for Urban Development, on 25 April, 2000 at the Annual Day Celebration of HUDCO in New Delhi.

The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Housing Federation is the apex body for all types of housing co-operatives in the state of Tamil Nadu. The society has 528 urban and 193 rural housing societies affiliated to it. The Federation has made steady progress over the years. A total of Rs. 2785 crores has been disbursed for construction of 1,030,470 housing units under the Urban and Rural Housing Schemes till date.



Mr. Chengai Sivam, MLA (in white shirt) receives the award from Mr. Jagmohan, Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development. Also seen in the picture are Mr. Bandaru Duttatreya, Minister of State for Urban Development (extreme left) and Mr. V. Suresh, Chairman & Managing Director, HUDCO.

Edited by P. Nair, Communication Officer at ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and printed at Document Press, HS-14, Kailash Colony Market, New Delhi-110048. India. Phone : (91-11) 6432836.



Asia Pacific Coop News

(For Private Circulation only)

ISSN : 0971-7013

Vol. 7, No. 3, Aug-Dec., 2000

A NEWS BULLETIN OF THE ICA REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA & THE PACIFIC

Workshop on Employment Generation, Poverty Alleviation and Human Resource Development

The ICA Regional Office for Asia-Pacific in collaboration with International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and ILO Coopnet held a Regional workshop on "Employment Generation, Poverty Alleviation and Human Resource Development: Perspectives of Co-operatives and Trade Union Movement" at Manila, Philippines from 18-20 November, 2000. Eighteen delegates from India, Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Fiji, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, apart from four experts each from ILO and ICA ROAP participated at the workshop. The objectives of the workshop were to take stock of post-crisis situation of workers and labourers connected and linked to co-operative enterprises and trade unions by sharing of experiences; take stock of the

HRDU situation in the region; share experiences and programmes of trade unions and co-operatives in addressing employment, poverty, social security and human resource development; look at the ILO programmes in the fields of HRDU and poverty alleviation and the recent ADB policy shift for poverty eradication; explore possibilities of initiating a joint pilot project on any aspect of HRDU by ICFTU and ICA; and identity partnership needed between public sector, trade unions and co-operatives.

The workshop after extensive deliberations on the role of co-operatives in poverty alleviation, employment generation and HRDU, formulated a common Agenda of Action, including:

i) Organisation of a joint workshop

on ILO Recommendation No. 127 by trade unions and co-ops;

ii) Development of Leadership Development Training;

iii) Implementation of a joint pilot project involving co-operatives and trade unions to address the needs of informal sector or child labour.

-B.D. Sharma

Asia-Pacific Co-op News
wishes its readers a
Happy & Prosperous
Co-operative New Year
2001



The workshop in progress. (inset) Mr Mark Levin, ILO, speaking at the workshop

CONTENTS

Workshop on Employment Generation, Poverty Alleviation and HRDU	1
Professional Training of Co-op Managers at IFFCO	2
ICA Regional Co-operative Youth Seminar	2
Asian Credit Unions explore on-line financial services	3
NAFED procures 500 MTs of Soyabean	3
10th Training Course for Rural Women Leaders in Agricultural Co-ops of Asia	3
All India Co-operative Week celebrated	4
Workshop on Vaue Based Professional Management	4

Professional Training of Co-operative Managers at IFFCO, India

One of the Key Result Areas of the ICA in Asia and the Pacific is the promotion of Value Based Professional Management in Co-operatives. In order to materialise this, ICA ROAP has had a number of workshops to develop an understanding of this important subject among co-operatives of the Region. Based on feedback received from participants in these workshops, ICA Regional Office, in collaboration with the Indian Farmers' Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. (IFFCO) and the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) organised a professional training of senior co-operative managers through an exposure-cum-internship programme at IFFCO from 12 to 26 November, 2000.

The basic objective of the training was to expose the participants to the best practices adapted by IFFCO to promote value based professional management to strengthen their co-operative identity at the market place. The training included two components - conceptual orientation through extensive discussions with experts on co-operative values and professional management, and in-plant training combined with field visits to see as to how these best practices are put into practice at operational level.



Co-op managers visiting the bio-fertilizer unit of IFFCO's Phulpur plant

Senior co-operative managers and administrators from Iran, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal and Vietnam participated in the programme. Participants are expected to emulate the best practices in value based professional management in their co-operatives, so as to strengthen their co-operative identity in a co-operative environment.

