



# ICA -ASIA AND PACIFIC ANNUAL REPORT 2010

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SELF HELP - SOLIDARITY - CO-OPERATION

# ICA -AP ANNUAL REPORT-2010

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## Message from the President



ICA is a mission driven organisation- uniting, serving and developing co-operatives worldwide. I have great pleasure in presenting this report to all our members and stake holders who have consistently upheld the values and principles of cooperation while progressing through this unique business model called co-operatives.

The co-operatives are almost century old in the region seasoned and resilient and have been weathering wars, conflicts, globalisation and recession etc. However, ICA has also scored half a century this year as we have completed and celebrated 50 years of ICA serving co-operative community in the region. A book on the occasion was released documenting the evolution of ICA in Asia-Pacific region. The year was significant in several ways- the leadership and management have changed- globally with a first woman president of ICA and new regional director of ICA-AP Dr. Chan Ho CHOI who joined the family in January 2010. Secondly, the biggest opportunity has come as UN proclaimed year 2012 as International Year of Co-operatives, third- the membership grew from 65 co-operative organisations in 24 countries to 71 in 25 countries, fourth - the Regional Assembly was held along with Co-operative Forum and other related events which was attended by hundreds of co-operators and stakeholders.

Besides, around 30 events were held for capacity building of members and institutions and advocacy-lobbying for the development and growth of the co-operatives in the region. By adhering to the principles of democratic governance, co-operatives have elected

new leaders in several member countries.

We value and appreciated the commendable contribution of the outgoing leaders and welcome the new ones.

We have been able to reach out and interact and share with our community but have still a long way to go as there are issues of government co-operative relationship, good governance and self reliant, core issues of sustainability and democracy. We strive to create an ICA family which can discuss and help resolving issues but then there are limitations of political systems, socio-economic cultural barriers and developed and developing world divide on different needs and priorities. It is challenging to create a level playing field for co-operatives in this diverse region. Nevertheless, with the generous support and collaboration of our members in the region, the co-operative spirit is thriving,

We are grateful to all our members and stakeholders for their cooperation and support in making ICA endeavours successful. I would like to place on record special mention for the outgoing Regional Director, Mr. Shil Kwan Lee who left ICA-AP family in December 2009 after a successful tenure of seven years. The ICA -Asia and Pacific witnessed growth and development due to his management initiatives. However, this report would not be complete without special mention of the Regional Director, Dr. Chan Ho Choi and his team of officials and staff at the ICA- Asia Pacific Regional Office who work with dedication and commitment to achieve our goals.

**Li Chunsheng**  
President

# Report of the Regional Director



With 2010, completed the first decade of the century. The Year 2010 has been remarkable in many ways and particularly for ICA-AP. This is my first opportunity to Present this report as I am entrusted with the responsibility of the regional director from January-2010 itself.

The ICA-AP is now of 50 year in Asia Pacific Region, seasoned and matured. This year we celebrated 50th anniversary (1960-2010) of ICA in the region. Also, several other significant events took place such as Regional Assembly -2010 and related events in China and ICAExpo-2010 was held in Bangalore, India.

As the UN proclaimed 2012 as "International Year of Co-operatives" it brings us success as well as challenges. The SUCCESS is that the UN proclamation re-affirms Co-operatives as viable and trusted business enterprises as ever and CHALLENGE is that how we can maximize the advantage of UN proclamation to make co-operatives a house hold name especially involving youth.

As many as 30 activities have been implemented including 9th Regional Assembly-2010, co-operative Forum, Co-op-Government Dialogue, meetings of several sectoral and thematic committees, seminars, forums, workshops and training for capacity building

and resource generation. The successful organization of events is highly attributed to the large network of our active members in this vast and vibrant region and their enormous support and collaboration with each other and with ICA.

We can put our specific achievements on forefront of this report, one is The book on "50 Years of ICA in Asia and second, 9th Regional Assembly-2010 and 6th Co-operative Forum. The joint opening of the event was attended by more than 900 international delegates from Asia as well as from several countries of the world.

ICA-AP celebrated the completion of Half Century in the region and event was taken as tool to publicizing the co-operative advantages. The referred book was developed with the help of a team of past and present staff and people associated with ICA and co-operative movement in the region.

However, the cooperators and community in Pakistan saw devastation by horrible flood. We have assessed the situation and post flood rehabilitation plan is in the pipeline.

Upholding the principles and values of cooperation, we tried to serve our members as always and hope to render useful services in coming times as well.

Dr.Chan Ho CHOI  
Regional Director

## Year 2010 at a Glance

### Important Events:

- Golden Jubilee Year (1960-2010) of ICA in Asia Pacific.
- The United Nations has proclaimed Year 2012 as International Year of Co-operatives.
- The slogan of the Year is "Co-operative Enterprises Built a Better World".
- Regional Assembly-2010, Co-op Forum-2010 and related events.

### Increase in membership:

71 members from 25 countries in 2010 from 65 members from 24 countries in 2009

### Outreach:

More than 20340 men and women cooperators including leaders, staff and members have been reached out directly through various activities during the year.

### Co-op Reconstruction:

- i. ICA-AP implemented reconstruction project for Cyclone Affected Co-operatives in Myanmar.
- ii. The Regional Director visited the flood hit Pakistan to assess the damages caused to co-operatives in the country.

### Activities:

30 programmes including board meetings, committee meetings, capacity building, lobbying and networking

### Regional Board:

Following four new persons joined the board replacing the old members due to election in their respective organizations:

- Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav from NCUI, India
- Mr. Chalernpol Dulsamphat, Chairman of CLT, Thailand
- Mr. H.A.M. Nurdin halid, President, DEKOPIN, Indonesia
- Mr. Godofredo E. Lising, Vice Chairperson, NATCCO

### Management :

- Based on the Rules approved by ICA General Assembly in Rome on 6th June, 2008, the rules of ICA-Asia and Pacific were amended and approved by the ICA-AP General Assembly in Beijing on 5th September-2010.
- Dr. Chan Ho CHOI joined as new Regional Director of ICA-AP in January-2010 after retirement of Mr. Shil Kwan Lee
- Mr. Charles Gould joined as new Director General of ICA, Geneva after retirement of Mr. Iain Macdonald

# Mission Statement

The ICA-AP shall implement the ICA Mission as stated in the Statutes of the International Cooperative Alliance at the regional level.

## Mission Statement of ICA

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) unites, represents and serves co-operatives worldwide.

It is the custodian of co-operative values and principles

and makes the case for their distinctive values-based economic business model which also provides individuals and communities with an instrument of self-help and influence over their development. The ICA advocates the interests and success of co-operatives, disseminates best practices and know-how, strengthens their capacity building and monitors their performance and progress over time.

## Objects

The ICA-AP will promote the Objects of the International Co-operative Alliance as stated in the Statutes of the International Co-operative Alliance at the regional level.

### Objects of ICA

ICA, a global networking organisation organised at the global, regional, sectoral and thematic levels, is a world-wide representative of co-operative organisations of all kinds that has the following objects:

- a) promote the world co-operative movement, based upon mutual self-help and democracy;
- b) promote and protect co-operative values and principles;

- c) facilitate the development of economic and other mutually beneficial relations between its member organisations;
- d) promote sustainable human development and to further the economic and social progress of people, thereby contributing to international peace and security;
- e) promote equality between men and women in all decision-making and activities within the co-operative movement

ICA will not affiliate itself to any political or religious organisation and will maintain independence in all its activities

## Strategy and Governance

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

### Regional Assembly

1. The Regional Assembly for Asia and Pacific region, consist of representatives appointed by the ICA members in the region.
2. The Regional Assembly, being the highest authority within the ICA-AP, is stipulated in the Statutes of the International Co-operative Alliance with the following added provisions:
  - a) The Regional Assembly further deals with the development of co-operatives in the region and formulates policies on major issues beneficial and relevant to the IC-AAP and the co-operative movements in the region.

### Regional Board

The ICA-AP has a Regional Board of 12 persons, including one Youth Representative, that consists of a Chairperson, two Vice Chairpersons and eight Members elected by the Regional Assembly. Not more than one person from one country can be elected to the Regional Board.

### ICA Strategic Objectives & Key Result Areas

#### Membership:

##### Consolidate and Increase Membership

- Retain existing members
- Add new members

#### Influence:

##### Increase Global Influence to Promote Co-operatives as a Specific Values-Based Business Model

- Improve ICA's effectiveness as a lobbyist and advocate for the co-operative business model and its values.
- Maintain and further develop a more effective communication.
- Build the credibility of the ICA as the centre of excellence for knowledge, expertise and coordinated action about co-operatives

#### Development:

##### Develop Strong Co-operative Enterprises for Social and Economic Progress

- Improve capacity building

- Strengthen inter-co-operation
- Consolidate and build strategic alliances /networks

## Governance:

Strengthen ICA's Sustainability through Financial Capacity, Good Governance and a Committed People Base.

- Seek significant funding from alternative sources.
- Maximise effectiveness and good governance of all ICAMembers
- Build skills appropriate to roles and responsibilities
- Strengthen the organisational development of ICA.

## The Members, Board & Committees

71 National Co-operative Organizations from 25 countries are members of ICA from the Asia Pacific Region.

The ICA-AP is constantly working towards providing better services to members and to member's members too so that more Co-operatives can come into the fold of ICA for better development. Due to influence of membership benefits, the following co-operative organizations have joined us during the year:

1. The International Committee for the Promotion of Chinese Industrial Co-operatives (ICCIC-Gung Ho) has joined ICA as an associate member. The ICCIC is an international non-governmental organization founded in 1939 in Hong Kong to protect and promote the Chinese Industrial Co-operatives Movement. It represents Co-operative leaders, workers, non-governmental organisations, schools and other enterprises. ICCIC has 100 members in 10 countries, including 84 within China. They have founded over 20 pilot industrial co-operatives in China.
2. Iran Oilseeds & Vegetable Oil Processing Factories Co-operative Co. (Farda Co.) is a production and distribution co-operative for raw oilseeds and vegetable oils. 75% of the vegetable oil crushing industries in Iran are members of Farda Co. with 23 member companies. It provides a variety of member services including training, transport, raw materials, loans and insurance.
3. VICTO National Co-operative Federation and Development Centre is the Philippine federation of co-operative societies. It provides education and training, consulting, project and business development. It brings together the Co-operative movement with 17 federations and unions. VICTO National is the only co-operative to receive the Senior Benigno S. Aquino Foundation Award for its work in disadvantaged communities. It was the first recipient of the award for development management sponsored by the World Executive Digest and Japan Airlines.
4. Co-operative House Building & Finance Corporation Ltd . (Sahkari Awas Nirman Evam Vitt Nigam Ltd.) from India. It has 36,688 individual members in 927 member societies and 154 employees out of which 12 are women. This co-operative operates in six states in

India for distributing housing loans to co-operative housing societies, land development and construction, etc.

5. National Association of Labour Banks (NALB) from Japan is a trade association comprising of 13 labour banks across Japan as well as the Federation of Labour Banks. In 2008, NALB had 10,059,436 individual members and in 2009 their turnover was JPY 1.593 Million (CHF 19.1 Million)
6. Supervision and Coordination Central Union of Rural and Agricultural Co-operatives of Iran (SCURA) provides training and auditing to rural and agricultural co-operatives in Iran and who are members of Central Organisation for Rural Co-operatives.

## Change in Leadership and Management

### KOREA:

Mr. Won-byung Choi, Chairman of the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation, Korea, was reelected Chair of the Council of Korean Co-operatives on 30th March, 2010

### INDIA:

Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav was elected as the President of the National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI), the apex body of the Indian Co-operative movement, at the first meeting of the new Board of Directors on 18 March 2010.

### NEPAL:

Mr. Keshab Prasad Badal, former Minister for Trade and Commerce, representing the Nepal Central Agriculture Co-operative Federation Ltd. was elected Chairman, National Co-operative Federation of Nepal (NCF) at the 17th Annual General Assembly in Kathmandu on 9th March, 2010.

### IRAN:

Mr. Seyed Nezaloddin Sajadi has been recently appointed as chairman of the board and managing director of Central organization of Rural Co-operatives (CORC) of Iran.

**PHILIPPINES:**

As per Board Resolution of the NATCCO Board of Directors in their meeting held last June 19, 2010, it was approved that Vice-Chairperson Godofredo E. Lising Jr. will be the permanent representative of NATCCO to ICA-AP replacing the late Congressman Guillermo P. Cua.

**VIETNAM:**

At the 4th National Representative Congress of VCA held in Hanoi, Vietnam from 12th to 13th August 2010, Mr. DAO XUAN CAN has been elected as a new President of Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) for the term of 2010-2015.

**INDONESIA:**

Mr. A.M. Nurdin Halid has been recently appointed as the President of DEKOPIN. He has a vast working experience

of co-operatives. He earlier worked with Indonesian Distribution Co-operative, National Federation of Village Unit Co-operatives, Sidrap District Co-operatives, Hasanudin Provincial Village Unit Co-operatives etc.

**THAILAND:**

The National Apex Organization of co-operative movement in Thailand held the Extraordinary General Assembly on Sunday, 14 November 2010. CLT Board of Directors unanimously agreed to elect Mr. Chalergpol Dulsamphant as the new Chairman of CLT since 14 November 2010.

