

**Minutes of the  
2nd Meeting of the  
ICA Regional Assembly  
for Asia and the Pacific**

Petaling Jaya (Malaysia) : 13-14 June 1996

334(595)  
ICA.



**International Cooperative Alliance**

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

"Bonow House", 43 Friends Colony

New Delhi-110065. India.

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING  
OF THE ICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR ASIA & THE PACIFIC  
Petaling Jaya, Malaysia : 13-14 June 1996**

Agenda Item No.1 : Opening Session

The Second Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific was held at Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, on 13th & 14th June, 1996. 166 delegates/observers from 22 countries viz. Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Sweden, England and Hungary attended the meeting. In addition, special invitees from IDACA and ILO Coopnet Project also attended the meeting. The list of participants of the meeting is annexed (Annex-1).

The inaugural session started with a prayer followed by welcome address by Royal Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, President of ANGKASA, and addresses by Mr. Graham Melmoth, President of ICA and Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, Chairman, ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific.

The Meeting was then inaugurated by the Hon'ble Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia. Hon'ble Datuk Osu Haji Sukam, Minister of Land & Cooperative Development, Government of Malaysia, and other senior officials were also present.

Full text of the speeches delivered at the inaugural session are annexed to the minutes. (Annex 2-5).

Agenda Item No.2 : Election of Chairperson & Vice Chairperson

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, Royal Prof. Ungku Aziz, Malaysia, was elected as Chairman of the Regional Assembly for the next two years, who took the chair. Thereafter Mr. Shahid Ullah, Bangladesh, was elected Vice-Chairman.

On being elected as Chairman, Royal Prof. Ungku Aziz said that he was honoured to be the Chairman and that he will try to do his best to conduct the meeting.

Agenda Item No.3 : Greetings

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director-General, ICA, extended greetings from Geneva and said that he along with other staff of ICA, were happy to be present at the meeting.

The Chairman informed the meeting that Mr. H. Toyoda, Vice President, ICA, could not attend the meeting as he met with an accident while returning from the meeting of the ICA Board in Beijing (China). The Chairman and members expressed their concern and wished speedy recovery to Mr. Toyoda.

Agenda Item No.4 : Approval of the Agenda

The items listed in the agenda were approved.

Agenda Item No.5 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Regional Assembly Meeting held in New Delhi on January 5 & 6, 1995

The Minutes of the ICA Regional Assembly Meeting held in New Delhi (India) on 5th & 6th January 1995 were confirmed.

Agenda Item No.6 : Review of the action taken on the minutes of the First Meeting held in January 1995

The RD reported on the action taken on the minutes of the First Meeting of the Regional Assembly held in New Delhi in January 1995, which was noted.

Agenda Item No.7 : Review the membership and subscription from the Region

The information given in the agenda notes was perused.

The Secretary informed the meeting that during the last three years there have been marked increase in the subscription from the region.

Agenda Item No.8 : To prescribe the subscription fee for Associate Members and Observers in the Regional Assembly under Rule 4

Initiating the discussion on the agenda, Dr. Mohinder Singh, delegate from Malaysia, inquired whether the members of the ICA who have left or may leave could be admitted as associate members. The Secretary clarified that as per the recommendations of the Executive Council in Bangalore the existing members who may leave the ICA would not be entitled to be enrolled as associate members.

The Chairman stated that ability to pay between different cooperatives and different countries is very diversified and it was necessary for the ICA to do everything possible to bring in all the countries under the ICA fold where there are cooperative movement. If within the existing membership of ICA, some member finds itself in difficult situation and want to change their status due to their weak financial position, their request should be considered on case to case basis by the Executive Council.

Dr. S.S. Sisodia, delegate from India, said that our main objective should not be the subscription but we must keep in mind that more and more cooperatives should be given an opportunity at the national, regional and global levels to participate. So the rules and regulations should be flexible and liberal to allow organisations to come and join the regional organisation.

The RD suggested that in case an existing ICA member leaves ICA due to financial constraints, its request might be considered on merits. The case may be examined as to why the member is leaving and if it really had financial problem due to which it could not

continue to pay the full membership subscription, their request may be considered for admission as associate members.

The RA accepted the proposal given in the agenda notes for subscription as under and authorised the Executive Council, to consider the applications;

Associate Members	:	USD 1000
Observers	:	USD 3000
Special Invitees	:	No fee

The cases of ex-members of ICA could also be considered by the Council after analysing the circumstances and constraints for leaving the ICA membership on merits. All such cases will subsequently be reported at meeting of the Regional Assembly.

Agenda Item No.9 : Consideration of the Report of the Advisory Committee on the Policy and Direction of ICA ROAP appointed by the Regional Assembly in January 1995

Dr. Y. Paz, delegate from Israel as also member of the Advisory Committee, briefly explained the contents, thinking and approach of the Advisory Committee Report.

The Regional Director informed that this report has been the guideline for planning our next draft four year plan. Because of reduced financial contribution by SCC and CCA financial resources are declining every year and ROAP will have to be more self-reliant. Keeping this situation in view the committee had recommended that the members from region may contribute 10% of their subscription to the ICA for the ROAP. The main emphasis of 10% is for members who are not paying any contribution to the ROAP or who are subscribing only nominal subscription. He further stated that this matter was discussed with Japanese friends and one alternative arrived is to make it, 10% or USD 10,000, whichever is less. In that case, 10% will be applicable only to those members who are not paying or paying less than USD 10,000. The additional contribution which the ROAP is expected to receive as a consequence of this 10% formula will be about SFR 44,000. This amount will be just to meet the cost of some of the deficit of the ROAP which it will have to face as a consequence of reduced service charges from SCC and CCA whose project funding will be reduced from 1997.

With regard to the recommendation that a small group consisting of members of the Board from the region viz. Vice President of ICA from Japan, China, India, Israel and the Chairman of the Regional Assembly which could advise the ROAP from time to time in between the meetings of the Executive Council/Regional Assembly, Dr. Mohinder Singh, Malaysia, said that we must avoid expanding and creating big infrastructure with several more committees. He was against creation of many committees. He stated that ROAP should be action-oriented at ground level. The communication system is so good that one could meet without meeting through quick communication to avoid crating additional work of calling meeting.

The Chairman said that there is a need that the ROAP be guided in more focused way by the movements in the region. So this new structure does not create any new committees. He felt that there was a need for one body to oversee the work of the ROAP.

Interventions were made by delegates from Japan (Mr. H. Nishido), Sri Lanka (Mr. P.A. Kiriwadeniya), India (Dr S.S. Sisodia).

The Chairman further stated that among other things, the main aim of the standing committee will be to oversee in some detail the work of the ROAP. It may also report on the financial affairs of the ICA in Asia and the Pacific. It could be the liaison committee to inform the Executive Council and the Regional Assembly as to what is happening and what kind of problems have to be dealt with.

Dr. Mohinder Singh, Malaysia further, said that in the interim we can decide on guidelines of the role the committee has to play and subsequently the committee could come up with terms of reference which could be presented to the Executive Council for endorsement. He suggested that the committee should : (i) monitor the finances of the ROAP; & (ii) monitor the implementation of the major programmes.

