

8th Meeting of ICA-AP Regional Assembly

Melia Hotel, Hanoi (Vietnam) : 5th December 2008

AGENDA NOTES



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8th Meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Assembly
Melia Hotel, Hanoi (Vietnam)

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5th December 2008 {09:00~16:00 hours}

Agenda Item 01 : Opening Remarks

Following the joint opening ceremony of Cooperative Forum and Regional Assembly on 3rd December, 8th meeting of ICA Regional Assembly will be officially opened on 5th December by Mr. Ivano Barberini, President of ICA. Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of ICA-Asia and Pacific and also the Chairman of ICA Regional Assembly will chair.

Agenda Item 02 : Approval of Agenda

Delegates would be requested to formally approve the Agenda.

Agenda Item 03 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 7th Meeting held in Colombo on 18th August 2006

The Minutes of the 7th meeting of ICA Regional Assembly held in Colombo (Sri Lanka) on 18th August 2006, as enclosed at Annexure-1 were circulated to all the delegates and member organizations. No suggestions/observations/amendments have been received. Minutes may be confirmed.

Agenda Item 04 : Perusal of Minutes of ICA-AP Standing Committee Meetings since last Regional Assembly

Since the last Regional Assembly, five meetings of the Regional Board (Standing Committee) were held. Confirmed minutes of the four meetings are enclosed at Annexure-2. Necessary follow-up action on these minutes has already been completed. Hon'ble delegates of the Regional Assembly may kindly peruse.

Agenda Item 05 : Approval of new Rules of ICA-AP

Pursuant to the new Rules of ICA approved by the Special General Assembly at Rome (Italy) on 6th June 2007, the ICA-AP has revised its Rules. The new Rules of ICA-AP, as approved by the Regional Board, are enclosed at Annexure-3. Regional Assembly may kindly approve the Rules.

Agenda Item 06 : Progress Report from Regional Director, ICA-AP

The Progress Report of ICA-AP for the year 2008 will be presented before the Regional Assembly by the Regional Director, ICA-AP.

Agenda Item 07 : Approval of ICA-AP Strategic Plan and Multi-Annual Budget for 2009-2012

The current Strategy and Priorities of ICA-AP would be over by the end of 2008. The ICA-AP Strategic Plan for 2009-2012 is enclosed at Annexure-4. The multi-annual budget will be distributed at the meeting. The Regional Assembly may kindly approve the Strategic Plan and Multi-Annual Budget.

Agenda Item 08 : Approval of Work Plan of ICA-AP for 2009

The ICA-AP Work Plan for 2009 will be distributed at the meeting. The Regional Assembly may kindly approve it.

Agenda Item 09 : Approval of Constitution of the ICA-AP Committee on Cooperative Research

The Constitution of the ICA-AP Committee on Cooperative Research, as approved by the Regional Board at its meeting held on 1st December in Hanoi, is enclosed at Annexure-5. Regional Assembly may kindly approve the Constitution.

Agenda Item 10 : Approval of Constitution of the ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Cooperatives

The Constitution of the ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Cooperatives, as approved by the Regional Board at its meeting held on 1st December in Hanoi, is enclosed at Annexure-6. Regional Assembly may kindly approve the Constitution.

Agenda Item 11 : Re-constitution of ICA-AP Regional Board

The term of office of the current regional board members will be over by December 2008. According to new Rules of ICA-AP, the Regional Assembly shall elect a maximum of eleven members to the Regional Board for the next four years.

The ICA-AP secretariat has already written to member organizations to propose their nominee for election as member to the Regional Board. Detail of the nominations received will be placed before the Regional Assembly for re-constitution of the Regional Board.

Agenda Item 12 : Report on 5th ICA Regional Cooperative Forum

Delegates are aware that 5th ICA Regional Cooperative Forum hosted by the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) has been planned on 4th December in Hanoi. All the member organizations have been informed. We expect nearly 200 international participants in this Cooperative Forum, besides a large number of local participants.

The theme of the Forum is "COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS" and Sub-themes are the following: (a) *Coop Advantages in Ensuring Inclusive Growth of Economy*; (b) *Enhancing Management Capacity in Cooperatives*; and (c) *Business Networking to position Coops as a Preferred Brand*.

A brief report and issues arising out of the Forum will be placed before the Regional Assembly on 5th December.

Agenda Item 13 : Report of 5th Cooperative Research Conference

A brief report will be placed before the Regional Assembly by the Chairperson of the ICA Research Conference.

Agenda Item 14 : Report of 5th Regional Women's Forum

A brief report will be placed before the Regional Assembly by the Chairperson of the ICA Women's Forum.

Agenda Item 15 : Reports from ICA-AP Specialized Committees

Chairpersons of the following Specialised Committees will present their report at the time of Regional Assembly:

- (a) Agricultural Committee
- (b) Consumer Committee
- (c) HRD Committee
- (d) Regional Cooperative Banking Association
- (e) Women's Committee
- (f) Youth Committee
- (g) University/Campus Committee
- (h) Research Committee

Agenda Item 16 : Report of the 8th Ministers' Conference held in Malaysia from 12th to 15th March 2007

The 8th Ministers' Conference on Cooperative Policy and Legislation was held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) from 12th to 15th March in collaboration with the Ministry of Entrepreneur and Cooperative Development (MECD) and

ANGKASA. The opening ceremony of the Conference was held in the afternoon of 12th March at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Center (KLCC). Around 900 people attended the inauguration. The Conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Malaysia. The inaugural session was also addressed by the Hon'ble Minister of the MECD and the ICA President.

The theme of the Conference was "Fair Globalisation through Cooperatives". Around 316 participants and observers, including 10 ministers, from 21 countries and four international organizations attended the Conference.

The Conference was quite successful in terms of achieving its core objective of sensitizing the Governments to the need of realizing full potential of cooperatives in building national economy, especially in the context of globalization, demanding the legislative cum policy support for the cooperatives to play an important role in equitable distribution of the benefits accruing from the liberalized global economy.

The Conclusions and Recommendations of the Conference have been circulated to the governments and member organizations of ICA in Asia-Pacific region for taking appropriate action on the Recommendations. The Kuala Lumpur Declaration adopted by the Conference is attached at Annexure-7.

Agenda Item 17 : Any Other Business

Agenda Item 18 : Consideration of Venue and Date of next Meeting

The next meeting may be convened in the 4th quarter of 2010. The Regional Board may be authorized to fix up the date.

As regards venue, delegates/prospective host member organizations may give their proposal at the time of the meeting.

Agenda Item 19 : Closing Session

Tea break : 10:30~11:00
Lunch break : 12:30~14:00

ANNEXURE - 1

MINUTES OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE ICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
Colombo (Sri Lanka):18th August 2006

AGENDA ITEM 01: OPENING REMARKS

A formal joint opening ceremony of the 4th ICA Regional Cooperative Forum and 7th Regional Assembly was held at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) Colombo (Sri Lanka) in the evening of 16th August 2006. The event was hosted by the Cooperative Movement of Sri Lanka. It was inaugurated by His Excellency Ratnasiri Wickramanayake, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, on behalf of H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of Sri Lanka, who could not come due to some urgent engagements. His Excellency Najeeb Abdul Majeed, Minister for Cooperatives and Cooperative Development, Sri Lanka, welcomed the participants. Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President; Mr. Mu Li, President, ICA – Asia and Pacific; and Mr. Bandupala Ranawaka, President of National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka delivered opening remarks at the ceremony. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA – Asia and Pacific and Mr. M.G. Sunil Silva, General Secretary/General Manager of NCC, proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of ICA and the Cooperative Movement of Sri Lanka respectively. More than 800 persons attended the joint opening ceremony.

The theme of the Forum was **"Capacity Building: The Priority for Cooperative Enterprises"**.

After conclusion of the ICA Regional Cooperative Forum, the 7th Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific was held at Hotel Galadari, Colombo (Sri Lanka) on 18th August 2006. 158 participants from Canada, China, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Palestine, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Kingdom and Vietnam attended the meeting. In addition, special invitees from ACCU, AWCF and ICA also attended the meeting.

Mr. **Mu Li**, President, ICA – Asia and Pacific and Chairman of ICA Regional Assembly opened the meeting and welcomed all the members and invitees present. He said "I am very happy that most of the member organizations' representatives could come to Colombo to attend the meeting. Since the last RA the Cooperative Movements in various countries of the region have been growing and made commendable achievements. At the same time, we are well aware of the economic globalization of the world economy including the cooperative sector. It is in this regard, I believe, that this RA will contribute to cooperative restructuring and development in the Asia-Pacific region which requires lot of consensus and hard working". After his brief remarks, he requested Mr. Ivano Barberini, President of ICA, to formally inaugurate the meeting.

Mr. **Ivano Barberini** said "I am pleased to attend this Regional Assembly. This RA culminates week-long events. I would like to thank you all for your participation in various meetings. I believe that this is an important meeting. I want to thank the Government of Sri Lanka, particularly the Minister for Cooperatives and Cooperative Development, and the host organizations for the excellent arrangements made for the Cooperative Forum and the Regional Assembly. I welcome you all to the meeting and hope you would have important discussions including discussions on regionalization issue".

**AGENDA ITEM 02: RATIFICATION OF MR. LI CHUNSHENG'S NAME
AS PRESIDENT OF ICA – ASIA AND PACIFIC**

Mr. Mu Li said that he had already informed at the SC meeting held in Wuxi on 16th May about his retirement from the ACFSMC. He would, therefore, like to recommend that **Mr. Li Chunsheng** be his successor for the remaining period of his term as President of ICA – Asia and Pacific. Mr. Li Chunsheng has served the ACFSMC in various capacities. He has been the Vice President of ACFSMC since 2000 and carries a wealth of experience in international affairs. He would, no doubt, stand up to the expectations of the ICA leadership and members in this region. Mr. Mu Li requested the RA to take a decision in this regard.

Dr. S.S. Sisodia said that at the SC meeting held in Wuxi he had proposed the name of Mr. Li Chunsheng as President of ICA – Asia and Pacific, while all the members present at the meeting had seconded his name.

The Regional Assembly ratified Mr. Li Chunsheng's name, as proposed by the Standing Committee, to be the President of ICA – Asia and Pacific for the remaining period.

Mr. Mu Li thanked all the members of the RA for their kind support, which he enjoyed very much throughout his work with the ICA. He further said that he would be missing everybody since he would not be able to continue his work with the ICA. However, he said that he would very much like to keep in touch with each other.

Mr. Li Chunsheng said "I would like to thank the RA for ratifying my name as President of ICA-AP. I want to congratulate Mr. Mu Li for his marvelous leadership and Mr. Shil Kwan Lee and his team for their outstanding contribution. I think without their efforts the cooperative movements cannot be so successful. I know that it is not easy for me to follow Mr. Mu Li. There are many challenges we are facing. I think different cooperative leaders should chair the RA sessions. Therefore, I propose Mr. Seah Kian Peng from Singapore to chair Agenda Item 7 to 10 and Mr. Adi Sasono from Indonesia to chair Agenda Item 11 to 14. Agenda Item 15 and 16 will be chaired by me".

AGENDA ITEM 03 : APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair asked the members whether they had any comments on the Agenda. The Agenda, which was circulated at the meeting, was unanimously approved.

AGENDA ITEM 04: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 6TH MEETING HELD IN CHIANG MAI ON 3RD DECEMBER

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Regional Assembly held in Chiang Mai (Thailand) on 3rd December 2004 were circulated to all the delegates and member organizations and no comments/suggestions/observations/amendments were received. The minutes were confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM 05: PERUSAL OF MINUTES OF ICA-AP SC MEETING SINCE LAST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Since last Regional Assembly, five meetings of the Standing Committee were held. Confirmed minutes of these meetings were circulated at the meeting. Necessary follow-up action on these minutes had already been completed. The delegates of the Regional Assembly endorsed the minutes of the Standing Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 06: PROGRESS REPORT FROM REGIONAL DIRECTOR, ICA-AP

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the financial report for 2005 and informed the house that there was a surplus of CHF 8,391 in Delhi Office and CHF 11,039 in Singapore Business Office. He further said that there would be a small surplus in 2006 also.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee also presented the activities of the ICA-AP carried out up to July and planned from August to December 2006. He informed the meeting that the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan, had agreed to extend the Agricultural Management Training Course and the Rural Women Leaders Training Course for a further period of five years with slight modifications in contents and titles.

