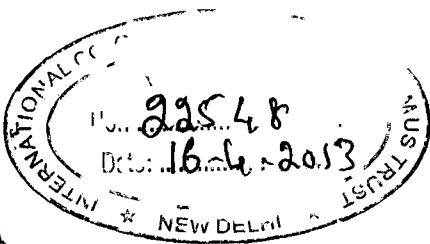


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ANNUAL REPORT 2004

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Message from the President, ICA-Asia & Pacific



The year 2004 was a very good year for the ICA in Asia-Pacific. A host of activities were carried out during the year. Several major initiatives like developing agricultural co-operatives in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, organizing the 3rd Asia-Pacific Co-operative Forum, the 3rd Regional Research Conference, the 4th Regional Women's Forum, etc. were held in Chiangmai, Thailand. So also the 6th Regional Assembly for the Region. With these major meetings, meetings of many of the specialized organizations of the ICA also met in Chiangmai, Thailand. I would take this opportunity to complement and appreciate the support provided by the Co-operative League of Thailand, our member organisation, in organizing these numerous activities.

With all these initiatives the ICA Regional Office were able to involve more and more co-operative members in their efforts to make our part of the world worthwhile to live.

The ICA in this Region has all along been associating itself with the UN and other multi-lateral agencies in developmental efforts.

The ICA Asia-Pacific collaborated with the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC) to organize an International Trade Fair and Forum during April 2004, which saw a large number of delegates and representatives of major consumer co-operative organizations in the world joining together in the hope of making China a source country for their co-operatives.

A very important event was the organizing of the Regional Youth Seminar in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, during September 2004, wherein more 180 youth delegates from the Region, the UK and the United States participated. The youth seminar was so

successful that the delegates were able to plan their strategies for setting up a Statutory Youth Committee for the Region. A number of delegates were nominated to a Steering group. It is expected that by the time the next Regional Assembly takes place, probably in Sri Lanka, the Regional Youth Committee will be officially formed, to give impetus to the youth co-operative activities in our Region.

You would agree with me that the ICA in Asia-Pacific has emerged as a major initiator of co-operative development in the world.

Taking into consideration the emerging needs of the society, the ICA Asia-Pacific also organized a programme on awareness creation for HIV/AIDS prevention in the region and is associating with UN AIDS.

One of the saddest moments for humanity and co-operators in our Region was the devastating Tsunami which afflicted Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Malaysia, which saw more than 270,000 people dead, most of them co-operators. Homes have been lost, and so is the livelihood of a large number of people in our region. While relief and support is being provided by several governments and other agencies, we found that support to co-operative organizations and co-operators are not pouring in sufficiently.

In view of this, the ICA Asia-Pacific has conducted field studies in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia and is in the process of formulating some projects for the long-term rehabilitation of the victims in these countries. As in the past, I am confident, that the co-operative fraternity will keep on supporting their hapless brethren and show their solidarity to the poor people in their times of need.

ICA members in the Region have all along been very supportive of activities of the ICA Regional Office, which I very sincerely appreciate. I hope you will continue to support the ICA for a better Asia-Pacific.

Mu Li
President, ICA – Asia and Pacific

Message from the Regional Director



The ICA Asia-Pacific had a successful and eventful year 2004. During the year, we have been able to conduct a large number of activities, compared to previous years. We have also been able to cover all sectors of co-operatives and have also formulated programmes and sectoral importance, be it agriculture, gender, consumers, human resource development and research, youth mainstreaming, co-operative policy and legislation, etc.

We have collaborated with AGRITERRA, Netherlands, to set up pilot projects in agricultural sector in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Collaborated with the Trade Union movement to set up possible development projects in Nepal, organized a workshop in collaboration with UN Aids and National Aids Control Organisation of India (NACO) in India, and are looking forward for possible project support to have a full-fledged aids control project in the Region.

This year we also organized a Regional Youth Seminar in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as follow-up to the previous Regional Youth Seminar in Tokyo, Japan during 2001. In this year's seminar, more than 180 youth leaders from countries of the Region and from the UK and the US participated. The youth delegates were well focused that

they have formed a Youth Steering Committee for Asia-Pacific, with serious plans to set up a Youth Committee for the Region under the ICA Regional Assembly. This might materialize during the next Regional Assembly in 2006 in Sri Lanka.

Towards the fourth quarter of the year, we have organized the 3rd ICA Regional Co-operative Forum, the 3rd Regional Research Conference, the 4th Regional Women's Forum and the 6th Regional Assembly, all at Chiangmai, Thailand, which was well attended. Especially the Forum was so focused that it discussed crucial issues related to 'Re-engineering Co-operatives in a Globalised Economy'. More than 350 delegates participated in these meetings. Many of the Regional Committees like the HRD and Research Committee, University/Campus Sub-Committee, the Consumer Committee, the Regional Women's Committee, Regional Co-operative Banking Association, etc. have also met at Chiangmai, during this period.

Earlier, during April, 2004, the ICA collaborated with the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives in organizing an International Trade Fair and Forum in Beijing, wherein co-operative products and services were exhibited. In the Forum, there were interesting discussions on co-operative-to-co-operative trade. As a result of this fair and Forum, the number of co-operatives (Co-op Atlantic, Canada, NTUC Fairprice, Singapore, Co-op Trade, Japan, Co-op UK, etc) have started sourcing their procurement from China. Also the ACFSMC are also doing business with co-operatives in Indonesia.

The two major training courses for Managers' of Agricultural Co-

operatives and for Rural Women Co-operative Leaders, with the support and assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan, in close collaboration with the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA), continued during 2004 also. We hope that these courses will continue in some form or the other in the coming years too.

The ICA Asia-Pacific also held a few trainers' training activities for Leadership Development for Women in Indonesia and Iran, apart from holding a Networking and Exposure Programme for women.

The difficult part of the year was the year-end Tsunami devastation, which has affected millions of co-operators and thousands of co-operatives. This tragedy has seen a death toll of more than 270,000 in Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Maldives, etc. The ICA was quick to issue an appeal to the world co-operative movement to come to the aid of the suffering co-operative brethren in these countries. We are also formulating some projects for long-term rehabilitation of the victims.

Our member organizations are our only assets and we wish to recruit more and more members in the Region. We would request co-operative organizations in the Region to join under the ICA umbrella for mutual benefits.

We are very grateful to our member organizations in this region and our development partners in supporting us in organizing these very useful activities and are hopeful the support and collaboration will continue.

Shil Kwan Lee
Regional Director

Seventh Asia-Pacific Co-op Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi, India

The Seventh Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers Conference held on 2-5 February, 2004, had a grand opening session at the Vigyan Bhawan convention centre in New Delhi by the Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister of India, Mr. L.K. Advani.

The other senior leaders present were Mr. Rajnath Singh, Minister for Agriculture and Co-operation, Government of India, Mr. Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav, Minister of State for Agriculture and Co-operation, Mr. Ivano Barberini, President ICA, Mr. Iain Macdonald, Director General, ICA, Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, National Co-operative Union of India and Mr. R.C.A. Jain, Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Over 180 delegates, including 11 Co-operative Ministers, and co-operative leaders from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam participated at the Conference.



Rajnath Singh, Minister of State for Agriculture & Cooperation speaks

major international organizations like the ILO, CCA, AARDO, APRACA, ICFTU, ACCU and others made presentations.

The meeting discussed various legal and other aspects affecting the development of co-operatives. After detailed discussions and presentations and group work, the Conference adopted the following declaration, which will be known as the 'New Delhi Declaration'. This declaration was signed by ministers and other representatives on behalf of their respective governments and co-operative movements.

The International Co-operative Alliance, especially the Asia-Pacific Regional office, recognising the importance of

Besides, fraternal delegates from Middle East countries and Europe and international organisations were also well represented as well as leading co-operative leaders from Asia and the Pacific participated at this meeting. Apart from Ministers, senior government representatives, and co-operative leaders, representatives from



The inaugural lamp being lit by L.K. Advani, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister of India. Ivano Barberini, Rajnath Singh, Iain Macdonald, Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav are also seen in the picture.

continuation of the process of legislation and policy reforms for sustainable co-operative development, particularly in the context of globalized competitive world, identified 'Co-operative Policy Development and Legislative Reforms', as one of the key result areas.

To achieve this, the ICA convenes a conference of co-operative ministers' of Asia and the Pacific. Six such Conferences were convened since 1990 in Australia-Sydney; 1992 Indonesia-Jakarta; 1994 Sri Lanka-Colombo; 1997 Thailand-Chiangmai; 1999 China-Beijing; 2002 Nepal-Kathmandu. All these conferences were hosted by the concerned national governments. The Department of Agriculture and Co-operation in the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India hosted the 7th Conference.

The theme of this conference was "Establishing Supporting Co-operative Legislation and Policy for sustainable co-operative development".

The Conference deliberated on the Third Critical Study on Co-operative Legislation and Policy sponsored by ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, New Delhi. A number of international resource persons presented papers on: Important Concern of co-operatives, Best Practices in co-operatives, Globalization and Poverty Reduction, Co-operative Legislation and Policy, and ILO Recommendation 193 on Promotion of Co-operatives.

During the Conference, the delegates undertook study visits to a few co-operatives and also an excursion to the Taj Mahal.

THE 'NEW DELHI DECLARATION'

adopted by the 7th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference

1. RECOGNIZING that co-operatives, despite all of the challenges and problems posed by reforms in the economy and liberalization of policies, have continued to serve the economic interests of people, hence contributed significantly to the socio-economic growth of the countries in the Asia-Pacific Region;
2. RECOGNIZING the significance of supportive co-operative legislation and public policies that will harness the full potential of co-operative enterprises for the promotion of the socio-economic well being of the people in general, for the creation of employment, for the alleviation of poverty, and for the development of human resources in particular;
3. TAKING NOTE that enabling legislation and favorable public policies of the government alone will not result in the development of viable co-operatives, unless facilitated by follow-up measures in terms of policy implementation that is matched by supportive measures of the government;
4. APPRECIATING ILO Recommendation 193 on the Promotion of Co-operatives, which enunciates the views of the global co-operative movement on co-operative legislation, as well as government role and policies that facilitate the growth of member-centered, community-oriented, autonomous and competitive co-operative enterprises, as well as ensure equitable distribution of new opportunities and benefits emerging from globalization that is for the good of the community;
5. TAKING NOTE other resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly that supports the development of co-operatives, in particular the role of co-operatives in social development;
6. REALIZING that despite the existence of a more favorable environment for co-operative autonomy, independence and democratic management, there still exist potentially viable co-operative enterprises in developing countries in the region which are over-dependent on government support and patronage, and are found to be weak and dormant in several sectors, with no concrete action plan for revival and revitalization in a time-bound manner;
7. The participants of the 7th Co-operative Ministers' Conference held at New Delhi, India from 2nd to 4th February 2004, CALL UPON the Governments and Co-operatives in the Asia-Pacific Region, as well as the ICA-ROAP, to hasten the process of legislative and policy reforms that will guarantee more autonomy and independence of co-operatives, ensure the creation of a conducive environment that will lead towards a more balanced and sustained growth of the co-operatives in all sectors of the economy, and hence ensuring the socio-economic development of the people and the country, particularly in regard to:
 - a. The formulation of specific public policy – in consultation with the co-operative movement – that will facilitate the growth of member-centered, community-oriented, autonomous and competitive co-operative enterprises;
 - b. The harmonization of co-operative policy and legislation;
 - c. The definition of an appropriate role and engagement of co-operatives in public policies relating to different sectors of economy, e.g. agriculture, credit, banking and insurance, trade and commerce, labor, etc.;
 - d. The repositioning and strengthening of the co-operatives by way of: i) Augmentation of capital and resources, ii) Professionalization of management, iii) Adoption of appropriate manpower development strategies, iv) Diversification and broad-basing business operations, v) upgrading technologies for enhanced efficiency and effectiveness of services, and vi) Learning from experiences, good practices and successful growth models of co-operatives in different sectors in the countries of the Asia-Pacific Region;
 - e. The empowerment of co-operatives in order that they can play an enhanced role in social sector development; and
 - f. The creation of appropriate provisions in Co-operative Legislation that will enhance the role and participation of women in co-operative management and leadership.
8. RECOGNIZING FURTHER the depth and significance of presentations made in this Conference pertaining to "Important Concerns of Co-operatives", "Co-operative Best Practices", and "Globalization and Poverty", CALL UPON the Governments and Co-operatives in the Asia-Pacific Region, as well as the ICA-ROAP, to:
 - a. Give special consideration to increasing women's participation in the Cooperative movement at all levels; the Government together with the co-operative movement in each country must provide the necessary FUNDS for gender disaggregated data base, training and education of women, networking and exposure to success stories, and particularly to those co-operatives where young co-operators can play an active role in co-operative activities based on their understanding of the Co-operative Identity.
 - b. Recognize the important role of co-operatives in a rapidly changing global environment, and for governments to create a favourable environment for the development of co-operatives including, if necessary, to offer those preferences for co-operatives which work for the betterment of the community and for the creation of an information technology in order to help co-operatives to operate more efficiently.
 - c. Confirm and advocate to the UN and other relevant Development Agencies the contribution co-operatives can make in the area of Good Governance and Business Development as value-added features in Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS) being undertaken by governments and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in ICA member-countries in Asia and the Pacific.
 - d. Seek a new strategy through which co-operatives can become an integral part in the PRS processes being undertaken by the corresponding governments and CSOs in ICA member countries.
 - e. Create and bring about effective and enhanced partnerships that have been developed with Trade Unions, Employers' Groups, women's groups and other Civil Society Organizations, and supported by multilateral and bilateral agencies as well as other partners.

**SIGNED ON THIS FOURTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2004,
IN NEW DELHI, INDIA.**

18th ICA-Japan Agricultural Training Course held

The Eighteenth [18th] ICA-Japan Training Course on “Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia” was inaugurated in India on 16 January, 2004, after a month-long home country assignment segment. The India segment lasted until March 1, 2004.

The 12 participants of the training course (from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) visited agricultural co-operative in Vietnam from 2-6 March, 2004 and then proceeded to Japan, for the last leg of the course which concluded on April 17, 2004.

The Inaugural Session of the Course was attended by Mr. D.K. Bhatt, Marketing Director of IFFCO, Mr. Shil-Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director [Asia-Pacific], Mr Tomofumi Inoue, First Secretary in the Japanese Embassy in India, Mr S. Fukamachi, Managing Director, IDACA, was represented by Mr. Toru Nakashima, Deputy Manager (Trg.), Mr. D. Bhattacharya, Joint General Manager (HRD), IFFCO, Dr. R.N. Kundu, Sr. Manager (Trg.), FMDI, and Mr. Prem



Mr. M. Munakata, MAFF, Mr. N. Higuchi, JA-Zenchu, Mr. Prem Kumar, Program Advisor, Mr. S. Fukamachi, MD, IDACA and Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA ROAP

Kumar, Adviser, ICA-Japan Training Course. As a part of their studies, the participants had produced 12 development project proposals during their Home Country Assignments [HCAs] in accordance with the guidelines provided by the ICA.

The second part of the programme held at IDACA included

extensive classroom work and study visits to agricultural co-operatives in and around Tokyo, Yamanashi and Kochi Prefectures in Japan.

The programme was implemented by the [ICA-AP] in collaboration with JA-Zenchu [Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives of Japan] and the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia-Japan [IDACA].

During these 18 Training Courses, a total of 267 managers of agricultural co-operatives from 14 countries of Asia attended the training programmes and prepared a total of 264 project proposals on topical subjects.