Dr. Sisodia, India, felt that it will be very difficult to specifically identify or earmark the functions of this committee. We should leave it to the Executive Council and authorize them to give the terms of reference, jurisdiction, the work on which the committee may concentrate, workable suggestions and solutions in this connection.

The Regional Director clarified that the Assembly/Council could delegate only its own powers to the committee and not beyond.

The Chairman said that we recognise existing powers of the authority within the ICA structure.

After discussions it was agreed that a standing committee of the Executive Council be formed with the following members:-

1. Mr. H. Toyoda, Vice President, ICA
2. Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, Chairman, Regional Assembly
3. Mr. Yang Deshou, China, Member of Board
4. Mr. Y. Paz, Israel, Member of Board
5. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, India, Member of Board

The Committee may work out its terms of reference and put up to the Executive Council for approval.

It was further decided that the working of this committee will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Regional Assembly.

Dr. V. Kumar, delegate from India, suggested that the ICA ROAP should support the creation of model joint venture cooperatives on the basis of the experience of successful cooperatives and thus unite the cooperative movements through its members and act as the spokesman on behalf of the cooperatives in the region at different levels. He mentioned IFFCO as an example which was established in 1960 with the efforts of CLUSA.

Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, India, requested the President of ICA to consider two recommendation of the committee namely : (i) 50% of the contribution from Asia-Pacific Region should come to the ROAP, and (ii) instead of four members of the ICA Board from the Asia-Pacific Region, there should be six members, including one Vice President. It was clarified by the President that these suggestions would be considered by the special

committee appointed by the Board along with other issues.

The RA accepted the Report of the Working Committee on the Policy and Direction of ICA ROAP. The RA also thanked the members of the Advisory Committee for doing excellent work.

Agenda Item No.10 : Reports by Specialised Committees

The Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson/Secretaries of the Specialised Committees on Agriculture, Consumer, Fisheries, HRD, and Women's Global Committee reported on the activities of their respective committees since the last meeting of the RA. The Chairman of HRD committee also explained the changes in the constitution of HRD Committee based on model constitution which was also approved.

Agenda Item No.11 : To consider the draft Four Year Regional Development Plan of ICA ROAP appointed (1997-2000)

The Secretary presented to the meeting the draft Four Year Regional Development Plan of ICA ROAP (1997-2000) which will be finalised in the planning meeting to be held on 16th and 17th June, 1996

Agenda Item No.12 : Report on IDACA Activities

Mr. Y. Nakaoka, Managing Director, IDACA, reported on the IDACA Activities completed during the year 1995-96 and planned for financial year 1996-97. He thanked all the members for their collaboration and wished that similar cooperation and support will be extended to IDACA activities in the coming years.

Agenda Item No.13 : Model Constitution for Adoption by Specialised Regional Committees

The RA approved the model constitution for adoption by the Specialised Regional Committees, as suggested in the agenda notes.

Agenda Item No.14 : To consider proposal for formation of ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and the Pacific

The RA approved the proposal for formation of ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and the Pacific as proposed by Hon. Senator Hajjah Rahaiah Baهران, Vice President, ANGKASA. The Chairman said that ANGKASA will do its best to provide adequate funding resources to make this committee operational as at present ROAP has no funds on this account.

It was further decided to set up a working committee that will draft the constitution based on the model constitution that has already been approved under Agenda Item No. 13. The countries represented on this working committee will be : Malaysia, Bangladesh, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan.

**Agenda Item No.15 : Consideration of the Statement on identity of Cooperatives as approved by Manchester ICA Congress**

The RA discussed the Statement on Identity of Cooperatives as approved by Manchester ICA Congress. The Chairman suggested to make aware not only the leaders but every member of the cooperative movement in the respective countries of this Statement of Identity. Many members explained the steps being taken to translate the Identity Statement into local languages and initiated various campaigns to familiarise people with the principles and try to get them included into the respective laws of the member countries.

**Agenda Item No. 16 : Progress on Fourth Cooperative Ministers, Thailand, 1997**

The Secretary reported on the progress of the Fourth Cooperative Ministers' Conference to be held in Thailand in 1997. He informed that it is proposed to have the conference in March 1997 in Thailand in collaboration with the Cooperative Promotion Department and the CLT.

Mr. Robby Tulus, ROAP, briefed that the Regional Consultation will be held in Myanmar in October-November 1996. The following two Symposiums will precede the Regional Consultation and the Fourth Cooperative Ministers Conference:

(i) "The Impact of Economic Globalization on the Competitive Strength of Cooperative Finance and Banking" to be held in Goa, India, from August 5-9, 1996, and (ii) "The Impact of Globalization on the Competitive Strength of AGRI-BUSINESS Cooperatives" to be held in Bandung, Indonesia in 1996. It was recommended that one session on Cooperative Identity and another one on ICA ROAP programmes be included in the agenda of the Cooperative Ministers' Conference.

**Agenda Item No.17 : Nomination of a candidate for election as ICA Vice President from Asia Pacific Region in General Assembly 1997 Meeting**

The Chairman stated that we should record our sympathy for Mr. Toyoda, Vice President, ICA, who unfortunately could not be here due to no fault of his own. He was involved in an accident and is having medical treatment. The doctors have advised him not to travel. Otherwise he is quite healthy. We hope he will be completely recovered soon.

In the absence of Mr. Toyoda, it was decided to defer this item on the agenda to the next meeting of the Executive Council where Mr. Toyoda could be present. The Chairman further said that we respect the wishes of the Japanese delegation to have Mr. Toyoda as Vice Chairman. The RA deferred the decision on this agenda and authorised the Executive Council Meeting in Thailand in March, 1997 to nominate the Vice Chairman for election in Global Assembly meeting in Israel in 1997.

**Agenda Item No.18 : Any other item with the permission of the Chair**

i) **Proposal for creation of a Regional Housing Committee**

The information given in the agenda was noted.

The delegate from Bangladesh proposed the formation of the Regional Housing Committee which was seconded by delegate from Malaysia.

The RA approved the proposal for a regional housing committee and appointed a committee which will work on the constitution, programme of work and sources of funds etc. The committee will consist of representatives from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Malaysia which was formed to work out the above details.

The proposal of the delegate from Sind Govt Employees Cooperative Housing Society of Pakistan on Low Cost Housing was referred to the above committee.

Ms. Katarina Apelqvist, Chairperson, ICA Global Women's Committee, also addressed the Assembly emphasizing the need for gender integration in the Constitutions of various specialised Committees.

ii) **New Regional Director of ICA ROAP**

Mr. Graham Melmoth, President, ICA, announced at the meeting the appointment of Mr. Robby Tulus, as Regional Director-designate of the ROAP and placed on record the appreciation for the contribution made by Mr. G.K.Sharma to the ICA particularly during the difficult time ICA ROAP was passing in the late eighties. The exact dates of change would be worked out shortly. (copy of remarks annexed Annex -6)

Mr. Sharma on his part thanked all the members and ICA officials for this support during the tenure as Regional Director.

