

ICA 01385

# ASIAN RURAL COOP NEWS

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE  
NEW DELHI  
No. 22545  
Date: 16-4-2013

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ICA 01385



# ICA Asia Pacific Coop News

A NEWS BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE - ASIA & PACIFIC  
(For Private Circulation only) ISSN : 0971-7013 Vol. 12, No. 1, Jan-March, 2005

## 19<sup>th</sup> ICA/Japan Training Course on Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives

The 19<sup>th</sup> Training Course was inaugurated by Mr. D.K. Bhatt, Marketing Director of Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Co-operative Limited (IFFCO) at IFFCO's Fertiliser Marketing Development Institute, Gurgaon, near Delhi, on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2005.

12 middle level managers from 10 countries (China, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) are participating in this year's training course.

The participants were welcomed by Dr. D.P. Bhattacharya, Senior Manager, HRD, IFFCO. Mr. Prem Kumar, Programme Advisor briefed the participants.



Participants of the course at a photo session



Dignitaries on the dias (Prem Kumar, Advisor-ICA, Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director ICAS, Mr. T. Inoue, First Secretary, Japanese Embassy, Mr. D.K. Bhat, Marketing Director, IFFCO and Mr. Fukamachi, Managing Director, IDACA)

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Mr. D.K. Bhatt delivering the inaugural address

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, Mr. S. Fukamachi, Managing Director of IDACA, Tokyo, and Mr. T. Inoue, First Secretary at the Japanese Embassy in India also addressed the participants. Dr. R.N. Kundu, course coordinator for the IFFCO segment of the course, delivered the vote of thanks.

The IFFCO segment of the course ended on 31 January, 2005, and thereafter the participants proceeded to Institute of Rural Management (IRMA) in Anand, Gujarat where they under-went an extensive module until 2nd March.

The participants travelled to Indonesia for comparative field study visits till 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2005.

The Second Part of the Training course at IDACA started on 13th March, which will cover extensive field visits and class room sessions.

The course will conclude on 22 April, 2005, which will cover extensive field visits in Japan.

- P. Nair

on Co-operatives. However, the number of new co-operative has increased with thousands of co-operatives and collective groups now working effectively in different fields.

Mr. Manh praised the contributions of the VCA to the renewal process and to the development of collective economic bases and co-operatives in accordance with Party and State guidelines and policies. This is not simply a demand of the Party or Government, Mr. Manh commented, but also a basis for the collective economy to continue to develop. In the coming years, the collective economy must be strengthened and renewed to create sustainable development in both social and economic spheres and in order to increase the incomes of co-operative members and enterprises.

Mr. Manh exhorted VCA to pay greater attention to training co-operative managers and vocational training for co-operative members, increasing their knowledge and management skills in accordance with new standards and technologies... As the nation continues to implement a

## Vietnam Co-operative Alliance organises National Congress

More than 478 delegates representing over 300,000 co-operators and nearly 17,000 co-operatives and unions in Vietnam attended the National Representative Congress of VCA. High ranking officials of the Party, the Government, the Ministries and branches, the mass organizations and 8 member organizations of ICA, 18 delegates coming from the Embassies, diplomatic missions in Hanoi also participated.

Party General Secretary Mr. Nong Duc Manh asked the Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA) to focus on strengthening and renewing the collective economy and to forge a new direction in socio-economic development. The collective economy, through the system of co-operatives, has made significant contributions to the nation's economic development and social stabilization, he said, and



The dignitaries at the Congress

became an important factor in the democratization of society and in building a stronger Party and Government. He acknowledged that some co-operatives have been fundamentally altered or altogether dissolved in accordance with the Law

market system and integrate into the international economy, co-operatives must coordinate with each other to develop and compete globally. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, represented the ICA at the Congress.

- P. Nair

## ICA organizes Agricultural Co-operative Development Projects in Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia

The ICA-Asia & Pacific in collaboration with AGRI-TERRA, Netherlands, is organizing agricultural co-operative development projects in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

The ICA had initiated discussions with governments of Laos and Cambodia and the Vietnam Co-operative Alliance in this regard.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed already with Cambodia and Vietnam, who are in the initial stages of operations of pilot projects.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA, recently visited Vientiane and met Dr. Ty Phommasock, Vice Minister for Agriculture and Forestry in the Government of Laos and held discussions in this regard.



A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed soon to initiate project activities, in Laos.

*Shil Kwan Lee with Dr. Ty Phommasock, Vice Minister for Agriculture and Forestry*

## Tsunami Devastation in Sri Lanka – Israel Co-operative Movement comes with help

The devastation caused by the Tsunami in Sri Lanka is massive, only second to Indonesia, and the outpouring of generosity from various governments and the international community has been outstanding.

The humanitarian and relief efforts that ensued, however, have been slow where the government is concerned, with the NGOs and the Co-operative movement (mainly SANASA) responding far more swiftly to this humanitarian disaster as they struck. As this report would testify below, there was no discrimination where assistance must go to at the outset, because the human damage and suffering must be given immediate attention to avoid further casualties. Hence NGOs and SANASA went straight to the base communities to aid the suffering.



*This is what is left of the Hambantota MPCs. Mr. Mully Dor representing the Israeli co-op movement and NGOs discussing with the General Manager.*



*Dr. Kiriwandeniya laying the foundation stone for a new office building for a SANASA primary co-op.*

At this stage, however, the emergency situation has subsided, and relief efforts are geared more towards rebuilding the life of survivors by post-trauma counseling, health rehabilitation, and community redevelopment. More detailed data and information are being collected by the Government and other agencies, including co-operatives, to size up the damage for future reconstruction.

Mully Dor, Board member of the Central Co-operative Society and NISPED, with 5 other delegates representing Israeli NGOs (like ISRAID) and P. Nair started work from 26 February to March 2. Robby Tulus was briefed by the delegation on his arrival on March 01, and continued work with co-ops the next three days.

The Israeli cooperative movement and the International Center for Cooperative Studies of NISPED, Israel are prepared to work closely with the Sri Lankan cooperative coordinating committee and the ICA-ROAP in developing programs relevant to the post-tsunami reconstruction phase.

This activity could focus on an integrative and multi-faceted program designed to help rebuild and strengthen the cooperative frameworks in a particular region and

to increase their ability to contribute to its economic and social reconstruction.