**ICA-Asia and Pacific**

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI joined as Regional Director w.e.f. 1 January, 2010 as Mr. Shil Kwan Lee retired from the position of Regional Director (January 2002-December 2009)

**The Regional Board**

Following is the list of Regional Board members:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Chairperson</b></p> <p>1. <b>Mr. Li Chunsheng</b><br/>Vice President, Board of Directors<br/>All China Federation of Supply &amp; Marketing Coops<br/><b>Vice Chairperson</b></p> <p>2. <b>Dr. Chandra Pal Singh yadav</b><br/>President<br/>National Cooperative Union of India<br/><b>Vice Chairperson</b></p> <p>3. <b>Ms. Hitomi Tanaka</b><br/>Board Member<br/>Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union</p> <p>4. <b>Mr. H.A.M. Nurdin Halid</b><br/>President<br/>DEKOPIN (The Indonesian Coop Council)</p> <p>5. <b>Mr. Won-Byung Choi</b><br/>Chairman<br/>National Agricultural Cooperative Federation</p> <p>6. <b>Dr. Mohd. Ali Baharum</b><br/>President<br/>National Coop Organisation of Malaysia</p> | <p>7. <b>Mr. Godofredo E. Lising</b><br/>Vice Chairperson<br/>National Confederation of Co-operatives</p> <p>8. <b>Mr. Chan Tee Seng</b><br/>Chairman<br/>Singapore National Cooperative Federation</p> <p>9. <b>Mr. Bandupala Ranawaka</b><br/>President<br/>National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka</p> <p>10. <b>Mr. Chalergpol Dulsamphant</b><br/>Chairman<br/>Cooperative League of Thailand</p> <p>11. <b>Dr. Nguyen Tien Quan</b><br/>Ex. President<br/>Vietnam Cooperative Alliance</p> <p>12. <b>Ms. Tahmineh Kashani</b><br/>Youth Representative (co-opted)<br/>Chairperson of Youth Committee<br/>Central Union of Rural Agricultural Coops of Iran</p> |
|---|--|

**ICA Regional Committees for Asia and Pacific**

Office Bearers of various ICA-AP Committees

S. No.	Name of the committees	Name	Designation	Organisation/Country
1.	Regional Women's Committee	Ms. Hitomi Tanak Ms. Emma Nieva Ms. Kruewan Chontanai	Chair person Vice Chair Vice chair	JCCU, Japan NATCCO, Philippines AWCF
2.	Youth Committee	Ms. Tahmineh Toliat Kashani Mr. Ilham Nasai (re-elected) Mr. Koji Ozeki	Chairperson Vice Chairperson Vice Chairperson	CURACI, Iran Dekopin, Indonesia JA-Zenchu, Japan



3.	Consumer Committee	Mr. H Amano Mr. Virendra Singh Mr. Leong Sim Poh	Chairperson Vice Chairperson Vice Chairperson	JCCU, Japan NCCF, India NTUC Fairprice, Singapore
4.	HRD Committee	Mr. Bhagwati Prasad  Ms. Hajah Armi Zainudin	Chairperson  Vice Chairperson	Cooperative House Building & Finance Corporation Ltd., India  ANGKASA, Malaysia
5.	Agriculture Committee	Mr. N P Patel	Chairperson	IFFCO, India
6.	University/Campus Committee	Prof. Kôkichi SHOJI  Prof. Madya Datuk Hj Mohamad Ali Hasan	Chairperson  Vice Chairperson	National Federation of University Co-operative Associations, Japan  University of Malaya Cooperative Bookshop Limited
7.	Research Committee	Dr. G N Saxena	Chairperson	IFFCO, India

### Meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board



*The Regional Board Members at the Meeting*

A meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held at the premises of NACF in Seoul (Republic of Korea) on 19th April 2010. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Li Chunsheng, ICA-AP President and Chairman of the Regional Board. 26 persons including members, observers and ICA Officers attended the meeting. The meeting was hosted by the National

Agricultural Co-operative Federation (NACF) of Korea.

Mr. Won-Byung Choi, Chairman of NACF welcomed the participants and thanked Mr. Li Chunsheng and Dr. Chan Ho Choi for holding the Regional Board meeting in Seoul. He wished the participants a fruitful meeting and a comfortable and memorable stay in Seoul.

### Meeting of Office Bearers of Regional Women's Committee

The Meeting of the Office Bearer's of the Regional Women's Committee was held on 14th April, 2010 in Tokyo. The office bearers discussed the following main issues:

- Increasing membership of the committee and election of the Vice-chairperson.
- Preparation of Committee meeting and Women and Youth Forum to be held in China in September, 2010.
- Review of leadership training programme and manual.

### Meeting of University/ Campus Co-operative Committee

The 2nd ICA Asia Pacific University/Campus Cooperative Committee meeting was held at Yogyakarta on 21st June 2010.

Members discussed the operational policy and the operational responsibilities of office bearers during the three days workshop on "Campus Co-operatives: Responding to Emerging Challenges of Higher Education".

The meeting commenced under the chairmanship of Prof. Kokichi SHOJI. Ms. Zeny, Vice Chairperson outlined the agenda of the meeting and the meeting proceeded further. The ICA-AP appointed Ms. Payal Goswami as new

secretary of the Committee. The NCU representative Dr. Paranjothi joined as new member of the committee.

The Committee confirmed minutes of the last meeting and the activity report presented by Mr. Kuriki and Dr. Dongre since last meeting. The election of the committee was held and Prof. Kokichi SHOJI was unanimously elected as the President of the committee. It was decided that the same office bearers may continue for another term.

The meeting was summed up with the Vote of Thanks by Chairman of the committee.

## ICA-AP Regional Assembly-2010



*His Excellency Liangyu HUI, Vice Premier of Peoples Republic of China and Dame Pauline Green, ICA President at the joint opening*

The 9th Meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Assembly was held at BICC, Beijing (China) on 5th September. 283 participants from 22 countries attended the Regional Assembly.

Mr. Li Chunsheng, President, ICA-AP and being the Chairman of ICA-AP Regional Assembly opened the meeting and welcomed all the members and special invitees. He expressed his happiness for the participation of most of the member organizations' representatives at the Regional Assembly in Beijing. He was happy to learn about laudable achievements made by the Cooperative Movements in various countries of the Region during the last two years. He further said that around 400 international guests were registered for different meetings in Beijing. After his brief remarks, he requested Mr. Charles Gould, Director General of ICA, to say a few words.

Mr. Charles Gould informed the meeting that the ICA President, Dame Pauline Green, was unable to attend the RA. He expressed his pleasure on attending 2010 Regional Assembly of ICA-AP. He thanked all the participants for their participation in various meetings. He said that this was an important meeting.

Some important decisions and report of the Regional Assembly is narrated below in brief:

### Approval of Revised New Rules of ICA-AP

Dr. Chan Ho Choi presented the proposed amendments in the Rules of ICA-AP. He said that the ICA Governance Committee was given the mandate to review the Rules of the ICA regions so as to ensure that those were in conformity with the ICA Rules approved by the Special 2008 General Assembly held in Rome.

He said that ICA Rules being the global rules of the organization carry global significance and therefore the regional rules should be in conformity with the ICA Rules and avoid restating what was found in the ICA Rules especially with regard to mission statements, membership, powers and responsibilities, etc. This, in turn, would have the advantage that if and when the ICA Rules were amended by the General Assembly with regard to these issues, the amendments would automatically apply to the regions enabling a consistency in the governance.

He further said that the Rules were thoroughly discussed at the last meeting held in Seoul in April and the minor changes proposed by the members had been incorporated. He further said that the Regional Board had already approved the revised Rules in its meeting held in Beijing on 1st December.

The new Rules of ICA-AP were unanimously approved by the Regional Assembly.

### ICA-AP Financial Report for 2009 and 2010

Dr. Chan Ho Choi presented the ICA-AP financial report for the year 2009. He informed the members that there

was a surplus of CHF 1,330 during the year 2009. He also presented the financial report for the period January to June 2010. He informed the members that a small surplus was also expected during the year 2010. The report was unanimously accepted by the RA.

All members expressed happiness with regard to the outstanding performance and positive financial results of ICA-AP.

### ICA-AP Work Plan for 2011

Dr. Chan Ho Choi presented the ICA-AP Work Plan for 2011. He said that in addition to routine activities the following four studies were included in the Work Plan

- (a) Study on Consumer Co-operatives in Asia
- (b) Study on Cooperative Trade among Co-operatives
- (c) Study on Technical Cooperation among Co-operatives
- (d) Study on Communication Strategy for Co-operatives.

He also informed the meeting that the Government of Iran and the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) had expressed their keen interest to hold the next Cooperative Ministers' Conference in Iran and Vietnam respectively. After discussions, the meeting authorized Dr. Choi to discuss and finalize the venue of the next Ministers' Conference.

Mr. Moteki said that ICA should prepare a common message for co-operatives on International Year of Co-operatives which could be translated into local languages for public awareness.

Mr. Li Chunsheng thanked the ICA-AP secretariat for preparing a very good Work Plan for the year 2011. The work plan for 2011 was unanimously approved by the Regional Assembly.

### Constitution of the Asia Pacific Health Coop Organization (APHCO)

Dr. Chan Ho Choi informed the meeting that 2008 Special ICA General Assembly held in Rome (Italy) had resolved that there should be only one time annual membership fee of ICA thereby doing away with the membership fee of sectoral organizations. This consequently applies equally at the global, regional and sectoral levels. Accordingly, no sectoral organization, globally or regionally, would be allowed to collect separate membership subscription or have non-members participating in the meetings. As such, it is the responsibility of ICA regional offices to ensure adherence of this resolution by regional sectoral/thematic committees.

He further said that in view of the above, APHCO could not collect any subscription from the members for its activities and hence its Constitution should be changed accordingly.

Mr. Amano said that APHCO board members need more time to discuss this matter further in detail. Therefore, he wanted to postpone this Agenda and come back at a larger stage. The Regional Assembly agreed to his suggestion.

## Revival of ICA Committee on Fisheries for Asia and Pacific

Dr. Chan Ho Choi informed the meeting that the ICA Committee on Fisheries for Asia and Pacific was in existence until 1998 and it used to hold its meetings regularly. Its revised Constitution was also approved by the Regional Assembly held in Seoul (Republic of Korea) in 1998. After that due to lack of interest among committee members, it was discontinued.

He further said that it was decided at the Fisheries

Committee meeting to postpone the revival of Fisheries Committee for the time being because the members wanted to concentrate on the strengthening of International Co-operative Fisheries Organization (ICFO) first since they do not have enough funds. ICFO had got only 13 members and their first priority is to strengthen the ICFO.

## 6th Asia-Pacific COOP Forum



*Co-op Forum in progress*

The 6th Asia-Pacific Coop Forum was held along with the ICA-AP Regional Assembly on 4th September at BICC in Beijing. The Theme of the Coop Forum was :

“Co-operatives- The Sector of Global Importance”.

**The following were the Sub-themes:**

- (a) Visibility of Co-operatives and Year 2012;
- (b) Co-operatives - A Responsible Civil Society;
- (c) Corporate Governance in Co-operatives;
- (d) Level Playing Field for Co-operatives;
- (e) Co-operatives Empower Women and Youth;
- (f) Way Ahead for Co-operatives.

More than 200 delegates from 26 countries attended the 6th Coop Forum. The Co-operative Forum was created in 2000 with twin objectives of having open and frank discussions on important issues concerning the development of co-operatives and helping the co-operatives to seriously take up strategic initiatives for

the successful operations of co-operatives in the fiercely competitive world. So far 5 such forums had been held over the period of 10 years since inception. The discussion and deliberations at the Forum were held on the main theme and related sub-themes of the Forum. The focus, however, remained on certain issues which need to be addressed or emphasized for the inclusive growth and development of cooperative movement in the region.

Mr. Dai Gongxing, Vice President of ACFSMC gave the opening address and the key note speech was delivered by Dame Pauline Green, President of ICA. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-AP, gave the background perspective of the Coop Forum and facilitated the discussions. There were six presentations made by the experts.

At the end, a panel discussion took place which was conducted by Hajah Armi Zainudin, Vice President of ANGKASA and ICA Board Member.

## Co-operative-Government Dialogue on Co-operative Development

The Co-operative-Government Dialogue on setting the framework of 9th Ministers' Conference on Co-operative Policy & Legislation was held at BICC in Beijing on the 3rd September soon after the joint opening of the 9th ICA Regional Assembly and the 6th Co-operative Forum. The main objective of holding the Dialogue in conjunction with the Regional Assembly was to showcase the strength of ICA's membership base and also the expertise on matters concerning co-operatives. The Dialogue was attended by close to 100 delegates from 22 countries in

the region. There were more than 30 delegates from the governments in 11 countries in the region.

The theme of the Dialogue was "Socio-Economic Development & Co-operatives".

The title of the next Conference was proposed as "9th Ministers' Conference on Co-operative Policy and legislation" on the theme "Co-operatives for Socio-Economic Development".

## Report of 6th Regional Women and Youth Forum



*Dame Pauline Green, ICA President with the participants at the forum*

The 6th Regional Women and Youth Forum was held at BICC in Beijing on 2nd September. The theme of the Forum was "Co-operatives: The Sector for Empowerment of Women and Youth". A total of 40 co-operators from ten countries attended the Forum.

Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, Chairperson of the ICA-AP Women's Committee welcomed the guests and participants and thanked them for their presence. She spoke about the endeavour of the Women's Committee for empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming in co-operatives in the region. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of NCUI delivered the opening address and declared the Forum open.