The members thanked Mr. Shil Kwan Lee and his staff for conducting so many important activities. All the members expressed their happiness with regard to the outstanding performance and positive financial results of ICA-AP and unanimously accepted the report.

At this point, Mr. Seah Kian Peng, Chairman of Singapore National Cooperative Federation (SNCF) and Member of the ICA Board and Standing Committee took over as chair of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 07: POST TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION AND EMPOWERMENT PROJECTS IN INDIA, INDONESIA AND SRI LANKA

Mr. Rajiv Mehta presented a report on the post tsunami reconstruction and empowerment projects in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The highlights of the report are given below:

India: Phase-1 from August 2005 to July 2006 aimed at physical reconstruction of cooperative infrastructure of seven tsunami affected cooperatives in Tamil Nadu and Nicobar with financial support from Coop UK US\$ 153,224 and NCUI US\$ 15,292 was completed in record time. Coop UK also sanctioned Phase-2 in Nicobar for reconstruction of seven warehouses and seven consumer shops with a commitment of US\$ 101,830.

Sri Lanka: NISPED and ICA jointly agreed to support 18 months long US\$ 400,000 Coop Empowerment Program in Southern Province in Sri Lanka to help 126 tsunami hit cooperatives. The project had taken off in June 2006 after prolonged discussions with 4 project partners in Sri Lanka. Physical reconstruction was in full swing in identified 10 coops and the capacity building training programs had also started in NICD. More than 150 board members of affected coops were benefited by the training program.

Indonesia: ICA extended bridge fund of CHF 45,000 to LSP2I and DEKOPINWIL NAD to help affected coops kick start their lives. Later UK Coop extended financial support of US\$ 140,000 to two fisheries coops for reconstruction of boats and purchase of equipments. ICA had committed itself for another sum of US\$ 50,000 to support project management unit and educate members and leaders of affected coops on livelihood recovery and management.

Dr. Sisodia thanked the ICA-AP and other development partners for the timely financial support for the tsunami affected projects in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. He also expressed his hearty thanks to the President of ICA.

Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen said that the Cooperative Movements all over the world came to the rescue of the affected countries and contributed financially and that re-construction work was more important than rescue operation. He further added that there was a proposal that the ICA establishes a Cooperative Global Reconstruction Protocol to which cooperative agencies, international organizations and member organizations around the world commit themselves to work together.

Mr. Seah Kian Peng said that it was very important to learn the lessons from the disaster occurred to ensure better disaster preparedness.

AGENDA ITEM 08: PRESENTATION ON GLOBAL HRD NETWORKING

The Global HRD Network promoted and developed by NCUI/VMNICM in collaboration with ICA HRD Committee was launched on 21st June 2006 at British Columbia Institute of Cooperative Studies, Victoria (Canada). Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive of National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) made a presentation on **Global HRD Networking** at the meeting.

ICA Global HRD Committee took initiative to create a workable mechanism to enable HRD institutions and practitioners in cooperatives to establish a live network among themselves for sharing their experiences, knowledge and allied cooperative-centric information in the field of HRD. As a first step, a Cooperative Learning Center (CLC) at global level was set up. As a sequel to it,

ICA HRD Committee conceived a project to set up Global HRD Network (GHRD) to address information requirements of HRD institutions around the globe in the field of cooperatives.

GHRD Network for Cooperatives is promoted, developed and maintained by the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) and the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management, Pune (India) in collaboration with ICA HRD Committee.

Cooperative HRD institutions all over the globe can become members of the Global HRD Network. The details of each registered organization, such as, name, contact details, head of the organization, training programs offered, infrastructure available, faculty, etc. can be accessed through this portal. The portal intends to provide access to: (a) details of member institutions; (b) training programs; (c) training materials; (d) faculty resources; (e) global news and events in the field of cooperatives; and (f) a discussion forum. Organizations can register themselves by visiting <http://www.hrd.coop>.

AGENDA ITEM 09: DISCUSSION ON REGIONALISATION ISSUES

Initiating the discussion on Regionalization, Mr. Ivano Barberini said that it is a long and complicated issue. The issue started in 1992 in Tokyo and the General Assembly in Seoul. During 2000-2003 the ICA Board approved a proposal to set up a Special Task Force. It was emphasized by the Task Force that we need a global organization. Now there is new face which was promoted by the European Cooperative Movement - Enlargement of the European Union. They promoted this platform 3-4 years ago and the ICA Board approved it.

He said that Coop Europe wanted to have a separate legal entity in order to get financial support from European Union. Unless it is registered there, it will not be possible to get any financial support. Coop Europe wants to remain within the ICA global.

He informed the meeting that the ICA Board had set up a Regional Working Group (RWG) to discuss and submit a report on the regionalization issues. The Working Group had met several times and exchanged a number of papers on the agreed main subjects – legal, roles, membership and finance issues. The RWG last met on 20th April reviewed all the documents and considered recommendations to be placed before the Board. At the last Board Meeting held in Washington in May 2005, the RWG submitted its report. The ICA Board has now endorsed this report.

He said that the Coop Europe has now prepared a Statute. This Statute could not be discussed at Washington in May and the discussion was postponed to Stockholm meeting in September. He also said that ICA-AP does not require any change and it is going from strength to strength.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the Regionalization Working Group Report approved by the ICA Board and requested the RA to endorse the Report.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee also said that legal entity is not a big issue for ICA-AP. Within the current existing structure, ICA-AP is very autonomous and ICA Geneva does not interfere in this region.

Dr. S.S. Sisodia said that this is a very delicate subject and that it should be handled cautiously. He strongly pleaded that the present level of working of the ICA should be maintained.

Mr. T. Yamashita said "I would like to endorse the report of the ICA Board. My understanding is that the European community is highly organized, political and economic community. If we could set up a regional entity, we could get more financial support from the EU. It is not only a cooperative issue, but also a political issue. Many discussions were held with the cooperators from Europe".

Mr. Seah Kian Peng said that this is not a new issue. It has been discussed at the ICA Board and the SC many a times. The main need is to understand the situation of European region to tap funding from EU. The intention is not to see ICA breaking up. This has been conveyed to ICA Board and ICA.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said that global ICA solidarity is more important and with this condition we should endorse the report. The subscription formula is more important and it will definitely affect our members. Those members who are not eligible for full membership can become associate members. This is a good idea.

Mr. Ivano Barberini said that this should not be considered as a regional problem, but a common problem. Hence it is important to endorse the report of Regional Working Group.

Mr. Li Chunsheng said regionalization is very important for us. This is not a new issue and it has been discussed many a times. This was also discussed at the last SC meeting in Wuxi. Regionalization should be for unity and integrity and should not be for weakening. He concluded that solidarity of the whole ICA is important and the region is a part of the global ICA. Weakening of global ICA may result in weakening the regional part of the ICA.

After discussions, the Regional Assembly unanimously endorsed the Regionalisation Working Group report. Mr. Li Chunsheng thanked the RA for endorsing the RWG report.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: APPROVAL OF CONSTITUTION OF THE ICA
 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH COOPERATION FOR
 ASIA AND PACIFIC**

Mr. Teo Say Hong, Chairman, ICA-AP Youth Committee, presented the Constitution of the **ICA Committee on Youth Cooperation for Asia and Pacific**. The Regional Assembly unanimously approved the Constitution which was earlier approved by the Standing Committee at its meeting held on 16th May in Wuxi.

At this point, Mr. Adi Sasono, President of Dewan Koperasi Indonesia (DEKOPIN) and Member of the Standing Committee took over as chair of the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: REPORTS FROM ICA-AP SPECIALISED
 COMMITTEES**

Women's Committee: The 5th meeting of ICA Regional Women's Committee was held on 15th August 2006 at Hotel Galadari, Colombo. More than 30 persons attended the meeting besides committee members. The committee discussed the activities, performance and future plans and also amended its Constitution to extend the term of the committee and terms of members and office bearers from two to four years. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Go Ming Hua, Vice Chairperson, in the absence of Madam Rahaiah Baheran, Chairperson of the Committee.

Consumer Committee: The 40th meeting of ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation was held at Galadari Hotel, Colombo, on 16th August. 40 participants (members and observers) from India, Japan, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam attended the meeting. In addition to routine agenda, a special report on "The Centennial Plan – Opening New Super Markets" was presented by Mr. DSK Pathirana, General Manager of COOPFED. The meeting discussed and adopted the work plan for 2007.

Mr. Jiro Ito, Manager, International Department of JCCU was unanimously elected as Chairperson of the Committee. Mr. Poh Leong Sim from Singapore and Mr. DSK Pathirana from Sri Lanka were elected as Vice Chairpersons of the Committee. It was also agreed that the term of new office bearers will be for four years from the date of election. It was also decided that the next meeting of the Committee will be held in Singapore in conjunction with ICA General Assembly.

Consumer Sub-committee on University/College Coops: The 12th meeting of the ICA Consumer Sub-committee on University/College Coops was held at Hotel Hilton, Colombo on 14th August 2006. 29 participants from 7 countries and observers attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Manabu Tanaka, Chairperson of the NFUCA. The meeting felt that the Newsletter should have the write-ups by the students to add value. They also felt that the Newsletter need not be always quarterly.

Agriculture Committee: The 37th meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture was held at Galadari Hotel, Colombo, on 16th August. 21 participants from India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Korea, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam attended the meeting. The Chair, Mr. Lyu Keun-Won opened the meeting emphasizing the importance of Asiatic variety and stressed that in the context of growing globalization it is very essential for us to exchange the information and experiences to better understand the regional and local matters concerning the challenges before us.

The members from the participating countries made brief presentations about the agricultural scenario in their countries. Dr. Jin Kook Kim, Agriculture Advisor, ICA Geneva, made an impressive presentation on the Impact of WTO

Negotiations on Cooperatives and explained in details the pros and cons of the negotiations. He suggested convening another event exclusively on the WTO regime after December 2006. It was decided to hold the next meeting in 2007 at the time of special workshop on WTO regime.

Regional Cooperative Banking Association (RCBA): The 8th meeting of RCBA was held on 14th August 2006 at Hotel Hilton, Colombo. Nearly 60 participants (members and observers) from India, Iran, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Netherlands attended the meeting. The theme of the meeting was "Strategies of Cooperative Banks to Sustain in Competitive Economy" on which specific inter-active discussion was organized, preceding the formal meeting of RCBA.

Mr. Ajith Niwad Cabral, Hon'ble Governor of Central Bank of Ceylon, inaugurated the meeting and delivered a key note address on the theme of the meeting. The business session commenced with a special presentation by Dr. Sarath Delphachitra, International Cooperative Expert of Asian Development Bank. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan from India and Dr. Sawath Saengbangpla from Thailand were unanimously elected as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the RCBA respectively for the next term.

HRD Committee: The 19th Meeting of ICA Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) was held in the afternoon of 15th August at Galadari Hotel, Colombo. 15 participants from five countries, namely, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom attended the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Vice Chairman of the Committee in the absence of the Chairman. He welcomed the presence of the members and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

In the absence of Dr. Yehudah Paz, who could not make it to Colombo, Mr. Bhagwati Prasad made a brief presentation on "Global Cooperative Learning Center". This project is being developed by Colombia Institute of Cooperative Studies and ILO Coop Branch. Presentation of country reports on initiatives on HRD was made by members from Indonesia, Singapore and Sri Lanka. Mr. Mervyn Wilson, Principal, The Cooperative College of U.K made a presentation on the Cooperative College of UK. The meeting was also informed about the details of Global HRD Networking (www.hrd.coop) developed and maintained by NCUI and VAMNICOM in collaboration with ICA Global HRD Committee.