The activity would also include programs designed to further community development, programs emphasizing the rebuilding of women's livelihoods and their empowerment and programs in the fields of education and youth. These programs could focus on leadership training and "training of trainers", but could also be concerned with organizational and administrative rebuilding, with the expansion of



cooperative activity to new areas of concern, and with such practical areas as agriculture (dairy, fishery, etc. as well as marketing and storage).

A further area of concern might be that of the introduction of non-agricultural economic activities into rural areas, parallel to the furtherance of agriculture. The Israeli delegate also indicated that the Israeli group could help in seeking for financial and administrative support for these programs.

The visit of the Israeli Team from NISPED was organized and coordinated by Mr. Pathirana, General Manager of COOPFED and Mr. Udaya Seneviratne of NICD, Kandy, coordinated our visit.

A meeting was held at the Hilton Residence (apartment) in Colombo with Mr. G.S.L. Fonseka Commissioner of Co-operative Development & Registrar of Co-operative Society in Sri Lanka. Mr. Pathirana, General Manager of COOPFED and Mr. Udaya Seneviratne of NICD, Mr. A.M. Madduma Banda General Manager of National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka, and the Israeli delegation which are already active in relief projects since January, 2005.

Mr. Fonseka reported that more than 31000 people died and 880,000 misplaced in Sri Lanka after the Tsunami. Today there are 5.6 million members of Primary Co-operative Societies. In the Tsunami regions: Southern Province 750,000 members, North/East Province 797,000 members, West Province 1.3 million members were badly affected.

The Types of Societies are: MPCS, Consumer, Thrif & Credit, SANASA Banks, Coop. Rural Banking Soc., Agricultural & Livestock (Tea, Rubber, Coconut, Palmyra, Livestock-milk, other livestock, Fisheries-Fresh water and Fisheries-Marine), Industries (Textile, Carpentry, Pottery, Coir), Hospitals, Transport, Labor, School, Youth services, Welfare, and self employed.

*- Robby Tulus, Mully Dor and P. Nair*

# Tsunami Devastation in India and its effect on Co-operatives

More than 270,000 people have been feared dead in the tsunami disaster of 26 December 2004 in 8 countries. Hundreds of thousands more people are still suffering from psychological trauma, injuries, loss of housing and livelihoods.

The cost of reconstruction in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry is estimated around 1.56 billion USD. The detailed damage assessment for Andaman & Nicobar Islands is being made where the Nicobar group of Islands will require more or less rebuilding.

In India, maximum devastation took place in Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Emergency and relief operations are still continuing in Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Food and medicine sufficiency has arrested outbreak of infectious diseases.

Temporary shelters, drinking water, safe defecation and sanitation and road reconstruction were the top priorities of the Tamil Nadu State Government and it has really done



*Damaged houses in Tamil Nadu, India*

wonders in terms of commutation and connectivity.

In Tamil Nadu, 376 villages in 13 districts with more than 127,500 households and 11,570 ha of fertile land were affected by tsunami. 7986 human lives, 16519 cattle were lost in Tamil Nadu alone and more than 499,960 persons were evacuated to 71 relief camps at safer places.

The maximum devastation occurred in Nagapattinam and Cuddalore districts of Tamil Nadu. The situation analysis has revealed that out of 524 villages in Nagapattinam district 73 were affected by tsunami and in Cuddalore out of 901 villages 51 were affected by tsunami.

Destruction in Nicobar Islands has washed away almost 90% of the households and civil infrastructure thereby rendering thousands of tribal families homeless and jobless.

Co-operatives are widely patronised in the affected areas. In the worst affected districts in Tamil Nadu, almost 50% co-operatives fall in the agriculture, credit and dairy sectors and 10% in the fisheries sector. The agricultural co-operatives at the village level were multipurpose in nature and known as Primary Agriculture Co-operative Banks and cater to short term and medium term credit needs and consumer needs of the agriculture, dairy and fish farmers. There has been a strong linkage between agricultural credit and fishermen's co-operatives.

In all 40 tsunami affected primary co-



*This what is left of a railway track*

operatives in Tamil Nadu (25 Fishermen's and 15 Agricultural & Consumer) and a tribal co-operative in Nicobar island have been badly affected by tsunami and remained marginalised in the relief operations due to geographical and administrative constraints. The giant waves have damaged the civil construction and destroyed the stocks held at the consumer outlets of the agricultural co-operatives. The leaders and managers of the co-operatives are busy in distribution of relief materials at the temporary shelters. Co-operatives have been used by the Government as the vehicles for distribution of relief material in the state but for the magnitude of the problem a few remained marginalised.

The fishermen community has been worst affected along with the farming community. The giant waves swept through the houses and buildings destroying crops and killing thousands of people and livestock. It may take years for the land to become fertile. The fishermen who were suffering from the problem of over-fishing and heavy debts on account of poor fish catch have lost their assets and started looking for alternative viable livelihood occupation.

The data show that more than 75%



*Fishing boats piled up under a bridge in Nagapattinam*



*Damaged stock of a consumer co-operative in Tamil Nadu*



*The ravaged coast in Tamil Nadu*

of the affected communities in Tamil Nadu were patronising local co-operatives for the livelihood. In Andaman Nicobar Island, Central Tribal Co-operative patronised by more than 8000 tribal families lost civil infrastructure, liquid assets and records. It may take years to bring back lives of thousands to normalcy.

The Government of India and International donors have launched a large scale relief operation but the focus is on individual affected families and public infrastructure.

Co-operative infrastructure is low in the priority of Government of India and local co-operative leaders too are unable to voice their grievances on account of traumatic conditions caused due to death of their family members, relatives and loss of houses and livelihood.

In Andaman and Nicobar Island the biggest Tribal Co-operative headquartered in Nicobar has suffered huge permanent damages to the buildings and infrastructure. The members are still scared of coming back to the main island.

Time is matured to set the co-operative infrastructure in order. The members will soon require services of



Temporary shelters provided to the victims

co-operatives in doing their daily transactions and businesses. Government has announced the concessions to be given on purchase of boats, nets, equipments at the individual level but there is no immediate plan to reconstruct the infrastructure of co-operatives.