Participants pose for a group photo at the closing ceremony of the 18th Training course at IDACA, Japan, and (right) participants at a study visit in Japan



International Co-operative Trade Fair and Forum held in Beijing

An International Co-operative Trade Fair and Forum was organized in Beijing, China, 26-28 April, 2004 at the China National Agricultural Exhibition Centre. The Fair and Forum was sponsored by All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC), with support and assistance from Co-op Atlantic, Canada, The Co-operative Group, UK, the NTUC Fairprice, Singapore and the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The Fair and Forum were jointly inaugurated by Mr. Bai Lichen, President of the Board of All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives, in the presence of senior level delegates from various countries, including Mr. Ivano Barberini, President, ICA, Mr. Iain Macdonald, Director General, ICA and others.



Inauguration of the Trade Fair and Forum by Mr. Bai Lichen, President of All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-ops. ICA President, Director General and other dignitaries are also seen in the picture.



ICA President speaking at the inaugural ceremony

Co-operative Exhibitors displayed a large variety of foodstuff, handicrafts, machinery, clothes, fabrics, etc. from all over China and India, Indonesia, Iran, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Singapore, Japan, Korea, the UK also set up stalls at the exhibition.

A 2-day International Co-operative Trade Forum (26-27 April, 2004) was organized attended by about 100 delegates from various countries and from provinces all over China. The Forum was divided into 4 segments. Mr. Robby Tulus, Senior Consultant, ICA chaired the Forum.

Forum I was on 'Marketing and Merchandizing'; Forum II dealt on 'China's Trade/Exposure'; Forum III was on 'Competition'; and Forum IV was on 'Global Trade', wherein Mr. Iain Macdonald, Director General, and Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA spoke.

Strengthening Co-operatives in Laos PDR and Cambodia

In pursuance of its Key Result Area of Co-operative Development, the ICA ROAP identified three countries of Asia-Pacific viz. Afghanistan, Cambodia and Laos PDR, where co-operatives have been victims of either political ideology or instability.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, and Mr. B.D. Sharma, Senior Consultant, visited Laos PDR on 8-11 April and held extensive discussions with policy makers and senior officials in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and also with leaders of water user associations, farmers' production groups, and self-help groups to examine the possibilities of promoting co-operatives.

On this occasion a National Workshop of officials in-charge of implementation of various development programmes relating to agriculture and rural development was convened.



Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director and Mr. B.D. Sharma, Senior Consultant during their visit to Laos PDR.

Last year, the ICA ROAP with the support of AGRITERRA of The Netherlands had conducted a detailed study on the prospects of promoting agricultural co-operatives in Laos PDR. The study was also circulated in the workshop.

Rural co-operatives were destroyed by a 30-year long civil war and the Government has taken a conscious policy decision to promote agricultural co-operatives on a pilot basis. The success of these pilot co-operatives will pave the way for their country-wide replication and also for promotion of co-operatives in non-agricultural sector.

The ICA interventions will add value to the efforts of the Government to promote co-operatives. Areas in which the ICA support has been sought are (a) capacity building; (b) formulation of suitable legal framework for co-operatives; (c) management of business of co-operatives; (d) development of suitable co-operative credit system; and (e) development of co-operative marketing system.



Mr. Shil Kwan Lee and Mr. Sharma with a co-operative group in Cambodia

Fourth Trainers' Training Programme for Leadership Development of Women in Co-ops held in Iran

The fourth Trainers' Training Programme for Leadership Development of Women in Co-operatives was held on 7-12 June, 2004, at Esfehan, Iran. Concerned about the under-representation of women in leadership and decision making position in co-operatives in the region, the ICA Regional Office and the Regional Women's Committee identified training needs for women to enable them take up leadership role. With the efforts of the Committee, ICA ROAP and ILO CO-OPNET a Trainers' Training Manual was developed for this purpose. Mr. M Karim Beiki, the Managing Director of CURACI extended all support to make the programme a great success.

Mr. Abdolrahman Cheraghali, Dy. Minister of Jihad-e-Agriculture and



Participants of the Training workshop pose for a photograph

Chairman, Central Organisation of Rural Co-operatives of Iran (CORC) inaugurated the one-week Trainers' Training Programme.

The participants were instructors from co-operative training institutions, managers of co-operatives and co-operative education instructors from grassroots level. Mrs. Savitri Singh from ICA ROAP and Mr. Paul Cinnappan from Credit Union Promotion Club of Malaysia, were the resource persons.

An end-of-course evaluation about the training was conducted on the last day followed by distribution of certificates of participation.



ICA President and Director General during their visit to Iran



A group of trainers having a discussion.

Natesan Institute of Co-op Management celebrates Golden Jubilee – holds Youth Seminar for Sr. Sec. Students



Delegates in rapt attention at the Seminar

The Natesan Institute of Co-operative Management, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, celebrated its Golden Jubilee (1954-2004) 23 June 2004. The Golden Jubilee celebrations were inaugurated by Mr. R. Kannan, IAS, Registrar of Co-operatives, Tamil Nadu and Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President of the National Co-operative Union of India.

Over 120 people participated in the celebrations. Natesan Institute of Co-operative Management is one of the premier institutes in India, imparting training in co-operative management in

its various disciplines. With a faculty of 6 persons and guest lecturers, the institute provides more than 120 training activities throughout the year. During the celebrations, a youth seminar was organized, wherein 117 students from the senior secondary schools in Chennai, and also the students for the Higher Diploma in Co-operative Management of the Institute participated.

P. Nair, Communication Officer, ICA ROAP, addressed the students and provided explanations on the queries raised by them.

Fourth ICA Regional Workshop on Management of Consumer Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific held

The Fourth ICA Regional Workshop for Managers on “Management of Consumer Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific” was held in Singapore on 13-15 September 2004.

The workshop was organized by ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific and hosted by Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) and NTUC FairPrice Co-operative. 22 managers from 6 countries (India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) participated in the workshop and learned from the success story of NTUC FairPrice and theories of managing store to compete with competitors.

NTUC FairPrice, is undoubtedly one of the most successful consumer co-operatives not only in Asia but also in the world. The co-op has nearly 60% of market share of supermarket



Participants of the Regional Workshop pose for a photograph

business in Singapore with 463,000 individual members and 75 supermarkets and 34 convenience stores.

Sixth Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific meets in Chiangmai, Thailand

The 6th Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly was held 3-4 December, 2004, the 4th December 2004 being the day for field visits. 165 delegates from 17 countries of the Region and Canada and UK participated at the Regional Assembly. The meeting was very well participated with a host of interaction and queries from the delegates.

The ICA Regional Assembly amended its rules and also approved re-election of the 11 Standing Committee members for a period of 4 years, to bring it on par with the ICA Global General Assembly.

Mr. Mu Li, President of ICA-Asia & Pacific has been nominated as the candidate for ICA Vice Presidency at the next General Assembly to be held in Categena, Colombia during 2006.



Hon. Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand inaugurating the Regional Assembly



Ivano Barberini, ICA President, speaking at the inaugural session.



A view of participants at the Forum



Dignitaries at the joint opening - Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister, Ivano Barberini, ICA President, Mr. Mu Li, ICA President, Asia & Pacific. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA Asia & Pacific is also seen in the picture.

The activity report for the year 2004, the work plan and budget for the year 2005 and also the tentative plan and budget for a period upto 2008 have been approved by the Regional Assembly.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. Mu Li and was participated by Ivano Barberini, ICA President and Maria-Elena Chavez, Deputy Director General of ICA.

Mr. Mu Li requested Dr. Yehudah Paz to conduct the meeting on his behalf and Dr. Paz presided the meeting. It was decided to hold the next Regional Assembly in Colombo, Sri Lanka, during 2006.

ICA Regional Co-operative Forum held in Chiangmai, Thailand

The International Co-operative Alliance – Asia & Pacific held the 3rd Regional Co-operative Forum, at the Lotus PSK Hotel, Chiangmai, Thailand from 29 November to 04 December, 2004. The Co-operative League of Thailand (CLT) hosted the Forum. About 250 delegates from Australia, Bhutan, Canada, China, Cambodia, Finland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, United Kingdom and Thailand participated.

The Forum and the Regional Assembly were jointly inaugurated by the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, H.E. Chaturon Chaisang, Mr. Suwat Tantipat, Governor of Chiangmai, and Mr. Wirat Iam-Ua-Yuth, Chairman of Co-operative League of Thailand and several co-operative leaders were present.



Mr. Shil Kwan Lee speaking at the joint inaugural session.



Ms. Faye Lageu speaking at the Forum

The main theme of the Forum was 'Re-engineering Co-operatives in the Globalized Economy', with sub-themes: (i) Co-operative Values-vis-à-vis Competition, (ii) Fair Globalization through Co-operatives, (iii) Re-structuring Co-operatives, (iv) Governance of Co-operatives, (v) Sectoral Concerns, and (vi) Social Cohesion through Co-operatives.

Eminent speakers and researchers like, Ian MacPherson, Paul Fitzgerald, Hagen Hency, Faye Lageu, Shigeri Fukamachi, Toshifumi Yamashita, Lucita Lazo, Huseyin Polat, N. Suzuki, Wim Polman, Seah Kian Peng, U.S. Awasthi, Y.S.P. Thorat, and Teo Say Hong presented well researched papers.

ICA President, Ivano Barberini and Deputy Director General, Maria-Elena Chavez also actively participated in the discussions.



Mr. U.S. Awasthi speaking at the Forum



A colourful cultural programme presented by the hosts - CLT.

Third ICA Regional Research Conference held in Chiangmai, Thailand

The ICA-Asia & Pacific, in collaboration with the ICA Regional Research Forum convened the 3rd Regional Co-operative Research Conference at the Lotus PSK Hotel, Chiangmai, Thailand. The Conference was inaugurated by Ivano Barberini, ICA President, who stressed on the need for values, culture and professionalization to sustain co-operative growth in a competitive world economy. Amnat Rojanapaibul of the CLT welcomed the delegates. Akira Kurimoto, Chairman of the ICA Global Research Committee, welcomed the delegates and explained the research activities of the ICA in different regions of the world. M.V. Madane, Chair of the Regional Research Forum, presided, and explained the background and the objectives of the conference.



Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, speaking at the Regional Research Conference. Also seen are M.V. Madane, Amnat Rojanapaibul, Vice President of CLT and Akira Kurimoto, Chairman of the ICA Global Research Committee.

The Conference was attended by 81 Researchers and Experts working in academic institutions and field-related co-operatives in the Region. Shil Kwan Lee, the ICA Regional Director, explained the activities of the regional office during the current year. Twenty-one papers were presented on the three themes at the Conference, i) Widening the areas and scope of Co-operative Action; ii) Co-operative Governance and Globalization; and, iii) Role and Dynamics of Women's Co-operatives. Out of the 21 papers, ten were presented by awardees of the fellowship given by the Consumer Co-operative Research Institute of Japan.

The emphasis was on Empirical Research to identify problems and development indicators.



Dr. Ian MacPherson presenting his paper



Ms. Sayomporn Yuthasmutr of Thailand presenting a paper at the conference

Fourth ICA Regional Women's Forum held in Chiangmai, Thailand

The International Co-operative Alliance – Asia & Pacific has been organizing Regional Women's Fora since 1998, in collaboration with the ICA Regional Women's Committee. The fourth Regional Women's Forum was held at the Lotus PSK Hotel, Chiangmai, Thailand, on 30 November, 2004.

The key note speaker was Ms. Lucita Lazo, Regional Organiser of UNIFEM. Ms. Rahaiah Baharen, Chairperson of ICA Regional Women's Committee presided and Ms. Maria-Elena Chavez, Dy. Director General of ICA also participated at the Forum.



Madam Rahaiah Baharen with Ms Lucita Lazo of UNIFEM



Ms Akiko Yamauchi from Japan presenting speaking at the Forum

More than 80 delegates from several countries in the Region participated at the Forum and held active discussions on empowering women and also for larger participation in decision-making positions in co-operatives in the Region.

ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University/College Co-operatives held in Chiangmai



Dr. Dongre speaking at the Workshop

The 10th meeting of the ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University/College Co-operatives and University Cooperative Leaders Workshop was held at Lotus PSK Hotel, Chiangmai. 28 delegates from Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, India, Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand participated at the meeting. Kiyotaka Ohno, Chair of the sub-

committee relinquished his office in view of his leaving the National Federation of University Co-operative Associations - NFUCA, Japan. Mr. Manabu Tanaka, Chairperson of NFUCA has conveyed the greetings from Mr. Ohno.

The meeting later elected Mr. Manabu Tanaka as its Chairperson, while Ms. Zenaida Diola from

MMAFECCO, Philippines, Prof. Mohd. Ali Hassan from GAKUB, Malaysia, were re-elected as Vice Chairpersons. Mr. Jiro Ito and Mr. T. Kuriki acted as Secretary and Co-Secretary respectively.



Zenaida Diola, Vice Chair of University Committee speaking.

17th Meeting of HRD and Research Committee held

The 17th meeting of the ICA Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) was held in Chiangmai (Thailand) on 30th November 2004 from 09:30 to 12:30 hours. 18 members from seven countries, namely, India, Indonesia, Israel, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and one international organization, ACCU, attended the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Leow Peng Kui, Chairman of the Committee. He welcomed the presence of the members and thanked

them for their presentations at the meeting. The following 3 presentations were made at the meeting:

1. "Corporate Social Responsibility - Its Significance and Impact on Co-operatives" by Mr. Leow Peng Kui, Chief Executive of SNCF.
2. "Global/Asian Co-op - HRD Networking Center at VMNICM, Pune (India)" by Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive of NCUI. This project is in collaboration with Global ICA HRD Committee and funded by NCUI.

3. "Global Co-operative Learning Center" by Dr. Yehudah Paz, Chairman, International Relations, CUCS, Israel.

Country Reports on HRD activities were presented by members from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The meeting decided that in future country reports should be replaced with "Presentation of Initiatives on HRD".

The meeting unanimously re-elected Mr. Leow Peng Kui from Singapore and Mr. Bhagwati Prasad from India as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson respectively for another term.

38th Meeting of ICA Consumer Committee held in Chiangmai, Thailand

The 38th meeting of ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific was held at Chiangmai, Thailand on 30th November 2004. Twenty-eight participants from 8 countries – India, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam attended the meeting.

Two special reports were presented at the meeting – one on “Current Issues and Challenges of Consumer Co-operative Movement of Thailand” by Natee Sriployrung, President of Consumer Co-operative Federation of Thailand and second on “Re-Engineering Plan of the Consumer Co-operative in Thailand” by the trainees of the training programme they attended in Japan.



Members of the Consumer committee posed for a photograph

6th Meeting of Regional Co-op Banking Association held



Members of the Committee

The 6th meeting of RCBA was held on 30th November 2004 in Lotus PSK Hotel, Chiangmai, Thailand, in conjunction with the 6th ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific. Fourteen members/observers from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Thailand, Canada and ACCU were present.

Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, founder Chairman of RCBA chaired the meeting, since Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, Chairman of RCBA, could not come.

Before taking up agenda, the chairperson made a brief remark and expressed his concern on the slow progress of RCBA and called upon the

members to suggest workable steps to activate and strengthen RCBA. He suggested that such steps could be in regard to increase in the membership, increase in subscription, expansion of RCBA's activities etc. He also called upon the members to adopt a clear resolution on continuance of RCBA's membership with ICBA with exemption from payment of subscription. The meeting agreed to consider these issues after completing the formal agenda. In addition to the routine agenda, a proposal to organize a Regional seminar on “Role of Co-operative Banking Sector in Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation” was discussed. B.S. Vishwanathan of India was unanimously elected as Chairperson of RCBA for the next term. It was decided not to fill-up the post of Vice-Chairman for the time being.

The members appreciated the services rendered by the outgoing Chairman of RCBA, Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya to strengthen the co-operative banking and credit sector in Asia-Pacific.