The meeting unanimously elected Mr. Bhagwati Prasad from India and Mr. Zulkifli Mohammed from Singapore as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson respectively. Mr. Bhagwati Prasad and Mr. Zulkifli Mohammed thanked the members for reposing their faith in them.

The meeting decided to continue the seminars on HRD Best Practices in the coming years. Mr. Yuzri Suhud, Director of LAPENKOP (Cooperative Education and Training Development Institution) offered to host the next HRD seminar and meeting in Indonesia sometime in July 2007. The meeting unanimously accepted the proposal and authorized the ICA-AP to decide about the theme and dates of the seminar in consultation with LAPENKOP. The HRD Committee

unanimously decided to extend the term of office of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to four years, as per the new rules of ICA.

Prior to the meeting, a seminar on **New Trends in Cooperative Leadership Development** was held at Galadari Hotel in the forenoon of 15th August. The opening session was attended by Mr. Sunil Silva, General Secretary/General Manager of NCC; Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA-AP; and Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive of NCUI. About 50 participants attended the seminar.

3rd Youth Conference: The 3rd ICA Regional Youth Conference was held at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Colombo, on 15th August 2006. 116 participants from ten countries (Colombia, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Norway, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand) attended the Conference.

Mr. Palitha Rohana, President of COOPFED welcomed all the participants to the Conference. Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President, delivered introductory remarks and mentioned that Asia-Pacific region play a leading role in youth cooperative activities by the process of establishing the Youth Committee. H.E. Najeeb Abdul Majeed, Minister of Cooperatives and Cooperative Development of Sri Lanka inaugurated the conference and mentioned that Sri Lanka was privileged to have the memorable conference to coincide with the centenary celebrations of Sri Lankan Cooperative Movement. Mr. J.M. Gunadasa, Professor of National Institute of Cooperative Development delivered the key note address and he underlined that cooperative movement is one of the useful instruments which help the youth to find solutions to their problems/challenges.

Mr. Teo Say Hong, Youth Representative of ICA-AP, presented a background report of the youth in Asia-Pacific region. He explained that ICA-AP has a decade history since regional/youth coop seminar was held in 1996. He also explained that last year the Youth Pro-Tem Committee drew up the draft Constitution of the Youth Committee.

He also informed the meeting that the Regional Assembly has now approved the Constitution of the ICA-AP Youth Committee.

Tourism International Cooperative Association (TICA): At the initiative of TICA Coordinator, a special meeting of the ICA-AP member organizations was convened at Hotel Hilton, Colombo, on 14th August 2006. 15 organizations from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Vietnam participated at the meeting. The following was the purpose of the meeting: (a) Role of TICA global in mobilization tourism agenda through cooperatives; (b) Sensitize the Asia-Pacific coop organizations on the scope of tourism cooperatives in the region; (c) Brainstorming on the modalities to convene committee on tourism in Asia-Pacific region; and (d) Identification of stakeholders in promoting the agenda of tourism through coop global network. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Rajiv Mehta and presided over by Mr. H.L. Tissera, Commissioner of Cooperative Development, Government of Sri Lanka. The next meeting is proposed to be held in Colombo during 2007.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF 4TH ASIAN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The 4th Asian Cooperative Research Conference was held at Hotel Galadari, Colombo, on 15th and 16th August 2006. More than 25 researchers from 10 countries and a number of observers participated at the Conference. The themes of the Conference were: (a) Role of Cooperative Leadership in Preservation of Cooperative Identity; and (b) Natural Disaster Preparedness and Rehabilitation Initiatives through Cooperatives.

Majority of the presenters were academicians with considerable research experience to their credit. Their papers reflected in-depth analysis of researched data and case studies. They brought out very important findings and revealed facts and figures for future planning.

This time also the Consumer Cooperative Institute of Japan (CCIJ) extended scholarships to encourage the participation of youth/female researchers. It is proposed to hold the next Conference in Hanoi (Vietnam) during 2008 in conjunction with the next ICA Regional Assembly. There is also a proposal to set up an ICA Research Committee for Asia and Pacific and efforts to this end is being made.

AGENDA ITEM 13: REPORT OF 4TH ICA REGIONAL COOP FORUM

The 4th ICA Regional Cooperative Forum was held at Hotel Galadari, Colombo (Sri Lanka) on 17th August 2006, preceded by a joint inauguration of the Forum and the 7th ICA Regional Assembly in the evening of 16th August at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall by His Excellency Ratnasiri Wickramanayake, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. The Forum was hosted by the Cooperative Movement of Sri Lanka. The Forum was marked by an overwhelming participation of more than 158 delegates and observers from Canada, China, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Palestine, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Kingdom and Vietnam. In addition, special invitees from ACCU, AWCF and ICA also attended the Forum.

The theme of the Forum was "CAPACITY BUILDING: THE PRIORITY FOR COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES" with the following three sub-themes: (a) Cooperative Values and Good Governance; (b) The Cooperative Way of Management; and (c) Strengthening HRD and Networking.

Eminent cooperative researchers and practitioners constituted the Forum. The key note speech at the Forum was delivered by Mr. Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the President of Sri Lanka.

The Forum proceedings and presentations were summarized by Dr. Robby Tulus, former ICA Regional Director, who presented a report on the Forum to the Regional Assembly.

**AGENDA ITEM 14: REPORTS ON PREPARATION OF FORTHCOMING
IMPORTANT ICA EVENTS**

Mr. Rajiv Mehta made a brief presentation on the **International Cooperative Trade Fair** and the **Symposium on Trade Networking among Cooperatives** to be held in Iran from 27th to 29th October 2006 in collaboration with the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives. The objective of the Trade Fair would be to facilitate the match-making of buyers and sellers to trade cooperatively produced products from Iran in the global market, especially in the Asia-Pacific region and establish institutional alliance through the network of ICA. The Trade Fair would also feature a Symposium on the ways and means for effective trade networking among cooperatives so as to understand the importance and reckoning scope of cooperatives in the global trade.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that a **Regional Conference on Gender Integration in Cooperatives** would be held in Tagaytay City (Philippines) from 5th to 9th November 2006 in collaboration with Asian Women in Cooperative Development (AWCF) and the National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO). The theme of the Conference would be **Empowerment and Development of Women in Cooperatives** with sub-themes on "Poverty Alleviation through Women's Participation in Coops", "Women's Participation at all levels in Coops" and "Practical Action Plan to increase the participation of Women in Coops". He requested the members to send maximum number of participants to this Conference.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the next ICA-AP **Ministers' Conference on Cooperative Policy and Legislation** would be held in Malaysia from **12th to 15th March** 2007 in collaboration with ANGKASA and the Government of Malaysia. The draft Agenda points for the Ministers' Conference would be: (a) Cooperative Policy and Legislation; (b) Effective Participatory Governance; (c) Institutional Capacity Building; (d) Protection to Vulnerable Sections of the Society; and (e) Resource Mobilization. He requested the members to reserve these dates and initiate necessary consultations to ensure effective participation for meaningful outcome and greater success of the Conference.

Mr. Zulkifli Mohammad, Chief Executive Officer of Singapore National Cooperative Federation (SNCF) informed the Regional Assembly that the next **ICA General Assembly** will be held at Raffles City Convention Centre, Singapore, from 13th to 19th October 2007. A video-film about the ICA General Assembly was also shown at the meeting for the benefit of members. The ICA and SNCF signed a Memorandum of Understanding during the Regional Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 15: OTHER BUSINESS MATTERS ARISING

No other business matters arising out of the meeting was raised under this Agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 16: CONSIDERATION OF VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that, as decided at the last RA meeting in Chiang Mai, the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) wanted to host the next Regional Assembly and Coop Forum in Vietnam during 2008. The meeting accepted the offer of VCA and decided to host the next meeting in Vietnam in 2008. The date and venue would be decided in consultation with the secretariat. In this regard a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the ICA-AP and VCA in Colombo on 18th August 2006. The meeting thanked the VCA for agreeing to host the ICA events in 2008 in Vietnam.

The Central Organization for Rural Cooperatives of Iran (CORC) expressed its willingness to host the Regional Assembly and the Coop Forum in 2010 in Iran.

AGENDA ITEM 17: CLOSING SESSION

Mr. Li Chunsheng thanked the members for coming and attending the meeting. He appreciated the excellent arrangements made by the host organizations in Sri Lanka for the meetings in Colombo.

Mr. Ivano Barberini thanked the ICA-AP region and the Regional Office for undertaking good initiatives and said that it was mutually a good experience.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said that a total of 12 different meetings were held in Colombo from 14th to 19th August and he thanked the Cooperative Movement of Sri Lanka for making excellent arrangements and the kind hospitality.

The meeting proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Shil Kwan Lee and his able staff for carrying out the ICA-AP's work with success. The meeting also thanked Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President for coming and spending his valuable time.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

28th November 2006

Minutes of the ICA-AP Standing Committee Meeting

Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia): 11th March 2007

The meeting of ICA-AP Standing Committee was held at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) on 11th March 2007 from 14:00 to 17:30 hours. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Li Chunsheng, ICA Vice President and Chairman of Standing Committee. The following members, observers and ICA Officers were present:

1. Mr. Li Chunsheng, ACFSMC, China - Chairperson
2. Mr. Adi Sasono, DEKOPIN, Indonesia - Member
3. Ms. Junko Ito, JCCU, Japan - Vice Chairperson
4. Dr. Ali Baharum, ANGKASA, Malaysia-on behalf of Prof. Ungku Aziz
5. Mr. D.P. Baskota, NCF, Nepal - Member
6. Mr. Guillermo P Cua, NATCCO, Philippines - Member
7. Mr. Seah Kian Peng, SNCF, Singapore - Member
8. Mr. Bandupala Ranawaka, NCC, Sri Lanka - Member
9. Mr. Teo Say Hong, SNCF, Singapore - Youth Representative
10. Ms. Tian Lihua, ACFSMC, China - Interpreter
11. Mr. Li Shun, ACFSMC, China - Interpreter
12. Mr. Yuzri Suhud, DEKOPIN, Indonesia - Observer
13. Mr. Jiro Ito, JCCU, Japan - Observer
14. Mr. Isaac Yaw Asiedu, JCCU, Japan - Observer
15. Ms. Sharine Khoo, ANGKASA, Malaysia - Observer
16. Mr. M.G. Sunil Silva, NCC, Sri Lanka - Observer
17. Mr. Ivano Barberini, President, ICA, Geneva - Special Invitee
18. Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen, Development Director, ICA, Geneva
19. Mr. Garry Cronan, Director of Communications, ICA Geneva
20. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, ICA-AP, New Delhi - Secretary
21. Mr. Rajiv Mehta, ICA-AP, New Delhi - Observer
22. Mr. B.D. Sharma, ICA-DT, New Delhi - Observer
23. Mr. A.K. Taneja, ICA-AP, New Delhi - Observer
24. Ms. Savitri Singh, ICA-AP, New Delhi - Observer
25. Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, ICA-AP, New Delhi - Recording
26. Mr. Tsubasa Nakamura, ICA-AP SBO, Singapore - Observer

Agenda Item No. 1 : Opening Remarks

Mr. Li Chunsheng, ICA Vice President and Chairman of the ICA-AP Standing Committee thanked the members for accepting the invitation and coming to attend the SC meeting in Kuala Lumpur. He specially thanked Mr. Ivano Barberini, President of ICA, for his presence.

He informed the meeting that members from India, Israel and Korea have regretted their inability to attend the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2 : Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Li Chunsheng invited views and comments of the members on the Agenda. The Agenda was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Meeting held in Colombo on 16th August 2006

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the minutes of the SC meeting held in Colombo (Sri Lanka) on 16th August 2006 were circulated among the members and no comments/suggestions have been received. The minutes were confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 4 : Regional Director's Report

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the activities of the ICA-AP carried out in 2006. He especially informed the meeting that the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan, has agreed to extend the Agricultural Management Training Course and the Rural Women Leaders Training Course for another five years with slight modifications in contents and titles. He also informed the meeting that the MAFF has agreed to finance two training courses on "Capacity Building for Marketing" from this year onwards for a period of five years.