Agenda Item No.19 : Venue and Date of the next meeting

Mr. Shahid Ullah, delegate from Bangladesh, proposed that the 1998 Regional Assembly be held in Bangladesh. This was accepted by the RA. The date will be finalised by the Secretariat in consultation with host movement.

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

**G.K. Sharma**  
Secretary/RD

1st August, 1996



Second Meeting of the  
ICA Regional Assembly for Asia & the Pacific  
Petaling Jaya (Malaysia) : 13-15 June 1996

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

<u>Country</u>		<u>Name with Address</u>	<u>Delegate/Observer</u>
AUSTRALIA	01.	Mr. Garry Cronan Manager, Co-ops. Development Department of Consumer Affairs Registry of Cooperatives P.O. Box 901 Bankstown NSW 2200 Australia	Observer
BANGLADESH	02.	Mr. Shahid Ullah Ahmed General Secretary Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union (BJSU) "Samabaya Sadan" 1st floor 9/D Motijheel Commerical Area Dhaka 1000. Bangladesh	Delegate
	03.	Mr. Nurul Alam Director Bangladesh Coop Bank & Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union 9/D Motijheel Commercial Area Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh	Observer
CHINA	04.	Mr. Yang Deshou Vice President Supervisory Committee All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC) 45, Fu Xing Men Nei Street Beijing 100 801 China.	Delegate
	05.	Mr. Li Bao Rong All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC) 45, Fu Xing Men Nei Street Beijing 100 801 China	Delegate

	06.	Mr. Rong Jun All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC) 45, Fu Xing Men Nei Street Beijing 100 801 China	Delegate
INDIA	07.	Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan President National Cooperative Union of India 3, Siri Institutional Area New Delhi 110-016, India	Delegate
	08.	Mr. B.D. Sharma Chief Executive National Cooperative Union of India, 3, Siri Institutional Area New Delhi-110-016, India	Observer
	09.	Dr. S.S. Sisodia Chairman National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks & Credit Societies, B-14, 3rd Floor, A Block Shopping Complex, Naraina Vihar, Ring Road, New Delhi-110-028, India	Delegate
	10.	Shri H.C.Malhotra Marketing Director KRIBHCO A-10, Sector-1 NOIDA 301-201. UP India	Delegate
	11.	Mr. S.C. Kulshreshtha General Manager KRIBHCO 49-50 Red Rose House Nehru Place, New Delhi 19 India	Observer
	12.	Mr. Ravi Shanker General Manager National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd, Post Box 79, Anand 388 001 India	Delegate

	13.	Dr. V. Kumar Marketing Director IFFCO 53-54 Nehru Place New Delhi 19, India	Delegate
	14.	Mr. Indu Bhusan Executive Director IFFCO 34, Nehru Place New Delhi	Observer
	15.	Mr. S.R. Kakar Administrator Delhi Consumers Coop Wholesale Store Karampura Road, Moti Nagar, New Delhi 110015, India	Observer
INDONESIA	16.	Mr. Mohammad Iqbal Chairman Dewan Koperasi Indonesia (Dekopin) Jalan Letjen S. Parman Kav. 80 Slipi Jakarta Barat 11420, Indonesia	Delegate
	17.	Dr. Saleh Syafradji Head of Research & Development Indonesian Work Coop Alliance J.I. Tebet Barat Dalam Raya No. 15, Jakarta Selatan 12810 Jakarta, Indonesia	Observer
IRAN	18.	HE Dr Hossein Nejabat Managing Director Central Organisation for Rural Coops of Iran, 753, Valli-e-Asr-Avenue Tehran 15948, Iran	Delegate
	19.	Mr. Mohammad Karim Biki Firouzabadi Managing Director Central Union of Rural Cooperatives No. 78, North Felestin Avenue P.O. Box 14155/6413 Tehran, Iran	Delegate
	20.	Mr Morteza Malakzadeh Chairman Central Union of Rural and Agricultural Coops of Iran No. 78, North Felestin Avenue P.O. Box 14155/6413 Tehran, Iran.	Observer

	21.	Mr. Mohd. Bagher Solaiman Tabibi, Member-Board of Directors Central Union of Rural and Agricultural Cooperatives of Iran No. 78, North Felestin Avenue P.O. Box 14155/6413 Tehran, Iran.	Observer
ISRAEL	22.	Mr. Yehudah Paz Director & Principal The International Institute (HISTADRUT) Levinson College Bet Berl Kfar Saba 44905. Israel	Delegate
	23.	Dr. Ben-Ami Zuckerman Managing Director HEVRAT'OVDIM General Cooperative of Labour in Israel Ltd., 8 Shaul Hamelech Blvd, 64733, Tel Aviv, Israel	Delegate
	24.	Mr. Izhak Iche Menachem Chairman Central Union of Coops Soc. in Israel 24, Haarbaa St. Tel-Aviv 61071, Israel	Delegate
	25.	Mr. Samuel Halifa Member of Board of Directors Israel Transport Coop Soc. Ltd. 208 Jaffa St. P.O. Box 13178 Jerusalem 91012, Israel	Delegate
JAPAN	26.	Mr. Tadashi Torii Executive Director Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (JA-ZENCHU) 8-3, 1-chome, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo (Japan)	Delegate
	27.	Mr. Hiroshi Nishido General Manager International Department Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (JA-ZENCHU) 8-3, 1-chome, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan	Observer

28. Mr. Naoki Higuchi Observer  
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30. Mrs. Natsuko Yuasa Observer  
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34. Mr. M.Ohya Observer  
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36. Mr. Minoru Matsumoto Delegate  
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|-------|--|-------------|
| 43.   | Mr. Sakae Akagi<br>Managing Director<br>The Norinchukin Bank<br>13-2 Yurakucho, 1-chome,<br>Chiyodoa-ku, Tokyo 100, Japan  | Delegate    |
| 44.   | Mr. Susumu Chiba<br>Manager of Singapore Branch<br>The Norinchukin Bank<br>80, Raffles Place #53-01<br>UOB Plaza 1, Singapore 0104   | Observer    |
| 45.   | Mr. Kinai Nubou<br>Managing Director<br>National Press & Information Federation<br>of Agricultural Cooperatives<br>2-3 Akihabara Taito-ku<br>Tokyo, Japan                              | Delegate    |
| 46.   | Mr. Oka Hironori<br>National Press & Information Federation<br>of Agricultural Cooperatives<br>2-3 Akihabara Taito-ku<br>Tokyo, Japan  | Observer    |
| 47.   | Mr. Masaaki Sato<br>General Manager<br>National Federation of Fisheries<br>Coop Association (Zengyoren)<br>Coop Bldg., 7th Floor,<br>1-1-12 Uchikanda, Chiyoda-ku,<br>Tokyo 101, Japan | Delegate    |
| 48.   | Ms. Sachiko Tanaka<br>c/o JA-ZENCHU<br>Tokyo, Japan  | Interpreter |
| 49.   | Ms. Utako Kihara<br>c/o JA-ZENCHU<br>Tokyo, Japan  | Interpreter |
| 50.   | Ms. Sumiko Ishikawa<br>c/o JA-ZENCHU<br>Tokyo, Japan   | Interpreter |
| KOREA | 51. Mr. Churll-Hee Won<br>Chairman & President<br>National Agricultural<br>Cooperative Federation (NACF)<br>75, 1-ka, Chung-Jeong-Ro,<br>Jung-ku, Seoul 100-707, Korea                 | Delegate    |