## ICA President and Director General to visit Sri Lanka and Indonesia

Ivano Barberini, President, Mr. Iain Macdonald, Director General, Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director and Mr. Robby Tulus, Special Envoy on Tsunami disaster are to visit Sri Lanka and Indonesia to discuss rehabilitation efforts in these countries.

They will arrive in Sri Lanka on 21 April, 2005 and will have discussions with the ICA member organisations and the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and also will visit some Tsunami hit areas and co-operatives in these areas.

They will arrive in Indonesia on the 26 April and will have discussions with the Minister for Co-operatives and also the President of Indonesia. While in Indonesia, they will also visit Aceh and Nias and return on 29 April, 2005.

## Bangladesh celebrates Centenary of Co-operative Movement



Seen in the picture are ICA President, Regional Director, Mr. Dinesh Rai, Dr. Kiriwandeniya with BJSU officials, and representatives of the Ministry of Co-operative Development of Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh Co-operative Movement, the Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union, and the Ministry of Co-operatives of Bangladesh have organised the Centenary Celebration of Co-operative movement in Bangladesh.

ICA President, Ivano Barberini, Regional Director, Shil Kwan Lee,

Dinesh Rai, Managing Director of NCDC, India and Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, Chairman of the SANASA Development Bank, attended these functions. The ICA President and others spoke at the function.

Bangladesh and many other Asian countries are celebrating Centenary Celebrations of their co-operatives.

## ICA/NACF organises study visits to Korean Agricultural Co-operatives

The International Co-operative Alliance - Asia & Pacific in collaboration with the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation of Korea has scheduled a study visit programme for selected Agricultural Co-operative Leaders from the Region. The selected leaders will be visiting agricultural co-operatives and their facilities in Korea. The study visits are for a period of 5 days from 5-9 September, 2005. The ICA-A & P will be inviting nominations from its member organisations for this in the very near future.

This year, the study visit will also include women/men leaders who would be holding a Networking and Exposure Programme for gender activities in Korea during that period. Information on this activity will also follow in due course.

-Sung Chul KIM



## ICA Asia-Pacific Youth Steering Committee

As you are aware, the ICA in Asia-Pacific has been following a policy of promoting marginalized groups like Youth and Women in Co-operative Development activities right from 1994.

We had organized several youth seminars in various countries of the Region. The major regional seminars were in Tokyo, Japan during 2002 and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, during September, 2004.

During the Kuala Lumpur Seminar, the youth delegates formed themselves into a Youth Steering Committee, as a Pro-tem Committee for an ICA Youth Committee for Asia and Pacific.

Many of the country representatives have been nominated in KL and they have conducted the first meeting of the Steering Committee there. The Committee also conducted the rest of the proceedings of the Youth Seminar in KL.

A representative of the Youth Steering Committee also presented a report on the Youth Seminar at the Regional Assembly held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, during December, 2004.

It is hoped that the Youth Steering Committee will be made into statutory committee at the next Regional Assembly during 2006. In the meantime, the Youth Steering Committee will function as a Pro-tem Youth Committee for Asia and the Pacific.

Since it is in the interest of co-operative movements in the Region to have youth participation in co-operative development activities in every country, to maintain continuity and give representation to all sections of the society, you are requested to kindly nominate a youth representative, preferably in the age group 25-35 to the Steering Committee, out of which we will select 5-6 nominees to be in the Pro-tem Committee.

The Pro-tem Committee will have a couple of meetings to discuss the plan of action, constitution, etc, at appropriate venues before finally converting the Pro-tem Committee into a statutory Youth Committee for the Region in 2006.

A number of member organisations have already sent in their nominations. If your organisation has so far not sent the names, please intimate the same on or before 25 April, 2005 to:

Mr. Jiro Ito, Director (Special Programs)  
<jiroito@icaroap.org.sg>

or

Mr. P Nair, Program Officer  
<nair@icaroap.coop>

## Dr. Sisodia re-elected as President of National Co-operative Union of India

Dr. Sawai Singh Sisodia has once again been elected President of the National Co-operative Union of India for the second consecutive term. The NCUI is the national apex organization of the co-operative movement in the country. The term of President, according to the new Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002, is five years. Dr. Sisodia was first elected President in 2000.



Dr. Sisodia's political career started in 1945 when he joined the freedom movement. He was Minister of State for Finance in the Union Government headed by the late Smt. Indira Gandhi. He has over 45 years association with the co-operative movement and functioned in various capacities.

He worked on the Board of prestigious co-operative institutions like IFFCO, KRICHCO, etc. He is presently the Chairman of Asian Farmers Group on Co-operation, Japan. He is also a member of the Board of the International Co-operative Alliance, Raiffisen Union, etc. He is also on the Asia-Pacific Standing Committee of the ICA.

- Mohan Mishra

## APHCO to hold its Board and General Meeting in India

The Asia-Pacific Heath Co-operative Organisation (APHCO) Meeting which was postponed earlier due to unavoidable reasons, now will hold its 11th Board Meeting and 5th General Meeting at the Tellicherry Co-operative Hospital, Kerala, India from 30th April - 01 May, 2005.

# Status of women as Decision makers in Mixed Co-operatives in Asia & the Pacific

## Report for the Year 2002-2004

The Regional Women's Committee for Asia-Pacific of the ICA has conducted a survey and collected information from member organisations in the regional countries through circulation of format. Following have responded:

Sl.No.	Country	Co-operative
1.	India	- National Federation of co-op sugar factories - Gova Rajya Sahakari Sangh Maryadit (State co-op union). - National Co-op Union of India - The Haryana State Co-operative Development Federation Ltd.
2.	Iran	- Shabahang Rural Co-op Company
3.	Malaysia	- ANGKASA
4.	Japan	- JA-ZENCHU - JCCU
5.	Thailand	- Credit Union League of Thailand
6.	Singapore	- Singapore National Co-operative Federation
7.	Sri Lanka	- National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka

The information has been collected from 3 levels of co-operative set-up i.e. Apex, State and Primary levels. Out of the total number of participation, percentage of women's participation has been calculated and placed below.

	National Apex	State Apex	Primary co-op
Leader	11.49%	4.0%	14.46%
Manager	23 %	50 %	7 %
Staff	37%	51.62 %	46.53%

### Highlights of the findings:

The figures are not very encouraging and a lot has to be done to reach to a target of even 20-30% of women participation. The presence of women at various levels of cooperatives is yet to be seen.

