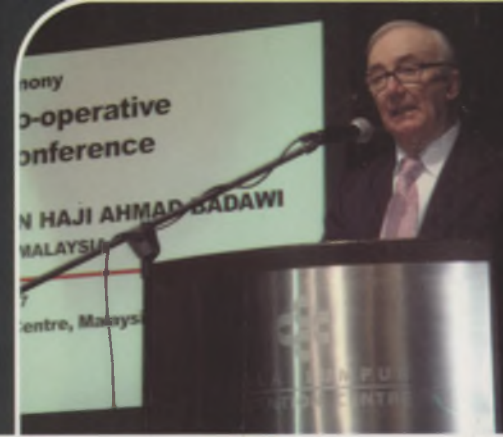


ICA-AP ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2007



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ICA Asia Pacific

The International Co-operative Alliance - Asia & Pacific is one of the operating regional offices of the ICA, the world confederation of co-operatives in existence since 1895 and presently head quartered in Geneva.

ICA has 225 member organizations worldwide from 87 countries of which 59 member organizations come from 23 countries in the Asia Pacific region.

Most of the members of ICA are national level co-operative organizations that serve all types of co-operatives operating in all sectors of national economies including those engaged

in agricultural production and marketing, wholesale and retail, small and medium scale industries, financial services, insurance, housing, transport, health and other services.

Over 530 million individual members get benefited from the services of these co-operatives in the Asia Pacific region. The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific was opened in 1960 and is presently located at 9, Aradhana Enclave, Sector 13, R.K.Puram, Ring Road, New Delhi 110066, India.

ICA also has a sub-office in Singapore since 1999 to promote ICA's business interests.

ICA Domus Trust (IDT) in India

In recognition of the valuable contribution made by Dr. Mauritz Bonow to the development of co-operative movement throughout the world and particularly in developing countries, the ICA Domus Trust (Dr. Bonow Memorial) was set up on 25 October 1988 under the Indian Trust Act with its registered office in New Delhi, India.

The Trust is fully supported by International Co-operative Alliance. IDT has sound financial health and owns its own office at 9, Aradhana Enclave, R.K Puram, New Delhi and presently

constructing an ambitious infrastructure in NOIDA for the advancement of the interests of the Trust.

IDT has qualified and experienced human resource to carry forward the agenda of co-operative development in India and adjoining nations. The ICA Domus Trust has 5 trustees, comprising of the ICA President, ICA Vice-President for Asia and the Pacific, ICA Director-General, ICA Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific and the President of National Co-operative Union of India.

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ICA Asia Pacific Team

Regional Director	- Mr Shil Kwan Lee
Director Development	- Mr Rajiv I.D. Mehta
Planning Officer	- Mr K. Sethumadhavan
Finance Officer	- Mr K. Kukreja
Program Officer	- Mr A.K. Taneja
Consultant	- Mr Prem Kumar
Consultant Communications	- Mr P. Nair

ICA Domus Trust

Senior Consultant	- Mr B.D. Sharma
Librarian	- Ms Archana Gupta
Receptionist	- Ms Neela Sharma
Accounts Assistant	- Mr Sanjay Gupta

On Deputation from MOs

Advisor - Special Programs	- Mr Yoshi Nakamura, JCCU, Japan
Advisor - Agriculture	- Mr Chan Hyun Kim, NACF, Korea
Advisor - Gender Programs	- Mrs Savitri Singh, NCUI, India



Message from the President, Asia Pacific

The year 2007 was the year full of events setting stage for futuristic growth of co-operatives in the ICA Asia Pacific region. I am really proud to lead the region with vibrant cooperatives and supportive governments. I would like to compliment and thank all the members of ICA from the region for showing overwhelming response to various initiatives taken by the team of ICA Asia Pacific Office in New Delhi under the leadership of Mr Shil Kwan Lee, the Regional Director of ICA Asia Pacific.

Today in the era of globalization, privately owned corporate houses are going fast and they are skyrocketing. The national and multi-national companies have aggressively entered in the fields like industry, trade and commerce at grass root level, education, knowledge industry, health, agriculture, housing etc that were considered as domain of cooperatives. The co-operatives therefore, have to be a group that innovates, that starts creating intellectual property, that breaks new ground rather than be one that follows established processes and technologies.

We have an immense task ahead of us, to move from where we are now to a new level. We have to **prove and showcase our strength of being a responsive, responsible and reliable co-operative community** and accordingly have to market it to get enviable position in the global market.

Recently, Dr. Dong Shik Shin, Chairman and Managing Director of Korea Maritime consultants, and considered as father of Korean ship building said that the reason why Korea became a leader in global ship building was establishing a **comprehensive master plan for development** of the industry in 1960. He stressed that **it is not merely shipyards but technologically sound manpower and ancillary industry that helps build ships**. He shared the experience with other industrialists during the First International Ship Building Seminar. Such sharing of experiences among the corporate sector through conferences, seminars goes on and on, on a regular basis. I am happy to say that seminal series of activities and events organized by ICA Asia Pacific will certainly bring **desired attitudinal changes in the mindset** of thousands of the leaders and managers of the cooperatives in the region.

Today, cooperatives need to ask a number of questions like, have cooperatives managed to construct an integrated and efficient network? Have the strength of primary cooperatives and cooperative enterprises been reinforced in the competitive market? Are cooperatives seeking potential strategic partners for better undertaking common endeavors? Have cooperatives tap the potential of cooperation between each other? Have cooperatives expanded their field of operations? Are they aggressively pushing ahead? Do cooperatives show any ambition? Have they comprehensively planned ahead? Do the cooperatives consider technologically sound manpower as necessary condition for success and growth? Do the co-operatives recruit young, bright professionals from reputed institutions? Have the cooperatives marketed the very concept of cooperation and cooperative institutions to society at large through publicity? And do the cooperatives think like the private corporate mind and think, and act, as far as the business is concerned?

For long, our thinking has been limited to poverty alleviation. Mere attentiveness to poverty is not sufficient. We must simultaneously have to have aspiration for prosperity. We must strive to improve economy as well as quality of life of the poor. Keeping a poor man's standard of living at the same level year after year is not development. It is mere survival exercise. Cooperatives must develop confidence to handle both poverty and prosperity.