The members thanked the Regional Director and his staff for conducting a variety of important activities in 2006. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee thanked the SC members and the member organizations for their kind support.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee also presented the financial report of ICA-AP for the year 2006. The members noted that there was a surplus of CHF 9,964 in Delhi office for the year 2006.

The ICA-AP Work Plan and Budget for the year 2007 was presented by Mr. Shil Kwan Lee. He informed the house that ICA-AP was expecting a surplus of CHF 14,322 for 2007 also.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee mentioned that the total membership of ICA-AP as on 31st December 2006 was 57 organisations from 22 countries. He further said that if any Standing Committee Member had got information about potential members, it should be brought to the notice of ICA-AP.

Mr. Li Chunsheng thanked the Regional Director and his staff for conducting so many important activities. All the members expressed their happiness with regard to the outstanding performance and positive financial results of ICA-AP and unanimously accepted the report.

Agenda Item No. 5 : Post Tsunami Interventions by ICA-AP in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka

Mr. Rajiv Mehta presented a report on the post tsunami interventions by ICA-AP in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The highlights of the report are given below:

India: Phase-1 from August 2005 to July 2006 aimed at physical reconstruction of cooperative infrastructure of seven tsunami affected cooperatives in Tamil Nadu and Nicobar with financial support from Coop UK US\$ 153,224 and NCUI US\$ 15,292 was completed in record time. Coop UK has sanctioned Phase-2 in Nicobar for reconstruction of seven warehouses and seven consumer shops with a commitment of US\$ 101,830.

Sri Lanka: NISPED and ICA jointly agreed to support 18 months long US\$ 400,000 Coop Empowerment Program in Southern Province in Sri Lanka to help 126 tsunami hit cooperatives. The project had taken off in June 2006 after prolonged discussions with 4 project partners in Sri Lanka. Physical reconstruction was in full swing in identified 10 coops and the capacity building training programs had also gained. More than 150 board members of affected coops were already benefited by the training program.

Indonesia: ICA extended bridge fund of CHF 45,000 to LSP21 and DEKOPINWIL NAD to help affected coops kick start their lives. Later UK Coop extended financial support of US\$ 140,000 to two fisheries coops for reconstruction of boats and purchase of equipments. ICA later committed itself for another sum of US\$ 50,000 to support project management unit and educate affected coops on livelihood recovery and management and US\$ 93,000 to upscale required interventions.

Mr. Li Chunsheng thanked the ICA-AP and other development partners for the timely financial support for the tsunami affected projects in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. He also expressed his hearty thanks to the President of ICA. He further said that it was very important to learn the lessons from the disaster occurred to ensure better disaster preparedness.

Agenda Item No. 6 : Discussion on ICA Global Strategy Document

Mr. Ivano Barberini said that ICA is reviewing its strategy. The strategy was discussed in Stockholm in September and Trento in last December by the ICA Board. In coming May ICA will have another meeting in Mexico to discuss and finalise the ICA Global Strategy Document. This is a framework for vision, mission and strategy which will be followed by all regions. It is important that all regions could have a common framework. This is the intention of this Global Strategy Document.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said that we had a series of meetings on this subject. One week back we had a telephonic discussion. He requested the members to give their comments/suggestions on the strategy document. He said that this ICA Global Strategy Document will be approved by the ICA General Assembly in Singapore in October 2007. He further said that we still have to work out the membership structure and subscription formula.

Mr. Seah Kian Peng said that we should not talk too much about the Action Plan since it is a broad guideline only. We are now talking about the Vision, Mission, Strategic Objectives and Key Result Areas. After the Strategic Plan is approved by the General Assembly in Singapore, all regions would be requested to prepare their Action Plan.

Mr. Jan Eirik Imbsen said that Vision and Mission are suggested by the ICA Board. He said that the meeting should now discuss only about Strategic Objectives and Key Result Areas.

After the above explanations, the latest ICA Global Strategy Document received from ICA Geneva was discussed at the SC meeting. The members made the following observations:

- **Mission:**
The value-based economic business model is not sufficiently reflected in the objectives.
- **Strategic Objectives:**
Only one objective refers to external factors while the remaining four refer to internal factors.
- **Strategic Objective-2.0:**
It should also influence governments.
- **Strategic Objective-3.0:**
Delete "... and fund the implementation of ICA strategy". It is not necessary. Proposed new wording – ***Build strong financial capacity of ICA***. Comment: The ICA should mobilize members to sustain the ICA.
- **Strategic Objective-4.0:**
Comment: Put governance at the forefront.
Add another KRA (4.4) about good governance (or expand 4.1 to include it).
- **Change KRA-5.4 to:**
Develop ICA as the employer of choice.
Add a new KRA about women and youth.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee requested the SC members to send their written comments, if any, to ICA-AP as soon as possible so that they could be sent to ICA Geneva for its consideration.

Agenda Item No. 7 : Preparations for 8th Ministers' Conference on Cooperative Legislation and Policy

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that all arrangements with regard to 8th Ministers' Conference on Cooperative Legislation and Policy were made in collaboration with the Ministry of Entrepreneur and Cooperative Development (MECD) and ANGKASA. The opening ceremony of the Conference would be held in the afternoon of 12th March at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Center (KLCC) Around 900 people were expected to attend the inauguration. The Conference would be inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The theme of the Conference was "**Fair Globalisation through Cooperatives**". Around 375 participants including 10 ministers from 22 countries would be attending the Conference.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting about the decision of the Government of Malaysia not to approve the application of the members of the Israeli delegation to come to Malaysia to take part in the Conference. We had in fact left no stone unturned in ensuring the participation of all relevant cooperative figures, from Israel, in this important Conference. Indeed, we were assured by the dealing officers of the Ministries involved in the preparations for the Conference that Israeli delegation would be able to participate in the Conference on the same basis as all other delegations.

In this regard Mr. Ivano Barberini said "I am really sorry that our Israeli friends are unable to attend the Conference. It is true that the situation in the Middle East area is going through a difficult phase. However, especially for this reason, Israeli and Palestinian cooperators are committed now, more than ever, to building the peace process through "person to person" relations and through development projects in Palestine, cooperating with each other with the support of EU and cooperative organizations from other countries. The ICA is the largest NGO in the world and represents cooperatives from every culture and creed throughout the world since 1895. We are committed to peace and social justice and through our values and principles our membership is open to all. Our Israeli Movement is well known for its support for the peace process and the two-state solution with Israeli and Palestine living by side in peace. ICA will continue to request that all ICA members could have access to countries where we organize our Conferences. It is basic requirement of our movement".

At the conclusion, all the members agreed that ICA should try their best to solve such a political situation through meaningful dialogue and continued efforts since our capacity was limited to host such extremely important events on stand alone basis.

Agenda Item No. 8 : Other Business Matters Arising

No other business matters arising out of the meeting was raised under this Agenda.

Agenda Item No. 9 : Date and Place of Next Meeting

The meeting unanimously agreed to hold the next SC meeting on 16th October 2007 in Singapore in conjunction with the ICA General Assembly.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee thanked ANGKASA for making excellent arrangements for the meeting and the kind hospitality.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

12th April 2007

ANNEXURE - 2

Minutes of the ICA-AP Standing Committee Meeting

Singapore: 16th October 2007

The meeting of ICA-AP Standing Committee was held at Raffles City Convention Centre (RCCC) on 16th October 2007 from 14:00 to 17:30 hours. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Li Chunsheng, ICA Vice President and Chairman of Standing Committee. The following members, observers and ICA Officers were present:

1. Mr. Li Chunsheng, ACFSMC, China – Chairperson
2. Mr. G.H. Amin, NCUI, India - Member
3. Mr. Adi Sasono, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Member
4. Dr. Yehudah Paz, NISPED, Israel - Member
5. Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, JCCU, Japan – Vice Chairperson
6. Mr. Hi-Hyung Jo, NACF, Korea - Alternate Member
7. Dr. Ali Baharum, ANGKASA, Malaysia - Alternate Member
8. Mr. D.P. Baskota, NCF, Nepal – Member
9. Mr. Guillermo P Cua, NATCCO, Philippines - Member
10. Mr. Seah Kian Peng, SNCF, Singapore - Member
11. Mr. Bandupala Ranawaka, NCC, Sri Lanka - Member
12. Mr. Teo Say Hong, SNCF, Singapore – Youth Representative
13. Mr. Li Shun, ACFSMC, China – Interpreter
14. Mr. Benny A. Kusbini, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Observer
15. Mr. Aip Syarifuddin, DEKOPIN, Indonesia- Observer
16. Mr. Yuzri Suhud, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Observer
17. Ms. Irbar Masri, DEKOPIN, Indonesia - Observer
18. Mr. Jiro Ito, JCCU, Japan – Observer
19. Mr. M.G. Sunil Silva, NCC, Sri Lanka – Observer
20. Mr. Ivano Barberini, President, ICA Geneva – Special Invitee
21. Mr. Iain Macdonald, Director General, ICA Geneva – Special Invitee
22. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, ICA-AP, New Delhi - Secretary
23. Mr. Rajiv Mehta, ICA-AP, New Delhi - Observer
24. Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, ICA-AP, New Delhi - Recording

Agenda Item No. 1 : Opening Remarks

Mr. Li Chunsheng, ICA Vice President and Chairman of the ICA-AP Standing Committee thanked the members for accepting the invitation and coming to attend the SC meeting in Singapore. He specially thanked Mr. Ivano Barberini and Mr. Iain Macdonald, President and Director General of ICA respectively, for their presence.

He extended a warm welcome to Ms. Hitomi Tanaka from JCCU, Japan (replacement of Ms. Junko Ito) and Mr. G.H. Amin, President of NCUI, India (replacement of Dr. S.S. Sisodia).

He informed the meeting about the sad demise of Mr. M.V. **Madane** and Dr. S.S. **Sisodia** after the last SC meeting in Malaysia and condoled their passing away. While Mr. Madane had long served ICA-AP and was closely associated with the ICA-AP, Dr. Sisodia was a member of ICA Board and Standing Committee for many years. A two minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to them.

Agenda Item No. 2 : Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Li Chunsheng invited views and comments of the members on the Agenda. The Agenda was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur on 11th March 2007

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the minutes of the SC meeting held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) on 11th March 2007 were circulated among the members and no comments/suggestions have been received. The minutes were confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 4 : Regional Director's Report

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the activities of the ICA-AP carried out during January to September 2007 and planned activities for the period October to December 2007. He also presented the financial report of ICA-AP for the period January to June 2007. The members noted that there was a surplus of CHF 22,811 in Delhi office for the period January-June 2007.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee mentioned that the total membership of ICA-AP as of today was 58 organizations from 22 countries. Recently the Karachi Cooperative Housing Societies Union of Pakistan has become the member of the ICA.

The members thanked the Regional Director and his staff for conducting so many important activities. All the members expressed their happiness with regard to the outstanding performance and positive financial results of ICA-AP. The report was accepted unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 5 : Discussion on ICA-AP Work Plan and Budget for 2008

The draft ICA-AP Work Plan and Budget for the year 2008 was presented by Mr. Shil Kwan Lee. He informed the house that the membership

redistribution formula would be finalized by the ICA Board only in December and accordingly there would be some slight changes in the Budget.

Mr. Seah suggested that ICA-AP should send the documents in advance so that the members could get more time to go through the documents that in turn would help in having more effective discussions.

Mr. Adi Sasono and Dr. Paz welcomed the idea of expansion of activities in new countries. Dr. Paz said that earlier Fiji was a member of ICA, but their financial position was very tight. He also said that some activities might also be held in Central Asia.