52. Mr. Won-Ho Suh Delegate  
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57. Mr. Doo Kyu Chang Delegate  
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58. Mr. Hyung Sang Cho Delegate  
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	60.	Mr. Jung Suk Kang Korean Federation of Community Credit Cooperatives, 1093, Hwagok-Dong, Kang Seo-ku, Seoul, Korea	Observer
	61.	Mr. Jeong Goo Kim Korean Federation of Community Credit Cooperatives, 1093, Hwagok-Dong, Kang Seo-ku, Seoul, Korea	Observer
	62.	Mr. Kyung Shick Lim Korean Federation of Community Credit Cooperatives, 1093, Hwagok-Dong, Kang Seo-ku, Seoul, Korea	Observer
	63.	Mr. Lee Youn Jong President National Forestry Coop Federation 111-5, Samjeon-Dong Songpa-ku, Seoul, Korea	Observer
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	65.	Mr. Mohamad Ali Al-Kandari Under Secretary (Ministry of Social Affairs), c/o Union of Consumer Coop Societies PO Box 1836, Sanaa Street Safat 13019, Kuwait	Observer
	66.	Mr. Ahmed Mohamad Thayab Chief - Financial Supervision (Ministry of Social Affairs) <i>c/o Union of Consumer Coop Societies</i> <i>PO Box 1836, Sanaa Street</i> <i>Safat 13019, Kuwait</i>	Observer

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	68.	Dr. Mohd Ali Baharum Deputy President c/o Koperasi Belia Islam Malaysia Bhd 64A Jalan Kg Attap, P.O. Box 12789, 50460 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Observer
	69.	Tan Sri Datuk Arshad Ayub Vice President c/o Bapema Corporation Sdn Bhd Tingkat 19, Bangunan UMBC Jalan Sulaiman 50000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Observer
	70.	Hon. Senator HJH Rahaiah Baهران Vice President Baitul Hasanah No.30 Kg Sayong Tengah 33040 Kuala Kangsar Perak	Observer
	71.	Dato Hj Sahabuddin Shafie Vice President RD 34 Jln Anggerik Taman Uda Jaya 68000 Ampung Kuala Lumpur	Observer
	72.	Dato Syed Azman Syed Mohamed Pejabat ANgkasa Negeri No.22 Jalan Kenas Tmn Jasa 1 33000 Kuala Kangsar Perak	Observer
	73.	Mr Hj ABD Samad Bakar Pejabat ANgkasa Negeri 18A Jalan Dato Keramat 10150 Pulau Pinang	Observer
	74.	Mr. Hj ABD Kadir Mohd Noor Pejabat Angkasa Negeri 18A Jalan Dato Keramat 10150 Pulau Pinang	Observer

75. Mr. Hj Mohamed Jais Hassan Observer  
Pejabat Angkasa Negeri  
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76. Mr. Hj Otham Hj Hashim Observer  
Pejabat Angkasa Negeri  
Bangunan Koperasi Jabatan Perubatan  
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77. Mr. Hj Hassan Basri Abd Karim Observer  
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78. Mr. Hj Zulkifli Yusoff Observer  
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79. Mr. Hj Hasan Hj Omar Observer  
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80. Mr. Hj Aziz Hj Ibrahim Observer  
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81. Mr. Syed Abdullah Syed Abu Bakar Observer  
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90. Mr.B. Sahadevan Observer  
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91. Toh P. U. Sundari Sambanthan Observer  
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92. Mr.P. Vadivelu Observer  
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93. Mr. C. Krishnan Observer  
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94. Hon.Dato' Dr. T. Marimuthu Observer  
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99. Mr. Cheah Kok Kheng Observer  
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102. Mr. Arumugam Observer  
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106. Mr. Khedir Abdullah Observer  
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112. Mr. Hj Abd Rahma Hj Hussein Observer  
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114. Mr. Frankie Ma Teck Fei Observer  
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115. Mr Hj Wan Ahmad Nasir Hj Observer  
Wan Hassan  
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116. Prof Madya Hj Mohamad Ali Hasan Observer  
Malaysian Coop Supermarket Soc Ltd.  
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|------|---|----------|
| 117. | Mr. Nor Hazani Mat Daud<br>Koperasi Pegawai-Pegawai Kerajaan<br>Selangor dan Wilayah Persekutuan<br>(KOSWIP)  | Observer |
| 118. | Mr. Hj Roslan Abd Rashid<br>Koperasi Pegawai-Pegawai Kerajaan<br>Selangor dan Wilayah Persekutuan<br>(KOSWIP)   | Observer |
| 119. | Mr. Hj Mohd Zahir Osman<br>Chairman<br>Koperasi Pekerja-Pekerja JPM<br>No. 15 - 3 Jln Desa Pandan 5/76B<br>Desa Pandan 55100 Kuala Lumpur<br>Malaysia | Observer |
| 120. | Mr. Zakaria<br>MOCCIS   | Observer |
| 121. | Mr. Abdul Sham<br>MOCCIS  | Observer |
| 122. | Mr. Hj Abd Manan Nasri<br>Koperasi Pegawai-Pegawai<br>Kerajaan Taiping Bhd<br>21, Jln Stesar P.S. 13<br>34007 Taiping Perak, Malaysia                 | Observer |
| 123. | Mr. Mohd Noor Rashid<br>Koperasi Pegawai-Pegawai<br>Kerajaan Taiping Bhd<br>21, Jln Stesar P.S. 13<br>34007 Taiping Perak, Malaysia                   | Observer |
| 124. | Mr. Liew Kok Keng<br>Koperasi Serbaguna<br>Cheras Jaya Berhad   | Observer |
| 125. | Mr. Hj Baharuddin Awang<br>Koperasi Pekebun Getah<br>Nasional Berhad (NARSCO)<br>No. 36, Jln Memanda 7<br>Ampang Point 68000<br>Ampang Selangor       | Observer |
| 126. | Mr. HJ Ghazali A. Aziz<br>Koperasi Pekebun Getah<br>Nasional Berhad (NARSCO)<br>No.36 Jln Memanda 7<br>Ampang Point 68000<br>Ampang Selangor          | Observer |