ICA-Asia & Pacific conducts Critical Studies on Consumer Co-ops – 2 Sub-regional Workshops held



Inauguration of the Sub-Regional Workshop in Colombo

The ICA conducted critical studies on the Consumer Co-operatives in the Asia-Pacific Region, with a view to plan and implement strategies for strengthening the consumer co-operative movements in the Region.

After conducting the study, the ICA in Asia & Pacific, thought it would be beneficial if some workshops are held so that more strategies and ideas could emerge in bringing up the consumer co-operative.

Two such workshops were held, the first one in Colombo, Sri Lanka, during 18-20 October, 2004, wherein more than 30 delegates participated. This workshop was hosted by the Consumer Co-operative Federation of Sri Lanka,

and the second one in Ho-Chi Minh City, Vietnam, from 26-28 October, 2004, which was attended by almost 35 delegates.

Inaugurating the sub-regional workshop in Colombo Mr. Mishra presenting the critical study report at the Workshop at Colombo Participants of the Ho-Chi Minh workshop at a photo opportunity.

Several participants from both the sub-regions have participated and held discussions to arrive at possible strategies to bring the consumer co-operative movement to the forefront.



Dr. Mishra presenting the critical study report at the workshop

ICA-Asia & Pacific Regional Women's Seminar and Networking Programme held



Ms Kanti Singh, Minister of State for Women and Social Welfare, Government of India, lighting the inaugural lamp. Also seen is Mr Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA - Asia & Pacific

The ICA-Asia & Pacific and the ICA Regional Women's Committee in collaboration with the National Co-operative Union of India, organized its first 3-day Seminar and Networking Programme for women and men cooperators in Bangalore, India, 23-25 October, 2004.

The inaugural session has been attended by 150 people including co-operators, trainers, leaders and a significant number of print and electronic media.

The seminar was inaugurated by Ms. Kanti Singh the Hon'ble Minister of State for HRD, Department of

Women and Child Development, Government of India. She appreciated the initiatives of ICA-Asia & Pacific and emphasized on role of co-operatives for empowerment of women as well as the society.

Mr.BS Vishwanathan, member of the ICA Domus Trust and local host extended a warm welcome to the participants and guests.



Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan welcoming the delegates

Malaysia hosts Asia-Pacific Regional Co-operative Youth Seminar in Kaula Lumpur

The ICA Asia-Pacific, ICA Sub-Committee on University/College Cooperatives, National Federation of University Co-operative Associations (NFUCA), Japan and ANGKASA, Malaysia, jointly hosted, the ICA Regional Co-operative Youth Seminar on 4-7 September, 2004.

About 200 youth delegates from India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam, the United Kingdom and North America participated at the serious deliberations.

The theme of the seminar was "Co-operative Youth Participation in the Changing Environment". The delegates deliberated on the following themes : i) Self-employment and entrepreneurship; ii) Campus Co-operative activities; iii) Activities of youth for Community.



Yb. Prof. Dato Shaharil Talib, delivering the Keynote address and (right) Royal Professor, Ungka A. Aziz has a word of advice for the Youth



Shil Kwan Lee and Iain Donald, (right) speaking at the Seminar

The seminar was inaugurated by Y.B. Dato' Khamsiyah bt Yeop, Deputy Minister of Entrepreneur and Co-operative Development. The inaugural session was attended by Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz, President of ANGKASA, Puan Hajah Rahaiah Baharen, Vice President of ANGKASA and Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA-Asia and the Pacific.

The Key Note address was given by Yb. Prof. Dato Shaharil Talib, Director, Asia-Europe Institute of the University of Malaya. Representatives from all countries presented country situation papers.

Special case studies were also presented on (a) Transport Co-operative Operations of Students' Co-operatives in Kerala, India, (b) Activities of university cooperative in Japan, and (c) social activities of co-operative youth of LAMAC co-

operative in the Philippines. These case studies formed basis of group discussions. The 3 groups on each of the above 3 sub-themes, presented group reports and recommendations.

A Regional Co-operative Youth Steering Committee was also formed, which was represented by nominated country representatives which discussed in details about the youth seminar and the sessions and came out with recommendations to the respective national co-operative organizations and the ICA in the Region.

The closing session was addressed by Mr. Iain Macdonald, Director General of the ICA. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, also addressed the Seminar.

Hajah Rahaiah Baharen congratulated the ICA, the ANGKASA and the delegates for the successful completion of the seminar. She also presented certificates of participation to the delegates.

The youth delegates presented cultural performances at the closing ceremony.



Future cooperators - Youth attending the Seminar as also presenting a cultural programme.

10th Board Meeting of APHCO held in Bangkok



Representatives of APHCO at CLT - Bangkok.

The Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organisation, a specialized organization of the ICA in Asia-Pacific Region, held its 10th board meeting at Bangkok, Thailand, 19-20 July, 2004. Twenty-seven delegates and fifteen observers from Japan, India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam and Thailand participated at the meeting.

Opening the board meeting, Dr. Yasuyuki Takahashi, Chairperson, APHCO thanked the CLT for hosting this Board Meeting of APHCO in Thailand. The meeting aimed at:

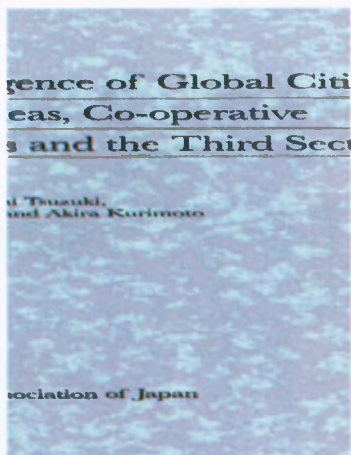
- i) sharing experiences on "healthy community building" to clearly define the role of health co-ops; and
- ii) promoting international human exchange programmes to train future bearers of the co-operatives.

Mr. Wirat Iam-Ua-Yut, Chairman of the Co-operative League of Thailand thanked APHCO board for holding its meeting in Thailand. Mr. Jiro Ito, Secretary of APHCO, highlighted the main points in the minutes of last meeting and also reported the activities carried out by the Secretariat since the last meeting.

One CT Scanner was offered by HCA-JCCU and Sri Lanka has shown keen interest to acquire it. So far Sri Lanka and Nepal have given their requirement of used equipments. A Study Mission was sent to Vietnam to survey the healthcare situation in Vietnam, which submitted its report.

Dr. Yasuyuki Takahashi, Chairperson of APHCO, reported about the IHCO Board meeting held on 10-11 June 2004 at Ottawa, Canada. He informed that the IHCO includes members from Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Russia, Spain and Sweden.

ICA Library and Information services



The ICA ROAP Library maintains the largest collection of co-operative literature. It has more than 20,000 books and publications on co-operatives and allied subjects. To broaden its view and reach we have taken the membership of Indian Library Association (ILA), Delhi Library Association (DLA), New Delhi (India) and Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC), Kolkata (India). The library is often visited by the researchers for their Ph.D. research, students of co-operative college, members and others.

The services rendered by the library are:

- ♦ Provide reference materials and subject literature.
- ♦ Exchange of information and documents with member organizations and co-operative training institutions in response to their specific requests.
- ♦ Dissemination of information in terms of news items to member countries.
- ♦ Providing information by e-mail.
- ♦ It also serves as a marketing/sales agent for co-operative publications, published by ICA ROAP.

ICA-Asia & Pacific conducts study visits to agricultural co-operatives in Korea



Mr. Shil Kwan Lee making a presentation

The International Co-operative Alliance – Asia & Pacific, in collaboration with the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation (NACF) of Korea, organized a study visit for delegates from Bangladesh, Vietnam, India, Philippines, Laos, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, to agricultural co-operatives in Korea, during 5-10 October, 2004.

There were a total of 17 participants at the programme.

Mr. Sung-Chul Kim, Agricultural Advisor of the ICA Asia-Pacific coordinated the study visit programme under the general supervision of Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, the Regional Director.



Participants during the study visit visited an agricultural marketing facility

Fourth Training Course for Strengthening Women's Agricultural Co-ops in Rural Areas held

The International Co-operative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICA ROAP), in association with its member organisation in Japan, the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives of Japan (JA-Zenchu) and IDACA, organised the 4th ICA-Japan Training Course for “Strengthening Women's Agricultural Co-operatives in Rural Areas and Improvement of Farm Management and Rural Life” in Malaysia and Japan. Eight participants – two each from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia and Nepal, attended the training course, which was funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan.

The Course was organised and held by the ICA at the IDACA premises from 05-30 September 2004. The 10-day component of Comparative Field Study Visits was held in Malaysia from 26th August to 4th September 2004 in collaboration with ANGKASA. The field study visits in Japan were arranged to agricultural co-operatives and women's associations in Mie and Nagano prefectures of Japan. Lecture-cum-practical field study visits assignments were combined to impart necessary knowledge to the participants on the working of women's associations and the general activities of agricultural co-operatives in Japan.



Group of participants at the Training Course

The main objective of the training course was to train women leaders in rural areas in developing countries by means of strengthening women's agricultural cooperatives, farm management, and improvement of rural life. The training course also provided opportunities for capacity-building of the participants with a view to organise women's associations and study co-operative activities. An end-of-the-course evaluation session was also held.

ICA MEMBER ORGANISATIONS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

1. Australian Centre for Co-operative Research and Development (ACCORD), Sydney, Australia.
2. Institute for Indonesian Co-operative Development Studies (LSP 21), Jakarta, Indonesia.
3. Co-operative College of Malaysia, Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

INTERNATIONAL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

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



STATEMENT ON THE NEW CO-OPERATIVE IDENTITY

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 co-operative principles are guidelines by which co-operatives put their values into practice. They are:

First Principle: Voluntary and Open Membership

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

Second Principle: Democratic Member Control

Co-operatives are democratic organizations 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 organized 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 organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, 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-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees, so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives. They inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

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 Community

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

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Seventh Asia-Pacific Co-op Ministers' Conference convened in New Delhi, India

The Seventh Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers Conference held on 2-5 February, 2004, had a grand opening session at the Vigyan Bhawan convention centre in New Delhi by the Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister of India, Mr. L.K. Advani.

The other senior leaders present were Mr. Rajnath Singh, Minister for Agriculture and Co-operation, Government of India, Mr. Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav, Minister of State for Agriculture and Co-operation, Mr. Ivano Barberini, President ICA, Mr. Iain Macdonald, Director General, ICA, Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, National Co-operative Union of India and Mr. R.C.A. Jain, Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture.

A total of over 180 delegates, including 11 Co-operative Ministers, and co-operative leaders from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam



The inaugural lamp being lit by L.K. Advani, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister of India. Rajnath Singh, Ivano Barberini, Iain Macdonald, Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav are also seen in the picture.

participated at the Conference.

Besides, fraternal delegates from middle east countries and Europe and international organisations were also well represented. and leading co-operative leaders from Asia and the Pacific, participated at this meeting. Apart from Ministers, senior government representatives, and co-operative leaders, representatives from major international organizations like the ILO, CCA, AARDO, APRACA, ICFTU, ACCU and others made presentation and spoke.

The meeting discussed various legal and other aspects affecting the development of co-operatives. After



L.K. Advani, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister, addressing the conference

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Distinguished guests on the dais (above) and a section of the delegates (below).

operative movements.

The International Co-operative Alliance, especially the Asia-Pacific Regional office, recognising the importance of continuance of the process of legislation and policy reforms for sustainable co-operative development, particularly in the context of globalized competitive world, identified 'Co-operative Policy Development and Legislative Reforms', as one of the key result areas.

To achieve this, the ICA convenes a conference of co-operative ministers' of Asia and the Pacific. Six such Conferences were convened since 1990, as follows:



detailed discussions and presentations and group work, the Conference adopted the following declaration, which will be known as the 'New Delhi Declaration'. This declaration was signed by ministers and other representatives on behalf of their respective governments and co-

- | | | | |
|------|---|-----------|-----------|
| 1990 | - | Australia | Sydney |
| 1992 | - | Indonesia | Jakarta |
| 1994 | - | Sri Lanka | Colombo |
| 1997 | - | Thailand | Chiagmai |
| 1999 | - | China | Beijing |
| 2002 | - | Nepal | Kathmandu |
- All these conferences were hosted by the concerned national governments.



Ministerial delegation from Afghanistan (left) and Iran (right) at the conference

The Department of Agriculture and Co-operation in the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India hosted the 7th Conference.

The theme of this conference is "Establishing Supporting Co-operative Legislation and Policy for sustainable co-operative development".

The Conference deliberated on the Third Critical Study on Co-operative Legislation and Policy sponsored by ICA

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, New Delhi. A number of international resource persons presented papers on (a) Important concern of co-operatives, (b) Best practices in co-operatives, (c) Globalization and Poverty Reduction (d) Co-operative Legislation and Policy, (e) ILO Recommendation 193 on Promotion of Co-operatives.

During the Conference, the delegates were taken on study visits to a few co-operatives and the Taj Mahal.

The 'New Delhi Declaration'

adopted by the 7th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference

New Delhi, 2-4 February 2004

1. **RECOGNIZING** that co-operatives, despite all of the challenges and problems posed by reforms in the economy and liberalization of policies, have continued to serve the economic interests of people, hence contributed significantly to the socio-economic growth of the countries in the Asia-Pacific Region;
 2. **RECOGNIZING** the significance of supportive co-operative legislation and public policies that will harness the full potential of co-operative enterprises for the promotion of the socio-economic well being of the people in general, for the creation of employment, for the alleviation of poverty, and for the development of human resources in particular;
 3. **TAKING NOTE** that enabling legislation and favorable public policies of the government alone will not result in the development of viable co-operatives, unless facilitated by follow-up measures in terms of policy implementation that is matched by supportive measures of the government;
 4. **APPRECIATING** ILO Recommendation 193 on the Promotion of Co-operatives, which enunciates the views of the global co-operative movement on co-operative legislation, as well as government role and policies that facilitate the growth of member-centered, community-oriented, autonomous and competitive co-operative enterprises, as well as ensure equitable distribution of new opportunities and benefits emerging from globalization that is for the good of the community;
 5. **TAKING NOTE** other resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly that supports the development of co-operatives, in particular the role of co-operatives in social development;
 6. **REALIZING** that despite the existence of a more favorable environment for co-operative autonomy, independence and democratic management, there still exist potentially viable co-operative enterprises in developing countries in the region which are over-dependent on government support and patronage, and are found to be weak and dormant in several sectors, with no concrete action plan for revival and revitalization in a time-bound manner;
7. The participants of the 7th Co-operative Ministers' Conference held at New Delhi, India from 2nd to 4th February 2004, **CALL UPON** the Governments and Co-operatives in the Asia-Pacific Region, as well as the ICA-ROAP, to hasten the process of legislative and policy reforms that will guarantee more autonomy and independence of co-operatives, ensure the creation of a conducive environment that will lead towards a more balanced and sustained growth of the co-operatives in all sectors of the economy, and hence ensuring the socio-economic development of the people and the country, particularly in regard to:
 - a. The formulation of specific public policy – in consultation with the co-operative movement – that will facilitate the growth of member-centered, community-oriented, autonomous and competitive co-operative enterprises;
 - b. The harmonization of co-operative policy and legislation;
 - c. The definition of an appropriate role and engagement of co-operatives in public policies relating to different sectors of economy, e.g. agriculture, credit, banking and insurance, trade and commerce, labor, etc.;
 - d. The repositioning and strengthening of the co-operatives by way of:
 - i. augmentation of capital and resources, ii. Professionalization of management, iii. Adoption of appropriate manpower development strategies, iv. Diversification and broad-basing business operations, v. upgrading technologies for enhanced efficiency and