The key note speech on the theme was delivered by Ms. Mi-Yea OH, Chairperson of iCOOP Goyang/President of Mutual Aid Society for Enhancing Korean Agriculture. It is a mutual aid society established by the members of iCOOP Korea to support local coops and agricultural producers. She started her address by reminding the participants the message of this year's international co-operative day. At iCOOP most of the leaders in 76 local coops were women.

In the post lunch session, group discussion was held among the women and youth group.

The topic for the discussion was "Co-operative for Professional Development of Women and Youth".

# Report of the ICA Regional Committees and Related Events

The meeting of the sectoral /thematic committee's of ICA-AP takes place once in two years in conjunction with the Regional Assembly. Various forums, seminars and conferences are also held by the sectoral organizations and committees as well. Following are the reports of such events:

## Agriculture Committee:



*Dr. G.N. Saxena, Dr. Chan Ho Choi and Mr. Sterling Smith are seen in the picture*

The ICA Committee on Agriculture in collaboration with ICAO organized a seminar on "Climate Change, Food Security and Sustainability of Agriculture" at BICC in Beijing on 1st September. The seminar was attended by 49 delegates from 21 countries.

The seminar was inaugurated by Mr. Won- Byung Choi, President of NACF and Chairman of ICAO. Mr. N.P. Patel, Chairman of ICA Agriculture Committee delivered the key-note address. Mr. Tong Baojun, President, Board of Supervisors, ACFSMC greeted the delegates.

Mr. K.K. Ravindran, Managing Director of National Co-operative Agriculture & Rural development Banks' Federation in India made the thematic presentation and dwelled upon all the related aspects of food security, agricultural co-operatives and the role of co-operatives in managing the climate change for the benefit of global society at large.

Mr. Matsuda Masahiro made an impressive presentation on the health services rendered by Agricultural Co-operatives in Japan and referred to the case of first medical healthcare service that was launched in November 1919 by a multi-purpose primary agricultural co-operative in Shimane Prefecture to provide medical service at low rates.

Ms. Linda Marion Shaw presented the classic innovative case of captive sales counters of coop farm produce in UK. Ms. Batmunkh Dulzen, Vice President, National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives shared co-operative farm practices of Mongolia with the participants. Meaningful interventions were made by Mr.

Cafer Yuksel, OR-KOOP

President from Turkey. The experts from COPA, AFMA and international Center for Trade and Sustainable Development enriched the conferencing content of the seminar.

The seminar ended up with following key observations and recommendations:

- (a) Agriculture production was most convenient in a coop mode;
- (b) Agricultural coops help enhance food production, stabilize food prices, generate gainful self employment, arrest migration to urban areas, strengthen local economies, reduce poverty, empower most vulnerable segment of society and finally save the mother planet from climatic disorders;
- (c) Time has come to conduct deeper research into fertile and water efficient farming practices, pest and heat resistant species of cereals using healthy genetically engineered crops, greening of waste land through productive plantation for a greener plantation;
- (d) Building rural infrastructure of roads, warehouses, market centers, community education services, networks for e-marketing and value additive integrated support services would make agriculture as one of the most promising sectors of economy.

## Regional Co-operative Banking Association (RCBA):

A joint seminar of ICBA and RCBA on Financial Inclusion through Co-operative Banking-various forms and comparative advantages-was held on 1st September at BICC in Beijing. 25 participants from 8 countries attended the seminar. The seminar was chaired by Mr. Bancel, Chairman of International Co-operative Banking Association (ICBA) and Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, Chairman, Regional Co-operative Banking Association (RCBA).

The following papers were presented at the seminar:

- (a) Financial Inclusion through Co-operative Banking by Mr. B. Subrahmanyam, Managing Director, National



*ICBA/RCBA Members*

- Federation of State Co-operative Banks of India;
- (b) Exert the Core Role of China Rural Credit Unions for Rural Financial Inclusion by Prof. Du Benwei, Vice Chairman of China Banking Association;
  - (c) A special presentation on Global Networking of Co-operative Banking by Mr. Bernard Huberdeau, Secretary General of International Confederation of Popular Banks, Brussels;
  - (d) Coop Banking Model of New Zealand by Mr. Ramsey Margolis;
  - (e) A presentation on "Thrift and Credit Co-operatives in India" by Mr. P.V. Prabhu, Secretary of National Institute for Rural Banking, Bangalore, India.

In addition, two case studies on Rural Co-operative Banks were presented-one by Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya,

Chairman, SANASA Group of Sri Lanka and second one was presented by Mr. Babak Lalfam of Ministry of Coops, Iran.

After presentation of these papers, an open house discussion on Special Coop Development Fund at the regional level took place. Mr. Rajiv Mehta introduced the topic of discussion and Ms. Linda Shaw, Vice Principal of Coop College of UK, catalyzed the discussions. The Iranian and Malaysian delegates expressed their views in favour of the fund. However, the discussions remained inconclusive due to reservations posed by Indian delegates.

After the seminar, the 11th meeting of RCBA was to take place at the same venue at 14.00 hours which was postponed due to lack of quorum.

### Consumer Committee:



*Participants at the meeting*

The 44th meeting of ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation was held at BICC in Beijing on 2nd September. 16 participants from five countries (India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka) attended the meeting. In addition, eight observers from Sri Lanka also attended the meeting.

In addition to the routine agenda of the meeting (Activity report since last meeting; Activity plan for next year 2011, Exchange of country reports), election of the Office Bearers of the Committee took place. Mr. H. Amano of JCCU was unanimously re-elected as Chairperson of the Committee for another term of four years. Mr. Virendra Singh, Chairman, NCCF (India) and Mr. Leong Sim Poh of NTUC Fairprice (Singapore) were

unanimously elected as Vice Chairpersons of the Committee.

It was also decided that the next meeting of Consumer Committee would be held in the Philippines in conjunction with a workshop on Development of Consumer Co-operatives in Asia between October and December 2011.

## Fisheries Committee:



*Group Photo of the Participants*

A meeting to discuss the issue of revival of ICA Committee on Fisheries for Asia and Pacific was held at BICC in Beijing on 2nd September at 14:00 hours.

Ten participants from four countries (India, Japan, Korea & Vietnam) attended the meeting.

After a brief discussion on the subject, among members, it was decided to postpone the revival of ICA Committee on Fisheries for Asia and the Pacific for the time being

because members wanted to concentrate on the strengthening of International Cooperative Fisheries Organization (ICFO) first as they do not have enough funds to support both ICFO and ICA Committee on Fisheries at the same time.

They further decided that if ICA-AP could finance the ICA Committee on Fisheries for Asia and Pacific, it could take a decision and inform us accordingly.

## HRD Committee:

The 22nd meeting of the ICA Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) for Asia and Pacific and was held in the forenoon of 2nd September at BICC in Beijing. 29 participants from 6 countries (China, India, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and UK) attended the meeting. The opening session was attended and addressed by Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of NCUI and Vice Chairman of ICA Regional Assembly and Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chairman of the HRD Committee. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-Asia and Pacific also addressed the meeting at a later stage.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chairman of the HRD Committee.

He welcomed the presence of the members and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

He stressed the importance of Global HRD Networking

(www.hrd.coop) developed and maintained by National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) and Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management (VMNICM) in collaboration with ICA.

The following four presentations were made at the meeting:

- (a) "Global HRD Networking Centre" by Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, former Chief Executive of NCUI and Vice Chairman of Co-operative House building and Finance Corporation Limited, Lucknow, India;
- (b) "Status and Progress of Co-operative Education in Schools" by Mrs. Anita Manchanda, Chief Executive of National Cooperative Union of India;
- (c) "Co-operative Schools in U.K" by Mr. Mervyn Wilson, Chief Executive and Director of Co-operative College of UK, Manchester;





*Participants of the HRD Committee Meeting*

- (d) "Significance and Importance of Training of Board of Directors in Co-operatives - A Malaysian Experience" by Ms. Hajah Armi Zainudin, Vice President of ANGKASA and ICA Board Member.

The ICA HRD Committee initiated two ambitious projects, namely, Global HRD (GHRD) networking portal and Cooperative Learning Center (CLC) some time back.

A suggestion was made at the last meeting held in Hanoi that the Co-operative Learning Center (CLC) may be managed by the Asia-Pacific region. After discussions, it was decided that a detailed project report should be prepared by the HRD Committee and be placed before the next meeting for its approval. Mr. Bagwati Prasad presented the feasibility report at the meeting.

After deliberations, the Committee felt that at this juncture there is a need to formulate long term policy for successful running of these two prestigious projects of ICA HRD Committee in times to come. For this a permanent framework is required to support financially, technically and administratively.

The committee also endorsed the suggestion of integrating these two projects to minimize the cost and broaden the prospects of generating more resources

from various sources, keeping in view the larger interest of co-operative movements.

After long discussions, the Committee was of the opinion that keeping in view the importance and their usefulness, both projects, i.e. GHRD and CLC are required to continue in the larger interest of the co-operative movement. Since GHRD is being run and supported by NCUI, there is a need for augmenting funds for CLC to continue because this project is going to be closed on 30th September 2010 for want of renewal of coop domain.

The meeting decided to continue the seminar on HRD Best Practices in the year 2011. The theme of the seminar would be "Need and Importance of HRD in Co-operatives with special reference to Training of Board of Directors". The representative of ANGKASA offered to host the next seminar in Malaysia sometime in May 2011.

The meeting unanimously re-elected Mr. Bhagwati Prasad from India as Chairman and Ms. Hajah Armi Zainudin from Malaysia was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman of the HRD Committee for the next four years. Both of them thanked the members for reposing their faith in them.

## Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organization:

The APHCO board meeting and the seminar was held in the afternoon of 2nd September at BICC in Beijing. 16 members from from India, Japan, Malaysia and Sri Lanka participated in the meeting.

In the meeting, the members held discussions on Tokyo Declaration which was adopted in Tokyo at the 3rd international health coop forum in 2007. Five agendas were written in the Tokyo Declaration on the basis of Co-operative Principles as formulated by ICA.

The most important issue at the board meeting was on the revision of APHCO rules. In conclusion, they decided to further discuss the issue and not to seek approval of the APHCO rules at the present ICA Regional Assembly.

After the board meeting, APHCO held a seminar on the topic "HIV and Health Care for Women" focusing on co-operatives. Two resource persons were invited as speakers to make presentations at the seminar.

## Research Committee:

The ICA-AP Research Committee Conference on "Innovation and Expansion - The Opportunity for Co-operatives to Grow" was held at BICC in Beijing on 2nd September. The conference was chaired by Dr. G.N. Saxena, Chairman of ICA

Research Committee. The conference was attended by 40 delegates from nine countries.

The focus of the conference was on integration of value chain in the affairs of co-operatives so as to give maximum benefits to the members and attract more members to join the co-operatives to expand the rural and local economy. The delegates were of the opinion that co-operative enterprises have an advantage compared to other forms of corporate as it dwells more on developing solid relations of reciprocal trust with stakeholders. The delegates from various countries made valuable contribution through their presentations on innovative ideas in co-operatives.

### University/Campus Co-operative Committee:

Prof. Zenaida Diola, Vice Chair of the committee presented an activity report of the committee at the Regional Assembly of ICA-Asia and Pacific. She informed that the Committee organizes and facilitates seminars and workshops, training programs, exchange visits, information dissemination, interaction and other programs as decided by the Committee through its annual meetings.

The Committee has 9 members from India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The current Office Bearers of the Committee includes Chairperson: Prof. Kokichi Shoji, Japan, two Vice-

The conference concluded with the following important questions regarding the future of co-operatives:

- (a) What innovations should be introduced in corporate culture in order to face the many challenges of the present global economic situation?;
- (b) How to compete with excellent companies, without becoming the same as a capital enterprise?;
- (c) Are cooperative values and principles in line with the problems of today?;
- (d) How can co-operatives generate the resources required to compete and develop?

Chairpersons: Prof. Zenaida Diola, Philippines and Prof. Mohammad Ali Hasan, Malaysia; Secretary: Ms. Payal Goswami, ICA-AP, and two Co-Secretaries: Mr. Toshifumi Kuriki, Japan and Prof. Yashavantha Dongre, India. As mandated by its Constitution, the Committee endeavors to promote, strengthen and spread the university/campus co-operatives in the region. It also seeks to promote the enrichment of campus life through student development and participation in university/campus co-operatives. The Committee pursues its agenda with a belief that co-operative methods of self-help and mutuality are vital in enriching the campus life, especially in institutions of higher education.

### Women's Committee:



*Participant at the RWC Meeting*

The meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Women's Committee was held at BICC in Beijing on 1st September from 14:00 to 17:00 hours. Ten members from seven countries and 20 observers attended the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, Chairperson of the Committee. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, ICAAP, also attended the opening session and extended a warm welcome to the participants.

Dr. Choi emphasized on the importance of equal participation of women and men in co-operatives and the need of capacity building of women to take up leadership.

Ms. Kruewan Chonlanai, Chairperson of Asian Women in Cooperative Development Forum (AWCF) was unanimously elected as 2nd Vice Chair of the Committee.

### Youth Committee:

The 4th meeting of ICA Committee on Youth Cooperation was held on 1st September at BICC in Beijing. 15 participants from seven countries attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed the activities held since the last meeting and the activity plan for 2011. All members actively participated in the discussions and pointed out the following as key issues facing the youth unemployment; participation in decision-making process; education; social awareness among youth; environmental issues such as global warming; and legal

constraints to reach out youth.