In the past, the movement expanded because it responded to manageable changes in the society and market environment, and reacted accordingly. Considering the speed with which the changes are happening in the market and business environment, cooperatives need to evolve new thinking and innovate new strategies to capitalize inherent strengths and advantages of cooperatives. Even, Albert Einstein had said, **"the significant problems cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them."**

Problem is that all the advantages that cooperatives carry are overshadowed by lack of **entrepreneurship, business acumen and professional management**. And these are the strengths of our competitors, the corporate sector. I am sure, the year 2008 will catapult not only the process of cooperative growth, but a new level of innovative thinking among cooperators in Asia and Pacific.





Message from the Regional Director

I am glad to bring to you the Annual Activity Report of the ICA Asia Pacific for the year 2007.

It was a year of bringing together the governments and cooperative movements to adopt a shared vision for inclusive growth of economy and generating awareness among the governments and cooperatives about the core strengths and comparative advantages of cooperatives in assuring seamless distribution of the benefits of the economic development.

In 2007, there were significant events like **8th Ministers' Conference** on Co-operative Legislation and Policy with the theme of "**Fair Globalization through Co-operatives**", First Cooperative Forum in UAE, Special events in Indonesia to discuss **capacity building of cooperatives** through HRD networking, protection of small farmers and entrepreneurs through cooperatives, **trade networking** among cooperatives, New Zealand Conference of Senior Executives of Co-operatives to discuss **Co-operative Advantages in Doing Business** to compete well in the open market economy and the National Conference on Co-operative Development in India.

ICA AP during the year also discussed at great length about the need of restructuring ICA and rewriting the vision and key result areas of ICA AP. The activities of ICA AP in 2007 have laid the foundation for a focused four-year strategic plan of ICA Asia Pacific.

Considering the lack of information on cooperatives among the general public, lack of business knowledge among members of the cooperatives and lack of ideological commitment among managers and leaders of the cooperatives, ICA AP through the strategic plan would bring to the minds and hearts of cooperative policy makers and practitioners, the ideals for which a cooperative stands and the real significance of cooperatives in bringing uniform economic development duly ensuring fair distribution of its benefits to all the sections of the society.

So far, the efforts of cooperatives in seeking patronage and support of the government for the growth and development

have not resulted in glaring success of cooperative enterprises. The reason is not inadequate or untimely government support rather the inability of the cooperatives to take advantage of favorable government policies and harness the latent advantages the cooperatives have.

The ICA already has a list of 300 world's major cooperatives and mutual business. These global 300 give us the confidence that cooperative institutions can be successful and reach high level of performance. In the list are enterprises established way back in 1820 (in Germany) and those established recently in 2003. This shows the strength of cooperative movement and it's resilience under varied times, political systems, and market conditions.

Economies of countries of the Asia and Pacific regions are growing at 8-10% per annum. Major contributors to this growth are private corporate sector, public sector undertakings and governments' departmentally administered development programs.

The ICA AP during 2008 intends to focus more about the spirit, the soul, the will, the feelings, and the driving force behind the cooperative entrepreneurship by arranging effective interfacing between and among the cooperatives and the governments in the light of ICA's laudable vision.

– Shil Kwan Lee

8th Ministers' Conference on Cooperative Legislation & Policy

The ICA AP has been assiduously pursuing the development of conducive and progressive co-operative policies and enactment of favorable legislation reforms to enable co-operatives to adapt with the fast changing global scenario. In this context ICA AP has conducted seminal series of seven Ministers' Conferences on Co-operative Policy & Legislation from 1990 to 2004.

The principal idea behind these conferences has been to establish an effective dialogue between the policy makers and the stakeholders on critical and key areas enveloping the co-operative sector.

The idea of conferencing on vital issues before the co-operatives came in the year 1990 in the background of co-operatives having received preferential support & financial assistance from governments and in turn governments overwhelmingly protecting and supporting the co-operatives with financial assistance, managerial support and tax benefits to promote income opportunities, equality, justice, social equity & social responsibility.

The main purpose of the Ministers' Conference on Co-operative Legislation and Policy that is organized every 4th year is to understand the priorities of the Governments and assert the advantages of co-operatives in building national economy.

The main objectives underlining the conference include:

- ♦ developing conducive and progressive co-operative policies and enactment of proactive legislation reforms;
- ♦ enabling co-operatives to adapt with the fast changing global scenario;
- ♦ creating a platform at international level for governments & movements to discuss key issues hindering the development of co-operative sector.

In the context of the relevance of Governments in the development of co-operatives, ICA arranged a consultation of Permanent secretaries and top co-operative officials in

Singapore in 1987 to deliberate on the form and type of support from the Governments that must preserve the autonomy and democratic character of co-operatives and infuse required dynamism and self reliance through meaningful co-operation among co-operatives at national and international level.

The consultation process conceived the idea of Co-operative Ministers' Conference first held in Sydney from 8 to 11 February 1990 on "Co-operative Government Collaborative Strategies for the Development of Co-operatives during



Delegates at a group photo in Kuala Lumpur

90s" attended by 99 delegates (9 Ministers) from 19 countries and 10 international organizations including ICA.

The second co-operative Ministers' Conference was held in Jakarta, Indonesia on "Co-operative Government Relationship" from 18 to 21 February 1992 attended by 164 delegates (17 Ministers) from 23 countries and 12 international organizations including ICA.

The third Co-operative Ministers' Conference was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 26 to 30 July 1994 on "Co-operative Government Collaborative Strategies for the Development of Co-operatives" attended by 140 delegates (15 Ministers) from 24 countries and 10 international organizations including ICA.

The fourth Co-operative Ministers' Conference on "Co-

operatives in a Changing Socio-Economic Environment” was held at Chiangmai, Thailand from 18 to 22 March 1997 attended by 124 delegates (10 Ministers) from 22 countries and 9 international organizations including ICA.

The fifth Co-operative Ministers’ Conference was held in Beijing, China from 11 to 16 October 1999 attended by 163 delegates (9 Ministers) from 24 countries and 8 international organizations including ICA.

The sixth Co-operative Ministers’ Conference on “Establishing Relevant Legislation & Policy for Co-operatives in the New Millennium” was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 3 to 6 April 2002 attended by 196 delegates (8 Ministers) from 18 countries and 9 international organizations including ICA.

The seventh Co-operative Ministers’ Conference on “Establishing Supportive Co-operative Legislation for Sustainable Growth of Co-operatives” was held in New Delhi, India from 1 to 6 February, 2004 attended by 168 delegates (8 Ministers) from 17 countries and 9 international organizations including ICA.