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129. Mr. Hj Abd Aziz Muda Observer  
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131. Mrs. Rabaah Hj Abd Hamid Observer  
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Seremban
132. Mr. Mohd Amin Hassan Observer  
Koperasi Pekerja Kerajaan  
Sarawak Bhd  
16-19 Wisma Koperkasa  
Jln Simpang Tiga Beg Berkunci  
93990 Kuching Sarawak
133. Mr. Hj Mohd Nusi Hj Ahmad Observer  
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16-19 Wisma Koperkasa  
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134. Mr. Hj Pi'ee Hj Razak Observer  
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135. Mrs. Masittah Ibrahim Observer  
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138. Mr. Hj Yaacob Muhammad Observer  
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140. Mr. Azahari B Ab Rashid Observer  
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141. Mrs. Meriam Abu Bakar Observer  
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143. Mr. Kyaw Myint Aung Interpreter  
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	145.	Mr. U.Z. Taseer Secretary Sind Govt. Employees Cooperative Housing Society Ltd., 558-A, Block-5, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi-47, Pakistan	Delegate
	146.	Ms. Nargis Rashid Executive Member Sind Govt. Employees Cooperative Housing Society Ltd., 558-A, Block-5, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi-47, Pakistan	Observer
PHILIPPINES	147.	Mr. F.A Bautista Jr. President Cooperative Union of the Philippines CUP Bldg, Roces Ave.Corner, Mother Ignacia Street, Quezon City, Philippines	Delegate
	148.	Mr. Raul Jacutin Chairman Del Monte Consumers Coop. c/o Cooperative Union of the Philippines CUP Bldg, Roces Ave.Corner, Mother Ignacia Street, Quezon City, Philippines	Observer
	149.	Dr. Luis Carillo Chairman NATCCO 227 JP Rizal Street Project 4 Quezon City Philippines	Delegate
SINGAPORE	150.	Mr. Lim Ho Seng Chairman Singapore National Cooperative Federation 510 Thomson Road, #12-02, SLF Bldg Singapore 1129	Delegate

SRI LANKA	151.	Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe President National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka 455 Galle Road Colombo 03 Sri Lanka	Delegate
	152.	Mr. H.S. Kariyawasam Sri Lanka Consumer Cooperative Societies Federation Ltd., No. 11 Saunders Place Colombo 12, Sri Lanka.	Delegate
	153.	Mr. A.M. Madduma Banda National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka 455 Galle Road Colombo 03 Sri Lanka	Observer
	154.	Mr. Udaya Ranjith Seneviratne Principal School of Cooperation Polgolla, Kandy, Sri Lanka	Observer
	155.	Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya President Federation of Thrift & Credit Soc. 12, Edmonton Road Colombo 6, Sri Lanka	Delegate
THAILAND	156.	Ms. Panee Thosaksith Director Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) 13 Pichai Road Dusit Bangkok, Thailand	Delegate
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	158.	Mr. Ergashkhojayev Uzbek Republican Union of Consumer Societies Amir Temur Street 60-A 700000 Tashkent, Uzbekistan	Observer

- |         |      |  |             |
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| VIETNAM | 159. | Mr. Hoang Minh Thang<br>President<br>Central Council of Cooperative Union and<br>Small & Medium Enterprises of Vietnam (VICOOPSME)<br>77 Nguyen Thai Hoc Street<br>Ba Dinh District<br>Hanoi Vietnam | Delegate    |
|         | 160. | Mr. Vu Van Luu<br>Central Council of Cooperative Union and<br>Small & Medium Enterprises of Vietnam (VICOOPSME)<br>77 Nguyen Thai Hoc Street<br>Ba Dinh District<br>Hanoi Vietnam                    | Observer    |
|         | 161. | Ms Phung Thi Ngan Ha<br>Central Council of Cooperative Union and<br>Small & Medium Enterprises of Vietnam (VICOOPSME)<br>77 Nguyen Thai Hoc Street<br>Ba Dinh District, Hanoi Vietnam                | Interpreter |

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| IDACA | 162. | Mr. Yoshitada Nakaoka<br>Managing Director<br>IDACA<br>4771, Aihara-cho, Machida-shi<br>Tokyo 194-02, Japan | Observer |
| ILO   | 163. | Mr. K.K. Taimni<br>ILO Coopnet Project<br>Pune, India   | Observer |

#### **ICA GLOBAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE**

(Executive Members)

- |  |      |  |          |
|--|------|--|----------|
|  | 164. | Ms.Katarina Apelqvist<br>Chairwoman<br>Sweden  | Observer |
|  | 165. | Ms. Susan King<br>Secretary<br>Flat 4, Ingleside Grove<br>Blackheath<br>London SE3 7PH, U.K. | Observer |

#### **FROM OUTSIDE THE REGION**

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| HUNGARY | 166. | Mr. Csoma Antal<br>President<br>National Federation of Hungarian Fish Producers<br>Vorosko 4/b<br>1126 Budapest, Hungary | Observer |
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President

Mr. Bruce Thordarson  
Director-General

Mr. Claes Thorselius  
Dy. Director-General

Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen  
HRD Director

Ms Gabriela Sozanski  
Programme Officer (Europe)

**ICA ROAP**

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Regional Director

Mr. Malte Jonsson  
Senior Development Adviser

Mr. Robby Tulus  
Senior Policy Adviser

Dr. Daman Prakash  
Project Director - AGMT

Mr W.U. Herath  
HRD/Consumer Adviser

Mr. Guo Yong Kang  
Agriculture Adviser

Ms. Akiko Yamauchi  
Gender Adviser

Mr. Prem Kumar  
Manager (Admn)

Mr. K. Kukreja  
Finance Officer

Mr. K. Sethumadhavan  
Executive Secy/Planning Officer

Mr. P. Nair  
Personal Secretary/DTP

Mr. A.K. Taneja  
Personal Secretary

## ANGKASA SECRETARIAT

01. Mr. Hj Mahmud Yusof
02. Mr. Hj Jamaluddin Hj Abd Wahab
03. Mr. Tauran Md Taha
04. Mr. Abd Halim Hj Abdullah
05. Mr. Nasir Khan Yahaya
06. Mrs. Roszurina Hj Omar
07. Mr. Zainal Othman
08. Mr. Shukri Abd Ghani
09. Mr. Arbain Hj Ahmad
10. Mr. Ahmad Adnan Hanif
11. Mrs. Nimmi Abas
12. Mr. Mohd Zamri Hj Yaacob
13. Mr. Jamar Mat Ali
14. Mr. Nik Rashid Ismail
15. Mr. Abd Aziz Mohamed
16. Mr. Wan Azizul Tajuddin
17. Mr. Mohd Shukran Abd Majid
18. Mrs. Aziah Talib
19. Ms Nurul Amani Said
20. Ms. Azmiyah Mat Saad
21. Mr. Anuar Bulin
22. Mr. Zolkefli Othman
23. Mrs. Jamaiah Mohd Jamli
24. Mrs. Sharina Yaacob
25. Mrs. Jamaliah Abdullah
26. Mr. Hairuddin Mohd Saad
27. Mr. Mohd Zainuddin Mohamad
28. Mrs. Asmah Ahmad
29. Mrs. Jamilah Sanusi
30. Mr Mohd Noor Bulat
31. Mrs. Norlaila Ismail
32. Mrs. Norihan Omar
33. Mr. Abdul Rashid
34. Mrs. Hj Asmarah Mohd Amin
35. Mrs. Ungku Fatimah Ungku Salim
36. Mr. Nazlan Mansor
37. Mr. Sanapi Ahmad
38. Mr. Norhaizan Yunus
39. Mr Khaliluddin Mohd yatim
40. Ms Hamidah
41. Mr. Rahman Hasan
42. Mr. Rosli Singah
43. Mr. Zaifulizam Osman
44. Mr. Azizul Zaman
45. Mr. Nurulail Abd Karim
46. Mr. Isa Subal
47. Mr. Ali Yaakob
48. Mr. Jalil Abu Bakar

Speech by  
Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz  
President of ANGKASA  
At the Opening Ceremony of the 2nd ICA ROAP Meeting

YAB Timblan Perdana Menteri Malaysia, Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim  
President ICA, Graham Melmoth and Mrs Melmoth  
YB Minister of Land & Cooperative Development, Datuk Osu Haji Sukam, Chairman ICA  
ROAP, Mr. Vishwanathan, Fellow participants, Honoured Guests.