Currently it had got a total of 14 members from 11 countries. The members shared information and updates about gender mainstreaming activities in their co-operatives. The next meeting of the Committee would be held in 2011 in conjunction with some important ICA event.

Ms. Tahmineh Kashani of CURACI (Iran) was unanimously elected as Chairperson while Mr. Ilham Nassai of DEKOPIN (Indonesia) and Mr. Koji Ozeki of JA-ZENCHU (Japan) were elected as Vice Chairpersons of the Committee.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Committee during 2011. The next Youth Conference would, however, be held in Japan in conjunction with the next Regional Assembly in 2012 in Japan.

ICA-AP organized a preparatory meeting of Tourism and other innovative Committees at BICC in Beijing on 2nd September. The meeting was jointly Chaired by Mr. Mohammad Sharif Bhajji, Managing Director, Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union, Pakistan and Dr. G.N. Saxena, Director-Cooperative Development, Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative, India. The meeting was organized keeping in mind the theme of the Regional Assembly. The meeting was attended by 34 delegates from eight countries.

### Preparatory Meeting of Tourism Committee:

The meeting started with the talks relating to the need for Focus Groups that could dwell upon the coop potential in areas like tourism, housing, forestry, education, insurance and workers. The unanimous recommendation was of ICA-AP's nodal role in

conceptualization of specialized committees to benefit coops and economy at large.

Participants shared experiences in serving tourism related interests. The importance of the International Year of Co-operatives-2012 was also voiced. The session concluded with the decision on conducting feasibility studies on forming tourism and housing committees as specialized bodies of ICA-AP. The Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union and the representatives of the Ministry of Co-operatives of Iran agreed to arrange financial support for these two feasibility studies. The session was facilitated by Mr. Rajiv Mehta who was assigned the responsibility of setting the contours of the studies in consultation with fraternal stakeholders in the ICA-AP region.

## Golden Jubilee of ICA in Asia-Pacific



*Dr. Yoganand Shastri, Chief Guest Delivering Opening Address*

50 years ago the International Co-operative Alliance established its regional office for Asia Pacific on 14 November,



*Homage to Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru at Nehru Memorial*

1960 in New Delhi. The National Co-operative Union of India played an important role in facilitating and supporting the establishment of the International Co-operative Alliance in the Asia region. The then Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had been a great supporter of the co-operative movement in India. The Indian co-operative movement celebrates a national co-operative week every year starting from 14th November, the birthday of Pandit Nehru.

Since Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru was force behind the vibrant co-operative movement in India and also played an

important role in establishing ICA in Asia Pacific region, Dr. CHOI proposed to pay homage to the great leader of India on this occasion.

Dr. CHOI along with Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav and other co-operative leaders and officials of ICA-AP and NCUI visited the Nehru Memorial in New Delhi and paid their respect to the leader.

The ICA-AP published the record of the history of "50 years of ICA in Asia-Pacific" to mark the celebration of 50 years of inception, development and progress of ICA in the region.



*Dr. Choi, Regional Director, ICA-AP, Dr. Yadav, President of NCUI at Book Launch*

Copies of the book have been presented to member organizations in the region. The copies are available in the office library. Please contact [archana@icaroop.coop](mailto:archana@icaroop.coop) for obtaining the book and further information on this regard.

Dr. Chan Ho Choi, gave speech at the opening of the 57th Cooperative Week of NCUI and addressed them as "distinguished co-operative fraternity of India, the largest and most vibrant in the world". He expressed his immense pleasure in greeting them on this 57th Co-operative week and beginning of week-long co-operative carnival on the birthday of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru who was one of the greatest believers of co-operative ideology and who was one of the greatest statesmen of 20th century.

He further said that ICA, the International Co-operative Alliance, has an important place in the world history and has made a considerable impact on the evolution of co-operatives with its more than hundred year old existences. Over the period during the last half-century, the co-operatives in the region



*The Book*

have undergone remarkable changes and development. And now for the contemporary society of globe, they have become one of the most significant alternative growth-model and drivers in the global economic scenario.

In India, the ICA has seen the development of a co-operative movement that, for the number of co-operatives and members, is the largest in the world and thus has become an important and active part of the International Cooperative Alliance.

He also congratulated NCUI for setting a very timely theme for 57th Cooperative Week. Co-operatives certainly have an important role in mitigating the impact of climate change and can be instrumental in mobilizing the involvement of communities in reducing the global warming by

adopting smart and demonstrative practices.

He concluded by wishing the Indian co-operative movement a resounding success in building the nation soaked in co-operative ethos and concern for the universe.

## Advocacy

The ICA actively participates in advocacy of issues of importance and issues messages for commemoration of the events by ICA and by members. International Women's Day and International Co-operative Day are such events.

### International Women's Day 8 March, 2010



*Dame Pauline Green*

The theme of the event was "Equal rights, equal opportunities: Progress for all". Dame Pauline Green, ICA President and Stefania Marcone, Chairperson, ICA Gender Equality Committee have jointly issued following message which has been circulated to all members in the region.

#### **The Message:**

This year the United Nations focuses attention on the fact that the respect of women's rights and the guarantee of opportunities leads to significant advances in social and economic development. Under the theme, "Equal rights, equal opportunities: Progress for all", International Women's Day underlines the need for governments, civil society, women's organisations, the private sector, the media, the entire UN system, and individual women and men to join forces in making important changes to policies, programmes, attitudes and behaviours to ensure that women fully participate in economic and social life.

Nearly every study that addresses the impact of women's participation in the economy concludes that gender equality is not only the right thing to do, it also makes good business sense. There are business studies showing that the higher percentage of women in decision-making positions, the more successful and efficient enterprises are. In times of economic stress, there is no business argument that can counter the value-added of investing in women. Similarly

development studies over and over show that investing in women has a high return improving livelihoods, improving access to education for children and health for all, and reducing poverty in general terms, thus making an impact on overall national economic and social development.

In the co-operative movement, there are similar indications that women's participation leads to successful enterprises that fully serve the needs of all members and their families. Women are participating in co-operatives sometimes making up a very significant proportion of the membership and workforce as a recent ICA Gender Equality Committee survey is showing.

The evidence abounds for why it is in the interest of all to make women's rights and opportunities a priority and yet progress at all levels continues to be slow.

Despite this, ICA and its Gender Equality Committee wish to underline the important contribution made by the worldwide co-operative movement in creating a culture of mutual respect and its commitment to democracy and participation. All over the world, co-operatives contribute to the challenge of gender equality by implementing at various levels gender equality policies and programmes, providing co-operators with awareness-raising, training and education, and decent work. Furthermore, co-operatives are promoting this model of business to women entrepreneurs who often find that this form of enterprise allows them the flexibility and alternative management structures that they seek - an efficient business model that takes into account their specific needs and that promote their socio-economic empowerment. More action is nonetheless required.

Co-operatives must intensify their efforts in improving gender equality in particular at this time of economic instability. Co-operative resilience can only be reinforced when programmes to ensure equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men are implemented, particularly at senior levels in our movement.

On the one side, there is continued need to review national and co-operative policies and co-operative statutes and bye-laws to ensure that these do not constrain women's access to equal opportunities including the right to own land and other property. Innovative strategies are needed to promote changes in organisational culture, rules of procedure and working methods as well as address constraints related to lack of time (work-family balance), and lack of personal security.

There is also the need for attitude changes. Too often obstacles in the form of negative stereotypes about women's leadership potential continue to limit change and progress. Specific measures to encourage and support women's participation and enable them to seek

and gain senior leadership positions should be enhanced, including management and leadership training, formalised mentorship programmes and sustainable financial support.

On the 8th March 2010, International Women's Day, we call on ICA member organisations and co-operators, to review and reinforce their commitments, policies and programmes to make gender equality a reality.

Let us be leaders in assuring progress for all by taking important steps to booster women's rights and access to participation and leadership in co-operative enterprise.

Let us begin by asking all our members to ensure that from this year onwards that their representative delegations are truly gender-balanced.

## The International Co-operative Day - 3rd July 2010

The International Co-operative Day is celebrated every year on the first Saturday of July month. This is the 88th ICA International Co-operative Day and 16th UN International Day of Co-operatives which will be observed on 3rd July 2010 worldwide. The ICA and UN issue messages on the occasion.

This year's theme was : "Co-operative enterprise empowers women". This year's theme highlights how the Co-operative model of enterprise can successfully empower women. It links to the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing+15) which sets out the internationally agreed agenda for women's empowerment.

Co-operatives have a key role to play as they are able to respond to both women's practical and strategic needs. Whether it be through women only co-operatives or co-operatives made up of women and men, they offer an effective organisational means for women members and employees to raise their living standards by accessing decent work opportunities, savings and credit facilities, health, housing and social services, and education and training.

Co-operatives also offer women opportunities for participation in and influence over economic activities. Women gain self-reliance and self-esteem through this participation. Co-operatives also contribute to the improvement of the economic, social and cultural situation of women in other ways including promoting equality and changing institutional biases.

### Message of the ICA on International Co-operative Day-2010

The theme is "Co-operative Enterprise Empowers Women".

All over the world women are choosing the co-operative form of enterprise to respond to their economic and

social needs. Whether it is to reach their entrepreneurial aspirations, to access products and services that they want and need, or to be part of business that has ethical values and principles and provides income-generating opportunities, women are finding that Co-operatives are attractive options.

Co-operatives are democratically owned and governed enterprises guided by the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. They put people at the heart of their activities and allow members through democratic decision-making set out how they reach their economic, social and cultural aspiration.

For women, co-operatives have a key role to play as they are able to respond to both women's practical and strategic needs. Whether it be through women only co-operatives or co-operatives made up of women and men, they offer an effective organisational means for women members and employees to raise their living standards by accessing decent work opportunities, savings and credit facilities, health, housing and social services, and education and training. Co-operatives also offer women opportunities for participation in and influence over economic activities. Women gain self reliance and self-esteem through this participation. Co-operatives also contribute to the improvement of the economic, social and cultural situation of women in other ways including promoting equality and changing institutional biases.

For women entrepreneurs, co-operatives are an attractive form of enterprise. By pooling their capital, women are able to engage in income-generating activities and organise their work in a flexible way that respects the multiple roles that women may have in society. From Burkina Faso, India, Japan, Honduras to the United States, women share similar co-operative experiences - their women-only co-operatives have allowed women to gain self-confidence, bear professional responsibilities, valorise their skills and improve their livelihoods by deriving income for their work and accessing a wide range of services.

Women however, are also finding satisfaction in co-operatives where both women and men participate. As members and employees, women are discovering enterprises that strive to build mutual respect and equal opportunity. However, it must be said that more needs to be done to achieve gender equality. Co-operatives are a reflection of their members and the society in which they operate, and so still mirror the predominant societal and cultural biases. They are nonetheless responding to the challenge of making changes in organisational culture, working methods, education and training opportunities to make women's empowerment a reality.

Women's empowerment has five components: women's sense of self-worth; their right to have and to determine choices; their right to have access to opportunities and

resources; their right to have the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home; and their ability to influence the direction of societal change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally.

The co-operative form of enterprise addresses each of these components and is truly providing empowerment opportunities for women in all parts of the world.

Ms Kumari a successful woman entrepreneur and co-operative member in India summed it up when she related her co-operative experience. She said, 'I would like to thank the women's co-operative bank for making me an empowered woman and allowing me to have my dreams come true'.

On this International Day of Co-operatives, the ICA calls on co-operators to recognise the key contribution women make to economic, social and cultural development throughout the world, to strengthen co-operative commitment to enable women to be empowered in their co-operative enterprises and encourage the participation of women in the Co-operative Movement.

## Celebration of International Co-operative Day-2010

The International Co-operative Day- 2010 was widely observed in the region by member co-operatives. Various seminars and conference were organized on the theme of the Day "Co-operative Enterprise Empowers Women".

We received news of celebration from members such as

### 1. National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI)-

NCUI celebrated International Co-operative Day 2010 in July by organizing a seminar on the theme to mark the occasion. Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, Chairman, NCUI, CEO, NCUI, and Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, ICA and Ms. Savitri Singh, Gender Advisor, ICA was present on the occasion.

The speakers said that the co-operatives can play a major role in employment generation through income generating activities in various areas and the concept of e-connectivity in youth can be popularized through co-operatives. Dr Chan Ho Choi said that in the era of liberalization women can play an important role in the co-operative movement.

### 2. Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU)

JCCU held the 88th commemoration on July 6, 2010 in Tokyo. 194 delegates attended the occasion. Opening greetings was given by the chairman of the Japanese

Joint Committee of Co-operatives (JJC), followed by following three presentations :

- 1) Women's power support co-operative organization,
- 2) Examples of Gender equality activities being practiced at Co-op Net Business Federation
- 3) Creation of gender equality society with co-operatives.

It was a very successful gathering and all the three speakers gave the attendees lots of food for thought.

### 3. JA-ZENCHU

Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives celebrated International Co-operative Day 2010 by organizing special event. Some other Co-operative organizations also reported the celebration on this occasion in the region.