The Eighth Ministers’ Conference on Co-operative Legislation and Policy was held in Kuala Lumpur from 12 to 15 March 2007. The Conference was organized by the Ministry of Entrepreneur and Co-operative Development (MECD), Government of Malaysia in collaboration with the ICA Asia Pacific and ANGKASA the National Co-operative Organization of Malaysia. The main theme of the Conference was “Fair Globalization through Co-operatives”.

Deliberations at 8th Ministers’ Conference:

The Conference while arguing need to adopt pro-cooperative development strategies to achieve dynamic growth and equitable income distribution in the process of development diagnosed the ailments of national cooperative development policies that had impeded opportunities in realizing the real growth potential of cooperatives in the era of globalization, and proposed to have a logical and realistic approach for developing cooperatives in the spirit of its declaration ushering an era of new cooperative development strategy.

It was agreed that development and economic growth are not the same thing. One could have one without the other. Economic growth was cited both a cause and consequence of urbanization for the simple fact that cities are the engines of growth.

So the logic: development of a country requires economic growth was unequivocally accepted and the cooperative advantage was seen as emerging option to fight the surmountable formidable challenges of globalize economy.

The cooperative action in proper institutionalized form under the cover of favorable policy environment and proactive legislation was strongly recommended.

Although inclusive growth was seen as panacea for all economic evils, but the possible ways of integrating it within the system were seen like an unrealizable dream if cooperatives were not allowed to perform and position in the social economy. The need to clearly demonstrate the cooperative advantages by quoting real examples was projected high so as to bring up a list of indicators to benchmark its effectiveness. The Conference deliberated on the following merits of demand driven global economy



Mr. Abdullah Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia, speaking at the Ministers’ Conference

carving out a definite scope and role for the cooperatives in fair globalization:

- ◆ Multi-dimensional opportunity resonating socio-economic lives of peoples of Asia and Pacific and their institutions particularly cooperatives;
- ◆ Fair globalization and liberalization of national economies that would result in enhanced economic growth and prosperity, where its gains would be equitably distributed among the people particularly the poorer and more vulnerable sections of the community;
- ◆ Inclusive growth pattern of the economies in the region harnessing gains of globalization aimed at poverty reduction, employment generation and equitable development;
- ◆ Proactive legislative regime together with enabling

- policies for creating conducive environment for development of cooperatives; and
- ♦ Effective institutional paradigm facilitating the dialogue between the producers and the Governments so as to enhance the role of cooperatives in inclusive economic growth and prosperity.

Essence of the Declaration of 8th Ministers' Conference:

Recognizing cooperatives as an important and significant component of the national economy ensuring wide spread benefits of growth to those who would not normally get included, 8th Ministers' Conference affirmed their support for the strengthening of Cooperative Movement through:

1. *Capacity Building*: Encouragement of cooperative entrepreneurship by inculcating entrepreneurial spirit and skills among the members, leaders and managers of the cooperatives through education and training.
2. *Business Networking*: Attainment of economies of scale through strategic business alliances among cooperatives both domestically and internationally.
3. *Effective Governance*: Transparency and role clarity among members, leaders and the managers of cooperatives and also among different tiers of the cooperatives attributing to strong social capital of the country enhancing the real impact of the Cooperative Movement, and

4. *Beneficial Services to Members*: Harnessing the gains of the fair globalization and liberalization for the economic and social benefit of members.

The Conference finally:

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

Called upon the Cooperative Movements to contribute effectively in the process of economic development, amongst others, by organizing small producers including farmers, workers and protecting consumers through cooperative action duly ensuring increased participation of women and youth in the cooperatives.

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

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

8th Ministers' Conference Declaration

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First Co-operative Forum for Enhancing the Cooperative Work in GCC

The First Co-operative Forum for Enhancing the Co-operative Work was held at Dubai, UAE, on 12-13 June 2007.

More than 100 delegates from GCC countries (Gulf Cooperation Council) – United Arab Emirates, State of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, State of Qatar and State of Kuwait, attended the Forum. The Ministry of Social Affairs, Government of UAE in collaboration with International Co-operative Alliance, hosted the Forum.

H.E. Mariam Mohammed Khalfan Al Roomi, Hon'ble Minister of Social Affairs, Government of UAE, inaugurated the Forum and Mr. Ivano Barberini, President of ICA presided over the inaugural function.

The Forum was addressed by the following:

1. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA-AP spoke on ICA in Asia-Pacific Region
2. Mr. Hans Muenkner, Professor, Germany, spoke about the Recent Development of Co-operatives in Europe
3. Mr. Kim Yook Kon, NACF, Korea presented a case study on NACF, Korea
4. Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, NCUI, India spoke about Networking of Co-op HRD Institutions
5. Mr. Zulkfli Mohd., Chief Executive, SNCF, Singapore, spoke about Development of Co-operatives in Singapore
6. Mr. Tsubasa Nakamura, Advisor, ICA-AP, presented a Case Study on Japanese Consumer Co-operatives
7. Mr. Rajiv I.D. Mehta, Director-Development, ICA-AP spoke on Co-operatives and Micro-Economic Development
8. Mr. S.C. Mishra, Professor, India made a presentation on Scope of Consumer Co-op Stores, and
9. Ministry of Social Affairs of the Government of UAE made a presentation on Structural Operations – Net Working of Co-ops in GCC countries.

The presentations were followed by an open house discussion on expectations of co-operatives and governments from each other.

The following aspects emerged as a result of open house discussions facilitated by Mr. Rajiv ID Mehta.

01. There is a need of a more comprehensive dialogue between the cooperative movements and the Governments in GCC region to ameliorate the prospects of co-operatives.
02. The general development policy environment in the Gulf region reflects inequalities between the corporate and cooperative sectors. Cooperatives being legitimate value driven peoples/ community based organizations/ enterprises deserves a fair and preferential treatment over other forms of business organizations. This aspect needs to be incorporated in the national development



Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President and H.E. Mariam Mohd. Khalfan Al Roomi, Hon'ble Minister of Social Affairs, Government of UAE with other dignitaries.