- effectiveness of services, and vi. Learning from experiences, good practices and successful growth models of co-operatives in different sectors in the countries of the Asia-Pacific Region;
- e. The empowerment of co-operatives in order that they can play an enhanced role in social sector development; and
 - f. The creation of appropriate provisions in Co-operative Legislation that will enhance the role and participation of women in co-operative management and leadership.
8. **RECOGNIZING FURTHER** the depth and significance of presentations made in this Conference pertaining to "Important Concerns of Co-operatives", "Co-operative Best Practices", and "Globalization and Poverty", **CALL UPON** the Governments and Co-operatives in the Asia-Pacific Region, as well as the ICA-ROAP, to:
- a. Give special consideration to increasing women's participation in the Cooperative movement at all levels; the Government together with the co-operative movement in each country must provide the necessary FUNDS for gender disaggregated data base, training and education of women, networking and exposure to success stories, and particularly to those co-operatives where young co-operators can play an active role in co-operative activities based on their understanding of the Co-operative Identity.
 - b. Recognize the important role of co-operatives in a rapidly changing global environment, and for governments to create a favourable environment for the development of co-operatives including, if necessary, to offer those preferences for co-operatives which work for the betterment of the community and for the creation of an information technology in order to help co-operatives to operate more efficiently.
 - c. Confirm and advocate to the UN and other relevant Development Agencies the contribution co-operatives can make in the area of Good Governance and Business Development as value-added features in Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS) being undertaken by governments and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in ICA member-countries in Asia and the Pacific.
 - d. Seek a new strategy through which co-operatives can become an integral part in the PRS processes being undertaken by the corresponding governments and CSOs in ICA member countries.
 - e. Create and bring about effective and enhanced partnerships that have been developed with Trade Unions, Employers' Groups, women's groups and other Civil Society Organizations, and supported by multilateral and bilateral agencies as well as other partners.
- SIGNED ON THIS FOURTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2004,
IN NEW DELHI, INDIA:



Delegates posed for a group photograph with the Deputy Prime Minister of India, Mr. L.K. Advani, Co-operative Minister and others (above)

Deputy Prime Minister of India with Iain Macdonald, Director General (top right)

ICA, President, Director General and Regional Director at a press conference (bottom-right)



ICA ROAP hold Training of Trainers' (TOT) Workshop in Bandung, Indonesia

The ICA ROAP has conducted a workshop to train trainers using a manual for Co-operative Women Leadership Training, developed by the ICA ROAP in collaboration with the ILO COOPNET, from 8-13 March 2004.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Mohd. Iqbal, Vice President of DEKOPIN. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director for Asia-Pacific delivered the welcome address and made a presentation on the activities and programmes of ICA ROAP.

25 participants from four (4) Asian countries, i.e., Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand, participated at the workshop.

The workshop was hosted by LAPENKOP. Mr. Yusri Suhrid, CEO of LAPENKOP has made a big contribution towards the success of the workshop.

The participants found that the training was very useful and relevant to their work and hoped that this manual would be of much use in



The delegates at a photo session

training co-operative women leaders and potential leaders in their respective countries. They also mentioned that they will integrate the text of the manual in their own training curriculum. The DEKOPIN has been requested to get the manual translated into local language so that it could be more useful to the co-operators.



A section of the participants (above) and Mrs. Savitri Singh addressing the delegates (below)



Another view of the Seminar



Mrs. Savitri Singh, Advisor-Gender Programme of ICA-ROAP, will follow on the progress.

A study visit to a women co-operative in Bandung was organized on the last day of the workshop.

– Savitri Singh

Young Co-operators plan strategies at National Seminar on Student/Youth Co-ops in India

A national seminar was organized by the Regional Institute of Co-operative Management, Bangalore, India, in collaboration with the International Co-operative Alliance, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the National Co-operative Union of India, New Delhi, Forum for Co-operatives in Educational Institutions, Chennai (FCEI), the Karnataka State Co-operative Federation Bangalore, at the Institute premises in Bangalore, 26-28 February, 2004.

The seminar was inaugurated by Mr. K.K. Misra, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka and chaired by Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, Chairman, Co-operative Bank of India and Regional Institute of Co-operative Management, Bangalore. Mr. Ramesh Ram Mishra, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Tamil Nadu and Chairman, FCEI, Mr. K.R. Shashidhara, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Government of Karnataka, and Mr. Kiyotaka Ohno, Chairperson, ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University/College Co-operatives for Asia and the Pacific, addressed the seminar. Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive, National Co-operative Union of India, gave the Key Note Address.

The delegates came from Japan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Pondichery, Orissa, Haryana and Assam.



Mr.K.K. Mishra, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Karnataka lighting the inaugural lamp



Distinguished guests on the dais

At the end of the 3 days' seminar, the participants were grouped together in 4 groups and they discussed on the following 4 issues:



Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, Chairman, Co-operative Bank of India addressing the seminar

- i. Co-operatives and Corporates – to confront or to collaborate.
- ii. How to Enhance Students' Participation in Campus Co-operatives.
- iii. Steps to be taken to Stabilize and Expand Students Co-operatives in India
- iv. Redesigning the National Youth Policy and Developing a National Youth Co-operative Policy.

Group 1 came up with a suggestion that it should be collaborative competition and not confrontation.



The delegates at a session

They have also pointed out examples of collaboration between co-operatives and corporates. They suggested amendments to co-operative acts and rules and increasing members' stake in the co-operatives.

Group 2 came up with various suggestions to enhance participation of students in campus co-operatives, like requesting the college authorities to include information about the co-operatives in the prospectus, organizing admission orientation seminars where discussions on campus co-operatives are given, campus co-op stores to sell one item every month at cost price, promoting a fund to help poor students, displaying price comparison with the market on products sold by the co-operative store. They also wanted



Another section of participants.

school/college authorities to remove the restriction on age limit, etc., providing concession to students who are active in co-operative activities, providing some remuneration to such students, etc.

Group 3 came out with ideas for stabilizing and expanding students'

co-operatives in India, by creating awareness among students, managements, teachers and parents, organizing joint purchases amongst the various co-operatives, introducing a credit/debit card system for purchase, incentives to loyal customers in the form of purchase discounts, etc.

They also suggested that micro-credit facilities be established by student co-operatives, and activities should be expanded from the current books and stationery stores, like running of cafeterias, recreation activities, health clubs, career guidance, transport services, language clubs, etc. Also publish newsletters and look and insist on a good location for the co-operative store.

Group 4 came up with various suggestions for developing a National Youth Co-operative Policy. They wanted a model bye-law for students' co-operatives all over India, minimum age for full-time membership to be reduced to 15 years, introducing co-operation in the curriculum of schools and colleges should include co-operation for eligibility tests, government to introduce a separate Indian Co-operative Services (ICS), etc.

During the seminar, the participants were taken on a field study trip to Citizens' Consumer Co-operative and the Dr. Vishveshariah Engineering College Co-operative, which they enjoyed very much.

– P. Nair

The Eighteenth [18th] ICA-Japan Training Course on Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia

The Eighteenth [18th] ICA-Japan Training Course on Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia was inaugurated in India on 16 January, 2004, after a month-long home country assignment segment. The India segment lasted until 28 February, 2004.

The 12 participants of the training course (from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) visit agricultural co-operative in Vietnam from 2-6 March, 2004 and proceeded to Japan, for the last leg of the course which will conclude on April 17, 2004.

The Inaugural Session of the Course was attended by Mr. D.K. Bhatt, Marketing Director of IFFCO, Mr. Shil-Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director [Asia-Pacific], Mr Tomofumi Inoue, First Secretary in the Japanese Embassy in India, Mr S. Fukamachi, Managing Director, IDACA, was represented by Mr. Toru Nakashima, Deputy Manager (Trg), Mr. D.K. Bhattacharya, Joint General Manager (HRD), IFFCO, Dr. R.N. Kundu, Sr.



Participants at the inauguration of the Training Course (above) Mr. Tomofumi Inoue, First Secretary, Japanese Embassy speaking (below).

Manager (Trg), FMDI, and Mr. Prem Kumar, Adviser, ICA-Japan Training Course.

The programme is being implemented by the International Co-operative Alliance [ICA] in collaboration with JA-Zenchu [Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives of Japan] and the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia-Japan [IDACA].

– Prem Kumar



Fourth ASEAN Senior Co-operative Management Programme held in Singapore

The 4th ASEAN Senior Co-operative Management Programme was held on 1-6 March 2004, at the Copthorne Orchid Hotel. Seventeen senior co-operative leaders and government officials attended it from eight ASEAN countries, which include Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar and Singapore.

Ong Teng Cheong Institute of Labour Studies (OTCILS), co-ordinated the programme and Mr. Robby Tulus was key resource person. The programme comprised of lectures, discussions, field visits, business networking and dialogue with senior executives of



Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director ICA making a presentation. Mr. Leow Pengkui, Chief Executive of SNCF presiding.

Singapore co-operatives.

The Programme was officially opened by Mr. Sunny Ee, Deputy Director, Technical Co-operation Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Also, it was an excellent opportunity for the Co-operative Movements from the various ASEAN countries to understand each other better as well as to strengthen their bilateral relationships.

The Co-operators from ASEAN were highly appreciative of SNCF for being an excellent host and facilitator in bringing the Co-operators together.

– Lee Lup Poon, Singapore

Co-operatives for improving Asian slums

An International Seminar was organized by the International Co-operative Housing Foundation for Asia and the Pacific (ICHFAP) in collaboration with National Co-operative Housing Federation of India (NCHF), 19-21st January, 2004 at New Delhi. 30 participants, including representatives of co-operative housing institutions from various Asian Countries attended the Seminar.

The Seminar was inaugurated by Mr. Deep Chand Sharma, Chairman, NCHF and by Mr. Paramasvaran Kandiah, President of ICHFAP. The focus of the seminar was to evolve as a think-tank for resolving the problems faced by the poorer sections of the society who are unable to afford reasonable housing facilities and, therefore, are compelled to live in unhygienic and ill-equipped slums of various cities of Asian countries.

In the theme paper presented on 'Slums of Asian Cities: Role of Co-operatives for Improving their Living Conditions', Dr. M.L. Khurana,

Director of the Foundation, explained the magnitude of the slum problems faced by various Asian Cities and the concern expressed by United Nations in tackling them. As an effective alternative, he suggested that the system of development of slums should be through the mechanism of co-operatives – a co-operative for housing, a co-operative for health and hygiene, a co-operative for water and sanitation, a co-operative for infrastructure, etc. or alternatively a multi-purpose co-operative for the combination of all the above.

The Seminar also deliberated issues relating to various technology options including adoption of new construction materials, designs and training programmes for artisans with a view to reducing housing cost, improving durability and increasing the skill levels of construction labourers.

– **PRO, National Co-operative Housing Federation**
New Delhi

Senior officials of MAFF visits ICA ROAP

Two senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan, Mr. Haruo Kato and Mr. Kazunari Iwafuchi, visited ICA ROAP in New Delhi, 22-25 March, 2004.

The purpose of their visit was to discuss about activities of the training programme and also to finalise details on the forthcoming course.

– K. Sethumadhavan

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Beijing holds International Co-operative Trade Fair and Forum

An International Co-operative Trade Fair and Forum was organized in Beijing, China, 26-28 April, 2004 at the China National Agricultural Exhibition Centre.

The Fair and Forum was sponsored by All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC), with support and assistance from Co-op Atlantic, Canada, The Co-operative Group, UK, the NTUC Fairprice, Singapore and the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The Fair and Forum were jointly inaugurated by Mr. Bai Lichen, President of the Board of All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives, in the presence of senior level delegates from various countries, including Mr. Ivano Barberini, President, ICA, Mr. Iain Macdonald, Director General, ICA and others.

Co-operative Exhibitors with a large variety of foodstuff, handicrafts, machinery, plant, clothes, fabrics, etc. from all over China and other countries. India, Indonesia, Iran, Sri



Inauguration of the Trade Fair and Forum by Mr. Bai Lichen, President of All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-ops. ICA President, Director General and other dignitaries are also seen in the picture

Lanka, Nepal, Singapore, Japan, Korea, the UK were some of the countries who had set up stalls at the exhibition.

A 2-day International Co-operative Trade Forum (26-27 April, 2004) was organized. Over 100 delegates from various countries and from provinces all over China participated at the Forum. The Forum was divided into 4 segments. Mr. Robby Tulus, Senior Consultant, ICA chaired the Forum. He also introduced the concept of the Co-op Forum to the delegates.

Forum I was on 'Marketing and Merchandizing', with Ms. Akiko Yamauchi from JCCU, Japan and Mr. John Harvie, CEO of Co-op Atlantic as speakers. Forum II dealt on 'China's Trade/Exposure' with Mr. Gu



ICA President speaking at the inaugural ceremony

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Bob Houlton, President, Co-op Atlantic, Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director, and Iain Macdonald, Director General during a session

Guoxin, Mr. He Zhongmin, and Mr. Hou Shunli as speakers. Forum III was on 'Competition' and speakers were

Mr. Malcolm Hepworth, Co-op Group, U.K. and Mr. Seah Kian Peng, Deputy CEO of Fair Price Co-op

Singapore and Chair of Singapore National Co-operative Federation. Forum IV was on 'Global Trade', where Mr. Iain Macdonald, Director General, and Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA spoke.

All the sessions were very lively and were interspersed with question and answer sessions. Delegates came out with very good suggestions and queries.

The forum provided a very good opportunity of interaction between delegates and understanding problems and prospects of the international co-op trade. On 26th April, the hosts extended to the delegates a welcome reception with a colourful cultural show.

-P. Nair

Changes in Leadership of Regional Co-op organisations

NATCCO Elects new Chairperson

After its first woman in 26 years, the NATCCO Network now has its second female chairperson. Ms. Evelyn B. Bautista was elected Chairperson of the NATCCO Board of Directors (BoD) during its organizational meeting last May 8, 2004.



Elected Vice Chairperson was Felicisimo B. Gale of the Cagayan Valley Federation of Cooperatives and Development Center (CAVALCO).

NCC, Sri Lanka, has a new President

Mr. Bandupala Ranawaka has been elected as the new President of National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka.

He replaced Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe.

NATCCO has a Congressman

Mr. Guillermo P. Cua, COOP-NATCCO's nominee, was proclaimed elected by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) last June 2, 2004 as one of the 16 winning party-list candidates in the May 10, 2004 elections. COOP-NATCCO ranked 13th in a field of 66 party-list candidates, with more than 270,000 votes or 2.13% of the total party-list votes.

Mr. Guillermo Cua was the Chief Executive of NATCCO, where he has done wonderful work for the co-operative Movement.

New Chairman of IFFCO, India

Indian Farmers' Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd, (IFFCO), India, in its Annual General meeting on 21st May 2004, elected Mr.



Surinder Kumar Jakhar as its new Chairman. He has taken over from Mr. K. Srinivasa Gowda.

NACF re-elects Chung as Chairman

Mr. Dae-kun Chung was re-elected as Chairman of the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation (NACF) with strong support from the co-operative leaders in Korea.



Mr. Chung was first elected in 1999 and oversaw the establishment of the new NACF when the livestock and ginseng co-operatives merged with the former NACF in 2000. He served as the Chairperson of the organizing committee for the ICA 2000 General Assembly in Seoul and has been on the ICA Board since 2001.

The NACF is a multi-purpose agricultural co-operative and bank. It is the largest co-operative in Korea and has over 2 million farmer members.

Eighteenth ICA-Japan Management Training Course concludes

The Eighteenth [18th] ICA-Japan Training Course on "Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia" was held in India, Vietnam and Japan, from December 15, 2003 to April 17, 2004.