Dr. Paz said that no regional activity should be held in any country where all members are not welcome. There was a problem some time back and this should be kept in mind in future.

Mr. Teo said that expansion was good, but it should not upset the current members. There should be cross-regional interaction rather than sub-regional interaction.

Mr. Jo said that it was good that ICA would be preparing a profile of member organizations. He said that some research activities should also be included in the work plan.

Mr. Li Chunsheng said that membership situation and financial situation of ICA was getting better and better. He thanked Mr. Shil Kwan Lee and his staff for this. He suggested that ICA-AP should revise the Work Plan based on the suggestions made by the members.

Agenda Item No. 6 : Progress on Restructuring Working Group Report

Mr. Ivano Barberini informed the meeting that the ICA Board had set up a Restructuring Working Group (RWG) to discuss and submit a report on the regionalization issues. The RWG had met several times and exchanged a number of papers on the agreed main subjects – legal, roles, membership and finance issues. The ICA Board has now endorsed the report. He said that this ICA Global Strategy Document would be approved by the ICA General Assembly in Singapore in October 2007. He further said that we ought to work out the membership structure and subscription formula.

Mr. Iain Macdonald presented the important points of the RWG report at the meeting. He said that after the GA, there would be consultations with the members at regional level and at the special General Assembly in June next year to finalise the membership subscription formula. The new ICA subscription formula would be applicable from January 2009 onwards. The year 2008 would be a transition period.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said that the main concern of our region was the subscription formula which was at present based on business turnover and

the proposal of the RWG was based on total membership. So the subscription formula ought to be worked out very carefully.

After the above explanations, the latest ICA Global Strategy Document received from ICA Geneva was discussed at the SC meeting. The members made the following observations:

There was a common concern among the members about the method to calculate membership subscription. The members felt that the basis of individual membership to calculate the membership subscription was not suitable in the Asian context owing to high population in most of the countries.

Further the cross membership/duplication of individual members among various member organizations of ICA from one country pose a serious problem in working out a clear subscription amount and hence likely to create confusions and frustrations among ICA member organizations. In most of the Asian countries the problem of working out a clear subscription amount would be rather impossible due to lack of authentic data on the membership affiliated to a particular sector/organization.

Therefore, the members agreed to urge upon the ICA Board to make the subscription formula linked with the economic development stage of the primary affiliates of the ICA member organization.

Mr. Li Chunsheng suggested that the views expressed by the members should be carefully considered by the ICA.

Agenda Item No. 7 : Preparations for 8th Meeting of ICA Regional Assembly and Coop Forum

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that pursuant to the last RA, the 8th Meeting of ICA Regional Assembly and Cooperative Forum would be held in Hanoi (Vietnam) from **1st to 6th December 2008**. All the events in Hanoi would be organized by the ICA-AP in collaboration with the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA). The theme of the Cooperative Forum would be **"The Coop Advantage in the Economy of Asia and Pacific"**. He requested the members to keep these dates in mind while preparing their travel schedule.

A brochure on Vietnam was distributed at the meeting by the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) and they requested the members to attend all the events in Hanoi.

The meeting thanked the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) for agreeing to organize the 8th ICA Regional Assembly and other events in Hanoi from 1st to 6th December 2008.

Agenda Item No. 8 : Other Business Matters Arising

Mr. Rajiv Mehta presented the **KL Declaration** of 8th Ministers Conference on Cooperative Legislation and Policy held in Malaysia in March 2007. He further said that the report of the 8th Ministers Conference would be ready soon.

Agenda Item No. 9 : Date and Place of Next Meeting

The meeting unanimously agreed to hold the next SC meeting in June 2008 in Rome (Italy) in conjunction with the ICA Special General Assembly, unless there was no specific need. However, consultations with members will be done through e-mail.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee thanked the Singapore National Cooperative Federation (SNCF) for making excellent arrangements for the meeting and the kind hospitality.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

7th January 2008

Minutes of the ICA-AP Standing Committee Meeting **Manila (Philippines): 27th March 2008**

The meeting of ICA-AP Standing Committee (Regional Board) was held at Manila Hotel on 27th March 2008 from 09:30 to 17:00 hours. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Li Chunsheng, ICA Vice President and Chairman of Standing Committee. The following members, observers and ICA Officers were present:

1. Mr. Li Chunsheng, ACFSMC, China – Chairperson
2. Mr. G.H. Amin, NCUI, India - Member
3. Mr. Adi Sasono, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Member
4. Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, JCCU, Japan – Vice Chairperson
5. Mr. Chan Ho Choi, NACF, Korea - Alternate Member
6. Dr. Wan Ali Tuanku Madhi, ANGKASA, Malaysia - Alternate Member
7. Mr. Guillermo P Cua, NATCCO, Philippines - Member
8. Mr. Bandupala Ranawaka, NCC, Sri Lanka - Member
9. Mr. Teo Say Hong, SNCF, Singapore – Youth Representative
10. Mr. S.K. Jakhar, IFFCO, India – ICA Board Member
11. Dr. Gopal N. Saxena, IFFCO, India - Observer
12. Mr. Zhang Wangshu, ACFSMC, China – Observer
13. Mr. Rong Chengfa, ACFSMC, China – Observer
14. Mr. Yuzri Suhud, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Observer
15. Mr. Irsyad Muchtar, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Observer
16. Mr. Insanial Burhamzah, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Observer
17. Mr. Jiro Ito, JCCU, Japan – Observer
18. Mr. Wilfredo A. Dimamay, NATCCO, Philippines - Observer
19. Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Singapore – Resource Person
20. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, ICA-AP, New Delhi - Secretary
21. Mr. Rajiv Mehta, ICA-AP, New Delhi – Observer
22. Mr. Yoshi Nakamura, ICA-SBO, Singapore - Observer
23. Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, ICA-AP, New Delhi - Recording

Agenda Item No. 1 : Opening Remarks

Mr. Li Chunsheng, ICA Vice President and Chairman of the ICA-AP Standing Committee thanked the members for accepting the invitation and coming to attend the SC meeting in Manila. He said that this meeting was very important since it would be discussing the new Subscription Formula. He informed the meeting that members from Israel, Nepal and Singapore have regretted their inability to attend the meeting.

Mr. Guillermo P. Cua welcomed all the Standing Committee members on behalf of NATCCO and the Cooperative Movement of the Philippines. He specially thanked Mr. Li Chunsheng and Mr. Shil Kwan Lee for holding the Standing Committee meeting in Manila. He wished the participants a very comfortable and enjoyable stay in the Philippines.

Agenda Item No. 2 : Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Li Chunsheng invited views and comments of the members on the Agenda. The Agenda was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Meeting held in Singapore on 16th October 2007

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the minutes of the SC meeting held in Singapore on 16th October 2007 were circulated among the members and no comments/suggestions have been received. The minutes were confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 4 : Introduction of “Cooperative Movement of the Philippines”

Ms. Lecira V. Juarez, Chairperson of Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) made a powerpoint presentation on “Cooperative Movement of the Philippines”. The Standing Committee thanked her for making the excellent presentation.

Agenda Item No. 5 : Regional Director’s Report

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the financial report of ICA-AP for the period January to December 2007. The members noted that there was a surplus of CHF 1,771 in Delhi office for the year 2007.

He presented the activities of the ICA-AP carried out during October to March 2008 and planned activities for the period April to December 2008. He also presented the budget of ICA-AP for the year 2008. He informed the house that ICA-AP was expecting a surplus of CHF 5,416 for 2008 also.

Ms. Hitomi Tanaka said that in the Work Plan 3 training programs for managers of consumer cooperatives to be held in Japan (Miyagi/Kobe/Japan) were to be included.

Mr. Adi Sasono said that on 12th July the cooperative day celebration would be held in Jakarta and some program could be held in Indonesia in conjunction with cooperative day celebration.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee mentioned that the total membership of ICA-AP as of today was 57 organizations from 21 countries. Recently the Dubai Building Cooperative Society-UAE, Sharjah Cooperative Society-UAE, and Fiji Cooperative Union Limited-Fiji have applied for membership of the ICA.

The members thanked the Regional Director and his staff for conducting so many important activities. All the members expressed their happiness with regard to the outstanding performance and positive financial results of ICA-AP. The report was accepted unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 6 : Discussion on new ICA Membership Subscription Formula

A letter received from ICA President addressed to Mr. Li Chunsheng and the documents prepared by the ICA-AP regarding the membership subscription were circulated at the meeting. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee explained to the meeting in detail the proposed subscription formula and the amount each organization has to be paid. He said that the main concern of our region was the subscription formula which was at present based on business turnover and the proposal of the Restructuring Working Group (RWG) was based on total membership. So the subscription formula ought to be worked out very carefully. He further said that the new ICA Subscription Formula would be applicable from January 2009 onwards. The year 2008 would be a transition period.

There was a common concern among the members about the method to calculate membership subscription. The members felt that the basis of individual membership to calculate the membership subscription was not suitable in the Asian context owing to high population in most of the countries.

Further the cross membership/duplication of individual members among various member organizations of ICA from one country pose a serious problem in working out a clear subscription amount and hence likely to create confusions and frustrations among ICA member organizations. In most of the Asian countries the problem of working out a clear subscription amount would be rather impossible due to lack of authentic data on the membership affiliated to a particular sector/organization.

The Standing Committee discussed various aspects of the new Membership Subscription Formula and in view of an affordable solution, unequivocally agreed to the following suggestions:

1. Financial capacity of cooperatives ought to be the determinant factor to calculate the subscription amount. Hence, the following indicators could be applied on working out the new subscription formula:
 - a. *per capita income of the country (not WBCII);*
 - b. *turn over of the cooperative; and*
 - c. *staff strength of the cooperative.*
2. The transition period to embrace new pattern should be minimum five years.

3. The membership number in a cooperative is a relative indicator, since many of the cooperatives do not have the exact number of the active user members because there are pressing political and communal reasons to continue with inactive members. Moreover, high number of members in a cooperative may not necessarily reflect financial health of a cooperative. Hence, the membership based criterion could be arguable in terms of its authenticity and not desirable in working out the membership subscription.
4. In the context of above, the proposed criteria of deciding membership subscription is not acceptable to many of the members of ICA in the Asia-Pacific region and there is a serious threat to ICA membership structure if corrective measures are not taken on time.

The Standing Committee unanimously decided to send the attached **Recommendation** to ICA Board for its serious consideration.

Mr. Li Chunsheng said that the views expressed by the members would be conveyed to the ICA Board Members.

Agenda Item No. 7 : Presentation on “Developing Neighbourhood Coops to Serve Members”

Mr. Tan Kin Lian, Former Chief Executive of NTUC Income, Singapore, made a special presentation on “Developing Neighbourhood Cooperatives to Serve Members” at the meeting. The Standing Committee thanked him for making the excellent presentation which was very useful and informative.

Agenda Item No. 8 : Discussion on “Strategy and Priorities of ICA-AP”

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the current Strategy and Priorities of ICA-AP” would be over by end of 2008 and we have to prepare our new Strategy and Priorities for the year 2009-2012.

Mr. Rajiv Mehta, Development Director of ICA-AP, presented the Strategic Plan of ICA Geneva for the year 2009-2012 which is as follows:

Strategic Objectives are defined by the Board who also determines the global budget for its achievement.

Key Result Areas are those actions that will lead to the achievement of strategic objective.

Each KRA will have an **outcome** which is what KRAs should produce (effect).

Each outcome will have one of more **indicators** to measure if the KRA has been achieved.

Outcomes and indicators from various ICA components will be compiled and summarized by DG for presentation to ICA global board to report on progress in achieving the strategic objectives of the organization as a whole.

Strategic Initiatives are determined by each part of the ICA but must be linked to the common ICA KRAs.

Activities are undertaken within a strategic initiative. These are essentially the list of activities currently found in the work plan which are determined by each part of the ICA.