- policy and be reflected clearly for visible impact domestically and internationally.
03. There is a dire need to build the capacity of the cooperatives at primary and upper levels by the dissemination of right knowledge cum information on cooperatives and the businesses they are in along with the development of managerial and operational skills for optimum utilization of capital and human resources for an assured success of the cooperatives, and
04. Constant dialogue between government and cooperatives is essential for successful sustainable cooperative economy. Governments and cooperatives together must strategize exposure-cum exchange programs to successful cooperatives in the Asian region.

International Co-operative Trade Fair (ICTF) 2007

The Co-operative Identity Statement of International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) has strongly emphasized the need of co-operation among co-operatives to optimally utilize the comparative strength of unified small producers in negotiating trade agreements on mutually beneficial terms with all fairness and respect for either side.

ICA-AP in collaboration with DEKOPIN - the Indonesian Cooperative Council organized an International Co-operative Trade Fair in Bali, Indonesia from July 12 to 15, 2007. The Trade Fair was formally inaugurated by Ms. Maria Elena, Dy. Director-General, ICA, Geneva along with Mr. Adi Sasono, the President of DEKOPIN and Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA-AP, at Discovery Shopping Mall, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia on 12th July 2007.

Exhibition stalls were put up by the co-operatives of Indonesia, Iran, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India, Malaysia and the Philippines.

The Trade Fair was organized to commemorate the completion of six decades of co-operative movement in Indonesia. His Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Republic of Indonesia inaugurated the National Co-operative Day of Indonesia on 12th July 2007. More than 5000 delegates from Indonesia and 15 foreign countries – Canada, China, India, Myanmar, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Spain, Timor Leste, UAE, Korea, Switzerland, attended the celebrations.

To make the event more meaningful, following activities were also held between 10 and 15 July 2007 in Bali in conjunction with the Trade Fair:

- Seminar on Capacity Building of Co-operatives through HRD Networking and 20th Meeting of the ICA Committee on HRD for Asia and the Pacific : 10-11 July.

- Co-operative Day of Indonesia : 12 July 2007
- International Co-operative Trade Fair : 12 to 15 July 2007
- Conference on Poverty Reduction and Advantage of Co-operatives in Protecting Small Farmers and Rural Entrepreneurs : 13 July 2007
- Symposium on Trade Networking : 14 July 2007

The main objective of the Trade Symposium was to encourage and motivate co-operatives in the region to establish business alliances with overseas co-operatives as a win-win strategy in the market oriented economy.



Mr. Shil Kwan Lee and Ms. Maria-Elena Chavez and others at the inauguration of the International Trade Fair in Bali.

Mr. Rajiv I.D. Mehta, Director (Development), ICA-AP, coordinated and anchored the above events along with Mr. Yuzri Suhud, Secretary General, DEKOPIN.

IFFCO - ICA-AP Workshop for Senior Executives of Co-operatives

To share the business experiences of successful cooperatives for enhancing competitiveness of cooperative enterprises in the globalize market, the ICA AP in collaboration with IFFCO organized a workshop of senior executives from identified co-operatives in the Asia Pacific region from 27 to 29 November 2007 at Wellington in New Zealand.

The workshop was inaugurated by Hon Lianne Dalziel, Minister of Commerce, Small Business & Women's Affairs, Government of New Zealand. The Regional Director of ICA Asia-Pacific, Mr Shil Kwan Lee delivered a special address at the inaugural session. The workshop was jointly conducted by Mr Ramsey Margolis, Executive Director of New Zealand Co-operatives Association and Mr Rajiv I.D. Mehta, Director - Development of ICA AP.

Resource persons from Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, UK and ICA AP made presentations on the theme of the workshop, "The Co-operative Advantage of Doing Business" through case studies of successful business co-operatives in their respective countries. The case studies catalyzed effective participation of the participants in the group discussions on linking co-operative advantage to business and effectively serving the members through co-operatives.

Following co-operative advantages were found extremely relevant in the development of co-operative enterprises:

- The greatest advantage the co-ops enjoy is their strong linkages with the community and civil society at large.
- Co-operatives are democratically controlled organizations controlled by the elected representatives who do have the potential to leverage the political considerations and build good relationship with the governments in promoting the interests of the co-operative institutions.

- The core objective of serving the needs of the co-operative community injects the desired spirits and sense of belongingness among the members and inspires them to be competitive to survive and progress.
- Co-operatives when fully owned and controlled by members acquire enough flexibility in controlling the costs on account of the value based management practices soaked with the modest aspirations of the members.
- Enlightened membership and committed leadership coupled with knowledgeable and experienced professionals/managers can position the co-operatives



Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA AP, presenting a memento to Hon. Lianne Dalziel, Minister of Commerce, New Zealand. On the right is Mr. Rajiv Mehta, Director-Development, ICA AP.

at enviable position in the market.

- Cooperative values and their ethical business practices address the issue of corporate social responsibility and if publicized well could add value to the co-op brand image attributing to an assured success of the co-operative enterprise in any form of economic system.
- Co-operative solidarity factor if capitalized in trade promotion could swiftly connect the business from local to global level.
- Classic federal character of cooperative institutions is

a vital aspect in removing the market imperfections.

It was unequivocally agreed to capitalize the above advantages in developing marketing strategy to promote business interests of the co-operatives and following recommendations were made for the co-operatives in the region:

Co-operative enterprises should base their futures on the values that provide them with unique competitive advantage in the market place.

Co-operatives need to pay serious attention to the links between their co-operative & ethical values and the business/commercial success of the co-operative enterprises.

Co-operatives must learn from the experiences of successful co-ops world over.

There is a dire need to repair the image of co-operatives by lobbying well with media, government and public for positive image building of co-operatives so that the co-operative values remain relevant with the change of the economic patterns.

Co-ops need to try hard to positioning them as a reliable brand.

Word of Mouth publicity by the members and users of co-op services being one of the most effective tools in propagating the advantage of co-operative mode of doing businesses should be one of the measures to retain and promote the preferred brand status.

Marketing slogans for co-operatives must convey the fact that makes co-ops what they are and what investor owned corporations never can be.

Professionals inducted to manage the operations of the co-operatives must have the required expertise and needed passion with a desire to embrace the values of co-operatives in shouldering their responsibilities.

Co-operative leadership must groom second line for paving way for the youths to understand the business of co-operative in a business like manner.

Co-operatives need to have a well-focused approach to business, governance and management with clearly defined rules for business and incorporate reasonable and logical concern for community in a feasible and sustainable systemic form.

Employment generation through co-operatives must be showcased to broad base the scope of co-operatives in the economic development of a country and involvement of government through enabling policy environment.