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to this Second Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific.

My first duty is to record our gratitude to the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister for so kindly agreeing to declare open this Assembly. Those of us from Malaysia know how busy he is, particularly at this juncture literally every minute of his time is occupied with the fulfilment of the heavy burdens of a Deputy Prime Minister, a Minister of Finance and a political leader in a country that is in the glorious phase of rapid growth towards a glowing future. His willingness to take time off for our ceremony today is greatly appreciated by everyone.

To those of you who have travelled far and not so far, to participate in this Kuala Lumpur Session of the ICA ROAP Meeting, may I offer you a warm welcome and express to you my sincere hope that we shall be able to complete our somewhat lengthy agenda within the time allocated.

A number of special committees such as the Agriculture Committee and the Consumer Committee not to omit the HRD Committee in its several manifestations, have completed their tasks and will duly report to the Assembly.

On the home front, I am happy to be able to inform you that our twenty five year old ANGKASA has just completed all the new requirements of the Cooperative Societies Act 1993 and the Cooperative Societies Regulations 1995 and we have the confidence to stretch our juridical limbs as the recognised apex organisation of the Malaysian Cooperative Movement.

To those who have the rare privilege of attending the Centennial Congress of the ICA at Manchester last September, may I say that ANGKASA has worked hard not only to translate the new Cooperative Principles for the 21st Century into the Malay Language. More importantly we have already organised 74 classes involving 6104 participants throughout the twelve states of Peninsular Malaysia where we have explained the theory and application of these Principles.

All the members of ANGKASA yearn to make Malaysia one of the countries where the acknowledged Cooperative Principles are as well understood as they are practised.

This effort will be strongly backed up by the one thousand or so school cooperatives and university cooperatives involving half a million members who are learning Cooperative Principles, practising cooperative management and cooperative democratically among themselves.



Before concluding may I mention a few housekeeping matters. All your needs for today and tomorrow are fully taken care by your hosts, Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia Berhad. This includes the conference bag which has been specially produced for this meeting. At the dinner tonight, you will be the guests of the Honourable Datuk Osu Haji Sukam our Minister for Land and Cooperative Development.

In the paper bag is a coconut shell laminated with coloured rubber tree leaves and filled with Malaysian Sweets. The flower in the bag has been produced from rubber tree leaves by a women's rubber smallholder cooperative from the State of Selangor. We hope these will be happy souvenirs for you to take home.

I should also like to acknowledge the generous donations of substantial contributions by the National Rubber Smallholder Cooperative and KOJADI which have greatly resolved our budgetary problems.

To all the ANGKASA staff who have worked day and night to make this Congress a success, I would like to say 'Terima Kasih' or 'Thank you' and to our friends from the Delhi and Geneva Offices of the ICA, we are glad to collaborate with all of you.

Once again, I welcome all of you and hope you will have a pleasant time which is also productive.

Thank you,

**Speech by Mr. Graham Melmoth, President  
International Cooperative Alliance**

Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister, Hon'ble Minister, Prof Aziz, Chairman of ANGKASA  
Chairman of Regional Assembly, Hon'ble Guest, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am privileged to address this Second Regional Assembly of the Asia and Pacific Region of the ICA here in the capital of the vibrant nation of Malaysia, and home to our generous hosts ANGKASA and the other ICA members from Malaysia, on my first visit to Asia since I was elected ICA President following the Centennial Congress last September,

This follows hard on the heels of the Board's Meeting in Beijing earlier this week, hosted by another dynamic cooperative enterprise, the All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Cooperatives. The explosion of the economies of Asia, and the growth of cooperative movements in those market places, have generated their anxieties and their problems as well as their opportunities, not least for this recently established region of the ICA, and I will refer in a moment or two to both sides of that equation.

You will be glad to know, Mr. President, that I do not come here with pre-conceived notions. Twenty or more years as a cooperative official have taught me not to rush to judgement. This very large region geographically in terms of land mass, oceans, and people in industrial and cultural diversity, in wealth and poverty - has become the power house of the world. Its cooperative movements include representations from all the traditional cooperative sectors which we recognise including major forces in the region's agricultural fisheries, banking, insurance, tourism, retail and industrial businesses. Take one sector and one country alone - housing and India. There are more than 80,000 housing cooperatives in the Republic of India and this sector is playing a key role in addressing the nation's housing problem. The role can only grow in India and elsewhere in Region as hard pressed governments look to the resilience and expertise of cooperatives for solutions. Coming in wake of the UN's habitat II Conference in Istanbul this month, providing adequate shelter for all people is coming to the fore and will incidentally be a theme of the next General Assembly taking place in this region, in Tel Aviv, in October, 1997

Another cooperative sector attracting increasing attention around the world is that of health and in this region there are now numerous examples of successful health care producer or consumer cooperatives. The ICA Board at its Beijing meeting formally accorded recognition as a new ICA specialised organisation to the recognition as a new ICA Specialised Organisation to the International Health Cooperative Organisation, led by its Chairman Dr. Shoji Kato, Chairman of the Medical Committee of JCCU, Japan. And in Agriculture, it is probably true to say that cooperatives are the main driving force in this field in this area, and the key influences in most of the Region's economies. Not all of the vision of Jawahar Lal Nehru for cooperatives as set out in his writing have been realised, but much has been achieved and the ICA is an important focus for it in this region. We shall continue to encourage a government role of guide and mentor rather than controller and regulator so that members share their own destiny in the tradition of their founders.

On the other side of the balance side of the balance sheet, this ICA region has its share of problems, and the report of the Advisory Committee on policy and direction which you will be debating at this Assembly Addresses some of them. The priorities which the report

enumerates-HRD, Business Efficiency, and improvement of cooperative image and relations with government-reflect the committee's diagnosis. The challenge, as always, is to bring about lasting change for the better.

Some of the report's conclusions necessarily touch on issues having global implications for the ICA, including the financing of the Regional Office and representation on the ICA Board. There is a suggestion of a certain percentage of ICA Subscription income being returned to the region, and that there should be a greater number of members on the ICA Board from the Asia and Pacific region.

At its December meeting in Florida, the board put on one side its routine business and devoted itself entirely to a planning session. One of the products of that exercise was the establishment of a special board committee on rules and finance, which I chair, with a remit to give special consideration to the whole ICA subscription formula. The Committee will therefore consider both of the concerns expressed in the advisory committee's report which touch on the ICA global positions. Yehudah Paz is a member of that committee and will no doubt see to it that this aspect of our work is not neglected.