Strategic Objectives

1. Consolidate and increase membership
2. As a knowledge-based organization, increase global influence in promoting the growth of cooperative enterprise as a preferred value-based business model.
3. Build Financing Sustainability
4. Improve efficiency, effectiveness and "good governance" of ICA
5. Build a competent and committed people base

Key Result Areas

- 1.1 *Retain existing members*
- 1.2 *Add new members*
- 1.3 *Support the creation and consolidation of new national cooperative organizations in countries where they do not exist and when there is a demand.*
- 1.4 *Improve compliance of Cooperative Identify Statement among members.*
- 1.5 *Increase member participation*
- 1.6 *Improve the value of services to members.*

- 2.1 *Target the most relevant strategic issues for cooperatives.*
- 2.2 *Consolidate and build strategic alliances/networks.*
- 2.3 *Build recognition of the value-based cooperative economic business model with the Cooperative Identify Statement as reference.*
- 2.4 *Build the credibility of the ICA as the centre of excellence for knowledge, expertise and coordinated action about cooperatives.*
- 2.5 *To maintain and further develop effective communications systems.*

- 3.1 *Increase income from membership fees by increasing membership.*
- 3.2 *Seek significant funding from alternative sources.*

3.3 *Find more cost effective ways of accomplishing the work through alliances with educational institutions and members for in kind services.*

4.1 *Maximize effectiveness and good governance of new structure.*

4.2 *Improve productivity*

4.3 *Improve knowledge management within ICA*

4.4 *Develop and maintain a relevant and cost effective member service delivery.*

5.1 *Build skills appropriate to roles and responsibilities*

5.2 *Create a positive culture and team spirit*

5.3 *Develop high quality leadership throughout the ICA*

5.4 *Develop ICA as an employer of choice*

5.5 *Develop succession planning*

5.6 *Promote motivation of staff.*

Mr. Adi Sasono suggested that Business Networking could be one of the Key Result Areas.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that it was only the initial stage of the preparation and the improved draft would be presented at the next Standing Committee meeting. He requested the members to send their suggestions to ICA-AP as soon as possible.

Agenda Item No. 9 : Discussion on setting up of new Committees

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that last year the Youth Committee was set up. We have now received the two proposals for setting up separate Committees for (a) Cooperative Research and (b) University/Campus Cooperatives. He further said that ICA-AP do not provide any financial assistance to the Committees.

Mr. Jiro Ito, Chairman of Consumer Committee, said that last year the Consumer Committee had approved the proposal of setting up of a separate committee for the University/Campus Cooperatives.

Mr. Teo Tsay Hong, Chairman of Youth Committee, said that personally University/Campus Committee was important to him and it helped a lot in setting up the Youth Committee.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said that we should encourage if they want to set up separate committees.

After discussions, the SC in principle agreed for the setting up of separate committees for Cooperative Research and University/Campus Cooperatives.

However, due to time constraints their Constitutions could not be discussed and that would be approved at the next Standing Committee meeting.

Agenda Item No. 10 : Preparations for 8th Meeting of ICA Regional Assembly and Coop Forum

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that pursuant to the last RA, the 8th Meeting of ICA Regional Assembly and Cooperative Forum would be held in Hanoi (Vietnam) from **1st to 6th December 2008**. All the events in Hanoi would be organized by the ICA-AP in collaboration with the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA). The theme of the Cooperative Forum would be **"The Coop Advantage in the Economy of Asia and Pacific"**. He requested the members to keep these dates in mind while preparing their travel schedule.

He further said that majority of the meetings would be held in Melia Hotel and the President of Vietnam was expected to inaugurate the joint opening of 8th Regional Assembly and the Cooperative Forum on 3rd December. Further progress would be reported at the next Standing Committee Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8 : Other Business Matters Arising

The meeting was informed that at present we have five members to the ICA Board from China, India, Japan, Korea and Singapore. Recently the Chairman of National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF) has been changed and the present incumbent was Mr. Won-Byung Choi and he was interested to be a member of the ICA Board. NACF has already written to ICA Geneva on this subject and solicited the support of the Standing Committee.

Dr. Gopal N. Saxena said that all the delegates from Asia-Pacific region should support the candidature of Mr. Won-Byung Choi.

Agenda Item No. 9 : Date and Place of Next Meeting

The meeting unanimously agreed to hold the next SC meeting in June 2008 in Rome (Italy) in conjunction with the ICA Special General Assembly, if necessary. However, consultations with members would be done through e-mail.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee thanked Mr. Guillermo P. Cua and the National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) for making excellent arrangements for the meeting and the kind hospitality.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

ANNEXURE - 3

Informal Meeting of the ICA AP Standing Committee in Rome on 4 June 2008

A special informal meeting of the members of ICA Standing Committee was held in Rome on 4 June 2008 a day before the ICA Special General Assembly in Rome. All the members except from Nepal and Philippines attended the meeting.

Mr Li Chungsheng, President, ICA Asia Pacific in his opening remarks appreciated the role of Mr Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director ICA AP for pushing the agenda of Revised ICA Subscription Formula in the larger interest of the ICA Asia Pacific members. He also praised the leadership of Mr Surinder Kumar Jakhar, Chairman, IFFCO at the ICA Board meeting in Washington in convincing ICA President about the concerns expressed by the members of ICA Asia Pacific Standing Committee meeting held in Manila.

Mr Lee presented the salient features of improved subscription formula and also explained the positive aspects of the formula. Referring to the number of primary members as the basis of new subscription formula, he elucidated the criteria and accordingly answered questions from India, Sri Lanka and Korea. Responding to 300% increase in the subscription amount of DEKOPIN, Indonesia, Mr Lee advised the President of DEKOPIN Mr Adi Sasono to motivate sector specific national federations in Indonesia to apply for the membership of ICA to make a trade-off.

Mr Iain Macdonald, Director General of ICA also attended the meeting and addressed the members of the ICA Asia Pacific Standing Committee. He said that the new system might take 2 to 3 years to be properly understood but in long run would definitely increase the membership base of ICA and eventually makes cooperatives appreciate about the merits of active user members in the development of cooperatives.

Mr Lee informed the members about the change in nomenclature of Standing Committee to Regional Board. The proposal would be placed before Regional Assembly in Vietnam and thereafter the ICA Asia Pacific Standing Committee would be known as ICA Asia Pacific Regional Board.

Before concluding the meeting, Mr Li Chungsheng informed the house about earthquake in eastern part of China that left 69,000 dead, 18,000 missing and more than 400,000 injured. The loss to the cooperatives in China was more than 300 m USD. As per the available information, there were 37 employees who died and more than 400 members who got injured due to earthquake. The exact number would only be known later as many areas had become inaccessible after the earthquake. He asked Mr Lee to inform about the loss of human capital and natural resources in Myanmar due to cyclonic winds. Mr Lee circulated the copies of the appeal issued by ICA to help the victims of natural disasters in China and Myanmar.

The members observed a silence of two minutes to mourn the death of cooperative fraternity in China and Myanmar.

Finally, Mr Lee proposed Hanoi as the next venue for the ICA Standing Committee that got approved by Mr Jakhar.

The meeting concluded with appreciation for the host and thanks to the Chair.

Prepared by: Rajiv I.D. Mehta.

RULES OF ICA-ASIA AND PACIFIC

(Based on the Rules approved by ICA General Assembly in Rome on 6th June 2008)

Existing Rules	Proposed Rules
<p style="text-align: center;">Article 1: Mission Statement</p> <p>The International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (also known as International Cooperative Alliance - Asia and Pacific) shall strive to promote and strengthen the Cooperative Movement in the region.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Article 2: Objects</p> <p>The International Cooperative Alliance in Asia-Pacific, in compliance with Article 2 of the ICA Rules, shall have the following objects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To promote the Cooperative Movement in Asia-Pacific region; 2. To promote and protect Cooperative Values and Principles; 3. To facilitate the development of economic and other mutually beneficial relations between its member organisations; 4. To promote sustainable human development and to further the economic and social progress of people, thereby contributing to peace and security in Asia-Pacific region; and 5. To promote equality between men and women in all decision-making and activities within the Cooperative Movement. <p>ICA-Asia and Pacific shall not affiliate itself to any political or religious organisation and shall maintain independence in all its activities.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Article-1: Mission Statement</p> <p>The International Cooperative Alliance - Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) shall strive to promote and strengthen the Cooperative Movement in the Asia-Pacific region in the spirit of ICA Cooperative Identity Statement (ICIS).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Article 2: Objects</p> <p>ICA-AP is a regional representative of cooperative organizations of all kinds that has the following objects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To promote the cooperative movement in Asia-Pacific region and facilitate its global integration; 2. To promote and protect cooperative values and principles; 3. To facilitate the development of economic and other mutually beneficial relations among its member organizations; and 4. To promote sustainable human development and gender equity to further the economic and social progress of people, thereby contributing to peace and security in the region. <p>The ICA-AP shall not affiliate itself to any political or religious organization and shall maintain independence in all its activities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Article 3: Structure</p> <p>The ICA-AP is organized at the regional, sectoral and thematic levels and comprises the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a central office in New Delhi, India • a sub-office in Singapore

The ICA-AP is open to all cooperative organizations in Asia-Pacific region.

Regional Assembly is the supreme body of ICA-AP and all the decisions are monitored and supervised by the elected Regional Board.

The Regional Director through a team of technical staff implements the plans and actions approved by the Regional Assembly.

Article 4: Membership

The decision to admit to membership of the ICA lies with the ICA Global Board. Organizations are eligible for two types of membership: (a) Members (full members with voting rights); and (b) Associate Members (without voting rights). Members of ICA from Asia-Pacific region automatically become members of ICA-AP.

Article 5: Rights of Member Organizations

Subject to fulfillment of financial obligations to ICA, Members and Associate Members have the right to: (a) receive from ICA-AP all appropriate services, information and assistance; and (b) participate in any global/ regional sectoral organization or thematic committee of ICA in accordance with its Constitution.

Members also have the right to: (a) take part in formulating ICA global/regional policies and work programs of ICA authorities; and (b) appoint representatives to the ICA General and Regional Assemblies and to nominate candidates for election to the Global/Regional Board.

Article 6: Obligations of Member Organizations

Members and Associate Members have the following obligations:

1. To observe the aims and policy of ICA and ICA-AP and to conform in its activity to the ICA Cooperative Identity Statement;
2. To take all such actions as may be recommended by the Authorities of ICA-AP in support of its policy decisions;

Article 3: Regional Assembly

1. Under Article 16 of the ICA Rules, there shall be a Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific region, consisting of representatives appointed by the ICA member organisations in the region.
2. The Regional Assembly shall, as a rule, take place every second year, alternating with ICA General Assembly, if not decided otherwise by it.
3. The total number of voting representatives from any country shall not exceed the maximum number of member organisations from any country in the region.
4. Member organisations in the region shall be entitled to additional votes based on multiple of ICA Geneva membership subscription or as otherwise approved by the Regional Assembly.
5. Member organisations from the region shall have the right to send non-voting Observers from their own organizations to the Regional Assembly upon payment of registration fee.
6. Non-members of ICA such as international organizations, parastatal organizations and other institutions concerned with the promotion of cooperatives can be invited to the Regional Assembly as Observers upon

3. To supply ICA and ICA-AP with their membership data, annual report and a complimentary copy of all its relevant publications, as well as regularly inform ICA and ICA-AP on significant national cooperative developments, changes in its rules and bylaws; and all actions of the public authorities which affect the cooperative moment; and
4. To pay annual subscription to ICA in accordance with ICA Rules.

Article 7: Regional Authorities

The regional authorities of ICA-AP are: Regional Assembly, Regional Board and Regional Director.

Article 8: Regional Assembly

1. There shall be a Regional Assembly for Asia and Pacific region, consisting of representatives appointed by the ICA member organizations in the region;
2. Regional Assembly, being the highest authority of ICA-AP, deals with the development of cooperatives in the region and formulates policies on major issues beneficial and relevant to the ICA and the cooperative movements in the region;
3. The Regional Assembly shall, as a rule, meet every second year. Extra ordinary meetings of the Regional Assembly may be convened on the decision of the Regional Board or at the request of one-fifth of members; and
4. All questions on which the Regional Assembly votes are decided by a majority of the votes cast, unless specified otherwise. Voting procedures for election shall be in accordance with the ICA Voting Rules.

payment of registration fee unless the existing members from the same country oppose.