Leadership position is better at grassroots level but as far as skilled/specialised work as managers or employees are concerned, women lag behind at secondary and primary levels.

Among all the Apex co-ops which has sent data, 3 members have lowest participation of women namely NCUI, India 9%, ANGKASA, Malaysia has only 4.5% and JA-ZENCHU, Japan 0% i.e. none at all.

Statistics from SNCF, Singapore could not be included due to different set up of co-operatives in the country. However, data received has been analysed and placed below:

% of women participation		
Total number of employees	9192	32.59%
Total number of managers	546	28.38%

As we are aware, the Women committee has also conducted the similar survey in 1992 and in 2001 and findings have been published in the activity report of 2002.

A comparison of the statistics of women's participation is given below:

	National Apex	State Apex + Primary co-op Leaders
1992	2%	30%
2002	7%	32%
2004	11.49%	14.35%*
<i>Managers</i>		
1992	2%	2%
2000	2%	11%
2004	23%	7%*
<i>Staff</i>		
1992	23%	20%
2000	25%	26%
2004	37%	46.55%

\* Showing down trend in growth. Percentage of women participation at State level is higher but the figures shown in the table are combined with Primary level.

- Mrs. Savitri Singh

# ICA Asia-Pacific holds Post Tagaytay Review Meeting

In 1997, the ICA ROAP and AWCF had jointly organized a Regional Conference on "Women in Decision-making in Co-operatives" which was held on May 7-9, 1997 in Tagaytay City, Philippines.

In order to enhance the number and participation of women in leadership and decision-making structures and processes in co-operatives, the conference proposed six important strategies and actions to be implemented within a period of 8 years, from 1997 up to year 2005.

The ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia & the Pacific (ICA RWC) and representatives of AWCF and ACCU had held a two-days meeting to review the post "Tagaytay Declaration 1997- achievements or lack thereof".

The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Rahaiah Baهران, Chairperson of the ICA RWC. The group has reviewed all the six strategies of the declaration. The participants presented progress report from their organizations about the progress achieved or lack thereof.

Based on the reports from members,



*Members of the team after the meeting*

it was found that all the six strategies have been dealt with but performance could not be maximized due to various reasons.

Therefore, it has been decided that it is necessary to collect sex-disaggregated data in order to review the achievements and lack thereof.

The data will cover number of women and men at all levels of co-operatives

such as general membership, managers and board of directors, breakdown by age group and also number and kind of educational/training activities have been implemented and policies put in place for capacity building of co-ops on women leadership development and building capability of women for leadership and decision making in co-ops.

The data will be collected from all the ICA, AWCF and ACCU member organizations in the region.

Based on the data so collected the achievements will be evaluated and will be presented before the "Post Tagaytay Review Conference" to be held in May 2006.

The ICA Regional Women's Committee will collaborate with UNIFEM to get the benefit of expertise of the agency in the field of sex-disaggregated data collection and the services of an expert consultant recommended by the UNIFEM to expedite and complete the task.

*-Mrs. Savitri Singh*



*The team members working on strategies*

## Calendar of Activities of ICA-Asia & Pacific during 2005

1. 5th General Meeting & 11th Board Meeting of Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organisation (APHCO), Tellicherry, Kerala, India, 30th April-01 May, 2005.
2. Training of Board members of Consumers Co-operatives in Tokyo, Japan 14-22 May 2005.
3. Training of Consumers Co-operative Managers in Singapore, June-July, 2005.
4. Meeting of the Youth pro-tem Committee in LAMAC, Philippines, 11-13 June 2005
5. Workshop for Sensitization of Co-operative Leaders to Create Awareness for Prevention of the Spread of HIV/AIDS in Co-operatives, 1-2 July 2005, Bangkok, Thailand.
6. National Workshop on Training of Trainers on Co-operative Women Leadership Development in Sri Lanka, 1-6 August, 2005.
7. Networking and Exposure Programme to successful co-operatives for women co-operative leaders and people responsible for gender integration in co-operatives, September 2005.
8. 5th ICA/Japan Training Course for Rural Women Leaders, August / September 2005.

### The Post Tagaytay Review Conference to be held in May 2006

The ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and Pacific is pleased to announce that the post Tagaytay Conference will be held in May, 2006 in Tagaytay City of Philippines to mark the decade of Tagaytay Declaration-1997 and to evaluate our achievements or lack thereof. We are expecting a large number of women and men delegates from the region and from co-operative fraternity of other countries in the world. For further information please contact:

Mrs. Savitri Singh,  
Advisor, Gender Programmes  
[savitrisingh@icaroap.coop](mailto:savitrisingh@icaroap.coop)

Edited by P. Nair, Communication Officer, ICA-Asia & Pacific, 9 Aradhana Enclave, Sector.13, R. K. Puram, New Delhi-110066. <[nair@icaroap.coop](mailto:nair@icaroap.coop)>  
Designed & printed at Diamond Offset, HS-14, Kailash Colony Market, New Delhi-110048. Tel : +91-98111-72786  
Email : [amin\\_zaidi@yahoo.com](mailto:amin_zaidi@yahoo.com)

## New officials at the iCA - Asia and Pacific



**MR. RAJIV MEHTA** has joined the ICA as Director, effective November, 2004.

Mr. Mehta has vast experience in the co-operative field. Prior to joining the ICA, he was working as Advisor (Development) at the office of the Delegation of European Commission in India, New Delhi.

Mr. Mehta also had worked with the ICA previously as Technical Officer (Cooprade) and Advisor - CICOPA Programme in India.

Prior to joining ICA, Mr. Mehta was working in the senior management cadre of the Rajasthan State Co-operative Land Development Bank Limited.



**MR. TSUBASA NAKAMURA** has been seconded from the Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union (JCCU) to succeed Mr. Ito since March 2005. He has worked for the Insurance division and dealt with the maintenance of policies and the claim payment for six years.

Mr. Tsubasa will work as a Special Advisor, looking after Consumer, Gender, Youth and Health co-operative activities. He is also the Secretary to ICA Regional Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific, ICA Regional Consumer Sub-Committee on University/College Co-operative, Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organization (APHCO) and supports ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and the Pacific.