Co-operatives being business organizations with a difference ought to be market focused but member driven with a Kaleidoscope thinking to reach out to any market and serve any community poor or affluent.

Co-operatives need to have participatory process of decision



Co-operative Advantage discussions being facilitated by Mr. Rajiv Mehta.

making with simpler and more transparent systems.

There is a need have attitudinal change in the mind set of co-operative members and leaders who always treat co-operatives as the institutions needing preferential treatment and support.

Co-ops should think big and keep their pace with the changes happening in the markets as well as societies.

National Conference on Co-operative Development in India

The ICA in Asia-Pacific and ICA Domus Trust, in collaboration with the National Co-operative Union of India and National Co-operative Development Corporation organised a National Conference on Co-operative Development in India on 18 and 19 December, 2007, at the Grand Hotel, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.

The objective of the Conference was to deliberate on the scope and potential of co-operatives in providing assured livelihood to agriculturists, weavers, artisans and self employed youths in rural areas; to correlate the priorities of the central governments with that of the local self rule institutions; to suggest alternative approaches for development through co-operatives to complement the role of local governments in the development of rural areas and to provide gainful occupation to millions of informal on-farm and off-farm workers through co-op business networking in globalized set up.

Thirty delegates representing national level co-operative federations in India, registrars of co-operatives, secretaries of industries, specialists in rural development organizations, managing directors and chief executives of specialized co-operatives, apart from selected resource persons, participated at the Conference and had discussions on various aspects of co-operative development in India.

Mr. Hans Dahlberg, former Chief Executive of ICMIF, narrated the development of co-operatives in Europe and also on the ICA initiative of Global 300 in line with Fortune 500 of the commercial sector. Dr. Jin-Kook Kim from ICA, Geneva explained the impact of WTO negotiations on cooperatives and small producers and drew possible course of action for the co-operatives. Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary-Agriculture with the Government of West Bengal explained about the national and global scenario on co-operatives and what lies ahead for them.

The delegates had elaborative group discussions and came out with possible points which the co-operatives, the various

ministries and the government of India, should consider.

The two-day Conference was inaugurated by Mr. G.H.Amin, President of National Co-operative Union of India. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director spoke on the need of co-operatives in India in overcoming the competition from the private sector. He mentioned that the co-operatives should convert the disadvantages into strengths. Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive of National Co-operative Union of India, made a presentation on the Global HRD network. Prof. Arvind Gupta of IRMA, India and Mr. PVA Rama Rao



Mr. P. Uma Shankar, Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Mr. G.H. Amin and Mr. Rajiv Mehta at the National Conference.

from National Institute of Rural Development and former Managing Director of NABARD presented very well researched papers on the Indian co-operative situation.

Mr. S.M. Jharwal, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operation gave the valedictory address on the closing day.

Mr. P. Uma Shankar, Managing Director of NCDL, New Delhi, was instrumental in organizing this Conference and spoke on various crucial aspects of the Indian co-operatives.

Mr. Rajiv Mehta, Director-Development, assisted by P. Nair and Mr. Suresh Babu coordinated the Conference, with the support of the staff of ICA Asia-Pacific.

ICA-AP signs MoU with Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies, Kuwait

The ICA-AP signed a MoU with Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies, Kuwait, for co-operative development efforts in the Arab region.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director and Mr. Rajiv Mehta, Development Director, visited the Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies, Kuwait at the invitation of the Kuwaiti Consumer Co-operative movement to discuss with them co-operative development efforts in the Middle East countries.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the Union of Consumer Societies, whereby the Kuwaiti consumer co-operative union would provide financial support to the ICA-AP in organizing a series of conferences in all countries of the Gulf region, culminating in the setting up of a Co-operative Development Centre in Kuwait. Initially it is proposed to have these Conferences in Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, with a Regional Conference in Kuwait again. The MoU was

signed by Mr. Shil Kwan Lee on behalf of the ICA and Mr. Mohd. Amer Al-Mutairi, Chairman of the Union. Senior members of the staff of UCCS and board members were present.

Strategies and support for the setting up of Co-operative Development Centre and other future activities will be finalized later.



Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA-AP signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Mr. Mohd. Amer Al-Mutairi, Chairman of Kuwait Consumer Co-operatives' Union.



Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA-AP and Mr Rajiv I.D. Mehta, Development - Director, ICA AP with Mr. Mohd. Amer Al-Mutairi, Chairman of Kuwait Consumer Co-operatives' Union and other board members.

1st ICA-Japan Training Course

On the basis of the achievements of the ICA-Japan Training Course on "Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia" for 20 years, a new Training Project on "Enhancement of Farmers' Income and Poverty Reduction Through Cooperatives" was developed and agreed upon for implementation through the ICA, with a focus on the strengthening of farm guidance method, joint collection, marketing, safety and improvement of quality of farm products. The training programme was implemented by the ICA-AP with the collaboration of IFFCO/FMDI, Gurgaon, Institute of Rural Management (IRMA), Anand (Gujarat), India, IDACA, Tokyo (Japan) and ICA's member-organizations in India, Thailand and Japan.

Under this Project, the First ICA-Japan Training Course on "Enhancement of Farmers' Income and Poverty Reduction through Cooperatives" was held in India, Thailand and Japan from December 15, 2006 to April 22, 2007. The course was formally inaugurated by Mr. D.K. Bhatt, Marketing Director, IFFCO, on 11 January 2007 at the IFFCO's Fertiliser Marketing Development Institute [FMDI], Gurgaon. Mr. Shil-Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director (Asia-Pacific), Mr. H. Sakata, First Secretary in the Embassy of Japan, Mr. Ikuo Ashikari, General Manager, IDACA, Tokyo, Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive of National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), and Mr. Prem Kumar, Project Adviser, ICA-AP, addressed the participants. Dr. R.N. Kundu, Deputy General Manager (Trg), FMDI, welcomed the participants, while Dr. D. Bhattacharya,

General Manager (PA&HRD), IFFCO, proposed a vote of thanks.

There were 12 participants from Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The participants moved to the Institute of Rural Management (IRMA), Anand, on 25 January and attended the IRMA segment of the course until 24 February 2007.

The comparative field study visits in Thailand took place during 27 February-08 March 2007, and then the Part-III of the programme was held at IDACA, Tokyo (Japan) from 9 March-21 April 2007.