The programme was inaugurated by Mr. U.S. Awasthi, Managing Director of IFFCO on 13 November. Mr. Robby Tulus, Regional Director, ICA, explained the approach and role of ICA ROAP to promote value based

professional management in co-operatives in Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. B.D. Sharma, Director (SOWECA) in ICA ROAP, New Delhi coordinated the programme jointly with Dr. G.N. Saxena, Joint General Manager, Dr. C.S. Rao, Chief Manager (HRD) and Mr. Ram Vir Singh, Chief Manager of IFFCO Fertilizer Marketing Development Institute, Gurgaon. Mr. A.K. Taneja, Programme Officer of ICA ROAP provided logistic and secretarial support to the workshop.

-B.D. Sharma

ICA Regional Co-operative Youth Seminar 2001

A meeting of the chairperson/vice-chairpersons of the ICA consumer sub-committee on University/College Co-operatives for Asia and the Pacific was held on 11th December in Japan.

The meeting discussed the 'ICA Regional Co-operative Youth Seminar 2001' scheduled during 24-27 June 2001 in Japan.

The theme is "Leaders towards Co-operation, Leading New Century".

The themes of the 3 Keynote addresses are 'Creating Human Bonds in the Community through Co-operative Network', 'Breaking Barriers through Co-operatives', and, 'International Cooperation from Local to Global levels'

The workshops will deal with the themes 'Inter-campus Co-operative Network', 'Collaboration to Vitalise the Campus', 'Role of University/College and Youth on the Commu-

nity Issues', and 'Co-operation to Serve the Community and Youth Development in the Community'.

The sub-committee expects participation by several youth from the Asia-Pacific region. We request our member co-operatives to consider this important aspect and send as many participants as possible to the Youth Seminar 2001.

-Juku Ozawa

Asian Credit Unions explore on-line financial services

Access to online financial services has been a regular feature of credit union service to members in many parts of the world, particularly in North America and Europe. But for most of Asia, this is still a dream for credit union members. This is in spite of the fact that big credit unions can be found nowadays in many Asian countries.

To improve on this situation, the ICA Regional Office for Asia & the Pacific and the Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU) organized a

workshop on Exploring Technology for Online Financial Services in Credit Unions. Held in Bangkok, Thailand from 27 to 29 November 2000, the workshop attracted 44 credit union leaders from the Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The workshop established that technology appropriate for credit unions, given their level of development, already exists in the market. This includes software and systems specifically developed for credit unions. Highlighted in the

workshop were banking applications, network solutions and web-based applications to access credit union services through the internet. Inputs were provided by The System Works Pty. Ltd. of Australia, Decentralized Banking Solutions of South Africa, and Fern Computer Services Ltd. of Ireland. The workshop concluded that the credit unions' best hope of utilizing advanced information technology to serve members better was to combine resources and establish nationwide networks.

- Romulo Villamin

NAFED procures 500,000 metric tonnes of Soyabean under price support scheme

Inaugurating the 42nd Annual General Meeting of the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) was held at the Jawahar Lal Nehru Auditorium in the NCU, Complex, Delhi on 12 Sept., 2000, Union Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Nitish Kumar, appreciated the role played by NAFED in providing regular market support to the farming community throughout the country.

Mr. Ajit Kumar Singh, chairperson of NAFED, urged upon the marketing co-operatives to gear themselves up

to face the new challenges in providing more efficient service to the farmers. He urged the Govt of India to grant total income-tax exemption to co-ops and restore NAFED as the sole canalisation authority for onion and nigerseed.

Mr. Priyadarshi Thakur, Managing Director, NAFED, said that NAFED with a turnover of Rs. 581.05 crores in 1999-2000, NAFED achieved a turn around and make a profit of Rs.1.99 crores during the year, against a previous year loss of Rs.4.93 crores. The Soyabean procurement this year has been 500,000 MTs.

Mr. Joseph Monipally, Director, NAFED and Chairman, Kerala State Co-op Rubber Marketing Federation proposed a vote of thanks.

Other dignitaries attending the AGM were former Union Minister Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, Mr. S.S.Sisodia, Chairman, NCU, Mr. S.K. Jakhar, Chairman, IFFCO, Mr. C.P. Singh, Chairman KRIBHCO, and Mr. Ram Iqbal Singh, Chairman, National Co-operative Consumers Federation, in addition to members of the NAFED board of Directors.