# ICA-Asia & Pacific Revamped Web-site

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**Tagaytay Conference in '06**

The ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and Pacific is pleased to announce that the post Tagayta .....Click to know the whole story

**19th ICA/Japan Training Course on Strengthening Management .....**

**Asian Disaster Fund**

**3rd ICA Regional Research Conference in Chiangmai, Thailand**

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Disclaimer : Please be advised that the material contained on this website is for information only. ICA - Asia & Pacific endeavors to update the information on this site on a regular basis. We cannot guarantee its accuracy at all times.

We have redesigned and re-vamped our web-site [www.icaroop.coop](http://www.icaroop.coop) incorporating the earlier trade web-site [www.directories.coop](http://www.directories.coop), so that all information is available for our members and visitors at one place.

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

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

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

Please visit our site and post information about your co-operative.



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A NEWS BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE - ASIA & PACIFIC  
(For Private Circulation only) ISSN : 0971-7013 Vol. 12, No. 2, April-June, 2005

## 19th ICA/Japan Training Course on Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives concludes

The concluding session of the Nineteenth Training Course was held at IDACA on April 22, 2005. The session was attended by Mr. Kazuo Tanaka, Senior Officer, International Co-operation Division, International Affairs Department, MAFF, Mr Shigeri Fukamachi, Managing Director of the IDACA, including all his senior staff, and Mr. Prem Kumar, Programme Adviser of the ICA-Asia & Pacific, New Delhi.

Mr Prem Kumar, Programme Adviser, ICA-Asia & Pacific, presented a summary of the End-of-the-Course Evaluation and congratulated the participants on their successful completion of the training course.

Addressing the session, Mr. Tanaka of MAFF mentioned that Japan's agricultural co-operatives have played an important role as a conduit to link farmers and government policy, thereby helping contribute to the development of regional agriculture. He exhorted the participants to use the knowledge



Participants in a Green House in Shimane prefecture



Participants of the course at the closing ceremony at IDACA, Japan.

and experience gained from this training, in their respective countries.

In a message sent, Mr. Miyata Isami, President of JA-ZENCHU, congratulated all the participants for the successful completion of about one and half month-long training without any trouble. He expected that the participants will make use of the results obtained from the training for the development of agricultural co-operatives in their respective countries in some way or another.

Mr. Shigeri Fukamachi, Managing Director of the IDACA, expressed sincere gratitude to Mr. Tanaka of MAFF for the support of MAFF extended over 19 years. He thanked Mr. Tanaka for sparing his valuable time to attend the closing session. He

also appreciated Mr. Prem Kumar, Programme Adviser, ICA, for his wonderful management, hard work in making this programme a great success. He extended congratulations

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Participants at a Farmers' Direct Sale Shop in Iwate prefecture

to the participants on successful completion of the training course. He has noted the various comments and suggestions made by the participants in the evaluation report and said that these comments encouraged the staff of IDACA and himself personally and will enable the IDACA to improve this course in the future.

Ms Chitra Thamsuhang, a participant from Nepal, and Mr. Setiana, a participant from Indonesia, extended vote of thanks on behalf of the participants.

Ms. Chitra (Nepal) recounted the experiences and feelings of the participants during the Training

Course. The participants felt that the programme was highly relevant for the present-day managers of agricultural co-operatives in Asia and hence should be continued.

She also thanked the ICA Regional Director for Asia-Pacific for giving them an opportunity of participating in the training course.

Mr. Setiana (Indonesia) said that this training course has assumed a status of respectability among the co-operative organisations in the Region. It is regarded as a very prestigious and sound training programme offered by the ICA to its member organisations. Besides

enhancing the capability and capacity of managers of agri-cultural co-ops, the programme has created enormous goodwill for the Japanese experiences of management of agricultural co-operatives as well as for the ICA.

Visits to various JAs had enabled the participants to better appreciate and understand the progress of the agricultural co-operatives, especially in fields of amalgamation, farm guidance, day care centre for aged, grading and packaging of fruits and vegetables etc. With simple guidance and extension services, co-operatives have been able to generate additional income and services for their members. He thanked Mr. Prem Kumar, ICA Advisor, Mr. Abe and Ms. Oshita for successfully completing Part-II of the training course.

He extended gratefulness of the participants to Mr. Fukamachi, MD, IDACA, for his kindness and hospitality during their stay at IDACA.

The Certificates of Participation from the ICA as well as from the IDACA were awarded to the participants at the end of the concluding session. Mr Shil-Kwan Lee, the Regional Director, signed the ICA Certificate of Participation and Mr S. Fukamachi, Managing Director of the IDACA, signed the IDACA Certificate.

– Prem Kumar

## Governor inaugurates Common Facility Centre for Women Artisans in Kutch

His Excellency Mr. Nawal Kishore Sharma, the Governor of Gujarat State in India inaugurated the Common Facility Centre (CFC) for the women tie and dye artisans of Abdasa block in Kutch district of Gujarat on 4th June 2005.

The function was attended by more than 400 women artisans from 11 villages around Naliya and more than 50 representatives of artisans' self help groups from the project area. Among others the prominent invitees were Mr. Gadhavi, the Member of Parliament from Bhuj, Mr.



Jadeja and Mr. Dua, local Members of Legislative Assembly.

The CFC has been constructed under the EU-ICA Domus Trust Project on Post Earthquake Rehabilitation of Artisans in Kutch. CFC will be

controlled and managed by elected leaders of the 27 SHGs now federated into a co-operative society of women tie and dye artisans. The co-operative has a membership of 461 artisans. Mr. Sanjay Joshi, Project Manager of EU-ICA Domus Trust Project, has been nominated as the Manager of the co-operative society. The CFC will provide critical inputs on designing, processing and value addition of the products to fetch wider and diverse market segments in various parts of India.

– Rajiv Mehta

## APHCO board meets at Tellicherry, Kerala, India

The 11th Board Meeting and 5th General Meeting of Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organization (APHCO) was held on 30th April 2005 at Tellicherry, Kerala, India. The meetings were hosted jointly by Tellicherry Co-operative Hospital and Kerala Co-operative Hospitals Federation. 31 persons from India, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal and Sri Lanka attended the meetings.