Participants of the 1st ICA Japan Training Course with Mr. D.K. Bhatt, Shil Kwan Lee and others at Fertilizer Marketing Development Institute, Gurgaon.

After completing the IDACA part of the training programme, the participants left Japan on 22 April 2007 for their home countries.

Training Project for “Capacity Building for Marketing – 2007”

The 2nd Training Project for “Capacity Building for Marketing-2007” was formally inaugurated on 6th February 2007 in the Conference Hall of IDACA by Mr. Kazuo Tsukada, Executive Director, IDACA. Mr. A.K. Taneja, Program Officer, ICA-AP also addressed the Inaugural Session.

The programme is funded by the Government of Japan in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

The main objectives of the training project were as follows:

- 1) To study marketing methods for farm products by theory and case study;
- 2) To study the methods for the rural development.

24 participants from 9 ASEAN countries – 1 from Malaysia, 2 each from Cambodia and Myanmar, 3 each from Brunei, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines and Vietnam, and 4 from Thailand attended the Training Programme. The IDACA had developed a training curriculum, which included classroom lectures on various aspects, handled by the IDACA faculty members and specially-invited guest lecturers, organised field study visits and arranged direct communication with farmers and leaders of agricultural cooperatives.

The field study visits were arranged to agricultural co-operatives in Shizuoka Prefecture and it included the JA Shizuoka Prefectural Union; JA

Shizuoka Prefectural Economic Federation and its facilities; JA Mikabi and its facilities; JA Shizuoka-shi and observation of Farmers’ Market run by it. The participants also visited the headquarters of MAFF, ASEAN Rural Community Plaza in Tokyo and JA Zennoh Distribution Center, including a A-Coop Store run by JA on retail business in Kanagawa prefecture.

The participants also held group discussions and prepared brief reports on the experiences gained by them. An end-of-the-Course Evaluation session was also held.

The emphasis during the Training Project was on the methods and techniques adopted by various organisations and JA group in distribution of agricultural products and marketing business in Japan. The training course emphasised on practical studies and learning. Basic aspects

of Japanese agriculture, agricultural cooperative system, detailed introductions to organisation and functioning of agricultural cooperatives in Japan were given. Special topics of interest to the participants like “Marketing methods for farm products by theory and case study” and “Strategy for Marketing of Agricultural Products”, for future development were presented.

During the study visits programme to agricultural cooperatives in Shizuoka Prefecture the participants interacted with farmer leaders and to observe their various activities as carried out by the JAs.

The training course was designed in such a way that the participants, after returning to their respective countries,



Participants of the training project for Capacity Building for Marketing at IDACA.

are able to help organise and strengthen the marketing activities of their respective Primary Co-operatives and other similar groups and make use of experiences of Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan.

At the valedictory session, Mr. Kazunari Sakai, Assistant Director, International Economic Affairs, International Affairs Dept., Minister’s Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), addressed the participants. Besides, Mr. K. Tsukada, Executive Director, IDACA and Mr. A.K. Taneja, Program Officer, ICA-AP, also addressed the participants and congratulated them for their cooperation in successful completion of the programme.

This year another course, prior to the one mentioned above, on Marketing was held between 22 August and 16 September on the same theme.

2nd Training Course on “Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises For Rural Women”

The International Cooperative Alliance-Asia and Pacific [ICA-AP] in collaboration with the JA-ZENCHU [Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan] and the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia [IDACA] held the 2nd Training Course on “Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women” from 13th July to 18th August 2007 in the Philippines and Japan. The generous financial assistance was provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [MAFF] of the Government of Japan to conduct this program.

Twelve women participants – two each from China, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam attended the Training Course.

The main objectives of the Training Course were (a) to learn methods of enterprise development by rural women through case studies; (b) to study management methods of micro-enterprises by rural women; and (c) to learn methods of encouraging women to be involved in rural communities’ development.

Part-I of the program, Comparative Study Visits, was held in the Philippines from 13th to 22nd July in collaboration with the National Confederation of Cooperatives [NATCCO], a member-organization of ICA.

Part-II of the program held at IDACA from 23rd July to 18th August included extensive classroom work and study visits to agricultural cooperatives in Shimane Prefecture 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 cooperatives in

Japan. In view of the experience gained by the participants through class room lectures, field study visits in the Philippines and Japan, the participants were able to develop brief outlines of their Action Plans which they would be recommending to their respective organizations on return to their home countries.

An end-of-the Course Evaluation was conducted at the conclusion of the Training Course. A Certificate of Participation was awarded to each participant at the concluding session held at the IDACA in Tokyo on 17th August.

The concluding session was attended by Mr. Kosei Banura, Section Chief, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [MAFF]; Mr. Kazuo Tsukada, Executive Director of IDACA; and Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Planning Officer of ICA-AP.



The women’s group at Philippines. Mr. K. Sethumadhavan along with the delegates.

Training Program for Managers of Consumer Co-operatives in Japan

A Training program for managers of consumer co-operatives is organized every year since 2001 by ICA-AP in collaboration with Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union (JCCU). The main purpose of this training program is to expose participants to Japanese Consumer Co-operative System for enrichments in the areas of store operation and management, democratic HAN formation, observe various members' activities including committee meetings as well as to see all the facilities that Japanese consumer co-operatives offer to its members.

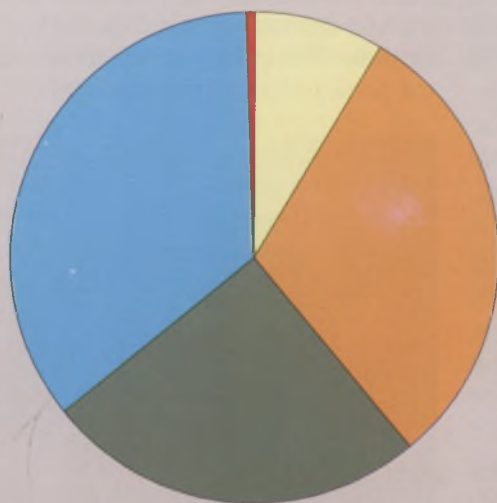
In 2007 three training programs have been organized in Co-op Tokyo, Miyagi Co-op and Co-op Kobe respectively. The duration

of each training program was about two weeks. Participants were selected after having met the requirements of the interview conducted by the ICA-AP secretary to the Consumer Committee. After arriving in Japan, trainees were given orientation at JCCU in Tokyo for four days before proceeding to the training centers for the actual program.