The programme was implemented by the International Co-operative Alliance [ICA] in collaboration with JA-Zenchu [Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives of Japan] and the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia-Japan [IDACA]. A generous financial assistance was provided to the ICA by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [MAFF] of the Government of Japan to conduct the programme.

The Course was held in the following two phases. Phase-I covered Home Country Assignments [December 15, 2003 to January 14, 2004]; Programme held in India [January 15-March 1, '04] and Programme held in Vietnam, Mar 2-6, '04], while Phase-II of the Programme was held in Japan at IDACA [March 7-April 17, 2004]

Twelve [12] participants from ten countries i.e., Bangladesh-01, China-01, India-02, Indonesia-01, Malaysia-01, Nepal-01, the



Participants of the Training Course pose for a photograph

Philippines-01, Sri Lanka-01, Thailand-01 and Vietnam-02 were selected for this course, of whom, two were women.

The main objective of the Training Course was to help improve the capabilities of managers in agricultural co-operatives. It was expected that the trained managers, by using project-oriented approaches, help the basic members at the grassroots level to enhance and sustain their farm income. It was also expected that agricultural co-operatives introduce and accelerate

the agro-processing activities to add value to the primary products of their members.

Part I of the training course held in India was preceded by the Home Country Assignments [HCAs]. The participants followed comprehensive field study visits from March 2-6, 2004 in Vietnam, which was

organised in close collaboration with the ICA member-organisation in Vietnam, the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance [VCA].

The Course was inaugurated by Mr D.K. Bhatt, Marketing Director of the Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Co-operative Limited [IFFCO] at the Fertiliser Marketing Development Institute (FMDI) of IFFCO at Gurgaon. Mr Shil-Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, Mr Tomofumi Inoue, First Secretary in the Japanese Embassy in India, Mr. S. Fukamachi, Managing Director, IDACA, represented by Mr. Toru Nakashima, Deputy Manager (Trg), Mr. D.K. Bhattacharya, Joint General Manager (HRD), IFFCO, Dr. R.N. Kundu, Sr. Manager (Trg), FMDI and Mr. Prem Kumar, Adviser, ICA/Japan Training Course, attended the Inaugural Session. A message received from Mr. Fukamachi, Managing Director, IDACA, Tokyo, was read by Mr. Nakashima of IDACA at the inaugural session.

Mr Prem Kumar, Programme Adviser, ICA ROAP, was responsible for the conduct of the Training Course.

The programme in Japan was held under the direction of Mr S.



Participants on a study visit at a farm



Some of the participants visiting a floriculture shop

Fukamachi, Managing Director of the IDACA. Mr. Toru. Nakashima, Deputy Manager (Trg), and Ms. Eiko Oshita, Coordinator, were designated by IDACA as Programme Co-ordinators for the Part-II of the course.

As a part of their studies, the participants had produced 12 development project proposals during their Home Country Assignments [HCAs] in accordance with the guidelines provided by the ICA. They developed the concepts of these

proposals in consultation with their parent organisations. While at IRMA, the participants were imparted training in skills of developing project proposals.

The second part of the programme held at IDACA included extensive classroom work and study visits to agricultural co-operatives in and around Tokyo, Yamanashi and Kochi Prefectures in Japan. The focus of studies was on the historical development of the Japanese



Some of the participants during a study visit in Kochi prefecture

Agricultural Co-operative Movement, innovations, management practices, and diversification and business promotion.

A continuous process of evaluation and appraisal has been followed throughout the term of the Training Course, e.g., at the end of each component, through evaluation forms and group discussions. An End-of-the-Course Evaluation was conducted at the conclusion of the Training Course. Certificates of Participation were awarded to the participants at a concluding session held at the IDACA in Tokyo before their departure for their home countries.

During these 18 Training Courses, a total of 267 managers of agricultural co-operatives from 14 countries of Asia had attended the training programmes. They prepared a total of 264 project proposals on topical subjects.

-Prem Kumar

A Century of Indian Co-operative Movement

This year, in March 2004, the Indian Co-operative Movement has completed a century of its services to the nation. Starting with a limited spectrum of rural credit dispensation in 1904, the co-operative sector of India has expanded tremendously and emerged as a significant component of national economy.

With a wide network of more than half a million co-operatives and membership of 230 million spreading from village to tertiary levels, the co-operative movement has acquired commanding heights in the spheres of agriculture, handlooms and handicrafts, finance and banking, distribution of consumer goods, etc.

Besides economic development, the co-operative movement in India contributed to the creation of good public leadership. A sizeable number of members of the Indian Parliament and Provincial Assemblies have been associated with the co-operative movement.

To commemorate the achievement of co-operatives, the National Co-operative Union of India has constituted a high level committee for the Centennial Celebrations from village to national levels. All the sectoral federations at secondary, provincial and national level will be organizing seminars, conferences, discussions, debates, etc., important



Ms. Ranjana Kumar, Chairperson, NABARD inaugurating the Conference. Ashok Bandopadhyaya and Dr. S.S. Sisodia are also seen in the picture.

publications will also be brought out on "Success Stories of Co-operative Movement during 100 Years"; "A Directory of Research on Co-operation"; and "A Directory of First Co-operative in all the States". The celebrations will culminate into a National Co-operative Congress during December, 2004.

As a part of the centenary celebrations, the National Federations of State Co-operative Banks of India, one of the members of the ICA in India, convened a national conference of co-operative banks to introspect on the achievements of rural co-operative credit system during the last 100 years and to formulate strategies to strengthen rural credit system in the context of the changing environment.

The Indian Co-operative Movement has been part of the ICA family since 1900.

-B.D. Sharma

Strengthening Co-operatives in Laos PDR and Cambodia

In pursuance of its Key Result Area of Co-operative Development, the ICA ROAP is focusing on those countries of Asia-Pacific, whose co-operatives have been victims of either political ideology or instability. In this context three countries, viz. Afghanistan, Cambodia and Laos PDR have been identified.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, along with Mr. B.D. Sharma, Senior Consultant, visited Laos PDR on 8-11 April and held extensive discussions with policy makers and senior officials in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and also with leaders of water user associations, farmers' production groups, and self-help groups to examine the possibilities of promoting co-operatives.

On this occasion a National Workshop of officials in-charge of implementation of various development programmes relating to agriculture and rural development was convened.

Important conclusions of the workshop are: (a) earlier co-ops collapsed due to interference of government and members' apathy; (b) there is a need to promote co-operatives. However, they should not be imposed from above. The prospective members should be educated appropriately in co-operative principles and management; (c) a few water users' associations/farmers' groups/self-help groups may be transformed into co-operatives on a pilot basis. After evaluating their success, country-wide replication process for co-operative development be initiated; (d) there is a need to develop a specific co-operative legal framework. The ICA was urged to extend required support in this regard; (e) the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) will create a core group of

officials who could be intensively sensitized in co-operative principles and management and approach/strategy on co-operative development in Laos PDR; and (f) ICA ROAP should organize capacity building programmes, both for core group members and also for leaders of pilot water user's associations/farmers' groups/self-help groups.

Last year, the ICA ROAP with the support of AGRITERRA of Netherlands had conducted a detailed study on the prospects of promoting agricultural co-operatives in Laos PDR. The study was also circulated in the workshop.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, along with Mr. B.D. Sharma, Senior Consultant, also visited Cambodia recently and interacted with senior officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to formulate an Action Plan to Strengthen Co-operative Institutional Framework for the benefit of farmers and the rural community.

Rural co-operatives were destroyed by a 30-year long civil war and the Government has taken a conscious policy decision to promote agricultural co-operatives on a pilot basis. The success of these pilot co-operatives will pave the way for their country-wide replication and also for promotion of co-operatives in non-agricultural sector.

The ICA interventions will add value to the efforts of the Government to promote co-operatives. Areas in which the ICA support has been sought are (a) capacity building; (b) formulation of suitable legal framework for co-operatives; (c) management of business of co-operatives; (d) development of suitable co-operative credit system; and (e) development of co-operative marketing system.

-B.D. Sharma



Photo taken during the visit of Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director and B.D. Sharma, Senior Consultant to Laos PDR



Mr. Shil Kwan Lee and Mr. Sharma with a co-operative group in Cambodia

Fourth Trainers' Training Programme for Leadership Development of Women in Co-operatives held in Iran

The fourth Trainers' Training Programme for Leadership Development of Women in Co-operatives has been held, 7-12 June, 2004, at Esfehan, Iran.

Concerned about the under-representation of women in leadership and decision making

The third programme was conducted in Bandung, Indonesia in March, 2004, wherein 25 participants from Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand attended.

Now, the fourth training programme in Iran trained 25 participants from Iran, Malaysia, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Chairman, Central Organisation of Rural Co-operatives of Iran (CORC) inaugurated the one-week Trainers' Training Programme.

Ms. Rahaiah Baهران, Chairperson of the ICA Regional Women's Committee, Mr. M Karim Beiki, Managing Director, CURACI, Mr. Reza Geramipour, Dy. Managing Director of CURACI, representative of Governor of Esfehan city, Mr. Jiro Ito, Director-Special Programs, ICA ROAP, and several other prominent co-operators and faculty members of training center attended the ceremony, apart from the participants. Mrs. Savitri Singh, Advisor Gender Programs coordinated the programme.

A large number of media persons from several news agencies also attended the opening and gave wide coverage of the programme in print and electronic media. The participants were instructors from co-operative training institutions, managers of co-operatives and co-operative education instructors from grassroots level.

Mrs. Savitri Singh from ICA ROAP and Mr. Paul Cinnappan from Credit Union Promotion Club of Malaysia, were the resource persons.

An end-of-course Evaluation about various aspects of the training was conducted on the last day of the programme by circulation of specially designed evaluation form.

The participants were given certificates of participation.

-Savitri Singh



Participants of the Training workshop pose for a photograph

position in co-operatives in the region, the ICA Regional Office and the Regional Women's Committee identified training needs for women to enable them take up leadership role. With the efforts of the Committee, ICA ROAP and ILO CO-OPNET a Trainers' Training Manual was developed for this purpose. The ICA has conducted training programmes so far as follows:

The first trainers' training programme was conducted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 21-26 Oct. 2002, the National Co-operative Organisation of Malaysia (ANGKASA) hosting the programme and trainers from Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia attended the programme.

The second programme was held in Pune, India, 2-7 June, 2003 for the south, west and central Asia region, wherein 23 participants from Iran, Sri Lanka, Nepal and India attended the programme.



A group of trainers having a discussion

The Central Union of Rural and Agricultural Co-operatives of Iran (CURACI) hosted the programme. All the cost of lodging and boarding of 25 participants, logistics and other working expenses for study visits, city tours and classroom training for one week has been provided by the CURACI.

Mr. M Karim Beiki, the Managing Director of CURACI took keen interest and extended all support to make the programme a great success.

Mr. Abdolrahman Cheraghali, Dy. Minister of Jihad-e-Agriculture and



Mrs. Savitri Singh explaining a point

Natesan Institute of Co-operative Management celebrates Golden Jubilee – holds youth seminar for senior secondary students

The Natesan Institute of Co-operative Management, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, celebrated its golden jubilee (1954-2004) 23 June 2004. The Golden Jubilee celebrations were inaugurated by Mr. R. Kannan, IAS, Registrar of Co-operatives, Tamil Nadu and Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President of the National Co-operative Union of India.

A gathering of over 120 participated in the celebrations. Natesan Institute of Co-operative Management is one of the premier institutes in India, imparting training in co-operative management in its various disciplines. With a faculty of 6 persons and guest lecturers, the institute provides more



Golden Jubilee celebration - on the dias are (l to r) P. Jagannathan, Vice Principal, R. Kannan, Registrar of Co-ops, Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, NCU, and Dr. S. Vadivelu, Principal of Natesan Institute of Co-op Management.



Secondary school students and teachers attending the Youth Seminar.

than 120 training activities throughout the year.

During the golden jubilee celebrations, a youth seminar was organized, wherein 117 students from the senior secondary schools in Chennai, and also the students for the Higher Diploma in Co-operative Management of the Institute participated.

The students were very enthusiastic to know how the co-operatives function and how this could be the second sector of economy globally. Many of the students showed keen interest to know more about the co-operative principles, rules and regulations of forming a co-operative, and the economic activities that could be undertaken by the co-operatives, etc.

Dr. S. Vadivelu, Principal, Mr. Stanley Elango, Faculty Member, and Mr. P. Jagannathan, Vice-Principal of the Natesan Institute of Co-operative Management presented papers on the subject of co-operation and explained to the students in very simple terms.

P. Nair, Communication Officer, ICA ROAP, who participated in the Seminar, provided explanations on the queries raised by the students. He also addressed the students.

-P. Nair

Regional co-operators come to the help of earthquake affected Iranian co-operators

A part from several co-operative organizations worldwide, the Japanese Agricultural Co-operative Movement (JA Group) has held a nation-wide campaign for the support of Iranian earthquake victims and collected a record US\$336,602/-, which will be sent to the Iranian Co-operatives to support the earthquake affected co-operators in Iran. The donation will be made very soon.

Similarly a sum of US\$16,467/- has been collected by ANGKASA, Malaysia, which they have remitted to the Iranian co-operative movement.

We at the ICA ROAP thank these organisations and others who have come forward to support their co-operative brethren in their hour of suffering and need.

-Editor

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82nd ICA International Co-operative Day – 10th UN International Co-operative Day

3 July 2004

Message from the International Co-operative Alliance

Co-operatives for Fair Globalisation: Creating Opportunities for All

FAIR GLOBALISATION means putting people first; respecting their rights, cultural identity and autonomy, and the empowerment of the local communities in which they live. On this International Day of Co-operatives, co-operative enterprises worldwide, whether large or small should be recognised as making this kind of globalisation a reality.

Globalisation affects everyone. It undoubtedly has benefited many, but overall its advantages are not yet being felt by the majority of the world's population. Persistent imbalances in the current workings of the global economy are ethically unacceptable and politically unsustainable. The World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation made up of world leaders has been working on finding ways to make globalisation work for all. They argue that economic benefits should and could be more fairly shared through fair globalisation based on universally shared values, and respect for human rights and individual dignity which is inclusive, democratically governed and provides opportunities and tangible benefits for all countries and people.

The Commission highlights the critically important role that co-operatives can play in shaping

the evolution of globalisation alongside other actors of civil society. It specifically mentions the key role co-operatives can play in the following areas: strengthening dialogues and governance – co-operatives have long been known as “schools of democracy”; strengthening economic capacity – co-operatives are market leaders in many industry sectors around the world, they also often address situations of market failure thus ensuring the economy functions more efficiently; building a local economic base – co-operatives start by addressing a local need, but they remain committed to their local communities, unlike some businesses; increasing corporate social responsibilities – co-operatives have long been innovators in combining economic and social values and practices.

People at the heart of enterprises that is what co-operatives are all about. Co-operatives create opportunities for people to help themselves; to respond to the economic and social challenges faced in their lives. Over 800 million people around the world are already members of co-operatives. Co-operatives employ more women and men than multinational corporations, one of the main symbols and beneficiaries of globalisation. Although co-

operatives focus on serving and meeting local member's needs they also connect and co-operate globally. They share a set of internationally agreed principles and values. Because of their democratic base and unique combination of economic and social objectives they are ideally placed to play a role in making globalisation fairer – something they have been doing for generations.

In many ways co-operatives represent a fairer and more human face of globalisation. For example, co-operatives themselves are globalising their activities with transnational co-operatives that respect local communities but are economically competitive with multinational enterprises.

Fair trade initiatives for the most part include a co-operative component either at the producers or retailer side, and enable smaller producers to access global markets. And no matter what activity that a co-operative may have at an international scale, the economic and social return goes to its members usually in local communities.