7. The functions of the Regional Assembly shall be:

- a. Draw up their own business procedures and representation rules, subject to approval by the ICA General Assembly;
- b. Establish the priorities for the ICA-AP work programme in the region;
- c. Implement the decisions of the ICA General Assembly in the region;
- d. Submit reports, proposals, and resolutions for the consideration of the General Assembly;
- e. Elect a person as President of the region who shall also serve as global **ICA Vice-President**, subject to ratification by the General Assembly. The President of the region shall, as a rule, be the **Chairperson** of the **Regional Assembly** and the **Standing Committee**. The person to be eligible for election as President of the region must have served on one or more ICA governing bodies for at least two years;
- f. Elect two Vice Presidents, one of whom shall preferably be a woman. The two Vice Presidents shall be the Vice Chairpersons of the Regional Assembly and the Standing Committee;
- g. Elect a maximum of eight Members to the Standing Committee, in addition to President and two Vice Presidents, from among the candidates proposed by member organisations in the Region;
- h. The term of office of President, Vice Presidents and Members of the Standing Committee shall be **FOUR** years. In case any elected person ceases to represent or is withdrawn by his/her sponsoring member organization, the sponsoring organization may nominate a replacement and the decision on the replacement rests

Article 9: Powers of Regional Assembly

The powers of the Regional Assembly shall be:

1. Implement the decisions of the General Assembly in the region;
2. Approve the ICA Regional Strategic Plan;
3. Elect a maximum of eleven (11) Members to the Regional Board from among the candidates proposed by the member organizations in the Region;
4. The term of office-bearers of the Regional Board is **four** years. In case any elected person ceases to represent or is withdrawn by his/her sponsoring member organization, the sponsoring organization may nominate a replacement for the remaining term and the decision on the replacement rests with the Regional Board;
5. Draw up business procedures and representation rules for the ICA-AP, subject to approval by the General Assembly; and
6. Establish Sectoral Organizations and Thematic Committees and approve their Constitutions.

with the Standing Committee; and

- i. Establish Regional Specialized Committees and Thematic Committees and approve their Constitutions.

Article 4: Standing Committee

1. Under Article 20 of the ICA Rules, there shall be a Standing Committee (Regional Elected Body) consisting of a President, two Vice Presidents and eight Members elected by the Regional Assembly. No more than one person from one member country can be elected to the Standing Committee.
2. The Asia-Pacific members of the ICA Board, who are not members of the Standing Committee, shall have the right to attend and speak at meetings of the Standing Committee.
3. No person shall be entitled to serve on the Standing Committee whose organisation has ceased affiliation with the ICA.
4. A quorum of the Standing Committee shall be constituted when more than half of its members are present. Acceptance of a resolution shall be on a two-third majority of all Committee members present and voting. Each member of the Committee is entitled to one vote.
5. The Regional Director of ICA-AP shall be the Secretary of the Standing Committee.
6. The functions of the Standing Committee shall be:
 - a. To work within the policy guidelines and decisions laid down by the Regional Assembly;
 - b. To manage the affairs of ICA at regional level between the meetings of the Regional Assembly;
 - c. To prepare the Agenda and organise the meeting of the Regional Assembly;
 - d. To reinforce member organisations'

Article 10: Regional Board

1. There shall be a Regional Board consisting of a Chairperson, two Vice Chairpersons and eight Members elected by the Regional Assembly. Not more than one person from one country can be elected to the Regional Board;
2. Elect a person as **President** of the region who shall also serve as global ICA Vice-President, subject to ratification by the General Assembly. The President of the region shall, as a rule, be the **Chairperson** of the Regional Assembly and the Regional Board. The person to be eligible for election as President of the region must have served on one or more ICA governing bodies for at least two years;
3. Elect two Vice Chairpersons, one of whom shall preferably be a woman. They shall also be Vice Chairpersons of the Regional Assembly;
4. The Asia Pacific members of the ICA Board and a youth representative, who are not members of the Regional Board, shall have the right to attend and speak at meetings of the Regional Board;
5. No person shall be entitled to serve on the Board whose organization has ceased affiliation with the ICA;
6. A quorum of the Board shall be constituted when more than half of its members are present. Acceptance of a resolution shall be on a two-third majority of members present and voting;
7. Each member of the Board shall be entitled to one vote;
8. Formulate rules for the election of regional board members and office bearers;
9. To manage the affairs of ICA-AP between the meetings of the Regional Assembly; and
10. The Board shall meet at least once a year. The meetings shall be convened by the President or at the request of

<p>active participation in ICA activities in the region;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. To promote sustainable cooperative development in the region; f. To strengthen and expand Sectoral Organizations and Thematic Committees in the region and ensure their cooperation with their global equivalent; g. To enhance the image of ICA and the Cooperative Movement in the region; h. To provide recommendations on membership applications from its region to the ICA Board; and i. To ensure regional finance and budgeting is strictly monitored and within the general guidelines of ICA; j. To approve and monitor the annual budget and work plan prepared by the Regional Director before submitting to the Director-General and ICA Board for final approval. <p style="text-align: center;">Article 5: Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Regional Assembly shall be convened by the Standing Committee. The ordinary Regional Assembly takes place every second year, alternating with the ICA General Assembly. The time and venue of the next Regional Assembly shall normally be decided by the previous Regional Assembly or by the decision of the Standing Committee. 2. If necessary, the Standing Committee may convene a special Regional Assembly either on its own decision or at the request of at least one-third of the ICA member organisations in the Region. 3. The Standing Committee meeting shall be convened by the President of the region at least once in a year. 4. The Regional Director shall be responsible for preparation and circulation of meeting documentation, and for practical arrangements of the 	<p>one-third of the members; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11. The Regional Director of ICA-AP shall be the Secretary of the Regional Board. <p style="text-align: center;">Article 11: Powers of Regional Board</p> <p>The powers of the Regional Board shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To work within the ICA Strategic Plan and decisions laid down by the Regional Assembly; 2. To convene the meeting of the Regional Assembly; 3. To reinforce member organizations' active participation in ICA activities in the region; 4. To promote sustainable cooperative development in the region; 5. To build relations between other bodies of the ICA; 6. To enhance the image of ICA and the cooperative movements within the region; 7. To establish committees and working groups where appropriate; 8. To provide recommendations on membership issues from the region to the ICA Board; 9. To be responsible for appointment of the Regional Director in conjunction with the ICA Director-General; and 10. To approve the annual work plan/budget prepared by the Regional Director before submitting to the Director-General for integration into the global work plan/budget. <p style="text-align: center;">Article 12: Regional Director</p> <p>The Regional Director shall be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promotion and protection of cooperative values and principles at the regional level; 2. Implementation of ICA Strategic Plan within the region;
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Regional Assembly/Standing Committee.

5. The official language of the Regional Assembly/Standing Committee shall be English. Delegates using other than English shall arrange their own interpreters.

Article 6: Finance

1. The delegates or their sponsoring organisations shall be responsible for covering the expenses of their participation at the Regional Assembly/Standing Committee.
2. Participation in the Regional Assembly and other related meetings will be subject to payment of Registration Fee as prescribed by the Standing Committee.
3. In line with ICA tradition, Regional Assembly shall be hosted by the member organisations in the region who

3. Representation on request of member organizations on policy concerns to governmental bodies and the public;
4. Organization of the Regional Assembly and support elected bodies;
5. Recruitment of staff at ICA-AP;
6. Carrying out any other activities as may be requested by the Director-General or Regional Board; and
7. Submitting annual work program and budget, as approved by the Regional Board, to the Director-General for inclusion in the overall global budget of the ICA.

Article 13: Sectoral Organisations

1. The Regional Assembly may establish or dissolve Sectoral Organisations and Thematic Committees;
2. Regional Sectoral Organizations may be established in areas of economic and social activity of cooperatives as considered desirable;
3. Regional Thematic Committees may be established based on requirements of the region; and
4. The sectoral organizations and thematic committees will draw up rules for approval by the Regional Assembly. They will work within the Regional Strategic Plan and will submit annual work plans/ budgets to the Regional Director.

Article 14: Official Language

The official language of the Regional Assembly/ Regional Board is English. Delegates using other than English shall arrange their own interpreters

Article 15: Finance

1. The delegates or their sponsoring organisations shall be responsible for covering the expenses of their participation at the Regional Assembly/Regional Board;

<p>may take care of logistic and other related costs as mutually agreed upon.</p> <p>4. The budget and financial resources for implementing the work plan of ICA-Asia and Pacific shall be derived from the following sources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Re-distribution of membership subscription to the region; b. Funds provided through agreements with development agencies including governmental organisations; c. Special contributions; and d. Income from other sources as agreed by the Regional Assembly on the recommendation of the Standing Committee. <p style="text-align: center;">Article 7: Others</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. These Rules and any subsequent amendments shall be subject to the approval of the Regional Assembly. 2. For all other matters, which are not covered by these Rules, ICA Rules (September 2003) shall apply. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Participation in the Regional Assembly and other related meetings will be subject to payment of Registration Fee as prescribed by the Regional Board; 3. In line with ICA tradition, Regional Assembly shall be hosted by the member organisations in the region who may take care of logistic and other related costs as mutually agreed upon; 4. The budget and financial resources for implementing the work plan of ICA-AP shall be derived from the following sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-distribution of membership subscription to the region; • Funds provided through agreements with development agencies including governmental organizations; • Special contributions and income from other sources. <p style="text-align: center;">Article 16: Others</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amendments to these Rules and any subsequent alterations shall be subject to the approval by the Regional Assembly. 2. For all other matters, which are not covered by these Rules, ICA Rules shall apply.
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17th October 2008

STRATEGIC PLAN OF ICA-AP FOR 2009-2012

Strategic Objective 1- MEMBERSHIP: Consolidate and Increase Membership

<i>Strategic Objectives</i>			
MEMBERSHIP: Consolidate and Increase Membership.	Retain existing members	Undertake member oriented actions	
		Respond efficiently to members' requests	
	Add new members	Membership drive strategy	
		Strategic presence of ICA	
INFLUENCE: Increase Global Influence to Promote Coops as a Specific Values Based Business Model.	Improve ICA's effectiveness as a lobbyist and advocate for the cooperative business model and values.	Relationship with Government	
		Coordination with MOs	
		Market effectiveness of coop business models	
	Maintain and further develop effective communications.	Website	
		Annual reports	
		Periodicals/ journals/ media	
	Build the credibility of the ICA as the centre of excellence for knowledge, expertise and coordinated action about cooperatives.	On-line database	
		Advice on policy/ legislation on coops	
		Cooperative research	
		Archives/ library	

ANNEXURE - 4

Strategic Objectives			
DEVELOPMENT: Develop Strong Cooperative Enterprises for Social and Economic Progress.	Improve capacity building.	Knowledge management system	
		Training and HRD networking	
	Strengthen inter-cooperation	Networking of business interests	
		Exchange/ exposure missions	
GOVERNANCE: Strengthen ICA's Sustainability Through Financial Capacity, Good Governance and a Committed People Base.	Consolidate and build strategic alliances/networks.	Trade forum/ Coop forum/ Coop-Govt. forum	
		System preferences for cooperatives	
	Seek significant funding from alternative sources.	Sales of services	
		Foster partnership	
	Maximise effectiveness and good governance of all ICA.	Development cooperation	
		Improve governance regime	
		Membership policy	
	Build skills appropriate to roles and responsibilities.	Human Resource policy	
	Strengthen the organizational development of ICA.	Effective organizational structure & policy	
		Restructuring initiatives	
		Statutory obligations	

Constitution of the ICA Asia Pacific Committee on Co-operative Research

Preamble

This Committee is a Thematic Committee of the International Co-operative Alliance and shall function in accordance with the aims and objectives of the ICA and the policies and decisions of the ICA Regional Assembly.