## Capacity Building

### 1. Gender Equality

#### Networking and exposure workshop

A workshop on the topic "Enhancing Role of Women in Co-operative Business" was held in Tehran, Iran on 25 May, 2010 followed by 2 days exposure/study visit to agricultural and rural co-operatives in Shiraj Province of Iran. The programme was organized by ICA-AP Gender Programme Division and was hosted by Central

The objective of the program 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 to establish a network for mutual cooperation and business interest across the Asia & Pacific Region. The workshop opened with the welcome address by Mr. M.R.



*The participants with Maria Elena and Managing Director of CURACI*

Organisation of Rural Cooperative (CORC) of Iran and Central Union of Rural and Agricultural Co-operatives of Iran (CURACI).

Men and Women Co-operative Leaders from 6 countries, namely- China, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India attended the programme. The Cooperative members from Iran were also present.

Raeisi Nejad, Managing Director of the CURACI.

#### Training for management capacity building

ICA-AP organized a Training of Trainers Programme on "Management Capacity Building of Women for co-operative Development " from 19-23 October 2010, Yangon, Myanmar, for the co-operative leaders and



trainers of Myanmar. The program was hosted by the Central Co-operative Society of Myanmar, an ICA member and technical in puts such as curriculum, training materials and resource persons were provided by ICA. 25 women and men participants attended the programme.

Mr. U Khin Maung Aye , President of CCS Delivered opening address and welcomed the participants and ICA delegates. Dr.Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-AP delivered special address and emphasized upon the need of women empowerment and gender mainstreaming in co-operatives for over all development of co-operatives, Ms. Savitri Singh, Advisor- Gender Programme of ICA-AP and coordinator of the programme extended warm welcome to the participants and thanked CCS for their efforts in organizing the programme. She further deliberated upon the back ground and aim and objectives of the programme and briefly introduced the proceedings for 4 days to come.



*Training in Progress*

training. Ms.Aye Aye Khaine from UNDP, Ms. Tha Nwai Law from FAO, Myanmar and Mr. Wann More Micro and Small Enterprise Development Specialist, UNDP , Myanmar were the other resource persons who contributed significantly in providing knowledge and information to participants on various aspects of women empowerment and gender mainstreaming issues.

Gender sensitization, managing a co-operative business and gender issues in co-operative business were the main issues addressed in the training programme. This was the kind of first time that the participants had exposure to issues such as sex and gender and gender socialization process which impacts over all gender balance in the society including co-operatives.

## **Training on " Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women"**

The International Co-operative Alliance-Asia and Pacific [ICA-AP] in collaboration with the JA-ZENCHU [Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives of Japan] and the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia [IDACA] held the 5th Training Course on "Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women" from 12th September to 16th October 2010 in Japan and Vietnam.

Twelve women participants - two each from Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka 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;
- (c) To learn methods of encouraging women to be involved in rural communities' development.

The part-I of the program held at IDACA from 12th September to 8th October 2010 included extensive



*Dr. Choi Presenting the ICA Flag to President of CCS, Myanmar*

Vice-Chairman of CCS, Mr. U Kyaw Lynn, Mr.Kyaw Thein, Chief Executive Officer of CCS, Mr.Min Lwin , General Manager and other senior officers and Board of Directors were also present at the opening. Mr. Zaw Win Deputy General Manager, CCS presented the Status paper of CCS giving basic information about the co-operative system in Myanmar, situation of women in coops and activities of CCS. There are about 12000 co-operative societies in Myanmar but visibility of women as members, leaders or managers are very low. There is no data available to know how many women are there in the co-operatives in the country.

Ms. Savitri Singh was the main resource person for the



5th Training course-The Participants

classroom work and study visits to agricultural co-operatives in Kanagawa and Nara 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 part-II of the program - field study visits - was held in Vietnam from 8th to 16th October in collaboration with the Vietnam Co-operative Alliance [VCA], a member organization of ICA.

A Certificate of Participation was awarded to participants by Mr. Ikuo Ashikari, Managing Director of IDACA at the concluding session held on 7th October in IDACA, Japan.

The closing session was attended by Mr.K. Sethumadhavan, Manager-Planning & Membership of ICA-AP and senior officials of IDACA. Follow-up Visit to

Vietnam and Cambodia An ICA-IDACA team consisting of Mr. T. Tanaka, Manager (GAD), IDACA; Mr. Yukio Abe, Senior Coordinator, IDACA and Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Manager- Planning & Membership, ICA-AP visited Vietnam and Cambodia from 17th to 23rd October 2010 as a follow-up of ICA-Japan Training Project on "Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women". The purpose of the follow-up visits was to assess the impact and effects of training of the past ICA Women Leaders Training Courses, in particular, to see how Action Plans drafted by the participants have been implemented by the various countries upon return of the participants from the Training Course in Japan. The follow up study was conducted through a Questionnaire, exchange of views and ideas with the participants and also making visits to some of the co-operatives where the former participants were working.

## 2. Nurturing Youth

### Workshop-Emerging challenges of higher education

An Asia Pacific workshop on university/campus Co-operatives was held from 21st to 25th June 2010 at Yogyakarta, Indonesia. "Campus Co-operatives:

Responding to Emerging Challenges of Higher Education" was the main theme of the workshop. Around one hundred participants including students from Japan, Korea, Thailand, Phillipines, Indonesia attended the workshop.

The key note address was delivered by Prof. Dr. Hubert

Gijzen, Director of UNESCO, Jakarta, Er. Hendarman, Director for Institutional Development of Higher Education, Ministry of National Education, Indonesia.

Two study visits were arranged to give practical insight into the working of university/campus Co-operatives.

During the study visits the participants planted more than 200 trees. Official inauguration of the workshop took place during the welcome dinner. The President Univ/Campus Co-operatives, Governor Jogjakarta,

representative from Ministry of Co-operative and SMEs and Regional Director ICA-AP were the main speakers at the opening. While delivering his opening remarks Dr. Chan Ho CHOI Regional Director of ICAAP mentioned about the UN declaration of 2012 as The Year of Co-operatives and the International Year of Youth 2010-2011. He wished success of the workshop.

During the workshop presentation on the following sub themes were made and discussed by the resource persons.

- Significance of students support services in ensuring access, equity and quality - STUDENT SUCCESS - by Dr. Adelaida Fronda, Dean of students Affairs for Far Eastern University, PHILLIPINES.
- Contribution of the campus Co-operatives in providing efficient student support services - by Mr. Toshiaki Wada, General Director, NFUCAJAPAN.
- Addressing the impact of climate change - The Co-operative way- by Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director, ICA-AP.

Group Work were divided in 6 sub themes and each were given a facilitator to discuss the theme.

Following sub themes were discussed and facilitated by the committee members.

- Significance of students support services in ensuring access, equity and quality of higher education - facilitated by Dr. Yashvantha Dongre, Co-secretary of the committee.
- Contribution of the campus Co-operatives in providing efficient student support services - facilitated by Ms. Heira.
- Addressing the impact of climate change - The role of Co-operative- facilitated by Prof. Ali Hasan, Vice Chair of the Committee.
- Ways and means of enhancing student participation in campus Co-operative activities - facilitated by Prof. Zenaida Diola.
- Role of Youth in global peace and solidarity - facilitated by Ms. Payal Goswami, Secretary of the Committee.
- Innovations in Co-operative business - facilitated by Dr. Sun Teck Tan.

## Study Visit to the ICA-AP

A group of 40 students along with faculty member of Natesan Institute of Co-operative Management, Department of Chartered Accountancy, Chennai. Tamil Nadu visited ICA-AP Office to gain knowledge about the role of ICA in Co-operative development in the region.

Dr. Chan Ho Choi and other staff interacted with the group and shared information about vision, mission, objective and functioning of ICA in the region.

## 3. Management of Consumer Co-operatives

### Regional Workshop

The ICA Regional Workshop for Managers for "Management of Consumer Co-operatives in Asia-



Participants at the Workshop

Pacific" was held on 28-29 April 2010 at NTUC FairPrice Training Institute (FPTI) in Singapore. Hosted by Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) and supported by NTUC FairPrice, 23 managers of consumer co-operatives from seven countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) actively participated in the two-day workshop. The workshop commenced with the welcome address by Mrs. Dolly Goh, Chief Executive Officer of the SNCF, followed by opening address by Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of the ICA-AP, and a detailed briefing on NTUC Fair Price by Ms. Juliana Tan, Manager of the FPTI.

During the two-day workshop, Mr. Beng Lee Kao, Ms. Juliana Tan and Mr. Ngee Chiang Tok from NTUC FairPrice covered four important areas of retail business,

- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| (i) Store Management   | (ii) Merchandizing  |
| (iii) Store Comparison | (iv) Staff Training |

The participants also learnt about good customer service from the GEMS (Go the Extra Miles for Service) which is a nationwide movement to improve service levels in Singapore.

On the second day the participants visited three supermarkets of NTUC FairPrice and a competitor.

They learnt about practical techniques for operating stores such as merchandise assortment, display, pricing and store comparison by using a check list.

### Development of Consumer Co-operatives

The ICA/iCOOP Korea Workshop on Development of Consumer Co-operatives in Asia was held on 30-31 August 2010 at Seoul, Republic of Korea. About 120 cooperators from 5 countries attended the two-day workshop.

At the beginning of the workshop Ms. Jeong-Joo Lee, Chairperson of the iCOOP Association of Consumer Co-operatives delivered a welcoming speech followed by congratulatory addresses by Ms. Sun-Sook Park, a lawmaker of the National Assembly of the Republic Korea and Mr. In-Ok Son, Vice Chairperson of the Korea Fair Trade Commission. At the end, Dr. Chan-Ho Choi, Regional Director of the ICA-AP, made a special speech on "promotion of ethical consumption and fair trade in Asia-Pacific region".

Following the opening session, Mr. Byung-Ho Jeong, President of the iCOOP Consumers' Co-operative Institute, delivered the keynote address on "consumer co-op movement in Korea and its future prospects". Based on his keynote address, six co-operative leaders from Korea, Japan, Vietnam, India and Sri Lanka gave the suggestive presentations and lead the panel discussions on "current state and challenges facing consumer coops



Programme in Progress

in Asia", "strategy of strengthening co-operative sector amid fierce global competition" and "cooperation between consumer co-ops and local communities".

After the plenary session, all the participants discussed "the challenges, goals and strategies of consumer co-ops in Korea and Asia". The participants reaffirmed the importance of cooperation among consumer co-operatives in Asia and the Pacific region and pledged to further develop inter-Co-operative trade and the Fair Trade through exchange programs and study visits organized by the ICA-AP, and to explore the possibility of joint venture among ICA member organizations.

### Training for Managers of Consumer Co-operatives

i) ICA Training program for Managers of Consumer Co-ops is being implemented since 2001. This year, seven managers from India, Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam were selected as trainees of the program in Japan.

The participants learnt about store operation, product policy, quality assurance, sales promotion, staff training, direct transaction with farmers (Sanchoke) and member's involvement in business of



The Coop Store

Miyagi Co-op. They also underwent a practical training at a store of the co-op. At Coop Net, the participants were impressed by an eco-friendly co-op store and an eco-center operated by the largest business federation of consumer coops in Japan. On the last days of the training program at Miyagi Co-op and Coop Net, all trainees made presentations on their action plans to be implemented after the training program.

They drew up plans to fight competition, to increase membership and sales, to improve the ways of sales promotion, to develop reliable and safe goods, and so on.

ii) ICA Training Program for managers of consumer coops in Japan was held on 29 Oct to 14 November, 2010. 3 Managers of consumer co-ops one from Singapore and two Vietnam were invited. They learnt about store operation, challenges faced Co-op Kobe, quality assurance, staff education, analysis of feedback from members and members' satisfaction and member's



Participants at the coop store

involvement in business. They also received a practical training at a store of the co-op. At Co-op Net, the participants were impressed by an eco-friendly co-op store and an eco-center operated by the largest business federation of consumer co-ops in Japan. On the last days of the training program at Co-op Kobe and Co-op Net, all trainees made presentations on their action plans to be implemented after the training program. They drew up plans to improve the time management and the man

hour, to apply working sheets, to develop food products such as (1) ready to-eat meals, (2) ready-to-heat meals, (3) ready-to-cook food and (4) ready-to-prepare food, to promote members participation, increase membership, to involve Co-op leaders in the process of product development and renewal, to diversify logo of Co-op brand products and so on.

## Sub-Regional Workshop on Consumer Co-operative Development



*Participants and delegates with Chairman, NCCF*

The National Consumer Co-operative Federation of India (NCCF) hosted a sub-regional workshop on "Development of Consumer Co-operatives in the SAARC countries" in Mumbai, India from 13-15 December 2010 which was inaugurated by Mr. Virendra Singh, Chairman, NCCF and Vice-Chairman of ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific. 30 participants from India, Japan and Maldives attended the workshop. Mr. A K Taneja and Mr. Yoshi Nakamura from ICA-AP coordinated the workshop.

Following papers were presented at the workshop:

- Introduction and presentation on the status of consumer co-operatives in the respective countries by participants.
- Present status of consumer coops in India problems and possible remedies by Mr. M.A. Khan, Managing Director, NCCF of India.
- Present status of the retail industry in the USA by Mr. Shoichi Nemoto, Manager, Member Support Division, JCCU.
- Promotion of Ethical consumption and fair trade in Asia-Pacific region by Mr. S.C. Mishra, Sr. Consultant.
- Present status of the retail industry in India by Mr. M.A. Khan, Managing Director, NCCF of India.
- Laws and Management of Cooperative Societies by Mr.S.T. Bhide, Joint Registrar of Coop. Societies (Retd.), Govt. of Maharashtra.
- HRD procedures/policies in Consumer Coops. by Prof. Anil Kranjkar, VAMNICOM, Pune.
- Importance of Business Cooperation among Consumer Coops. by Mr. Shoichi Nemoto, Manager, Member Support Division, JCCU.