Globalisation is not of itself necessarily bad. The challenge is to make it fairer and distribute its benefits more widely. The co-operative movement stands ready to play its part.



ICA Asia Pacific Coop News

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Malaysia hosts Asia-Pacific Regional Co-operative Youth Seminar

ANGKASA, Malaysia, hosted, the ICA Regional Co-operative Youth Seminar, 4-7 September, 2004. Almost 200 youth delegates from India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam, the United Kingdom and North America participated at the serious deliberations. The theme of the seminar was "Co-op Youth Participation in the Changing Environment". The delegates, formed into 3 groups with sub-groups, deliberated on the following 3 themes:

- i. Self-employment and entrepreneurship
- ii. Campus Co-operative activities
- iii. Activities of youth for Community

The seminar was inaugurated by YB Dato' Khamsiyah bt Yeop, Deputy Minister of Entrepreneur and Co-operative Development. The



Inaugural session of the Seminar - seen in the picture are Puan Hajah Rahaiah Baharen (second from left), Vice President, ANGKASA, Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA, Dato' Khamsiyah bt Yeop, Deputy Minister of Entrepreneur and Co-op Development, Malaysia, Royal Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, President, ANGKASA, Mr. K. Ohno, Chair of ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University/College Co-operatives and Ms. Jo Bo Schullion, Youth Representative on the ICA Board of Directors.

inaugural session was attended by Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz, President of ANGKASA, Puan Hajah Rahaiah Baharen, Vice President of ANGKASA and Mr. Shil Kwan Lee,



Delegates at a photo session with the Deputy Minister and others

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Dato' Khamsiyah bt. Yeop, Dy. Minister addressing the delegates

Regional Director, ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The Key Note address was given by Yb. Prof Dato Shaharil Talib, Director, Asia-Europe Institute of the University of Malaya. Representatives from all countries presented country situation papers.

During the seminar, special case studies were also presented on (a) Transport Co-operative Operations of Students' Co-operatives in Kerala, India, (b) Activities of university co-operative in Japan, and (c) social activities of co-operative youth of LAMAC co-operative in the Philippines.

These case studies formed basis of group discussions. The 3 groups on each of the above 3 sub-themes, presented group reports and recommendations. A Regional Co-operative Youth Steering Committee was also formed, which was represented by nominated country representatives.

The Steering Committee discussed in details about the youth seminar and the sessions and came out with recommendations the respective national co-operative organizations and the ICA in the Region, suggesting ways and means to development youth co-operative activities in the region.

The closing session was addressed by Mr. Iain Macdonald, Director General of the ICA.



Iain Macdonald, ICA Director General with some youth delegates



Yb. Prof Dato Shaharil Talib delivering the Keynote address



A section of the delegates and Iain Macdonald, ICA Director General addresses the youth during the closing session (below)



Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, mentioned that the Chairperson of the steering committee will be invited to present a report on the youth seminar at the ICA Regional Assembly to be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, during December, 2004.

Hajah Rahiah Baharen congratulated the ICA, the ANGKASA and the delegates for the successful completion of the seminar. She also presented certificates of participation to the delegates.

The youth delegates presented cultural performances on 7 September, 2004.

-Jiro Ito and P. Nair

National Workshop on “Strengthening Agricultural Co-operatives in Cambodia”

Continuing its interventions for the co-operative development in Cambodia one of the least developed countries of Asia – Pacific Region, ICA Regional Office sponsored a national workshop on strengthening agricultural co-operatives in Cambodia on 16-17th September, 2004. Nearly 60 participants including Chairmen of pilot co-ops, senior government officials at national and provincial levels in-charge of farmers organizations and pilot co-operatives, representatives of Rural Development Bank, a few community based organizations and international NGOs interested in co-operative development, representative of FAO, JICA etc. participated in the workshop. Hon’ble Minister of Agriculture inaugurated the workshop and Secretary General of the same Ministry delivered valedictory address. Inputs to the workshop included presentations from experts from Thailand, Republic of Korea, Ministry of Agriculture of Cambodia and ICA ROAP Mr Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director and Mr. B.D. Sharma, Sr. Consultant.

After two day intensive discussions the workshop prepared an action plan



Participants of the workshop pose for a photograph

specifying action points regarding agricultural co-operatives. The action plan includes following components:

1. Formulation of specific policy on agricultural co-operatives;
2. Establishing an appropriate co-operative legal system;
3. Identification of areas of government support;
4. Clear enunciation of goals of agricultural co-operatives;
5. Formulation of clear business and functional structure of agricultural co-operatives;
6. Creation of a suitable

mechanism for development of agri-coops within the Ministry of Agriculture;

7. Specific actions regarding capacity building and creation of financial system for agricultural co-operatives.

Participants have formulated practical recommendations on these components that will form the basis of strategy for the development of agricultural co-operatives in Cambodia. Both government and farmers organizations are very much supportive of co-operatives.

-B.D. Sharma

ICA President visits Iranian co-operatives

Ivano Barberini and myself visited Iran as guests of CORC and CUARCI. During a very hectic three days we visited “Shabahang’s Co-operative Complex” in Tehran which ran shops, credit facilities, sports centres, marriage bureaux, etc. on behalf of their former members. We had a seminar explaining the work of CORC and CUARCI and met the Minister of Agriculture Mr. Hojati. On the second day we flew to Isfahan – the middle of the country



A CORC official explains the working of the co-operative to Barberini and Macdonald

particularly to visit farmers distribution centres, mainly dealing in wheat but also a milk reception centre with retail facilities for farmers.

On return we met the Minister for Co-operatives, Mr. Soofi, who hosted a banquet in honour of Ivano Barberini. During the meal we talked with representatives of the Iranian Chamber of Co-operatives, particularly about their work in Afghanistan and Iraq.

-Iain Macdonald

APHCO holds its tenth board meeting in Bangkok

The Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organisation, a specialized organization of the ICA in Asia-Pacific Region, held its 10th board meeting at Bangkok, Thailand, 19-20 July, 2004.

27 delegates and 15 observers from Japan, India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam and Thailand participated at the meeting.

Opening the board meeting, Dr. Yasuyuki Takahashi, Chairperson, APHCO thanked the CLT for hosting this Board Meeting of APHCO in Thailand and welcomed the participants. There were two main objectives for the meeting, (1) sharing experiences on "healthy community building" to clearly define the role of health co-ops; and (2) promoting international human exchange programmes to train future bearers of the co-operatives.

Mr. Wirat Lam-Ua-Yut, Chairman of the Co-operative League of Thailand thanked APHCO board for holding its meeting in Thailand and also welcomed the participants.

Mr. Jiro Ito, Secretary of APHCO, highlighted the main points in the minutes of last meeting and also reported the activities carried out by the Secretariat since last meeting.

One CT Scanner was offered by HCA-JCCU and Sri Lanka has shown keen



All the participants of the APHCO board meeting in front of the CLT office

interest to have the CT Scanner. So far Sri Lanka and Nepal have given their requirement of used equipments. A Study Mission was sent to Vietnam to survey the healthcare situation in Vietnam, which submitted its report.

Dr. Yasuyuki Takahashi, Chairperson of APHCO, reported about the IHCO Board meeting held on 10-11 June 2004 at Ottawa, Canada. He informed that the IHCO includes members from Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Russia, Spain and Sweden. From Asia, HCA-JCCU, Japan and KDM Malaysia are members of IHCO. He requested other members of APHCO to become

its members in order to share their experiences with other countries of the world.

Country reports were presented by the representatives of Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India. Copies of the presentations were distributed amongst members.

It was reported in writing that 8 Japanese medical students joined the training session held in Nepal, August 19 to 31, 2003. The students studied a lot about primary healthcare in the community through many activities; i.e. assistance for blood collection from donors at Kathmandu Model Hospital, teaching the villagers how to measure blood pressures and body-fat and how to brush teeth, home-stay at the houses of Phect Nepal leaders, etc. A similar training will be organized in 2004 as a next step and some medical students have already signed up.

Dr. Somkiat Tatritorn of Thailand gave an account of Health situation in Thailand. From his presentation, it was clear that there was no health care co-operative in Thailand. Only public hospitals, private hospitals and health centers are there. They are keen to introduce health care co-operatives. They wanted APHCO to help in the introduction of health care



The meeting in progress

co-operatives in Thailand.

Mr. T. Fujiwara, Chairman, Committee on Health Activities, HCA-JCCU, toured Vietnam from 1-7 March, 2004, as the head of the committee's delegation to study the situation of health care in that country.

Lack of health care infrastructures could be felt in many places. For instance, at the Tu Du Hospital, a central hospital for gynecology in Ho Chi Minh City, there were only 1,000 beds for about 1,300 in-patients. A bed is often allocated to two patients with one of them sleeping on a foldable bed besides the bed at night. There were also patients lying on the floor on straw mats in the ward corridors.

Public employees generally have health insurance, but non-insured patients must bear all the healthcare costs. The way hospitals deal with poor patients varies from one hospital to another: In rural areas, even general hospitals are more like what they used to be in Japan some 40 years ago. Village clinics also look like countryside health-centers that



Wirat lam-Ua-Yut, Chairman, CLT speaking at the meeting

existed in Japan in the past. Their major activities seemed to be directed at protecting health rather than providing medical care.

He said that the APHCO should see how we can build on the relations we have established. We believe that, in the first stage, we should organize seminars and study meetings to make known the movement of Japanese health co-operative, its aims and practices. In particular, we should conceive different initiatives through which we can get our message well understood while respecting the "Vietnamese way" of doing things.

-A.K. Taneja

DEKOPIN Indonesia has a new board of directors

The Annual General Meeting of Dewan Koperasi Indonesia (DEKOPIN), on July 15, 2004 has elected Mr. Nurdin Halid as the President of DEKOPIN for the period of 2004-2009. For your information, we also attach the new Board Member of DEKOPIN.

The following are the other members of the DEKOPIN board:

1. Vice President : Mr. Tasripin Mastar
2. Vice President : Mr. Sulistijo, SM
3. Vice President : Mr. Mahyuddin Nawawi
4. Vice President : Mr. Agung Sudjatmoko
5. Vice President : Mrs. Dina Latifah
6. Vice President : Mr. Bangun Surartono
7. Vice President : Mr. Sumarna F. Abdurahman
8. Vice President : Mr. E. Achmad Kuncoro
9. Vice President : Mr. SH Johnson
10. Vice President : Mr. Irsyad Muchtar

Due to the new policy, DEKOPIN may replace its representatives in ICA committees.

National Conference sets up pace of co-operative reforms

The National Co-operative Development Corporation organized a conference of Secretaries in-charge of Co-operation, Registrars of Co-operatives and Senior Executives of Co-operative Federation in New Delhi, 28 July, 2004.

The conference focused on the problem faced by co-operatives and the strategies the co-operatives can adopt to meet the present challenges and step up the pace of co-operative reforms. Ms. Radha Singh said that the enactment of Multi-state Co-operative Societies' Act 2002 was a major step for the development of viable co-operative organizations. She further said that the Ministry of Agriculture is emphasizing on transparency, accountability, professionalism, quality services, and enlightened and democratic leadership in co-operatives.

Ms. Singh was very appreciative of the Integrated Co-operative Development Project of the NCDC and cited the NCDC initiative in which support would be provided for women's activities through co-operatives, by providing 100 per cent subsidy for training and consultancy and 40 per cent for infrastructure.

Mr. Dinesh Rai, Managing Director, NCDC, welcomed the delegates. Mr. Rai noted the work of co-operatives in rural credit sector and said that the possible areas and sectors which could gain excellence as marketing, fisheries, horticulture, handloom, consumers, labour, etc. During the conference perspective plans for NCDC assistance to all states, amounting to Rs.5928 crores have been prepared.

The meeting had a large gathering of about 100 delegates from various states in India.

Archna Sood, Editor, NCDC

Community Gardens provide health benefits to urban dwellers

I live in Vancouver, in a small apartment that has no access to the outdoors other than a small fire escape that hovers over a busy, urban street. Yet I am about to prepare a salad of organic tomatoes and herbs that I have grown myself. No, I do not have an expensive indoor lighting system. What I do have is a plot in a community garden, 2 metres by 2 metres, which keeps me stocked throughout the summer months in tasty, organically grown salads, beans, herbs, tomatoes, radishes, and beets. I also grow bright, colourful flowers with which to grace the kitchen table and uplift the spirit.

Community gardens exist in various neighbourhoods throughout Vancouver. They offer urban apartment dwellers access to land and community-shared tools with which to garden, thereby reaping the benefits of interacting with the land:



The 2x2 metres plots

a quiet oasis from the din of city sounds, a sense of pride and ownership over the garden and the neighbourhood, the opportunity to be creative, physical activity, and something to put on your dinnerplate, as well!

The pride of the community garden extends beyond the individual

Ms. Stephanie Beaudoin
Vancouver, Canada

Ms. Stephanie Beaudoin has widely travelled in the Asia-Pacific Region during her internship with the ICA Regional Office.

We felt that her experience in Vancouver is worthwhile for many who live in the urban 'jungles', in a co-operative way!

-Editor

gardeners to the surrounding neighbours who appreciate the beauty and wildlife they add to big city environments. There are those who vandalize (one year someone maliciously beheaded all of the sunflowers in the garden) and steal the odd vegetable, plant, or trellis, but by and large people respect and



dozens of gardens in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland.

There are usually 15-20 individuals or families per garden, who work both individually on their own plots and collectively to maintain the garden as a whole. Work Parties are usually organized at the beginning and the end of the season in order to prepare beds, weed the paths, and clean the gardens of dead plants for overwintering. Such occasions are usually quite festive, with the participants each bringing a dish of freshly made food to be shared with other gardeners.

Municipal authorities recognize the valuable role of community gardens in terms of environmental awareness and education, community development and social awareness. The Vancouver Parks & Recreation Board has an active policy in place to encourage and support those who are interested in creating and maintaining community gardens.

Specifically, such support is given by assisting interested parties in finding available land, negotiating with the landowner, and assisting with a program for community education about the garden. Land considered available is not only private but possibly also city-owned land or land owned by other government agencies.

Community gardens are part of an overall approach to the City of

Vancouver's Food Action Plan, designed in response to our food system as it presently exists – bringing in foods from far away locales incurs huge expense, both in monetary terms and in terms of environmental repercussions resulting from the use of fossil fuels in long distance transport, the chemicals used to preserve and ripen fruits. Ultimately, our disassociation and industrial treatment of our foods wreaks havoc on our collective health.

Community gardens are mandated to be organic, prohibiting the use of chemicals which kill wildlife, and eventually, humans as well. Skills such as composting, crop rotation, and companion planting are taught in well-organized gardens. Our grandparents knew the wisdom of these techniques; since then we have been systematically destroying our fertile soils and hardy strains with modern techniques such as monocropping and genetic modification. Fortunately there are many people working hard to educate supermarket shoppers on the dangers of mass food production gone awry, and promoting healthy choices and ensuring that stores carry organic alternatives.

Vancouver has become a leader in the development of sustainable food policy and practice, which includes: community gardens, rooftop gardens on top of apartment buildings, farmer's markets, community (shared) kitchens, the distribution of excess fruits from backyard fruit trees to agencies serving the homeless, emergency food distribution and the local food economy.

Giving people the opportunity to

participate in the growing of wholesome, healthy foods and to share the process with their own communities is a fundamental building block of sustainable agriculture and food policy. Though cities are known throughout the world as 'concrete jungles', community gardens give us the opportunity to reclaim public space and make it green again, to build relationships with our neighbours, to feed ourselves and our children, and to beautify our surroundings.