-Mrs. Vivek Mewawalla

10th Training Course for Rural Women Leaders in Agricultural Co-ops in Asia

The tenth training course was held at IDACA, Tokyo, August 27 to Sept. 16, 2000. The ICA ROAP collaborated with Central Union of Agricultural Co-ops of Japan (JA-Zenchu), the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA) and the National Council of Women's Associations in Agricultural Co-ops for this course. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Government of Japan (MAFF) financially supported the course.

Six women delegates from Bangladesh, Nepal and Thailand participated this time, making the total number of participants for the course to 60 from 12 countries.

The course objectives are: (i) provide opportunities for developing leadership among rural women through training and creating an organisational structure through agricultural co-operatives and other rural institutions; (ii) provide encouragement for income-generating activities; and (iii) assist

the formulation of rural development projects for women's participation.

The delegates also participated at the Fifth International Conference of Farm Women Leaders of Asia and Africa, held during August 27-Sept. 06, 2000. The participants had extensive study tours in Mie prefecture, Gold Fish wholesale market in Nagashima, JA-Matsuzaka, and A-Coop. The participants held group discussions and prepared brief reports on the experience gained by them. An end-of-the-course evaluation session was also held.

-Dr. Daman Prakash

All India Co-operative Week Celebrated

National Co-operative Union of India celebrated the 47th All India Co-operative Week, 14-20 November, 2000.

Mr. Madhav Rao Scindia, Member of Parliament and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha (lower house of the Parliament) inaugurated the celebrations. Mr. Scindia exhorted the co-operative movement to have regular elections in the co-operative movement for their democratic functioning.

Mr. Yoganand Shastri, Minister for Development and food Supplies at the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi also spoke at the inaugural session.

Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President of the NCUI, in his welcome address, highlighted the contribution of co-operatives to the Indian economy. He hoped that the amendments to the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act will soon be passed by the Parliament.

Mr. Nitish Kumar, Union Minister for Agriculture expressed confidence that the agriculture sector will be able to compete successfully in the market economy and requested co-opera-



Inauguration of the 47th Indian Co-operative Congress - Mr. Madhav Rao Scindia, MP, making the inaugural speech.

tives to prepare themselves to face the challenges. He said that the Multi-state Co-operative Societies Bill, which is a very democratic document, will be presented in the Parliament in the ensuing session and hoped that it will be passed unanimously. Mr. Shripad Naik, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Mr. Robby Tulus, ICA Regional Director also spoke on the occasion.

-Mohan Mishra

Workshop on "Value Based Professional Management in Co-ops"

A National Workshop was held on "Value Based Professional Management in Co-operatives" at Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management, Pune, Maharashtra, India, in the first week of July, 2000, in collaboration with the National Council of Co-operative Training.

A number of Trainers from the National Institute of Co-operative Management attended the workshop. Ms. Teresita de Leon, ILO-COOPNET Coordinator from the Philippines and Mr. B.D. Sharma from ICA ROAP attended the

workshop. A draft Trainers' Module on Value Based Professional Management in Co-operatives was prepared.

This draft module was validated at another workshop in Bangkok held during 28 November and 02 December 2000 in collaboration with the Co-operative League of Thailand.

About 20 participants attended the workshop. Ms. Teresita de Leon from ILO-CO-OPNET, Philippines and Mr. B.D. Sharma from ICA ROAP participated in the workshop.

Certain amendments were recom-

IMPORTANT EVENTS ON THE CO-OP CALENDAR	
JULY, 2001	
07	79th International Co-operative Day
OCTOBER, 2001	
12-13	ICA Board Meeting - Seoul, Korea
14-15	ICA Specialised Body (Global) meetings, Seoul, Korea
16-17	ICA General Assembly, Seoul, Korea

mended by the participants in the module. These amendments are being carried out by some selected Trainers. After amendments, it will be discussed in a high-powered committee comprising of ILO and ICA representatives and then it will be published in a booklet form. These workshops were organised with the technical and financial support of ILO Coopnet.

-B.D. Sharma

Edited by **P. Nair**, Communication Officer, ICA ROAP and printed at Diamond Offset, HS-14, Kailash Colony Mkt., New Delhi-110048. Phone: 6432836. Fax: 6463593. E-mail: aminzaidi@id.eth.net