The Committee plans to submit a final report and proposed rule amendments to the board meeting in April next year with a view to placing proposals to the General Assembly in October, 1997.

The Regional structure of the ICA is barely four years old. It was arrived at after a very stressful period for the alliance, a move head office, wholesale changes in staff, financial disarray. My predecessor, ably assisted by the then newly recruited Director-General, Bruce Thordarson, led the process of reform and stabilisation which followed. Each of our regions is now looking at its needs and obligations and each is different. Look for example at the contrasts in the Americas-the sophisticated North American Prairie Cooperatives and the Industrial workshop of downtown SAO PAULO and the Caribbean Credit Union. The desperate needs of the primary commodity collectives in East and West Africa-now joined by the emerging South Africa and its movement. Europe increasingly grappling with the needs of eastern and central European cooperative being turned loose from totalitarian control. All our regions in the new structure look of an ICA which has firm foundations and which can use its influence with governments to provide that legendary level playing field for the world's cooperatives. The board has at all times to balance the needs of the regions and the small central structure for the benefit of the whole.

I feel sure that the case for a larger board with increased asian representation can be made. I look forward to more women cooperators joining the ICA Board too. The Board made good progress this week in the formulation of the Development Trust, resolved upon at the centennial congress in Manchester last September. We hope to press the button for its launch at our meeting in October next.

I am hopeful that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Boutros Ghali, will be present on 1 July in New York at an ICA meeting to mark international cooperative day a few days later and to give publicity to our newly adopted statement of cooperative identity and principles. I look forward to meeting him on your behalf.

We have a lot collectively to be hopeful about in the name of cooperation. This region and this regional assembly have real cause for believing in progress for our cooperatives members. My own society the Cooperative Wholesale Society of Manchester, now 133 years old, takes particular pleasure in receiving delegations from the burgeoning

movements of Asia and the Pacific. I have been fortunate for example in welcoming in the last three months cooperative colleagues from China, Japan, and Korea each of whose movements, like that of our hosts in Malaysia are testimony to the drive and leadership in this region.

I am very pleased therefore to be here at this Assembly today. Thank you.

**Speech by Mr B Vishwanathan, Chairman of the  
ICA Regional Assembly held at Kuala Lumpur**

Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim,  
Hon'ble Minister of Land & Cooperative Development Datuk Osu Haji Sukam, Mr. Graham Melmoth, President, ICA, Prof. Ungku Aziz, fellow cooperators and friends:

It gives me great pleasure to address the second meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly here at Kuala Lumpur. It is very heart-warming to notice the presence of a large number of distinguished representatives from our member-organisations in the Asia-Pacific Region. This indicates their strong belief in the organisation and activities of the International Cooperative Alliance in this part of the world. The ICA has, since the inception of the Regional Office in 1960 in this part of the world, has provided a good platform for the cooperative organisations and their leaders to get together and exchange their views and experiences on various key issues of cooperative development. The ICA has not only responded to the wishes and needs of the cooperative organisations through its technical programmes, but have fostered a stronger solidarity among the cooperatives and cooperative leaders. Such meetings, as this one, have strengthened the organisation and given it a sense of belonging and a direction.

Since our first meeting in New Delhi in January 1995, several important changes have taken place within the organisation of the ICA as well as within the cooperative sector in the Region. The Centennial Congress of the ICA held in Manchester in September 1995 approved the Cooperative Identity which embodies new Principles of Cooperation and Cooperative Values. The General Assembly which was also held in conjunction with the Congress, elected a new President, Mr Graham Malmoth in place of Mr Lars Marcus who had contributed significantly to the cooperative thought and to the work of the ICA. I have a great pleasure in introducing to you the new President Mr. Graham Melmoth and welcome him among our midst. The Executive Council of the ICA ROAP had also met in Bangalore, India, in November 1995. Keeping in line with the restructuring of the ICA itself, had constituted an Advisory Groups to suggest future directions of the ICA ROAP.

The Group had reviewed the history, organisational structure and the development policies and programmes of the Regional Office and made important suggestions which will be discussed in the Regional Assembly Meeting. Immediately after this Regional Assembly an Annual Planning Session for the ICA ROAP will be held together with the donor agencies to finalise a four-year plan of action.

Our efforts in conducting cooperative leaders/ministers conferences in the Region have been successful. Three such conferences have already been held. The fourth one is to be held next year in Thailand at the invitation of the Royal Government of Thailand. It is matter of satisfaction and encouragement that we have continued to receive full collaboration and cooperation not only from our member-organisations but also from governments in the region. The ICA has been able to harmonise the relations between the two through its activities and relations.

In India, we have just completed a festival of democracy by going through a process of general elections to our parliament. Cooperative institutions in India have adopted

democratic traditions and embarked on programmes which help the poor. Dairy cooperatives, sugar cooperatives, oilseed growers cooperatives, are some of the most successful sectors in the country. Milk production in India, for instance, was stagnant during 1950-1970. But now due to activating dairy cooperatives the production of milk in 2000 AD is expected to go over 70 million tonnes against 20 million tonnes in 1970. Already in 1994 it was 64 million tonnes. Chemical fertiliser production is another strong sector of the Indian Cooperative Movement. We, within the framework of the NCUI have also a strong and an elaborate infrastructure for the education of members and training of cooperative staff. We have been sharing our experiences with our friends in the Region, and using this platform, I would like to invite our cooperative friends to make a greater use of our facilities and experiences. In many of the countries in the Region there are government and movement training institutions, just like the Cooperative College of Malaysia here. We would like them to share their experiences with us, maybe, by using the channels of the ICA.

As Chairman of the ICA Regional Assembly I would like to assure you that the Regional Office would be more than willing to provide any assistance, help, advisory and consultative services to its member-organisations by incorporating the felt-needs of the members in its work programmes. The ICA is neither a rich organisation nor can it provide funds. But it is an excellent network available to all types of cooperatives throughout the world. It is for the users to take advantage of its facilities. With a view to build its own resources and to enable it to provide the needed services, I would like to invite all the member-organisations to strengthen the economic and organisational base of the ICA ROAP.

Before concluding, on my own behalf and on behalf of all the participants, I would like to extend sincere thanks to the host organisation, ANGKASA, and its Chairman, Prof. Ungku Aziz and other members of ICA for making excellent arrangements for this meeting. I wish all participants will have comfortable stay and fruitful deliberations.

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**Speech by Anwar Ibrahim  
Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia  
At the Second Meeting of  
the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific  
Petaling Jaya, 13 June 1996**

I heartily welcome the Second Meeting of the International Cooperative Alliance Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific. This significant gathering of the Asian cooperative movement has come at a most opportune moment, as the circumstances of our time would require us to undertake a fundamental review of the role of cooperatives in our society and economy.

The potential of cooperatives as an economic instrument, and as a force that can shape the structure of Asian society, has not been fully appreciated. There are about 500 million individuals who are members of cooperatives in the Asia and Pacific and that number constitutes two-thirds of the total membership of the International Cooperative Alliance. This surely represents a tremendous potential if it is effectively harnessed.