There is something very rewarding about being intimately involved with your food: collecting and planting seeds, nurturing your garden, plucking the perfectly ripe tomato fresh from the vine and then eating it before you even get home. It is a symbiotic relationship - the more nurturing we give to the foods and the more loving we put into the creation of meals to be enjoyed with the people we share our lives with, the healthier and more nurtured we will be.

City of Vancouver Policy on Community Gardens:

<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/parks/info/policy/comgardn.htm>

Grandview Community Garden (My Garden):

<http://gra.vsb.bc.ca/garden/garden.html>

Local Vancouver organization devoted to Urban Agriculture and Safe Food Policies: <http://cityfarmer.org/>

Local Vancouver organization focused on creating green and healthy homes and communities:

<http://www.evergreen.ca/en/index.html>

Paul Pothen, IFFCO, India's founding Managing Director passes away

Padmashri Paul Pothen, doyen of Indian Fertiliser Industry and founding Managing Director of IFFCO passed away on 3rd August, 2004 at Kochi in Kerala, India, after protracted illness. He was 88 and is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.



Mr. Pothen, a legend and visionary of his time, had been instrumental in tending and nurturing Indian Farmers' Fertilizer Co-operative (IFFCO) – the largest fertilizer co-operative in the world – in its formative years. He also worked for FAO, UNIDO and the World Bank as Consultant.

IFFCO has decided to rename the IFFCO township in Aonla, near Bareilly, India as 'Paul Pothen Nagar' and install his statue in the township to commemorate his valuable services to IFFCO and the Indian Co-operative Movement.

-Ghansham Dass, Senior Manager (PR), IFFCO.

The ICA has a New Nomenclature in the Region

The International Co-operative Alliance - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific will henceforth be known as 'International Co-operative Alliance - Asia & Pacific'

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Learning from the Singapore Experience

The fourth ICA Regional Workshop for Managers on "Management of Consumer Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific" was held in Singapore on 13-15 September 2004.

The workshop was organized by ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific and hosted by Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) and NTUC FairPrice Co-operative. 22 managers from 6 countries (India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) participated



A participant discusses with a store manager and the workshop participants pose for a photo (below)



in the workshop and learned from the success story of NTUC FairPrice and theories of managing store to compete with competitors.

NTUC FairPrice, which celebrated 30th anniversary in 2003, is undoub-

tedly one of the most successful consumer co-operatives not only in Asia but also in the world. The co-op has nearly 60% of market share of supermarket business in Singapore with 463,000 individual members and 75 supermarkets and 34 convenience stores. The participants learned the store management theories from the lectures by the experienced managers of FairPrice and practiced the comparison of the stores between FairPrice and their competitors. The participants collected information from their store for comparison and sharing them with each other, which will benefit their co-operatives for their store management.

The program included the presentation by Mr. Yabuta of Co-op Kobe, the biggest consumer co-op in Japan, which introduced their experience of recovery from their hard times after the big earthquake in 1995.

-Jiro Ito

Fourth Training course for strengthening women's agricultural co-ops in rural areas held

The International Co-operative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICA ROAP), in association with its member organisation in Japan, the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives of Japan (JA-Zenchu) and IDACA, organised the 4th ICA-Japan Training Course for "Strengthening Women's Agricultural Co-operatives in Rural Areas and Improvement of Farm Management and Rural Life" in Malaysia and Japan. Eight participants - two each from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia and Nepal, attended the training course, which was funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan.

The Course was organised and held



by the ICA at the IDACA premises from 05-30 September 2004. The 10-day component of Comparative Field Study Visits was held in Malaysia from 26th August to 4th September 2004 in collaboration with ANGKASA. The field study visits in Japan were arranged to agricultural co-operatives and women's associations in Mie and Nagano prefectures of Japan. Lecture-cum-

practical field study visits assignments were combined to impart necessary knowledge to the participants on the working of women's associations and the general activities of agricultural co-operatives in Japan.

The main objective of the training course was to train women leaders in rural areas in developing countries by means of strengthening women's agricultural cooperatives, farm management, and improvement of rural life. The training course also provided opportunities for capacity-building of the participants with a view to organise women's associations and study co-operative activities. An end-of-the-course evaluation session was also held.

-K. Sethumadhavan



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Sixth (6th) Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific meets in Chiangmai, Thailand

The 6th Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly was held 3-4 December, 2004, the 4th December 2004 being the day for field visits. 165 delegates from 17 countries of the Region and Canada and UK participated at the Regional Assembly. The meeting was very well participated with a host of interaction and queries from the delegates.

The ICA Regional Assembly amended its rules and also approved re-election of the 11 Standing Committee members for a period of 4 years, to bring it on par with the ICA Global General Assembly.

Mr. Mu Li, President of ICA-Asia & Pacific has been nominated as the candidate for ICA Vice Presidentship at the next General Assembly to be



Ivano Barberini, ICA President speaking at the inaugural session.



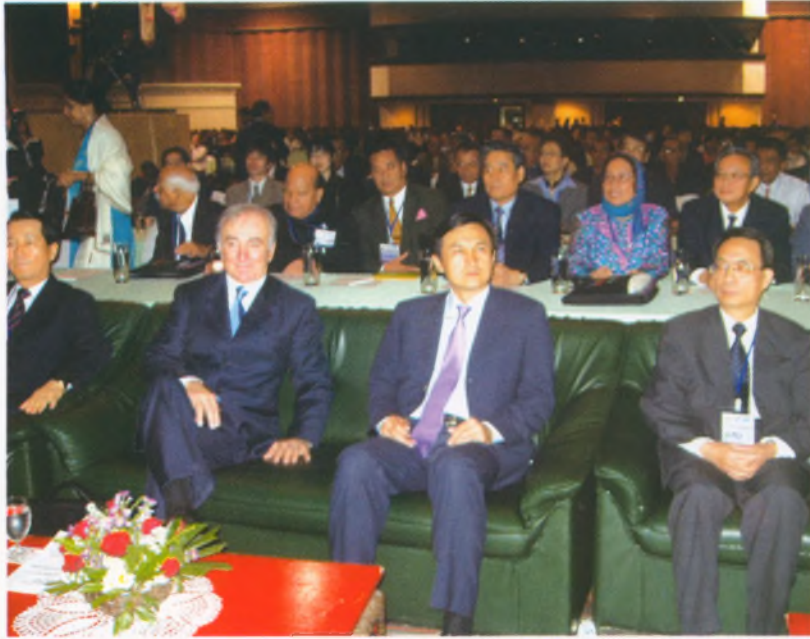
Hon. Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand inaugurating the Regional Assembly



Delegates are all attention at the Co-operative Forum

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Dignitaries at the joint opening - Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister, Ivano Barberini, ICA President, Mr. Mu Li, ICA President for Asia & Pacific, Mr. Shil Kwan Lee is also seen in the picture.



A cultural presentation during the joint opening.

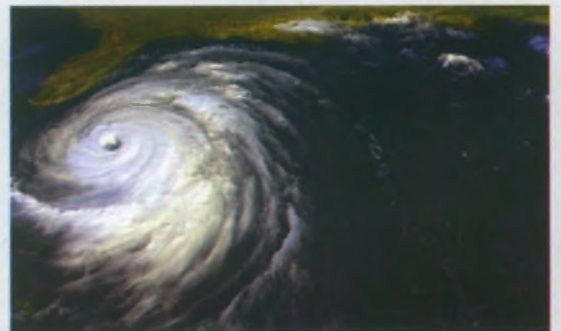
held in Categena, Colombia during 2006.

The activity report for the year 2004, the work plan and budget for the year 2005 and also the tentative plan and budget for a period upto 2008 have been approved by the Regional Assembly. The meeting was Presided over by Mr. Mu Li and was participated by Ivano Barberini, ICA President and Maria-Elena Chavez, Deputy Director General of ICA. Mr. Mu Li has requested Dr. Yehudah Paz to conduct the meeting on his behalf and Dr. Paz presided the meeting. It was decided to hold the next Regional Assembly in Colombo, Sri Lanka, during 2006.



A section of participants of the Assembly

In this grieving times, the ICA in Asia & the Pacific wish all co-operators globally, a much more peaceful New Year 2005 and wish that the affected millions in the Region regain some semblance of normalcy.



ICA Regional Co-operative Forum held in Chiangmai, Thailand

The International Co-operative Alliance – Asia & Pacific held the 3rd Regional Co-operative Forum, at the Lotus PSK Hotel, Chiangmai, Thailand from 29 November to 04 December, 2004. Co-operative League of Thailand – CLT – hosted the Forum. More than 250 delegates from Australia, Bhutan, Canada, China, Cambodia, Finland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka,



Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director speaking at the inaugural ceremony

Vietnam, United Kingdom and from Thailand participated at the Forum.

The main theme of the Forum was 'Re-engineering Co-operatives in the Globalized Economy', with Sub-themes as (i) Co-operative Values-vis-à-vis Competition, (ii) Fair Globalization through Co-operatives, (iii) Re-structuring Co-operatives, (iv) Governance of Co-operatives, (v) Sectoral Concerns, and (vi) Social Cohesion through Co-operatives.

Eminent speakers, who are researchers and practitioners of co-operatives, like Ian MacPherson, Paul Fitzgerald, Hagen Hency, Faye Lageu, Shigeri Fukamachi, Toshifumi Yamashita, Lucita Lazo, Huseyin Polat, N. Suzuki, Wim Polman, Seah



ICA President presents a memento to the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand.

Kian Peng, U.S. Awasthi, Y.S.P. Thorat, and Teo Say Hong presented well researched papers at the Forum. ICA President, Ivano Barberini and Deputy Director General, Maria-Elena Chavez also actively participated in the discussions. The sessions were chaired by well known co-operative leaders. There were very lively interaction from the delegates after each of the six sessions.

The Forum and the Regional Assembly were jointly inaugurated by the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, H.E. Chaturon Chaisang. Mr. Suwat Tantipat, Governor of Chiangmai,



Participants at the Forum

and Mr. Wirat Iam-Ua-Yuth, Chairman of Co-operative League of Thailand and several co-operative leaders were present.

-P.Nair



Ms. Lucita Lazo presenting a paper at the Forum. Mdm. Rahiah Baharen also seen in the picture

Third ICA Regional Research Conference held in Chiangmai, Thailand



Ivano Barberini, ICA President, inaugurating the 3rd Regional Research Conference. Also seen are M.V. Madane, Amnat Rojanapaibul, Vice President of CLT and Akira Kurimoto, Chairman of the ICA Global Research Committee.

The ICA-Asia & Pacific, in collaboration with the ICA Regional Research Forum convened the 3rd Regional Co-operative Research Conference at the Lotus PSK Hotel, Chiangmai, Thailand. The Conference was inaugurated by Ivano Barberini, ICA President, who stressed on the need for values, culture and professionalization to sustain co-operative growth in a competitive world economy. Amnat Rojanapaibul of the CLT welcomed the delegates. Akira Kurimoto, Chairman of the ICA Global Research Committee, welcomed the delegates and explained the research activities of the ICA in different regions of the world. M.V. Madane, Chair of the Regional Research Forum, presided, and explained the background and the objectives of the conference.

The Conference was attended by 81 Researchers and Experts working in academic institutions and field-related co-operatives in the Region. Shil Kwan Lee, the ICA Regional Director,

explained the activities of the regional office during the current year.

Twenty-one papers were presented on

the three themes kept for discussion at the Conference. Theme One: Widening the areas and scope of Co-operative Action; Theme Two: Co-operative Governance and Globalization; Theme Three: Role and Dynamics of Women's Co-operatives.

Out of the 21 papers, ten were presented by awardees of the fellowship given by the Consumer Co-operative Research Institute of Japan.

The emphasis during the Current Conference was on Empirical Research to identify problems and development indicators. This emphasis was aptly justified by several presentations. It was possible to put the co-operatives on the path of progress, if need-oriented policies are formulated after identifying the drawbacks. Several papers proved the effectiveness of this approach.

Researchers engaged on on-going



Ms. Sayomporn Yuthasmutr of Thailand presenting a paper at the conference

research as well as those who did case studies on the basis of Conference Themes demonstrated the effectiveness of purposeful research to identify critical areas and to facilitate action-oriented development programmes.

Since the first Conference held in



Dr. Ian MacPherson presenting his paper



Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director speaking at the inauguration of the Conference

Singapore and later the second Conference at Cebu, Philippines, it is now certain that young and old researchers alike are keen to participate in ICA Research Conferences. However, most of them have financial constraints. The Consumer Co-operative Research Institute of Japan (JCCU, Japan) has

taken a lead in providing fellowships to ten researchers.

There was also general agreement that the next Conference will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in conjunction with the next Regional Assembly.

-P. Nair

The Fourth ICA Regional Women's Forum, Chiangmai

The International Co-operative Alliance – Asia & Pacific has been organizing Regional Women's Fora since 1998, in collaboration with the ICA Regional Women's Committee. The three earlier Fora, the first in Seoul, Korea, the second in Singapore, and the third in Cebu, the Philippines, were great successes. The fourth Regional Women's Forum was held at the Lotus PSK Hotel, Chiangmai, Thailand, on 30 November, 2004.

More than 80 delegates from several countries in the Region have participated at the Forum and there were active discussions on the ways and means of empowering women and also for larger participation in decision-making positions in co-operatives in the Region.



Mdm. Rahaiah Baharen with Lucita Lazo of UNIFEM

The key note speaker was Ms. Lucita Lazo, Regional Organiser of UNIFEM. Ms. Rahaiah Baharen, Chairperson of ICA Regional Women's Committee

presided the Forum, which was also participated by Ms. Maria-Elena Chavez, Dy. Director General of ICA.

-P. Nair

Tenth Meeting of the ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University/College Co-operatives and University Co-operative Leaders Workshop



Manabu Tanaka, Chair of the Sub-Committee speaking.

The 10th meeting of the ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University/College Co-operatives was held at Lotus PSK Hotel, Chiangmai, wherein 28 delegates from Japan,

Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, India, Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand participated at the meeting. Kiyotaka Ohno, Chair of the sub-committee relinquished his office in

view of his leaving the National Federation of University Co-operative Associations – NFUCA – Japan. Mr. Manabu Tanaka, Chairperson of NFUCA has conveyed the greetings from Mr. Ohno.



T. Kuriki (NFUCA)



Zenaida Diola, Vice Chair of University Committee speaking.



Dr. Dongre speaking at the Workshop



Co-operative Promotion Department Director General, Juntarawong presenting a memento to U.S. Awasthi, Managing Director, IFFCO

The meeting later elected Mr. Manabu Tanaka as its Chairperson, while Ms. Zenaida Diola from MMAFECCO, Philippines.

Prof. Mohd. Ali Hassan from GAKUB, Malaysia, were re-elected as Vice Chairpersons. Mr. Jiro Ito and Mr. T. Kuriki acted as Secretary and Co-Secretary respectively.

The meeting decided that the Committee will continue to be a sub-

Committee of the ICA Regional Consumer Committee and will focus on mainly on University/College co-operative activities. However, when the ICA Regional Youth Committee is formed in the next couple of years, as proposed by the Regional Youth Seminar held in Malaysia, during September, 2004, the Sub-Committee will continue to collaborate with the Youth Committee in their activities.



A section of the participants interacting at the meeting

The meeting discussed activities of the Committee during 2004 and also the activity plan for 2005. It was also felt that it is necessary to support setting up university/college co-operatives in Vietnam, Iran and Myanmar during 2005. Sri Lanka offered to host the next Regional Youth Seminar in Colombo in conjunction with the next Regional Assembly. There was a workshop of the Leaders



Dr. Ali Hassan (GAKUB), speaking at the workshop

of University/Campus Co-operatives in the afternoon, which reflected on the outcome of the Regional Youth Seminar in Malaysia, the setting up of a Regional Youth Committee, also organizing a Pro-term Youth Committee and hold its meetings prior to the Youth Seminar and Regional Assembly.