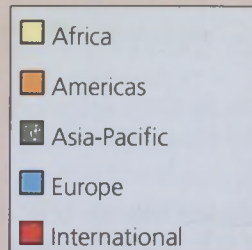


The trainee managers at the Han group delivery point of Coop Tokyo.

ICA Membership 2007



REGION	Total
Africa	19
Americas	68
Asia-Pacific	57
Europe	79
International	1



Workshop for Enhancing Role of Women in Co-operative Development

The ICA-AP in collaboration with the Department of Co-operatives of Bangladesh organized a workshop on 'Enhancing Role of Women in Co-operative Development' in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 22-23 August, 2007.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Mohd. Anwarul Iqbal, Hon'ble Advisor in-charge of the Ministries of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives and the Ministry of Labour and Employment inaugurated the workshop, which was attended by Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director, Mr. Mohammad Nazrul Islam and Mrs. Savitri Singh, Gender Program Advisor of ICA-AP.

The workshop was attended by 30 delegates from Bangladesh, including re-

source persons from ICA-AP, UNAIDs, Bangladesh, UNIFEM Office for South Asia and FAO, Dhaka.

The workshop discussed issues like Understanding Co-operative Movement in Bangladesh and ICA, Gender Integration and Women Empowerment, HIV/AIDS Awareness and Co-operatives.



Women Co-operative leaders at a group photo

Study Visit cum Training Program of Co-operative Leaders and Government officials

A study visit-cum-training programme of co-operative leaders from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives and Pakistan was organized by the ICA-AP in collaboration with the National Co-operative Union of India, from 21-26 May, 2007.

The programme was inaugurated by the President of NCUI Mr. G.H. Amin in the presence of Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive of NCUI and Mr. B.D. Sharma, Sr. Consultant, ICA Domus Trust on 21st May 2007 at Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management, Pune (VAMNICOM).

Six participants (3 from Bhutan, 2 from Maldives and 1 from Pakistan) attended the programme.

SAARC Co-operative leaders with Mr. B.D. Sharma, Senior Consultant, ICA-DT, Mr. G.H. Amin, President, NCUI and Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive of NCUI.

Mr. S. Bhosale, Associate Professor at VAMNICOM was the main co-ordinator of the programme, which concluded successfully. The training programme was very beneficial to the participants of these countries.



International Workshop on “Strengthening of HRD and Networking of Co-operative HRD Institutions for Asia-Pacific”

Co-operative HRD Institutions in Asia-Pacific Region are conducting Training & Education Programmes for personnel in Co-operatives in their respective countries. These institutions are following many innovative methods of training and education, using different types of training materials and their faculty is having different experience and exposure to co-operatives in their fields. Due to some commonalities in the co-operative movement in the region of Asia-Pacific there is an urgent need to share HRD practices followed by countries in the region. The Movement would be further strengthened if these practices are shared either personally or through a network. The National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) in collaboration with Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management (VAMNICOM), Pune, India, and active support from International Co-operative Alliance and Co-operative Learning Centre of British Columbia Institute of Co-operative Studies, has launched a Global HRD Network portal for Co-operative Institutions with the objective to address information regarding HRD Institutions around the Globe in the field of Co-operatives.

An International Workshop on Strengthening of HRD and Networking of Co-operative Institutions for Asia-Pacific Region was organized by International Co-operative Alliance-Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) in collaboration with National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) and Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management (VAMNICOM) at Pune (Maharashtra) from 25th to 28th February 2007. The objective of the workshop was to facilitate the delegates to share HRD practices in their respective countries and to seek their suggestions for improving the effectiveness and usefulness of GHRD portal. 32 participants from Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and India attended the workshop.

The opening ceremony of the workshop was held at Jubilee Hall of VAMNICOM in the forenoon of 26th February. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Iain Macdonald, Director General of ICA Geneva and presided over by Dr.

S.S. Sisodia, President of NCUI. The opening session was also addressed by Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA-AP and Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive of NCUI and Director of VAMNICOM. A vote of thanks was proposed by Professor Paramjit Sharma, Head, Centre for IT, VAMNICOM who was the Coordinator of the workshop.

The GHRD Centre was also inaugurated by Mr. Iain Macdonald, Director General of ICA Geneva. So far 35 institutions have registered with the GHRD Centre (www.hrd.co-op).

Country reports (sharing HRD practices) were presented by the participating countries at the workshop. A case study



Participants of the International Workshop on HRD at Vaikunth Mehta Institute of Co-operative Management. Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chairman of the Global HRD Committee, Mr. Iain Macdonald, Director-General, ICA, Late Dr. S.S.Sisodia and Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director are seen in the picture.

on “Innovative HRD Practices of IFFCO” was presented by Mr. D. Bhattacharya, General Manager (HRD) of IFFCO.

How to strengthen collaboration among HRD institutions in Asia for training, education, research and publication was also discussed at the workshop. The participants gave many ideas in this regard. Field study visits were arranged to Warnanagar in Kolhapur District on 27th February and the delegates got an opportunity to experience one of the strongest models of co-operative development in India. The participants visited institutions like sugar factory, dairy plant, paper plant, co-operative bank, mahila udyog, consumer store, wired village project and children’s orchestra.

Exposure and Networking Programme for Empowerment of Women Cooperatives

The challenges of globalization and free trade are affecting lives of people unevenly across the world. The co-operatives worldwide are feeling the heat of unequal opportunities and threats created by the free market. As usual, this has intensified the existing inequalities and securities for many poor women. The hightect means of trade and business tend to benefit the rich rather than the poor. Women are most likely to suffer more from the rapid changes societies are undergoing due to globalization and free trade.

In the context of the above challenges and the resolution of the ICA Co-operative Ministers' Conference for exposure of women co-operators to success stories and networking for business development. The ICA Regional Women's Committee has been making attempts to share information with women co-operative leaders and expect to find ways and means to promote women's economic security and empowerment through the co-operatives.

The objective of this programme was to provide a common meeting ground to Asian co-operative women leaders/persons responsible for gender and women development in co-operatives for sharing information and experience about success stories and best practices of their co-operatives and most importantly help women establish a network for mutual co-operation and business interest across the Asia-Pacific region.

The following were the expected outcome:

- ◆ Establish contacts among women leaders/co-operative members and create networks.
- ◆ Collect information on best practices and disseminate.
- ◆ Identify mechanism to overcome factors that limit women's participation as organizers and decision makers.