Among routine agenda, Work Plan for the year 2005-2006 was discussed and approved. A Special Report on "Implementation of Micro Insurance and Expectation to Health Co-operatives" was presented by Mr. Nobumasa Kitajima, former ILO Technical Officer for South Asia, who was invited by the Committee.

Election of the office bearers of the Board of APHCO took place in the General Meeting. Following persons were elected:

1. Dr. Yasuvuki Takahashi, Japan  
- *Chairperson*
2. Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe, Sri Lanka - *Vice-Chairperson*
3. Mr. E. Narayanan, India  
- *Vice-Chairperson*



*Delegates with the board members posed for a photograph after the meetings*

4. Dr. S. Horiuchi, Japan  
- *Member*
5. Dr. Vijay Deshmukh, India  
- *Member*
6. Dr. Bala Raja, Malaysia  
- *Member*
7. Dr. Bharat Pradhan, Nepal  
- *Member*

Approval was granted by the General Body to admit two new members from Sri Lanka. They are (1)

Colombo Co-operative Hospital, and (2) Nuwara-Eliya Multi-purpose Co-operative Society Ltd.

It was decided in the meeting that next meeting of APHCO may be held in Vietnam. The Secretary of APHCO will discuss the matter with Vietnam Co-operative Alliance. After that announcement of the date and venue will be made.

- A.K. Taneja

## ICA-AP holds workshop for Sensitisation of Co-op Leaders to Generate Awareness on Prevention of the Spread of HIV/AIDS

The ICA-A&P has taken initiative to address the HIV/AIDS crisis in the region and a strategic project focusing on prevention and intervention activities and held a workshop, 1-2 July 2005, in Bangkok, in collaboration with the Co-operative League of Thailand.

Last year a similar workshop was held in India with the support of UNAIDS and NCUI.

The participants were co-operative leaders, directors and managers from various sectors of Thai co-op movement.

The workshop has been inaugurated by Dr. Suthiporn Chirapada, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of

Agriculture and Co-operatives, Govt. of Thailand. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA-AP, Mr. Wisoot Suththinoon, Chairman of CLT, and Dr. Wiwut Daengsubha, Executive Director of CLT addressed the participants and expressed solidarity in the fight against the pandemic.

Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief executive of NCUI, India, shared his experience about ongoing HIV/AIDS awareness activities in co-ops in India. Mrs. Savitri Singh, Gender Programme Advisor co-ordinated the workshop. During the Technical sessions, experts from UNAIDS, ILO and APHCO deliberated upon the various issues. The sessions followed by Interaction



and discussions by the participants. A group discussion has also been held and group leaders presented their action plan on how to implement HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes in their co-operatives.

-Mrs. Savitri Singh



# ICA-MAF Workshop on Sharing Experiences on 'Regulation of Co-operatives' held in Laos

In pursuance of its Key Result Area of Co-operative Policy Development and Legislation, ICA-AP collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Government of Lao PDR to organize a workshop on Sharing Experiences on "Regulation of Co-operatives" from 5th to 7th July 2005. The workshop was organized as a part of ICA Project on Strengthening and Promoting Agricultural Co-operatives initiated recently in partnership with MAF and with support of AGRITERRA of Netherlands.

Nearly 30 senior officials at policymaking level of MAF and representatives of Water User Associations and Farmers' Groups participated in the workshop.

The main objective of the workshop was to share the experiences of neighboring countries, namely, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam on regulation for co-operatives with participants from Laos to enable the latter to work out a practical framework of Co-operative Law/Regulation based on field situation.

His Excellency Dr. Siene Saphanthong, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Government of Laos, formally opened the workshop in the presence of senior officials of MAF; Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director and officers of ICA-AP, resource persons from Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, ILO and AGRITERRA.



*The workshop in progress*

In his opening address H.E. Dr. Siene Saphanthong appreciated ICA-AP interventions in Lao PDR to revive co-operatives and observed "since the development of the new economic mechanism of our country since 1986, the development of agricultural co-operatives in Laos is still at its early stage. At present there exist some forms of co-operatives, namely, the water user group on irrigated land.

However, there is a need to strengthen and develop them further more so that they could move to a higher form of production system.

We do hope that from this workshop, all of us will be able to exchange views and experiences on agricultural co-operative development of the region and in particular in Lao PDR and finally to come up with the recommendation, suggestion and action plan for future strengthening and development of the co-operatives in Laos."



*Shil Kwan Lee with Dr. Siene Saphanthong, Minister of Agriculture & Forestry, Govt. of Laos*

## Outputs of the Workshop

After intensive discussions and group work, the following outputs emerged from the deliberations: (a) Broad Framework for Co-operative Policy; and (b) Strategy for Formulation of Co-operative Law for Laos.

In the sidelines of the workshop an MOU with Govt. of Lao PDR was signed by Mr. Shil Kwan Lee on behalf of ICA-AP for implementing a Project on "Strengthening and Promoting Agricultural Co-operatives in Laos".

– K. Sethumadhavan

## Ivano Barberini visits Israel and Palestine

Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President, met with Israeli and Palestinian co-operators in the course of a visit on April 3rd to 5th. In addition to the exchange of information and to the strengthening of the ties between the ICA and the co-operative organizations, the visit focused on the future development of the co-operatives and particularly on the contribution which they could make to the furtherance of peace in the region.

President Barberini had the opportunity of meeting with both Israeli and Palestinian co-operators. He visited a kibbutz, an Israeli agro-industrial co-operative village; he

met with the leadership of the Agricultural Co-operative Union of Palestine in the Palestinian city of Ramallah; he met in Tel Aviv with central figures in the Israeli co-operative movement. His two-day stay in Israel was coordinated by Ms. Elana Lapidot, executive director of the Co-operative Center at Efal.