## 4. Marketing & Rural Development

### ICA-Japan Training Project for Marketing

The ICA-Japan Training Course for Capacity Building for Marketing for (fiscal year 2010) was held in Japan from 26th July to 19th August and 03-27 November, 2010. 40 participants from 9 ASEAN countries attended the training course.

This project is being implemented by ICA in collaboration

with MAFF, Govt. of Japan, JA-Zenchu and IDACA. 2 training programmes are being held every year in which 40 co-operative leaders, managers and persons dealing with agriculture and farmer's organisations in governments from ASEAN countries are being trained.

The participants learn about marketing methods for farm



Award of certificates to the participants

products and methods of rural development. The objective of the project is to train human resources for organising farmers and strengthening marketing activities of co-operatives/farmer's organisations.

25 days long training includes class room lectures and one week of field visits in one of the prefectures in Japan. The participants also get to meet and interact with the farmers.

In this course, the participants visited to some

co-operatives in Gunma Prefecture such as dairy federation and dairy plant, Primary Agriculture Co-operative, apple orchard of a farmer, Mr. Kobeyashi, vegetable seedling nursery centre, farm management and economic centre, A-COOP store, Pon Poko direct sales shop, rice milling plant, JA-Zenro Agriculture R&D Centre etc.

Ms. Savitri Singh is ICA-AP Coordinator for the programme.

### Business Seminar for Co-operative Leaders in Singapore



The Group of Co-operative Leaders at the Business Seminar

Mr. Rachit Dayal from the Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS) gave a briefing on top 6 opportunities online to expand business in 2011. In the afternoon of Day 1, Ms. Christina Lim from NTUC Fair Price

The 2nd ICA-SNCF Business Seminar for Co-operative Leaders was held on 20-22 October 2010 in Singapore. The main objective of this year's seminar was to offer co-operative leaders, especially from ASEAN countries, a depth of understanding what Social Media is really all about and how it is changing the way we do business and offer fresh insight how to use Social Media to promote their products and services without having to spend too much time on it. Hosted by Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF), 34 co-operative leaders from 6 countries (India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam) actively participated in the three-day seminar.

At the beginning of the seminar, Mrs. Dolly Goh, Chief Executive Office of the SNCF, welcomed all participants. Following her opening remarks and an ice breaker session,

made a presentation on the co-op's journey into Social Media and shared the lessons learnt from their trial-and-error process with the participants. After her inspiring presentation, all participants from outside Singapore

visited FairPrice Xtra at Jurong Point. The seminar further included hands on practice with facebook and twitter followed by group discussions on plans of social media marketing.

### Joint Workshop on Agricultural Co-operative System in Korea



*Dr. Chan ho CHOI, Regional Director with the participants*

The ICA- AP -NACF, Korea Joint Workshop, 5th in series was held in Seoul, South Korea from 25th-30th October, 2010. 10 participants from six countries, Myanmar, India, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam attended the workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to get familiarize with well developed Agricultural Cooperative in Korea and learning lessons from advance techniques successfully used by Korean co-operative. Also, to know how agricultural Co-operatives in Korea are sustaining themselves including members through multipurpose activities and how NACF, the apex Agriculture Co-operative is providing multifarious advisory services related to Agriculture Coops such as retailing, distributing, food storage, financial and Technical services and helping member co-operatives in growing.

The workshop began with the Opening Address by Mr Jae-Kwan Lee, Vice Chairman, NACF, followed by welcome speech by Dr. Chan ho CHOI, Regional director, ICA-AP.

Mr. Si Hyung Jo, Chief on International Cooperation Office and Mr. Hyon-Gu Jeon, Manager of International Cooperation Office gave a brief but comprehensive

information about National Agriculture Co-operative Federation (NACF), Korea.

The well crafted programme included participants exposure to functioning of NACF, their member service network (Agricultural Coops), study visits to different stages of agriculture coops, planning and implementation, wholesale/retailing of agricultural produces to consumers and classification/ certification of agricultural produces.

Participants presented respective country report during farm stay and have had inter active session about different types of agricultural coops in the region. Participants were very much impressed by the Korean Agricultural Experience and they thanked to NACF and ICA-AP for this programme since it gave them good exposure and a platform to discuss mutually beneficially agricultural coops related issues in the region.

At the concluding session, Dr. Chan ho CHOI thanked NACF and all concerned for a successful programme. He awarded certificate of participation to the participants.

### Operation and Management of Circular Economy Projects

First ICA-China training course on "Operation and Management of Circular Economy Projects" was held in China from 26th November to 5th December 2010. 21 participants from 10 countries in the Asia Pacific Region attended the



*Dr Choi, Mr. Li Chengyu and Mr. Li Chunsheng with the participants*

international experts from the Co-operative Group of UK and ICA-AP Regional Office. In addition to the lectures, the organizer has arranged exposure visits to well-recognized CE enterprises such as Beijing Building Materials Group Environmental Co., Beijing INCOM Renewable Resources Company and Huaqing Recycling Industrial Park, which are intended to give the participants a vivid idea as to the development and management of CE projects. Mr. A K Taneja was the ICA-AP Coordinator for the programme.

### **Training on Enhancement of Farmers' Income and Poverty Reduction through Co-operatives**

The 4th Training Course on Enhancement of Farmers' Income and Poverty Reduction through Co-operatives was held in India/Iran/Japan from 7th January to 17th April in collaboration with IFFCO in India, CURACI/ ICC in Iran and JA ZENCHU/ IDACA in Japan. Twelve participants from ten countries are attending the Training Course. The focus of the Course is on strengthening of farm guidance method, joint collection, shipment, safety and improvement in quality of farm products aimed at increasing farmers' income as a new development for the training course.



*ICA-Japan Training Course participants*

## **Coop Solidarity and concern for the community**

### **Coop Reconstruction in Myanmar**

The disaster that struck Myanmar on 2nd and 3rd May 2008 in the form of cyclonic winds and rainfall killed 150,000 persons and displaced over 2 million people. 395 co-operatives in southern and south-eastern Myanmar faced the





Post cyclone physical reconstruction of co-operative in Myanmar

wrath of the disaster. In all 259 members of these Co-operatives died and 8544 were rendered homeless. The ICA, in response to its call to global Co-operative fraternity, received a generous support from its following member Co-operatives for the revival of most affected and marginalized Co-operatives in Myanmar:

Total Collection	:	85,790 USD
JCCU, Japan	:	25,162 USD
IFFCO, India	:	25,000 USD
ACFSMC, China	:	20,000 USD
JAZENCHU, Japan	:	9,282 USD
ZENROSAI, Japan	:	4,900 USD
Teachers' Co-op, Singapore	:	1,448 USD

The CCS identified 09 most marginalized primary coops, 6 in Yangon area and 3 in the Ayarwaddy Delta area, for direct reconstruction support of 59,000 USD under the ICA's programme. Besides, two major interventions one the Conference on Co-operative Development in Myanmar and another Lessons Learned Workshop were also made out jointly by ICA-AP and the CCS.

CCS and the Unions of Coop Syndicate in Yangon and Ayarwaddy conducted the survey and identified the needs of each of the following nine identified coops and supported as under.

- **12445 \$** - Ayar Arman Agri & Production Coop Society for reconstruction of barn building and office building. - Status: Completion verified personally by the DRD, ICA AP. - Grant utilized properly.

### Pakistan Flood: A report from the ground

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director of ICA-AP visited flood affected areas of Pakistan on 2nd to 6th December 2010 to assess the loss to the co-operatives due to the devastating flood. The purpose of his mission was to explore possible areas of help to the affected

- **13,248 \$** - Mya Ayar General Trading Co-op Federation - for reconstruction of salt iodization unit, installation of new machinery and landing stage with jetty - Status: reconstruction completed, production not started - verified by DRD, ICAAP- Grant properly utilized.
- **1275 \$** - Kunchankone Township General Trading Co-op Federation - for roofing and walting of warehouse - Status: reconstruction completed, production not started - verified by DRD, ICA AP - Grant properly utilized.
- **5826 \$** - Pyay Thare General Trading Co-op Society - for reconstruction of 4 poultry units in Tamwe in Yangon - Status: reconstruction completed - verified by DRD, ICAAP - Grant properly utilized.
- **1275 \$** - Seikgyi Kha Naungto Township General Trading Co-op Federation, Yangon - for new office building & store - Status: reconstruction completed - verified by DRD, ICAAP - Grant properly utilized.
- **14,452 \$** - Gyun Thiri Trading Co-operative federation, Mawlamyaing Gyun Township - for reconstruction of a rice mill building, barn house and landing stage - Status: Fully accomplished - CCS has verified it physically.
- **1638 \$** - Kawhmu Township General Trading Coop Federation - for store house and office building - Status: Fully accomplished - CCS has verified it physically.
- **2367 \$** - Kyauk Tan General Trading Co-op Federation, Yangon - for office building - Status: Fully accomplished - CCS has verified it physically.
- **5826 \$** - Shwe Pazon Agricultural and Livestock Production Co-op Society - for 5 poultry units, office building & fish pond banding - Status: Fully accomplished - CCS has verified it physically.

The coop development conference was conducted at the national level with the sole objective of garnering policy support from the Government of Myanmar for promoting co-operatives as means for inclusive development.

Considering the importance of community in mitigating the impact of disaster, lessons learned workshop was organized to assign the agenda of disaster preparedness to the Co-operatives. The workshop was attended by the officers of Co-operative department, leaders, managers and members of affected Co-operatives and officials of CCS.

co-operatives and members.

Flood has affected humans and cattles alike, destroyed houses and shelters, relief amenities such as food, medicine, tents etc are not enough, bridges and roads destroyed which hampering travel, children are infected



Dr. CHOI in Pakistan with co-operative leaders

with diseases, flood victims are forced to take shelter in cramped places with poor living facilities. Winter is setting in and December- February will be cold season. So at least blankets are urgently needed. 95% of the land owned by feudal in rural areas.

There are women co-operatives dealing with handicraft and village co-operatives in farming sector.

In urban areas, there is need to strengthening the housing coops, credit unions and consumer coops.

The ICA in collaboration with Karachi Housing Co-operative Ltd. has tentatively planned a National Conference on the Co-operative Development in Pakistan sometime in February- 2011.

## Visibility

The strong co-operative movement of member countries have been buzzing with multi activities through out the year. We regularly received information about their activities . The news and information about members have been widely publicized by ICA-AP news letters and website. Some of the examples are quoted below:

### NEW ZEALAND

#### CBH Group shares structure models with growers

Western Australia's grain farmer co-op CBH Group, or Co-operative Bulk Handling, has reached another key phase in its investigation into the best structure for its future with the unveiling to growers of a shortlist of three broad models, all retaining cooperative principles.

The models are being presented to growers by CBH Group chairman, Neil Wandel and Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Crane, at a series of meetings throughout the Western Australian wheatbelt.

Mr Wandel said the first and second phases of the structure investigation surveying members' views and assessing a full range of potential structural options had led the board to the conclusion that CBH should remain a co-operative.

"For our members, the retention of our co-operative principles and member ownership were critical," Mr Wandel said. "And, from a strategic perspective, there is plenty of evidence that co-ops can be as successful as any investor owned business provided they are structured to adapt to their changing environment and to the needs of different members.

"We are very confident that a co-operative structure will not only enable us to compete against bigger international grain businesses but give us an advantage. It makes us different because we alone return all the value we create back to the same growers who do business with us rather than having to satisfy external

shareholders." The three broad models which have been shortlisted for further assessment are:

A non-distributing co-op retains CBH's current tax exempt status with value returned to members through competitive services and rebates; A distributing co-op, which allows distribution of profits to growers in the form of cash and/or share rebates; A dual co-op, which comprises two separate co-operative entities, one holding storage and handling assets and the other holding the remaining assets of the business.

Mr Wandel said the CBH board and management would incorporate grower feedback as part of its continuing assessment of the three options to reach a preferred model. This is expected to occur in early 2011 although that could be influenced by the timing of a Federal Court decision on the Tax Office's appeal against CBH's existing tax-exempt status.

#### Fonterra, New Zealand

Fonterra, the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative (IFFCO) and Global Dairy Health have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly conduct a feasibility study into a pilot dairy farm in India as a first step towards the vision of establishing large-scale world-class dairy farms in India.

#### New Zealand Co-operatives Association

The following announcement has been received from the New Zealand Co-operatives Association:

#### MUTUALITY AT WORK Ensuring a Successful Co-operative Business

A seminar will be organised by the New Zealand Co-operatives Association on 19 & 20 August 2010, Wellington, New Zealand.

What makes a member-owned Co-operative or mutual business sustainable, one that serves more than a single generation of members? This question will be examined

in depth by a number of speakers from New Zealand and Canada during this two day seminar.

## NEPAL

Co-operative Strengthening programme in Nepal supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have a joint project Job for Peace with the target of creation of job for youth.

The project has various components/programmes. One of its components/programmes in the strengthening of agricultural Co-operatives and the creation of jobs for their youth members in Rautahat and Parsa districts of Nepal. In order to implement the programmes, an agreement has been made between FAO Nepal and the National Co-operative Federation of Nepal (NCF) which is the apex body of Co-operative movement of Nepal.