In Malaysia, its importance is borne out by the fact that there are today more than 3,500 registered cooperatives with a total membership of 4.1 million. Their accumulated share holding exceeds RM2.6 billion, with assets around RM10.6 billion. They are involved in all types of business. Although thrift and loan societies still form the bulk of the movement, the trend is now shifting rapidly towards activities such as trading, housing, transport, land development, industrial production, banking and insurance.

However, the enthusiasm for cooperatives in Asian countries seems to have come to a standstill, if not diminished. Current social and economic trends are more in favour of the growth of corporations and conglomerates, and the consequent concentration of wealth and economic power among a handful of individuals. Although in theory the general public can participate in the ownership of these corporations though the purchase of stocks and participation in mutual funds, nevertheless in practice they have practically no influence in the general direction and activities of these companies. Yet, while the opposite is true in cooperative movement, where every member has a say in the affairs of their cooperative, it must also be admitted that the growth of cooperatives lags behind the overall growth of our economies as a whole. One is therefore confronted by the question whether cooperatives really do have a future.

True cooperatives have contributed significantly towards income generation, poverty alleviation and employment creation. It has helped the growth of small-scale enterprises and provided training ground for entrepreneurial development.

We are living in the region which is a major source of global growth. Dynamism in the Asia Pacific region has been brought about by the move to market-oriented economies with increasing liberalization, deregulation and privatisation in our respective countries. While this has nurtured the growth of conglomerates, the cooperatives which are 'people-centred' have an important role to play in ensuring 'growth with equity'.

The success of a cooperative, just like any business concern depends on strong organization, human resources and finance. In view of this, cooperatives will need to

adapt themselves to the demands of the new global environment of liberalization, deregulation as well as privatization. They will need to strengthen their management vis-a-vis other business and commercial entities to maintain and further acquire a greater share of economic opportunities. This is made more urgent with technological advancement where telecommunications and IT have become immensely sophisticated, and information have become obtainable instantaneously.

Cooperatives can become very important sources of capital mobilization by channelling the savings of members to those involved in production and marketing. In this way, members can cut the costs of borrowing and purchasing by cutting the role of the middleman. Cooperation among cooperatives is therefore necessary for this effective horizontal integration. It is therefore pertinent that cooperatives network or form strategic alliances among themselves. I am sure this meeting will provide a forum for member countries to exchange ideas, share their experiences and identify new economic opportunities.

I believe cooperatives that are large and strong are the ones that will survive the pressures of competition. This is evident in many industrialized countries such as in North America and in Europe where cooperatives are competing with the private sector. There will be a need to plan for potential mergers and amalgamation to reach economies of scale in order to maintain and sustain quality service to members. In order to maintain efficiency, big amalgamated cooperatives can form chapters or clusters to run these sub-units effectively.

While cooperatives need to look for innovative ways to deal with the dynamics of economic globalization and competition, they must retain the character and basic values of cooperatives. Profits should not be the only aim but the activities should be viable to provide better and quality services to the members. Let us work together to promote active and constructive participation and involvement of the members to ensure the 'people-centred' character of the cooperatives is intact. Cooperatives have emerged as an important instrument for socio-economic transformation and change. It also serves as a mechanism for income distribution.

On that note, I officially open this Second Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific.

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REMARKS BY GRAHAM MELMOTH - 14 JUNE 1996

Mr. Chairman, I should like to raise a rather special point of order.

As colleagues will be aware, our Regional Director, G.K.Sharma, reached retirement age last year. In his usual understanding way, he agreed to stay on until the head office was able to arrange the recruitment of his successor, a task which as we know takes considerable time at the international level. I shall have more to say about that in a minute.

Mr. Sharma is a special person to the ICA for many reasons. He came to his position during the darkest days of the regional office, in mid-87, when it was mired in financial and personnel problems, and on the verge of completing the sale of Bonow House in order to raise the necessary cash to keep afloat. There is no doubt that it was Mr. Sharma's personal intervention and leadership, along with the important help from cooperative friends in both India and Japan, which enabled ICA to emerge from that particular crisis.

Since then, the Regional Office has grown considerably, both in terms of number of members and scope of activities, much of this must be credited to Mr. Sharma's patient, diplomatic efforts to build support for the ICA, combine with his own intimate knowledge of the region and its cooperative members.

Like you, I am sorry that this day has arrived but we know that at some point change cannot be postponed. I would simply like to record on behalf of the ICA Board, the Director-General to whom he reports, and the other head office staff with whom he has worked so closely over the years, our great appreciation for his excellent service during these last 9 years.

I am sure it was quite a change for Mr. Sharma to move from the top position of a big commercial cooperative like NAFED to the small, financially struggling ICA. But he accomplished this change like a real professional, bringing his skills to bear on a different but equally difficult and complex challenge. ICA and the Asian Region have been the beneficiaries of his effort.

On your behalf, therefore, I should like to present Mr. Sharma with a certificate of appreciation and also a special copy of the ICA Cooperative Identity Statement, which has been prepared in a special illustrated version in order to commemorate the ICA's Centennial Congress and the revision of the Principles. This book has just come off the press, and will hopefully find its way more cooperative homes than Mr. Sharma's due course.

I am sure colleagues present would wish to hear a word about the ICA's future staffing plans, even though I have no doubt that this will not be too much of a surprise since there is surely a cooperative grapevine in Asia just as there is in other parts of the world.

Since January of this year the Director-General has been consulting ICA Members in the region about possible candidates for the Regional Director position. We know from experience that this is an extremely demanding position, not easy to fill, for it requires a combination of diplomatic and technical skills, extensive knowledge of the Region,

familiarity with the various donors, and contacts at the highest levels of government.

I understand that several excellent nominations were submitted to the Director-General, who then proceeded to have further discussions with the members in the regions. During the ICA Board's Meeting earlier this week, he informed us that he has come to the conclusion that Mr. Robby Tulus of Indonesia was his choice to succeed Mr. Sharma as Regional Director.

I am sure that Robby Tulus is well known to almost everyone in this room. After working for many years in Indonesia at the grass-roots level, where he was one of the founders and leaders of that country's credit union movement. He was asked by the Canadian Cooperative Association to join its International Department as Asia Project Manager. During that period, the Director-General tells me, Robby emerged as the most prolific project developer and fund raiser of all the organisation's Project Managers.

During the last three years, at his request, Robby returned to Asia, working with the ICA Regional Office as Senior Policy Advisor helping to prepare the last ministerial conference in Sri Lanka, as well as the next one in Thailand, as well as continuing to provide some services to CCA, an important ICA member and development partner. I am sure that it was with considerable regret that CCA was persuaded to part with such a valuable asset.

I understand that discussions are under way about timing, with the goal of Robby's joining the Regional Office as Regional Director around September or October of this year. I further understand that the Director-General and Mr. Tulus have also expressed the hope that Mr. Sharma will continue to provide some specific advisory services to the office, especially during the period leading up to the next ministerial conference. As soon as the exact date of the handing over has been decided upon by the Director-General, I am sure that members in the Region will be advised.

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