- ◆ Business information about products and services as well as know-how for women entrepreneurs.
- ◆ Identify areas of mutual interest and collaboration.

Based on the success of the programme, more such programmes will be initiated in future.

The programme was divided into 3 parts. On the first day, there was the inaugural session and classroom interaction combined with information on best practices in the participants' own countries. A study visit to Lijjat Papad factory was organized on the second day. Though this factory is not registered under the Co-operative Act, the organizing is functioning on co-operative pattern – collective effect



Delegates at the Networking programme posed for a photo

and collective benefits. In the afternoon of the second day the participants also visited a co-operative bank, whose majority of membership is women and the chairperson is also a woman. The participants visited a co-operative village on the third day. The village runs a co-operative sugar factory, a co-operative spinning mill, a dairy and a co-operative consumer store.

Capacity Building Programme for Women Cooperative Leaders of Cambodia

The ICA-AP with the support of AGRITERRA of Netherlands implemented a project on the promotion of sustainable model of Agricultural Co-operatives in Cambodia in collaboration with AGRITERRA. So far 5 co-operatives have been organized in 5 provinces of the country i.e. (i) Svây Rieng (ii) Takeo (iii) Siem Reab (iv), Kampong Cham (v) Batombong.

The ICA-AP has supported in construction of a co-operative building and toilet in each cooperative. The building is equipped with functional furniture, computer, electricity generator set and weighing machine for agricultural inputs.

There is considerable number of women farmers as first time members in these cooperatives. These members needed knowledge and information about cooperative business management and functioning of a co-operative system.

ICA-AP has conducted a 5 days capacity building program for the women co-operative leaders in Phnom Penh. There were 28 women leaders from the five co-operatives and two women staff from the Ministry, out of 30 participants.

The objectives of the training were:

1. Understanding co-operative institution and advantage of co-operative business.
2. Management and leadership capacity building of women co-operative Leaders and members enabling them to manage a cooperative enterprise.

The training was based on "Trainers training manual for leadership development of women in co-operatives" developed by ICA-AP and ILO COOPNET. The topics covered during the training were:

1. Understanding sex and gender
2. Fundamentals of co-operatives
3. Relevance and benefits of co-operative institutions for women
4. Various aspects of co-operative enterprise management and business planning
5. Coping with challenge

In the last part of the training, the participants visited to the Barkong Angkor agricultural co-operative in Siem Reab Province. A half day interactive session was held where the chairperson, directors and other members of the co-opera-



Delegates of the training program at work

tive shared their experience with the participants of 4 other co-operatives.

The participants mentioned that it is a rare opportunity for them to come together and share their experiences and concerns about the co-operative business and activities. The sharing gave them many useful information to tackle the similar issues in their own co-operatives. The participants found the program useful and educative.

ICA-AP organises Global Youth Conference

The ICA Committee on Youth Co-operation for Asia-Pacific, in collaboration with the SNCF Youth Committee organised a Global Youth Conference in Singapore, 14-15 October, 2007.

More than 150 delegates from Italy, Japan, Indonesia, Philippines, United States, Sri Lanka, Russian Federation, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Pakistan, Singapore, Romania, Nepal, Myanmar, India, Canada and Colombia participated at the event, which was a huge success.

The youth delegates discussed on the issues pertaining to Youth participation in co-operative activities globally and they have also come up with interesting ideas on how the youth could provide innovative ideas for co-operative development.

Speakers from Singapore, ILO, Colombia gave innovative ideas for youth involvement in co-operative development.

ICA President, Ivano Barberini and Chairman of SNCF, who is also a member of parliament, Seah Kian Peng addressed the delegates. Jan-Eirik Imbsen from ICA, Geneva facilitated the

election of a youth representative to the ICA Board. Mr. Teo Say Hong, Chairperson of the Asia-Pacific Youth Committee has been elected as nominee of youth on the ICA Board.

Tsubasa Nakamura and P. Nair facilitated the Conference on behalf of ICA-AP.



Mr. Veo Say Hong, Youth Representative on the ICA Board, Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President and Mr. Seah Kian Peng, Chairman, SNCF at the Youth Conference in Singapore

Surinder Kumar Jakhar elected to the ICA Board



MR. SURINDER KUMAR JAKHAR, Chairman of Indian Farmers' Fertilizer Co-operative Limited (IFFCO) was elected as a member on the ICA Global Board of Directors, at the General Assembly held in Singapore, 18-19 October, 2007.

Mr. Jakhar thanked the members for reposing their faith in the Indian co-operative movement and pledged all co-operation at the global level.

We at the ICA-AP are happy that Mr. Jakhar joined the Board and wish him all success in the future.

ICA Member Organisations in Asia and the Pacific

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

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

1. National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC), New Delhi, India.
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.



The **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE [ICA]** is an independent non-governmental association that unites, represents and serves the cooperatives worldwide. Founded in London on 18th August 1895 by the International Cooperative Congress, the ICA, the largest non-governmental organisation, is headquartered in Geneva. ICA is a member-based organisation with national and international cooperative organisations in 88 countries. ICA's four Offices in Africa, the Americas, Asia & Pacific, and Europe, serve 225 member organizations, representing well over 800 million cooperative members around the world.

The ICA Asia & Pacific Office, one of the five Offices, serves 60 national level organizations from 23 countries, and one international organization [ACCU]. Main activities include: Coordination of cooperative development efforts within the Region and promotion of exchange and experiences; Project identification, formulation and evaluation; Promotion of establishment and development of national cooperative apex organizations; and Organization of seminars, conferences and technical meetings on specific subjects including support for programmes aimed at the involvement of women and youth in cooperative activities.

The ICA enjoys Category-I Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council [UN/ECOSOC] and has active working relations with UN and other international organizations.

ICA-ASIA & PACIFIC: ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2007

Published by the ICA-Asia & Pacific, 9 Aradhana Enclave,
R.K. Puram, Sector-13, New Delhi-110066

Edited by P. Nair, Communication Officer, ICA-Asia & Pacific. E-mail: nair@icaroap.org
Designed & Printed at Diamond Offset, HS 14, Kailash Colony Market, New Delhi 110016
Tel.: +91-11-29232836, +91-9811172786, E-mail : amin_zaidi@yahoo.com

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ICA 02107