The Co-operative strengthening programme has several activities mostly in the areas of training i.e Co-operative Trainers of Training, Leadership Development Training, Capacity Building Training for Co-operative Managers, Member Awareness Campaigning, Agriculture Marketing Training, Product Diversification on Agro Products, Success Case Replication etc.

Likewise, the project has other activities development of model Co-operatives, support to women Co-operatives and distribution of seed money for the expansion of agriculture business related to production and marketing through Co-operatives.

The project includes some major objectives of enhancing the capacity of existing Co-operative through training activities, helping replicate Co-operative activities by making study visits and observation and the case studies, developing Co-operatives as small and micro-enterprises, supporting for capacity building of community-based organization through training activities, monitoring and evaluating programme and activities of Cooperatives regularly.

In Rautahat, 14 Co-operatives and in Prasa 16 Co-operatives have been selected for the implementation of the Co-operative programme.

The project activities have been launched since the date of 17th March 2010 in two districts Parsa and Rautahat. In Rautahat 205 male and 201 female altogether 406 Co-operative members and employees have been trained. Similarly in Parsa, 289 male and 328 female altogether 617 Co-operative members and employees have received different types of trainings.

494 male and 529 female altogether 1023 Co-operative members and staff have been trained during the activities completed. So far as on going programme is concerned almost 40 percent activities have been already completed.

## INDIA

### National Co-operative Union of India

i) The National Council for Co-operative Education of NCUI, India has organized various training programmes for different level/sectors of Cooperative members in the country.

The following capacity building programmes were held from April-June, 2010:

- Leadership Development Programme for the Chairmen/Directors of Tribal Co-operatives in Orissa State- The main objectives of this programme is to sensitise the leaders of Tribal Co-operatives about the problems, issues and challenges being confronted by the Tribal Co-operatives and to find out suitable strategy to solve them.
- Refresher Course in Cooperation for the Readers/ Lecturers of Colleges and Universities

#### Programme Profile

##### 1. Objectives

To sensitise the participants about the current issues, problems of Co-operative movement and emerging new challenges, in view of the liberalised economic environment.

1. Appraise the participants about the importance, scope of Co-operative education and research in different Indian universities
2. Equip the participants with latest techniques, approaches and strategies of Co-operative Education teaching, training and research.
3. To provide the participants an opportunity to share their experiences on problems and prospects of Co-operative education and research.

In addition to the core faculty of NCUI and NCCE, the guest faculty for the programme are being invited from other national and international organisations. Lecturers/Readers/Research Scholar engaged in Teaching/Research on Co-operation at under graduate and post graduate levels in Colleges/ Universities are eligible to attend.

##### The course contents are:

1. Co-operative Values and Co-operative Principles.
2. Multi State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002.
3. Sectoral Progress of Co-operative Movement in India.
4. Management of Co-operative Enterprises under the free market environment.
5. Human Resource Development in Co-operatives - Role of colleges and universities
6. Member Participation and member control in Co-operatives

## 7. Role of Co-operatives in XIth Five Year Plan.

ii) "The COOP CONNECT Forum of National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) organised Inter-School Quiz Contest on Co-operatives on November 16, 2010 on the occasion of 57th All India Cooperative Week celebrations. 11 Schools of Delhi/NCR participated in the event.

Dr. Chandra Pal Singh, President, NCUI said that the cooperative sector has immense potential to involve

youth in its functioning. He informed that NCUI is effectively lobbying with HRD Ministry and NCERT to include Cooperation as a distinct subject in the school syllabus. If Cooperation as a distinct subject is popularised amongst the school children this can lead to the professionalisation of the co-operative movement.

The Coop Connect Forum also organized a panel discussion on 'Cooperative Identity Through Brand Building' on 18th November 2010 on the occasion of 57th All India Cooperative Week celebrations.

## GUJARAT STATE CO-OPERATIVE UNION CELEBRATES GOLDEN JUBILEE



*Coop Leaders at the Opening*

On completion of 50 years, the Gujarat State Co-operative Union celebrated Golden Jubilee and State level Co-operative convention at Adalaj, Dist. Gandhinagar on 27th June 2010, which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat, Dr. Smt. Kamlaji.

Opening of the Golden Jubilee celebrations Shri Ghanshyambhai H. Amin, Chairman, Gujarat State Co-operative Union & Vice-Chairman, International Co-operative Alliance, Asia Pacific Region Board presided over the function while the Hon'ble Shri Dinsha Patel, Union Minister for Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India and Hon'ble Shri Dilipbhai

Sanghani, Agril. & Cooperation Minister, Gujarat State were chief guests of the function. About 3000 delegates from primary, taluka, district and state level Co-operative institutions attended the function.

During last 50 years, the sectors like dairy, sugar, banking etc. have flourished in Gujarat State. Amul was the first milk Co-operative to be established in Gujarat which started its business with the initial collection of 250 liters per day. Today there are 16 district Co-operative milk producers unions established on the Amul pattern in Gujarat State. For marketing milk and milk products, the Gujarat State Coop. Milk Marketing Federation was established in the year 1976 as marketing strategy for all these milk unions. This Federation is collecting 90 lakh liters of milk daily from the milk producer members and disburses Rs.20 crore daily to the milk farmers.

With a strong and dynamic Co-operative leadership and a supportive Government, the Co-operative sugar factories flourished in Gujarat, where there is not a single sugar factory established in private sector. The Khedut Sahakari Khand Udyog Factory at Bardoli in Surat District is the first of its kind in Asia.

## FISHCOPFED

A one day workshop on 'Co-operative Insurance' was organized by National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperative Ltd. (FISHCOPFED) on 30th June, 2010 in Shimla (Himachal Pradesh). The workshop was

inaugurated by the Director of Fisheries (H.P.). The President, Managing Director, officials of FISHCOPFED and officials from Oriental Insurance Company and fisheries department attended the workshop.

## JAPAN

### Japanese Consumer Coops Moving store "a new business model"

A moving store business was launched in October 2009 by Fukui Citizen Co-op as a new service to members living in areas with inconvenient shopping. Due to the decrease in population in the rural areas most super markets operating in those areas have been closed down making it inconvenient for daily shopping. In order to arrest the situation some co-ops have decided to run moving stores to deliver commodities in trucks to members in the form

of home delivery. The shopping truck is equipped with all necessary facilities to maintain the freshness of the commodities and ensure food quality and safety. Apart from providing shopping convenience to members, co-op also hopes that the new business will help foster communication and interaction among members in the local area.

## IRAN

### International Conference

The 1st International Conference on Co-operative Social, Economic and Cultural Capabilities will be held in Kish Island, Iran from April 16 to 17, 2011. The primary goal of this conference is to offer participants a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences on advanced methodological approaches, successful models and latest research findings in order to boost cooperation at international level.

Another goal is to introduce co-operatives' capabilities to the international community through successful Iranian Co-operative models and also to provide a platform for effective interaction amongst co-operatives around the world. The Ministry of Co-operatives is hosting the conference in collaboration with International Co-operative Alliance, University of Leiden, University of Tehran, University of Shahid Beheshti, University of Allameh Tabatabaiee, Islamic Azad University and other bodies and organizations.

The conference aims to: ""

- Promote co-operatives in different countries
- Identify and introduce social, economic and cultural capabilities of co-operatives encourage fair and safe competition among co-operatives for the purpose of promoting their performance and output
- Introduce successful potential models of co-operatives in terms of methods, procedures and management tools internationally with the aim of helping other co-operatives improve their status "
- Review recent research findings in the field of Co-operative to improve knowledge transfer and provide a context for a knowledge-based cooperation

The themes in conference include but are not confined to the following areas

- Co-operative and Social Development
- Co-operatives and Cultural Development
- Co-operatives and Economic Development
- Co-operative and Poverty Reduction
- Co-operative and Participation of Women and Youth
- Co-operative, Entrepreneurship and Employment

For further details, please check website of Ministry of co-operatives, Iran i.e. [www.icc2011.ir](http://www.icc2011.ir)

The Information is also available at [www.icaoap.coop](http://www.icaoap.coop) under Event Section.

## KOREA

### ICFO, Korea

International co-operative Fisheries Organisation(ICFO)

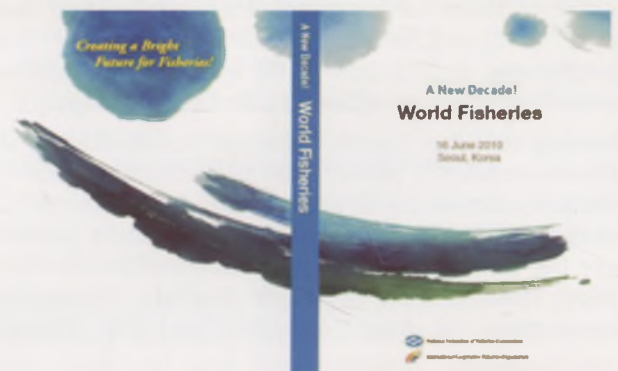
donated fishing equipment worth USD14,000 such as fishing nets, ropes, fishing floats to National Federation of Indonesian Fishermen's co-operative Societies on 18 November, 2010 with support from National Federation of Fisheries co-operatives in Korea.

The main purpose of the donation is not only to improve the Indonesian fisheries co-operatives and fisheries, but also to realize the co-operative sprits to help each other during disasters.

Indonesia has recently suffered from the eruption of a volcano and tsunami. Mr. LEE, ICFO chairman, said that the exchanges and cooperation are crucial to develop fisheries and fisheries co-operatives together. He also suggested to resolve pending issues such as fishery resource preservation and fishery management systems facing the world fisheries through them. Mr. Wiyono, the president of National Federation of Indonesian Fishermen's co-operative Societies thanked for the donation. He said that it could help the development of the fisheries and fisheries co-operatives in Indonesia.

Mr. LEE exchanged information with Mr. Wiyono on the revitalization of ICFO. They agreed to pool their efforts to make fisheries and fisheries co-operatives the new growth engines for the future.

### "World Fisheries"



International Co-operative Fisheries Organisation (ICFO), Korea, release a book, World Fisheries on 18 June 2010.

This book provides an overview of the key trends, related statistics and policy developments in major 17 fishing countries; Korea, Japan, America, England, China, Philippines, Norway, France, Argentine, Mexico, Indonesia, India, Canada, Hungary, Russia, Iceland, Australia.

ICFO published this book to help the development of fisheries of its members

### Personal Computer Donations

International Co-operative Fisheries Organisation (ICFO), Korea, donated 20 personal computers to 4 fisheries co-operatives of 4 countries for helping the computerization of work.

## International Symposium



Participant at the Symposium

ICFO and NFFC jointly hosted an International Symposium on fisheries and fisheries co-operatives on 16 June, 2010.

The symposium was held at Lotte Hotel in Seoul Korea with prominent figures in fisheries and co-operatives around the world; America, Japan, China, Indonesia, Iceland, India, England and Canada. Its title was "A New Decade, The Role of Co-operatives for the Sustainable Development of Fisheries".

About 320 Korean participants and 14 foreign delegates

attended the symposium; Vice-Minister of Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr. Ikuhiro HATTORI, the president of Zengyoren, Mr. Naim ASARI, Mr. Roger SPEAR, a keynote speaker from England, and the persons concerned. The prime minister showed his interest with his video message for it.

ICFO hosted the symposium to present an opportunity to seek ways to deal with obstacles in fisheries in the coming decade with the experts including cooperators and to strengthen the roles of fisheries co-operatives.

## BJSU, Bangladesh



Sk.Nadir Hossain Lipu, Chairman BJSU, Register's Of Co-op : Musfeka Chowdhury, Secretary of co-op ministry : Golam Quddus, State Minister of Local Government & Co-op: Mr. Jahagir Kabir Nanak & BTV Director : Dr.Shahiduzzaman on the National TV talk show on the occasion of 39th National Co-operative Day.

after state ownership of productive resources in the country, followed by private ownership. She pointed out that her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the country's first president, wanted to decentralize government power to develop the rural areas.

She also said that, her government would do all within its power to increase the efficiency of co-operatives.

On that National day, minister's, high official, all coop unit high official and Chairman of BJSU with members were present on the day.

- (B) One team of senior officials of BJSU visited co-operatives in Tripura, one of the north-eastern states of India. The team visited several co-operatives in the state. They also visited the Co-operative Bank of India which is very much active and successful co-operative organization in Tripura and gained useful exposure.
- (C) The BJSU team visited local co-operative members in District Bramhanbaria in Bangladesh. Among other activities, the chairperson of BJSU inaugurated a tree plantation project for co-operators.

## Indonesia

### Reformation of LSP2-Indonesia

On August 9, 2010 Institute for Co-operative Development Studies (LSP2i) had its intern meeting that decided a very fundamental decision to reform and restructure its Member Board, Mr. Djabarrudin Djohan, Mr.H. Woeryantos and Ms. Isminarti Tarigan, pioneers and seniors, have arranged to resign from their main duties as chief and daily managing organizational. Thereafter the organizational duties are going to be carried on by the new member board who are trusted to be able to encourage the realization of Co-operative identity and values in Indonesia. The pioneers have asserted that the young generation is a valuable pillar of the Indonesia co-operative. Therefore undoubtedly the existence of young Co-operative leadership is a necessity to empower LSP2i.