Article 1: Name

The name of the Committee shall be "The ICA Asia Pacific Committee on Co-operative Research". It will be referred to as the Research Committee.

Article 2: Aim and Objective

To promote and support the initiation and furtherance of research activities within co-operatives and research organizations at regional, national and local levels, so as to enhance their social and economic effectiveness.

Article 3: Functions

The functions of the Research Committee shall be:

- a. to promote the systematic dissemination of information on the significance of research for co-operatives and co-operative organizations and to promote research activities wherever relevant;
- b. to help further the development of appropriate research frameworks within the regions of the ICA;
- c. to ensure the inclusion of research related activities as an integral element on the agendas of ICA Regional Assemblies;
- d. to facilitate effective interaction among the ICA global research framework, including the organization of joint conferences;
- e. to establish effective network relationships among all relevant bodies within and outside of ICA engaged in co-operative research;
- f. to facilitate through such network relationships the exchange of experience, research papers, information and other relevant elements among institutions and bodies concerned with co-operative research;
- g. to initiate contact and interaction with relevant non-ICA frameworks concerned with co-operative research including those drawn from the academic world, from the world of international organizations and civil society, communities, etc.;
- h. to develop effective working relationships with other ICA thematic committees, particularly with the committees concerned with HRD;

ANNEXURE - 5

- i. to carry out any other activities relevant and/or conducive to the promotion and furtherance of the aims and objectives of the Research Committee.

Article 4: Membership

- a. The members of the Research Committee shall be persons responsible for and actively involved in co-operative research;
- b. In general, representatives from ICA members may be invited to participate in Research Committee meetings and/or activities;
- c. The ICA Regional Director, or nominees designated by him or her, shall be invited to attend meetings of the Research Committee;
- d. Chairpersons and Secretaries of global and other regional research committees shall be invited to attend meetings of the Research Committee;
- e. The secretariat shall keep a register of members;
- f. There will be no annual membership fee. However, participation in activities may carry a fee to be determined from time to time.

Article 5: Office

The office of the Research Committee shall be that of the ICA regional office in Delhi unless a decision is taken by the Committee and approved by the ICA Regional assembly that it be located elsewhere.

Article 6: Officers

- a. The Research Committee shall elect a Steering Committee consisting of a Chairperson, Vice Chairpersons, a Secretary and other Committee members.
- b. Steering Committee members shall serve for a period of four years. Elections shall be held at every fourth year. Retiring officers shall be eligible for reelection.
- c. Chairperson is responsible for convening and presiding over the meetings of the Research Committee and the Steering Committee.
- d. Chairperson is to serve as a liaison officer with the ICA Asia Pacific and the ICA global Research Committee.

Article 7: Meetings

- a. The Research Committee shall meet regularly biennially at the time and place of the Asian Co-operative Research Conferences and places when necessary.
- b. The Steering Committee shall communicate by email. It may meet at any times and places if and when necessary.
- c. Meetings of the Research Committee shall be convened by the Chairperson. The Secretary of the Research Committee shall inform members in good time of the date, place and agenda of the meetings and shall provide them with relevant reports, background material, etc. Meetings of the Steering Committee shall be convened by the Chairperson. The Secretary shall inform Steering Committee

members in good time of the date, place and agenda of the meetings and provide them with relevant reports, background material, etc.

- d. The language of the meetings of the Research Committee and its Steering Committee shall be English. Participants requiring interpretation in any other language may be accompanied by personal interpreters at their own expense.
- e. The quorum of the Research Committee shall consist of members from seven countries. The quorum for a meeting of the Steering committee shall consist of four members. In the absence of the Chairperson, one of the Vice Chairpersons shall chair the meetings of the Research Committee and/or of the Steering Committee. In the absence of both the Chairperson and the Vice Chairpersons, members of the Research Committee shall elect a member to serve as chairperson for the meeting.

Article 8: Reporting

- a. The Research Committee shall report to each session of the Regional Assembly as to its activities, programmes, etc.
- b. Written reports shall be submitted to appropriate ICA bodies as requested and/or required.
- c. The Steering Committee shall report, verbally and in writing, to each of the meetings of the Research Committee on its activities, and in between meetings on matters of importance using various means of communication.

Article 9: Financing

- a. Participation in meetings and activities of the Research Committee and its Steering Committee shall be on a self-financing basis.
- b. As an ICA Thematic Committee, the Research Committee will seek appropriate institutional support from ICA when relevant.

Article 10: Amendments

Amendments to this document shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Research Committee present and shall become operative after they have been approved by the ICA Standing Committee.

Adopted: August 16, 2006

ANNEXURE - 6

CONSTITUTION OF THE ICA COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY/CAMPUS CO-OPERATIVES FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

PREAMBLE

This Committee is being formed to take initiatives in the development of co-operatives in educational institutions in Asia and the Pacific Region. It shall be a Committee of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia-Pacific.

Article 1: Name

- 1.1 The name of the Committee shall be "**ICA Committee on University / Campus Co-operatives for Asia and the Pacific**". Hereinafter, it will be referred to as the "Committee" and for all transactions, shortly referred to as **University/Campus Committee**.

Article 2: Area of Operation

- 2.1 The area of operations of the Committee shall be in Asia and the Pacific Region i.e. area covered by the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Article 3: Objectives

- 3.1 The main objective of the Committee shall be to promote the growth and development of co-operatives in educational institutions (university/college/high school) in pursuance with the objectives of the ICA-AP.
Specifically, it aims to undertake the following objectives:
 - 3.1.1 To promote university/campus co-operatives realize a satisfactory campus life and contribute to the development of students and the educational institution.
 - 3.1.2 To encourage exchanges of information of activities, knowledge and know-how and to develop businesses, services and activities of co-operatives.
 - 3.1.3 To empower students, faculty members and staff to be effective and efficient co-operative leaders.
 - 3.1.4 To promote the idea of university/campus co-operatives and to assist in the organization of new university/campus co-operatives.
 - 3.1.5 To assist in the strengthening, reconstruction and rehabilitation of existing university/campus co-operatives.

- 3.1.6 To promote the betterment of the environment, communities and peace.
- 3.1.7 To encourage exchanges and promote linkages among university/campus co-operatives and educational institutions at all levels (i.e. local, national, regional and global).

Article 4: Activities

- 4.1 The activities of the Committee shall be as follows:
 - 4.1.1 The Committee shall have its meeting at least once a year and shall issue Newsletters either electronically or in printed form.
 - 4.1.2 The Committee shall arrange activities or programs for promoting and developing university/campus co-operatives in coordination with the ICA and other institutions;
 - 4.1.3 The Committee shall liaise with national, regional or global organizations in pursuance with its objectives.
 - 4.1.4 The activities of the Committee shall be reported to the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific.

Article 5: Membership

- 5.1 The members of the Committee shall consist of representatives from university/campus co-operative network organizations in the region:
 - a) National Apex organization of university/campus co-operatives
 - b) Secondary/regional level organizations of university/campus co-operatives in the absence of (a)
 - c) Representative approved by the Committee in the absence of (a) and (b).
- 5.2 Each member organization shall be represented by one person in the Committee.
- 5.3 The admission or resignation of the members of the Committee shall be discussed and approved in the meeting of the Committee.

Article 6: Office

- 6.1 The Office of the Committee shall be at the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Article 7: Meetings

- 7.1 The Meetings of the Committee shall be held at least once every year. It shall be convened by the Secretary who shall also furnish the Committee with a report on the activities.
- 7.2 The proceedings of the meetings of the Committee shall be conducted in English. Participants requiring interpretation in another language may be accompanied by personal interpreters at their own cost.

- 7.3 The representative of the member organization present in the meeting shall be entitled to one vote.
- 7.4 Members who have not paid their annual membership dues to the Committee shall not be entitled to vote.
- 7.5 Eminent academicians/administrators of the educational institutions may be invited to the meetings of the Committee as observers or speakers. The observers shall not have any voting rights.
- 7.6 A quorum shall be at least three members.

Article 8: Officers

- 8.1 The Committee shall elect a Chairperson and two Vice Chairpersons, with due consideration to gender parity. The term of office shall be from the ICA Regional Assembly to the next. Retiring office bearers shall be eligible for re-election.
- 8.2 The Project Director/Officer of the ICA University/Campus Co-operative Development Project for Asia and the Pacific shall function as the Secretary of the Committee.
- 8.3 The Committee shall have Co-Secretaries to assist the Secretary, whenever necessary.
- 8.4 In the absence of the Chairperson in the meeting, the Committee shall elect a Chair from among the members present to conduct the proceedings of the meeting.

Article 9: Finances

- 9.1 The funds needed to meet the expenditures of the meetings and activities of the Committee shall be derived from:
 - a) The annual membership fee of US\$ 100 from each member organization.
 - b) The annual project fund of the ICA University/Campus Co-operative Development Project for Asia and the Pacific.
 - c) Other contributions.
- 9.2 The financial year of the Committee shall be one calendar year.

Article 10: Amendments

- 10.1 Any amendment to the Constitution of the Committee shall be tabled, discussed and endorsed by the Committee.
- 10.2 This amendment shall take effect upon the approval by the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific.

8th Ministers Conference on Cooperative Legislation and Policy

Kuala Lumpur Declaration

- **Noting** the multi-dimensional impact of globalization on the socio-economic lives of peoples of Asia and Pacific and their institutions particularly cooperatives;
- **Taking** note that while globalization and liberalization of national economies has resulted in enhanced economic growth and prosperity, its gains have not been equitably distributed among the people particularly the poorer and more vulnerable sections of the community;
- **Appreciating** the desire of the Cooperative Movement to participate in the developmental process in harnessing the gains of globalization aimed at poverty reduction, employment generation and equitable national development ;
- **Realizing** the importance of enabling cooperative legislation and policies for creating conducive environment for development of cooperatives;
- **Appreciating** the role of ICA to continuously facilitating the dialogue between the Cooperatives and the Governments to enhance the role of cooperatives for the economic growth and prosperity in the region.

We, the participants of the 8th Ministers Conference on “Cooperative Legislation and Policy” held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 12-15 March 2007:

Urge upon the Governments to catalyze the process of re-orienting the Cooperative Legislation and Policy to strengthen apolitical and autonomous character of cooperatives and to provide a positive level playing field to cooperatives to enable them to compete in the globalised market.

Call upon the Cooperative Movements to contribute effectively in the process of economic development, amongst others, by organizing small producers including farmers, workers and protecting consumers through self-help mode and also ensuring increased participation of women and youth in the cooperatives.

Exhort Cooperatives and Governments to strengthen management capacity, participatory governance and fair business relationship for ensuring healthy functioning of cooperative system through innovative strategies.

Calls upon Cooperatives and Governments in the region to periodically review the efficacy/effectiveness of Cooperative Legislation and Policy as well as to introduce appropriate reforms considering the dynamic changes and trends emerging in their respective national economies.

ANNEXURE - 7

Recognizing cooperatives are an important and significant sector of the national economy effectively contributing to its development, **we affirm our support** for the Cooperative Movement as a sustainable and efficient institution through:

1. Encouragement of cooperative entrepreneurship by inculcating entrepreneurial spirit and skills among the members, leaders and managers of the cooperatives through education and training.
2. Attainment of economies of scale and strategic business alliances among cooperatives both domestically and internationally.
3. Role clarity among different tiers to enhance impact of the Cooperative Movement.
4. Harnessing the gains of the fair globalization and liberalization for the benefit of members.

9th April 2007

ICA Co-operative Identity Statement

DEFINITION

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

VALUES

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

PRINCIPLES

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

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

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

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

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

Fifth Principle: Education, Training and Information: Co-operative provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees, so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their Co-operatives. They inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of Co-operation.

Sixth Principle: Co-operation among Co-operatives: Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the Co-operative Movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

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

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