One of the high points of his visit was the luncheon-meeting held in Jerusalem and attended by both Israeli and Palestinian co-operative leaders. Both Daoud Istanbuli, chairman of the Agricultural Co-operative Union of Palestine, and Yehudah Paz, member of the ICA Board and ICA-ROAP standing



*ICA President with Dr. Yehudah Paz, Mr. Mully Dor and other Israeli co-operators during his visit*

committee and international relations chairman of the Central Union of Co-operative Societies in Israel welcomed Mr. Barberini to this Palestinian-Israeli meeting and reiterated their belief that co-operatives could indeed help further peace and development through joint endeavor and activities. They also expressed the hope that it would now indeed be possible to further such co-operation significantly. Among those attending the luncheon-meeting were Micah

Brenner, chairman of the Central Union of Co-operative Societies in Israel; Jabber Kudieh, chairman of the Palestine Peasants Union; Rami Mandel, director general of the Jerusalem Consumers Co-operative and other Israeli and Palestinian co-operative leaders. Mr. Barberini also met with Gavri Bargil, secretary-general of the Kibbutz Movement. Another important aspect of this visit was the report made to Mr. Barberini of the initiatives being undertaken by the Israeli co-operative movement in

regard to support for co-operative reconstruction in Sri Lanka, following the tsunami disaster. Mully Dor, who had just recently travelled to Sri Lanka on behalf of the Israeli co-operative movement for a needs-assessment mission which he carried out together with Robby Tulus who is coordinating the ICA post-tsunami effort and P. Nair, representing the ICA-ROAP office, reported on his experience.

Together with other Israeli co-operators, he set out the project which the Israeli co-operative movement has developed in coordination with the Sri Lankan co-operative movement and the ICA-ROAP, which is designed to further co-operative reconstruction in the devastated areas.

As an expression of co-operative solidarity, the Israeli co-operative movement, together with the Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development (NISPED) would be prepared to initiate this project, to work on it in partnership with Sri Lankan co-operatives and to help find the resources needed to carry it out. Ivano Barberini welcomed the initiative and the concrete proposal.

*– Dr. Yehudah Paz*

## **ICA President, Director General and Regional Director visit Tsunami affected Sri Lanka and Indonesia**

The ICA President, Ivano Barberini, Director General, Iain Macdonald, and Regional Director, Shil Kwan Lee, visited Tsunami affected areas of Sri Lanka and Indonesia.



*A scene from Nias*

The team visited Sri Lanka, 22-24 April and had discussions with the Sri Lankan co-operative leaders, government representatives, the Minister for Co-operatives and also the Prime Minister.

The team then proceeded to Indonesia, Nias and Aceh, which were completely destroyed by the Tsunami, 25-29 April, 2005. Mr. Robby Tulus, Special Envoy and Field Coordinator also accompanied the President, DG and RD during their visits in Indonesia.

The President has requested all collaborating donor agencies for their urgent support and instructed



*A ship washed away on the road several kilometers from sea in Aceh*

the ICA officials in Geneva and in the Asia-Pacific Region to do all that is possible for the hapless tsunami victims in the region, in this hour of need.

*– P. Nair*

## ICA-AP/NACF hold Symposium on WTO Framework Agreement and Impact on Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia -Pacific

The ICA-Asia Pacific and the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation hosted a symposium on 'WTO Framework Agreement and the Impact on Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia and the Pacific'. The meeting/symposium was attended by representatives of agricultural co-operatives from Korea, Japan, Nepal, India, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, China and France.

The 36th meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture for Asia-Pacific was also held in conjunction with this seminar. Rajiv Mehta coordinated the Committee meeting, which was attended by Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA Asia-Pacific.

The meeting deliberated on three pillars of WTO negotiations, viz. market access, domestic support and export competitiveness.

Dr. Chan Ho Choi presented his paper on Agricultural Co-operatives in the Era of Trade Liberation. An overview of the DOHA round of negotiations in the WTO and the implications on co-operatives was presented by Raul Montemayor, FFCL, Philippines.

The seminar deliberated on:

- i. Quantitative restrictions through tariffication and tariff rate quota for most favoured nations,
- ii. Special Products (SP) and linking of tariff with value and quantity through tariff bands and tariff caps,
- iii. Special and Differential Treatment (SND) and Special Safeguard Mechanisms (SSM),
- iv. Trade and distortive non-distortive support through various boxes (Green, Blue and Amber boxes), and
- (v) Poor awareness on WTO at the level of farmers.

Both positive and negative implications for co-operatives were



*Delegates at the symposium*

discussed, like increased export market, improved access to cheaper inputs, trade remedies and SND provisions, trend towards market concentration, threat of cheaper subsidized imports, trend towards privatization and deregulation, etc.

The seminar identified the following strategic actions for co-operatives were recommended:

- Optimise value addition chain
- Enhance business efficiency

- Increase vertical alliances
- Introduce structural reforms
- Encourage joint ventures, and
- Create subsidiary companies.

It was concluded that the co-operatives needed more specific policy provisions to attain comparative advantage in national and international context. It was also felt that greater understanding of SP and SSM was required to compete with developed countries

*- Rajiv Mehta*

## ICA-AP Standing Committee meets at New Lanark, Scotland

The ICA Asia-Pacific Standing Committee met at New Lanark, Scotland, UK on 19th May 2005. Apart from members of the Committee, Ivano Barberini, ICA President and Jan-Eirik Imbsen, Director (Development), also participated at the meeting.

Mr. Mu Li welcomed all the members and extended special welcome to ICA President. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, presented the financial report for the year 2004. Dr. Yehudah Paz and Ms. Rahaiah

Baheran actively participated at the meeting and raised several relevant points. Dr. Paz advised the ICA-A&P to build a regional reserve.

The meeting discussed on all aspects of working of the ICA in Asia-Pacific, the activities of ICA Domus Trust, the subscription formula of the ICA, etc.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held in Cartagena, Columbia, in conjunction with the General Assembly of ICA.

*- Rajiv Mehta*

# July - the month for the Community

**Ms. Truong Ngoc Oanh,**  
Communication Officer, Saigon Co-op

*Since 1975, HCMC Consumers Trading Co-operative – the predecessor of Saigon Co-op now – was able to organize activities to cater meals to the workers. In 1981, it was granted by the City Leadership a banner with the phrase “The Thoughtful Housewife of the People”. For the past 30 years, upholding that tradition, Saigon Co-op always takes the people and the community as its ultimate objective of service.*

## Passionate yet Realistic

On the occasion of the International Day of Co-operatives (Saturday, July 2, 2005), Saigon Co-op organized many passionate yet realistic activities under the campaign of “The Month for the Community”.