LSP2i will give the best effort in continuing vision to empower Indonesia Co-operative and to enforce the true Co-operative identity. That will become a significant accomplishment of LSP2i to strengthen its duty as an agent of dissemination and generate innovative

Cooperative ideas with social and economics approaches.

## China

An International Cooperative Exchange Center of China



Inauguration of ICECC

(ICECC) was inaugurated by Mr. Li Chengyu, President of All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC). On this occasion, Mr. Li Chunsheng, Vice President, All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC) and President of Regional Board of ICA-AP and Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director, ICA-AP, addressed the gathering. Mr. Li Chengyu and Dr. Chan Ho CHOI unveiled the Sign Board of ICECC on the occasion. ICA/CHINA Training Course on "Operation and Management of Circular Economy Projects" was the first training programme to be held at the ICECC soon after its inauguration.

# Reaching out to make membership more meaningful and rewarding

Dr. CHOI joined the office in January-2010 and he reached out to members and other stake holders and visited them in order to strengthen the bond further between ICA and the members. Besides members, he also met with other stake holders, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Govt. of India.

## Meeting with Indian Member Organisations

The Regional Director of ICA-AP paid a visit to NCUI, NCD, IFFCO, NCCF, NCLF, FISHCOPFED and IFFDC in New

Delhi and held discussions with the elected leaders and chief executive officers of these co-operatives. The purpose was to greet them in person and obtain their feedback on the functioning of ICA-AP.

### President, NCUI

Dr Choi received warm welcome from the president Mr. GH Amin. He gave his best wishes to Dr Choi for his successful tenure as Regional Director of ICA Asia Pacific. He further shared his views on the role of ICA in serving the interests of various members both from India and the Asia Pacific region. He expressed his



*Dr. Choi with President NCUI*

commitment for the cause of ICA and assured his full cooperation and support to Dr Choi.

### **Managing Director, NCDC**

Mr Govindan Nair warmly greeted Dr Choi and assured NCDC's full support and cooperation to ICA AP in its endeavors to promote the interests of co-operatives from India in the region.

### **Managing Director, National Co-operative Consumers Federation of India Ltd.**

Welcoming Dr Choi, the NCCF Managing Director expressed a keen desire for a closer and more functional relationship with the ICA Asia Pacific so as to superimpose best practices and knowledge of successful consumer co-operatives in various parts of the world. He appreciated the kind gesture of Dr Choi.

### **Chairman and the Managing Director of FISHCOPFED**

Mr Ansari and Mr Mishra extended an overwhelming reception in the honor of Dr Choi and hosted a sumptuous lunch.

A presentation on the network and functioning FISHCOPFED was made by Mr Mishra. Dr Choi noted the suggestions made by Mr Mishra and advised him to communicate with other fisheries coops in the region and lay the foundation of Fisheries Committee at the level of ICAAsia Pacific.

### **Managing Director, National Labour Co-operatives Federation of India Ltd.**

Mr. Pandey was extremely delighted to have Dr Choi as the first Regional Director of ICA Asia Pacific visiting the Labour Coops Federation. He gave an overview of labour coops in India and sought ICA's intervention in broadening the scope of co-operatives in the segment of auto drivers, rickshaw pullers, taxi drivers, house maids,

service corps etc. He suggested an exclusive committee of ICA to deal with the agenda of labour and workers co-operatives.

### **Chief Executive, Indian Farm Forestry Development Co-operatives Ltd.**

The team of IFFDC led by Dr Wankhede welcomed Dr Choi. A presentation was made on the activities of IFFDC in 13 states of India. Special focus was made on the environmental restoration and women empowerment. Dr Choi, while expressing his happiness over the achievements of IFFDC, anticipated an impressive role of IFFDC in implementing the agenda of climate change. He expressed his desire to have forest co-operative committee in ICA.

### **Chairman and Managing Director, IFFCO**



*Dr. Choi with Dr. Awasthi, MD IFFCO*

Mr. S.K. Jakhar and Dr. U.S. Awasthi greeted Dr. Choi with a bouquet of flowers and extended their best wishes and whole-hearted cooperation for the success of his tenure as Regional Director ICA-AP. Dr. Awasthi visualized a much bigger role for ICA in the post economic crisis and accordingly shared his vision of co-operative resurrection in various spheres of social economy.

### **Secretary and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Govt. of India.**

Dr. CHOI met with these two senior most officers of the ministry and appraised them about purpose and mandate of the ICA in India as well as in the region. The secretary appreciated initiatives of ICA in the field of co-operatives. Mr. GC Pati, Additional Secretary acknowledged great potentials of co-operative system and wanted to know more about work of ICA. He further expressed desire to know about successful business model And possibility to replicate such models in other parts of the country.





Dr. Choi with officials of CLT, Thailand

### Thailand

The ICA-AP Regional Director, Dr. Chan Ho Choi visited Thailand in March to hold discussions with the Chairman and Executive Director of co-operative League of Thailand to expand ICA membership and visit some co-operatives to get acquainted himself with the co-operative situation in Thailand. The CLT is playing a vital role in development of co-operative enterprises in the country.

### The Philippines

Dr. Choi also visited the Philippines in March to hold discussions with the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of National Confederation of co-operatives (NATCCO) regarding new Regional Board Member, expand ICA membership and visit some co-operatives to get acquainted himself with the co-operative situation in the Philippines. He also met the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of VICTO National in Cebu and they have already applied for membership of ICA.

### Delegation from Vietnam



Interactive session with Dr.CHOI

A four members delegation from Ho Chi Minh City Co-operative Alliance (HCMCA) visited ICA on 19th November 2010. The delegation was led by Mrs HUYNH KIM HOANG, Standing vice president of Ho Chi Minh City Co-operative Alliance & Chairman of Ho Chi Minh City's Housing Cooperative Union.

## AGM of NFUCA and Message from ICA-AP

The 54th Annual General Meeting of the National Federation of University Co-operative Associations (NFUCA) of Japan was held on 19th December, 2010. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, regional Director of ICA-AP sent a message to NFUCA on the occasion.

## National Co-operative Summit of the Philippines



*Dr. Choi with the President of Philippines, Mr. Ninoy Aquino and other delegates*

10th National Co-operative Summit of the Philippines was held in Quezon City on 10-13 October, 2010 at the Araneta Coliseum. The Quezon City Development Council was the co-op summit host, with Philippine Co-operative Center (PCC) as the lead Convenor and the Co-operative Development Authority as the Co-Convenor. There is now an ongoing attempt to develop a national co-op sector strategy for development in Philippines. This attempt is an acknowledgement that change is necessary. It is a reaffirmation of the co-operative sector's long desire and collective hope to change for the better. Therefore, the National co-operative Summit was held. His Excellency, Benigno Simon C. Aquino III, President of the Philippines / Honorable Mayor Herbert Baautista / Me. Butz A. Aquino, Chairman of the Philippine Co-operative Center and of the National Co-operative Summit Committee / Senator

Juan Miguel Zubiri / Congressman Jose R. Ping-ay / Mr. Feliciano R. Belmonte Mr. Lecira V. Juarez, Chairperson of the Co-operative Development Authority, Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICAAP and hundreds of co-operators were present at the summit.

Dr. Choi, in his speech said that it is interesting to note that this co-operative Summit also started in the year 2000 coinciding the UN declaration of the millennium development goal. The objective of this Summit has been to boost the Philippines co-operative Movement as a whole by pooling the collective efforts of all right to think that co-operatives can really solve the problems in practical and progressive manner with peoples, from the bottom, on the self reliant basis, if they are associated well in a systematic manner.

## Partners

The ICA in Asia Pacific enjoys a huge member base. Several of our members actively contribute and support activities for strengthening the movement. JCCU, Japan and NCUI, India have sent staff to work with ICA along with supporting gender mainstreaming and consumer co-operative development while others such as MAFF, Japan, JA Zenchu, Japan, IFFCO, India, NACF, Korea and ACFSMC, China, SNCF, Singapore etc. make financial

contribution by way of funding projects. Most of other members are contributing through hosting and organizing programmes from time to time and also by sending delegates and sponsoring participants.

The ICA-AP also collaborates with UN agencies and other international organization by way of inviting resource persons, speakers and information material.

# List of ICA members in Asia Pacific Region

## AUSTRALIA

1. Capricon Society Ltd.

## BANGLADESH

2. Bangladesh National Co-operative Union  
[Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union]

## CHINA

3. All-China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives [ACFSMC]
4. International Committee for the Promotion of Chinese Industrial Co-operatives [ICC IC]
5. All China Federation of Handicraft & Industrial Co-operatives [ACFHIC]

## FIJI

6. Fiji Co-operative Union Limited [FCUL]

## INDIA

7. National Co-operative Union of India [NCUI]
8. National Co-operative Consumers' Federation Limited [NCCF]
9. Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Co-operative Limited [IFFCO]
10. National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Limited [NAFED]
11. National Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd. [NAFCARD]
12. National Federation of State Co-operative Banks Limited [NAFSCOB]
13. Krishak Bharati Co-operative Limited [KRIBHCO]
14. National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks & Credit Societies Ltd. [NAFCUB]
15. Indian Farm Forestry Development Co-operative Ltd. [IFFDC]
16. National Labour Co-operatives Federation of India Ltd. [NLCF]
17. National Co-operative Development Corporation [NCDC]
18. National Federation of Fishermen's Co-operatives Ltd.
19. Co-operative Housing Building & Finance Corporation Ltd. [Sahkari Awas Nirman Evam Vitt Nigam Ltd.]

## INDONESIA

20. Dewan Koperasi Indonesia [DEKOPIN]
21. Institute for Indonesia Coop Development Studies (LSP 21)

## IRAN

22. Central Organisation For Rural Co-operatives of Iran [CORC]
23. Central Union of Rural Agricultural Co-operatives of Iran [CURACI]
24. Iran Central Chamber of Co-operative [ICC]
25. Mollah Al-Movahedin Credit Union [MAMCU]
26. Iran Oilseeds & Vegetable Oil Processing Factories Co-operative Company [FARDA]
27. Supervision and Coordination Central Union of Rural and Agricultural Co-operatives of Iran [SCURA]

## ISRAEL

28. The KIBBUTZ Movement
29. Coop Israel

## JAPAN

30. Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives [JA-ZENCHU]
31. Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union [JCCU]
32. National Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations [ZENGYOREN]
33. National Federation of Forest Owners' Co-operative Associations [ZENMORIREN]
34. The Norinchukin Bank
35. National Federation of Agricultural Co-operative Association [ZEN-NOH]
36. Ie-No-Hikari Association
37. National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Co-operatives [ZENKYOREN]
38. The Japan Agricultural News
39. Japan Workers Co-operative Union [JWCU]
40. National Federation of Workers' and Consumers' Insurance Co-operatives [ZENROSAL]
41. National Federation of University Co-operative Associations [NFUCA]
42. National Association of Labour Banks

**KAZAKHSTAN**

43. Union of Consumer Societies of the Republic of Kazakhstan

**KOREA**

44. National Agricultural Co-operative Federation [NACF]  
 45. National Federation of Fisheries Co-operatives [NFFC]  
 46. National Credit Union Federation of Korea [NACUFOK]  
 47. Korean Federation of Community Credit Co-operatives [KFCCC]  
 48. National Forestry Co-operatives Federation [NFCF]  
 49. ICOOP Solidarity of Consumers' Co-operatives [ICOOP]  
 50. Korean Association of Social Economy Enterprises (KASEE)

**KUWAIT**

51. Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies

**MALAYSIA**

52. National co-operative Organisation of Malaysia [ANGKASA]  
 53. National Land Finance Co-operative Society Ltd. [NLFCS]  
 54. Co-operative College of Malaysia [CCM]

**MONGOLIA**

55. National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Co-operatives (NAMAC)

**MYANMAR**

56. Central Co-operative Society Ltd.

**NEPAL**

57. National Co-operative Federation of Nepal Ltd. [NCF]

**NEW ZEALAND**

58. New Zealand Co-operatives Association Inc.

**PAKISTAN**

59. Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union Ltd.

**PHILIPPINES**

60. National Confederation Of Co-operatives Inc. [NATCCO]  
 61. VICTO (National Co-operative Federation & Development Centre)

**SINGAPORE**

62. Singapore National Co-operative Federation Ltd. [SNCF]

**SRI LANKA**

63. National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka [NCC]  
 64. Federation of Thrift & Credit Co-operative Societies Ltd [SANASA]  
 65. Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation of Sri Lanka Ltd. [COOPFED]  
 66. National Institute of Co-operative Development [NICD]

**TAJIKISTAN**

67. Republican Union of Consumer Co-operatives

**THAILAND**

68. Co-operative League of Thailand [CLT]  
 69. Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions [ACCU]

**UAE**

70. The Sharjah Co-operative Society

**VIETNAM**

71. Vietnam Co-operative Alliance [VCA]

# Statement on the 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.

### 1st Principle: Voluntary and Open Membership

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

### 2nd Principle: Democratic Member Control

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

### 3rd 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.

### 4th Principle: Autonomy and Independence

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

### 5th 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.

### 6th 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.

### 7th Principle: Concern for Community

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

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9 Aradhana Enclave, R.K. Puram, Sector - 13, New Delhi - 110066. India  
Tel.: 91-11-26888250 Fax: 91-11-26888067 Email: [info@icaroap.coop](mailto:info@icaroap.coop) Website: [www.icaroap.coop](http://www.icaroap.coop)

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