-P. Nair



A section of the participants

ICAO/ICAROAP/CLT Workshop on New Strategies in Agricultural Marketing held in Chiangmai, Thailand

Over 300 participants attended the International Co-operative Agricultural Organization (ICAO) workshop held in conjunction with the ICA ROAP Regional Assembly on November 30, in Chiangmai, Thailand. The Co-operative League of Thailand was the local host for the event entitled "New Strategies in Agricultural Marketing".



Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director welcomes the delegates



Churll-Lee Won, President of ICAO speaking

Mr. Reginald Clause from Iowa State University and Mr. Richard van der Maden from the National Co-operative Council in the Netherlands described the evolving market situation and the response of food marketers from a US and EU perspective respectively. ICA -Asia & Pacific Director, Mr. Shil-Kwan Lee, followed by speaking about the role of cooperatives in enhancing global welfare.

Mr. Niphond Wongtra-Ngan, Director of the Marketing Organization for Farmers, opened the afternoon session discussing the marketing environment in Thailand. Mr. Dong-Hwan Kim, Director of the Agro-food New Marketing Institute in Korea and Mr. Kozo Hara from ZEN-NOH the largest agricultural marketing co-operative in Japan, looked at the marketing trends in their respective countries. Both Mr. Kim and Mr. Hara pointed out that marketing must focus more on consumers than in the past increasing the need for traceability and transparency.

Lee, Kwan-Hee



HRD and Research Committee holds its 17th Meeting

The 17th meeting of the ICA Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) was held in Chiangmai (Thailand) on 30th November 2004 from 09:30 to 12:30 hours. 18 members from seven countries, namely, India, Indonesia, Israel, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and one international organization, ACCU, attended the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Leow Peng Kui, Chairman of the Committee. He welcomed the presence of the members and thanked them for their presentations at the meeting.

The following three presentations were made at the meeting:

1. "Corporate Social Responsibility – Its Significance and Impact on Co-operatives" by Mr. Leow Peng Kui, Chief Executive of SNCF.

2. "Global/Asian Co-op – HRD Networking Center at VMNICM, Pune (India)" by Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive of NCUI. This project is in collaboration with Global ICA HRD Committee and funded by NCUI.
3. "Global Co-operative Learning Center" by Dr. Yehudah Paz, Chairman, International Relations, CUCS, Israel.

Country Reports on HRD activities were presented by members from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The meeting decided that in future country reports should be replaced with "Presentation of Initiatives on HRD".

The meeting unanimously re-elected Mr. Leow Peng Kui from Singapore and Mr. Bhagwati Prasad from India as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson respectively for another term.

Three seminars on HRD Best Practices were held in Malaysia, India and Sri Lanka in 2002-03. The meeting decided to continue the seminars on HRD Best Practices in the coming years.

The meeting also decided to recommend to ICA-AP that at least one HRD activity should be held every year. Some members indicated their willingness to host such programs.

The Committee also noted the need for increased co-operation amongst HRD institutions in the region and the acceptance of training standards across national boundaries.

The meeting authorized the ICA-Asia & Pacific to decide about the venue and date of the next meeting in consultation with the Chairman of the HRD Committee.

- Sethumadhavan

38th Meeting of ICA Consumer Committee held in Chiangmai, Thailand



Members of the Consumer committee posed for a photograph

The 38th meeting of ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific was held at Chiangmai, Thailand, on 30th November 2004. 28 participants from 8 countries – India, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam attended the meeting.

In addition to routine agenda, two special reports were presented at the meeting – one on “Current Issues and Challenges of Consumer Co-

operative Movement of Thailand by Natee Sriployrung, President of Consumer Co-operative Federation of Thailand and second on “Re-Engineering Plan of the Consumer Co-operative in Thailand by the trainees of the training programme they attended in Japan.

Reports of Critical Studies, conducted by ICA ROAP with financial assistance from Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union (JCCU), were presented by two Consultants, S.C.

Mishra of India and Joel Beasca of the Philippines. It was followed by the presentation of an Action Plan to strengthen consumer co-operatives in Asia and Pacific by B.D. Sharma, Senior Consultant, ICA Domus Trust. The critical studies and action plans were deliberated in National Workshops, organized by NCCF of India, CO-OPFED of Sri Lanka, NATCCO of Philippines, and Vietnam Co-operative Alliance. Reports of National Workshops were presented by their representatives present in the meeting.

T. Fujioka, Executive Director, JCCU, was unanimously re-elected as Chairman of the Committee and Poh Leong Sim from NTUC Fairprice, Singapore and Prof. Ali Hassan from Malaysia were elected as Vice-Chairpersons of the committee for the next term.

The next meeting of the committee may possibly be held in Tokyo, Japan. Jiro Ito, Secretary of the Committee will announce the dates in consultation with Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union and office bearers of the committee.

-A.K. Taneja

Regional Co-op Banking Association holds its 6th meeting

The 6th meeting of RCBA was held on 30th November 2004 at 14.30 hrs. in Lotus PSK Hotel, Chiangmai, Thailand, in conjunction with the 6th ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific. 14 members/observers from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Thailand, Canada and ACCU were present.

Since PA. Kiriwandeniya, Chairman of RCBA, could not come due to his urgent pre-occupation back home, B.S. Vishwanathan, founder Chairman of RCBA was unanimously requested to chair the meeting.

Before taking up agenda, the chairperson made a brief remark and expressed his concern on the slow



Members of the Committee

progress of RCBA and called upon the members to suggest workable steps to activate and strengthen RCBA. He suggested that such steps could be in regard to increase in the membership, increase in subscription, expansion of RCBA's activities etc. He also called upon the members to adopt a clear resolution on continuance of RCBA's membership with ICBA with exemption from payment of subscription.

The meeting agreed to consider these issues after completing the formal agenda. After brief remarks by the Chairperson, the agenda was taken up.

In addition to routine agenda, a proposal to organize a Regional seminar on "Role of Co-operative Banking Sector in Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation" was discussed.

B.S. Vishwanathan of India was unanimously elected as Chairperson of RCBA for the next term. It was decided not to fill-up the post of Vice-Chairman for the time being.

Members appreciated the services rendered by the outgoing Chairman of RCBA Mr. P.A. Kiriwadeniya to strengthen the co-operative banking and credit sector in Asia-Pacific.

-A.K. Taneja

ICA - Asia & Pacific conducts critical studies on consumer co-operatives and holds two sub-regional workshops



Inauguration of the Sub-Regional Workshop in Colombo



Dr. Mishra presenting the critical study report at the workshop

The ICA has conducted critical studies on the Consumer Co-operatives in the Asia-Pacific Region, with a view to plan and implement strategies for strengthening the consumer co-operative movements in the Region.

After conducting the study, the ICA in Asia & Pacific, thought it would be beneficial if some workshops are held so that more strategies and ideas could emerge in bringing up the consumer co-operative ICA conducts critical study for Strengthening Consumer Co-operatives in Asia and Pacific and holds two sub-regional workshops movement to face global competition and thrive to become successful.

Two such workshops were held, the first one in Colombo, Sri Lanka,

during 18-20 October, 2004, wherein more than 30 delegates participated. This workshop was hosted by the Consumer Co-operative Federation of Sri Lanka, and the second one in Ho-Chi Minh City, Vietnam, from 26-28 October, 2004, which was attended by almost 35 delegates.

Inaugurating the sub-regional workshop in Colombo Mr. Mishra presenting the critical study report at the Workshop at Colombo Participants of the Ho-Chi Minh workshop at a photo opportunity.

Several participants from both the sub-regions have participated and held discussions to arrive at possible strategies to bring the consumer co-operative movement to the forefront.

-Jiro Ito

Trade Directory

The ICA in Asia-Pacific has revamped its web-site and incorporated the earlier trade web-site:

www.directories.coop with www.icaroap.coop.

Please post information about your co-operative on the site.



Participants of the Ho-Chi Minh workshop pose for a photograph

ICA - Asia & Pacific holds Regional Women's Seminar and Networking Programme



Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan welcoming the delegates

The ICA-Asia & Pacific and the ICA Regional Women's Committee in collaboration with the National Co-operative Union of India, organized its first 3-day Seminar and Networking Programme for women

and men cooperators in Bangalore, India, 23-25 October, 2004. The inaugural session has been attended by 150 people including co-operators, trainers, leaders and a significant number of print and

electronic media. The seminar was inaugurated by Ms. Kanti Singh the Hon'ble Minister of State for HRD, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India. She appreciated the initiatives of ICA-Asia & Pacific and emphasized on role of co-operatives for empowerment of women as well as the society. Mr. BS Vishwanathan, member of the ICA Domus Trust and local host extended a warm welcome to the participants and guests.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee the Regional Director, welcomed the Hon'ble Minister, the distinguished guests and all the participants.

These recommendations will be presented before the forthcoming ICA Regional Women Forum to be held in Chiangmai on 30th Nov., 2004. Mrs. Savitri Singh, Secretary to the ICA Regional Women's Committee, coordinated the Programme.

-Savitri Singh

Study visits to agricultural co-operatives in Korea

The International Co-operative Alliance - Asia & Pacific, in collaboration with the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation (NACF) of Korea, organized a study visit to delegates from Bangladesh, Vietnam, India, Philippines, Laos, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, to agricultural co-operatives in Korea, during 5-10 October, 2004. There were a total of 17 participants at the programme.

On the first day, the participants visited the Seoul headquarters of NACF in the morning and listened to a lecture on 'how to provide services to their member farmers'. After lunch, the participants attended some lecture



Participants visited an agricultural marketing facility



Mr. Shil Kwan Lee making a presentation



Participants at a lecture session

Mr. Sung-Chul Kim, Agricultural Advisor of the ICA Asia-Pacific coordinated the study visit programme under the general supervision of Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, the Regional Director.

sessions and visited the Agricultural Museum of NACF.

On the second day, participants visited the banking division of NACF in Seoul and went out for a visit to the Consumer Goods Distribution Center in Giheung. After that the study team left Seoul to Kyunggi province for visiting rural areas.

The third day, the participants visited the Kosam Agricultural Co-operative which is an affiliate NACF. In the afternoon, the delegates visited the Korean Folk Village in Yong-In.

On the fourth day, participants visited Korean Agricultural Co-operative Marketing centre, which is one of marketing facilities of NACF.



Participants enjoy a meal

ICFO holds its Executive Meeting In Chiangmai

The International Co-operative Fisheries Organisation held its Executive Meeting at the Lotus PSK Hotel, Chiangmai, Thailand, 30 November 2004. More than 28 delegates from Asia-Pacific and other Regions participated at the meeting.

Mr. Masaki Sato, Secretary to the Organisation, coordinated the meeting.

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Malaysia hosts Asia-Pacific Regional Co-operative Youth Seminar

The ICA Asia-Pacific, ICA Sub-Committee on University/College Cooperatives, National Federation of University Co-operative Associations (NFUCA), Japan and ANGKASA, Malaysia, jointly hosted, the ICA Regional Co-operative Youth Seminar, 4-7 September, 2004.

Almost 200 youth delegates from India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam, the United Kingdom and North America participated at the serious deliberations.

The theme of the seminar was "Co-operative Youth Participation in the Changing Environment". The delegates, formed in to 3 groups with sub-groups, deliberated on the following 3 themes:

- i) Self-employment and entrepreneurship;
- ii) Campus Co-operative activities;



Inaugural session in progress. On the dias are Madam Rahiah Baharen, Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, YB Dato' Khamsiyah bt Yeop, Royal Prof. Ungku A Aziz, Mr. K. Ohno, Chair of University/College Sub-Committee, and Jo Bo Scullion, ICA Youth board member.

- iii) Activities of youth for Community.

The seminar was inaugurated by Y.B.

Dato' Khamsiyah bt Yeop, Deputy Minister of Entrepreneur and Co-operative Development. The inaugural session was attended by



Hon. YB Dato' Khamsiyah bt Yeop inaugurating the Seminar



Participants at a group photo session

Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz, President of ANGKASA, Puan Hajah Rahaiah Baharen, Vice President of ANGKASA and Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA-Asia and the Pacific.

The Key Note address was given by Yb. Prof. Dato Shaharil Talib, Director, Asia-Europe Institute of the University of Malaya. Representatives from all countries presented country situation papers.

During the seminar, special case studies were also presented on (a) Transport Co-operative Operations of Students' Co-operatives in Kerala, India, (b) Activities of university cooperative in Japan, and (b) social



Yb. Prof. Dato Shaharil Talib, delivering the Keynote address

to the respective national co-operative organizations and the ICA in the Region, suggesting ways and means to development youth cooperative activities in the region.

The closing session was addressed by Mr. Iain Macdonald, Director General of the ICA. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, mentioned that the Chairperson of the steering committee will be invited to present a report on the youth seminar at the ICA Regional Assembly to be held in



A section of the delegates



Royal Professor, Ungku A. Aziz has a word of advice for the Youth

activities of co-operative youth of LAMAC co-operative in the Philippines. These case studies formed basis of group discussions. The 3 groups on each of the above 3 sub-themes, presented group reports and recommendations.

A Regional Co-operative Youth Steering Committee was also formed, which was represented by nominated country representatives. The Steering Committee discussed in details about the youth seminar and the sessions and came out with recommendations



Iain Macdonald, ICA Director General with youth delegates



The Director General addressing the closing session



The youth presented cultural performances at the farewell function

Chiang Mai, Thailand, during December, 2004.

(This report was made to the Regional Assembly by Mr. Teo Say Hong, representative from Singapore, on 3rd December, 2004. He has made an impassioned plea to the delegates

of the Regional Assembly to help out the youth in their respective countries to involve themselves in co-operative activities).

Hajah Rahiah Baharen congratulated the ICA, the ANGKASA and the delegates for the successful

completion of the seminar. She also presented certificates of participation to the delegates.

The youth delegates presented cultural performances at the closing ceremony on 7th September, 2004.

P. Nair

ICA -Asia & Pacific Revamped Web-site

We have redesigned and re-vamped our web-site www.icaroap.coop, incorporating the earlier trade web-site www.directories.coop, so that all information is available for our members and visitors at one place.

The site has been redesigned to give a new and fresh look. The directory section is interactive and the members can post information on their co-operative organisations, the products and services they want to buy or sell to other co-operative organisations, etc.

The news and events section provide up-to-date information on the activities of the ICA in the Region.

Links have been provided to the web-sites of major co-operative organisations within and outside the region. Those co-operative organisations who wish to be linked to our site may send their URLs for us to incorporate.

Please visit our site and provide us your valuable feedback and suggestions.



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3 January 2005

Dear Co-operators,

ASIAN DISASTER FUND

My letter of 30 December detailed our intentions with regard to the Asian disaster. Since then, further information has revealed the awful extent of this tragedy and we hear each day of the unimaginable suffering of those concerned.

As indicated in my previous letter, we have now set up an account, as below, to facilitate the collection of financial contributions which will then be forwarded to the co-operative organisations in the concerned countries. I am also aware that some co-operative organisations are making similar arrangements, so our special Weekly Digest, this week, will give as much information as possible about what is happening.

Our Director of Knowledge Management, Gabriella Sozanski, is acting as co-ordinator of our Appeal and is currently seeking further information from our members in the affected areas. She will be advising you shortly of how you can best assist the recovery programme. It would also be helpful to know what actions members may already have taken in order that we can better co-ordinate a fair distribution of assistance.

Thank you for your support and solidarity.

Yours sincerely,

Iain Macdonald
Director General



DROP OF HOPE: Left: Children at an emergency camp in Chamlong, Thailand. Right: Damaged school building in Thailand.

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