At 4.30 a.m. in front of the Saigon Co-op Headquarters, the impressive launch started with a fleet of 11 mobile vending vehicles for the poor (each vehicle represents a supermarket in the Saigon Co-op 11-supermarket chains). The purpose was to send the vehicles spreading to 11 communes in four districts, those in remote areas of the City where most people were poor so as to make goods available to them at cost price. In addition, Co-opMart representatives would also hand over the “Small Roses” scholarships to 200 poor but studious students residing

at 16 communes of these four districts. This is the scholarship organized by HCMC Communist Youth Union and in which Saigon Co-op has actively participated for the past five years. Each scholarship is worth VND 500,000 (a total of VND 100 million).

By 6.30 a.m., three mobile blood donating vehicles from the HCMC Red Cross came so as to receive blood donations from 200 staff members of the chain.

After the blood donation, a solemn meeting was held with the participation of more than 300 representatives from other co-operatives in other fields in HCMC and representatives of Saigon Co-op management and staff. At the meeting, the message from the Union of International Co-operatives was read. Also at the meeting, other



*Representative of Saigon Co-op offers school bags and books for the pupils in orange-agent victim families*

humanity activities were carried out, such as Mrs. Nguyen Thi Nghia, Chairman of the Board, on behalf of Saigon Co-op donated VND100 million to HCMC Poor Patient Assistance Association. Thanks to such donations, 200 blind and poor patients gained their eyesight at no cost. Then 10 manufacturers and suppliers who were Saigon Co-op clients responded the appeal and took part in making contributions to social charity work worth more than VND36 million by purchasing 10 award-winning paintings by children participating in the Painting Contest “We children have fun with Saigon Co-op” at the supermarkets.

Especially, this year, Saigon Co-op donated 600 school bags and 6,000 notebooks to 600 students whose families were affected by Agent Orange in 12 provinces and cities. This was part of the major program “To Alleviate the Orange Pain” organized by Tuoi Tre newspaper and the Vietnam Red Cross. Other community-based activities will continue throughout this July.

In supermarkets, the care given to daily meals is reflected through the



*Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Hoa, CEO of Saigon Co-op donating blood. 230 staff and 19 members donated blood on the same day*



Mobile selling to remote areas is frequently organised by Saigon Co-op

Careful development of fresh and processed, ready-to-eat foods which are more and more diversified and are guaranteed of strict hygienic and absolute food safety standards for the consumer. In addition, in order to create a close bond with customers, a special program was launched for membership customers with incentives like birthday gifts, bonuses on annual total invoices, and discounts and gifts every month. Moreover, we have many customer care services such as telephone sales, and home delivery without additional costs. The Saigon Co-op chain also often organizes mobile sales units to bring essential commodities at cheap prices to drug rehabilitation centers (these centers are operated by the city at different provinces), and hospitals.

### Achievements of a Labor Hero Entity in the Renovation Period

Nowadays, Saigon Co-op is known as a new co-operative model in Vietnam. HCMC Trading Co-operative Union has become a convincing symbol and has had a positive impact to the development of co-operatives in HCMC and throughout the country. We were chosen Vietnam Leading Retailer by the Asia Pacific Retailer magazine and were ranked 330 among 500 Leading Retailers in Asia Pacific region in October 2004.

HCMC Trading Co-operative Union engages in multi-sectoral activities with many affiliates: a supermarket chain consisting of 13 Co-opMarts, Nam Duong Sauce Enterprise, a general distribution agent, a retail shop at Ben Thanh market, a central storage facility, a high-tech trading

center. We have more than 300 staff. Among those achievements, the human factor has always been a strong point. Thanks to a long-term vision, the Union leadership has made early preparations for the human resources. By making use of training offered by the Government and learning trips abroad, the Union staff has been capable of doing their job, equipped with knowledge and hands-on experience to cope with any contingency of the market.

In many consecutive years, the Union has actively established the "Co-opMart Concept" which concretizes the business ideas and operational modes and the application of quality control system in trading. Early 2004, the Union received the ISO 9001:2000 certificate which the Union has benefited a lot from the process of application.

The new thinking about the development objective in the backdrop of fierce global integration and competition requires us to realize that the life-and-death question now is how to survive and develop in this



Mme Nguyen Thi Nghia, President of Board of Directors, handing over the cheque for VNĐ 100.000.000 for eye operation of 200 poor blind

struggle, especially while most of our competitors are stronger.

The management should not pursue quantitative objectives alone (turnovers, profits) at the expense of quality. Therefore, we made the decision of investing in a US\$1.5 million ERP system in order to improve our centralized management capacity, which is being implemented.

### Consistency for the Community Ideal

Saigon Co-op, as a responsible corporate citizen, has promoted the spirit of "mutual benefits" through its social activities funded by donations from its own management and staff. A lot of resourceful methods have been effectively used such as keeping piggy banks, organizing auctions for memorabilia given by leaders, holding charity walks for poor and unfortunate children, keeping charity boxes at supermarkets, persuading Japanese co-operative members and consumer co-operatives to build primary schools for poor students in remote areas, etc.

Despite numerous difficulties, unfair competition and the fact that foreign retailers are rushing into the country, Saigon Co-op staff members are doing their best to learn and be worthy of a valuable brand, from "The Thoughtful Housewife of the People", the noble reward for the trading co-operative movement in the 1980s, to the title of Labor Hero in the renovation period since 1990s until now.

The young staff of Saigon Co-op will take up the will, the desire of their predecessors so that they can do their best to improve their professionalism, promote their corporate responsibility towards the community, have strong determination and confidence in the process of integration, maintain the position of the Leading Retailer in Vietnam so that Saigon Co-op will always be the leader in the system of trading and service co-operatives in Vietnam and be worthy of the title Labor Hero in the renovation period granted by the State of Vietnam.

Edited by P. Nair, Communication Officer, ICA-Asia & Pacific, 9 Aradhana Enclave, Sector 13, R. K. Puram, New Delhi-110066. <nair@icaroap.coop> Tel.: 26888250 (Ext.110). Designed and printed at Diamond Offset, HS-14, Kailash Colony Market, New Delhi-110048. Phone : +91-98111-72786 E-mail : amin\_zaidi@yahoo.com



# ICA Asia Pacific Coop News

A NEWS BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE - ASIA & PACIFIC  
(For Private Circulation only) ISSN : 0971-7013 Vol. 12, No. 3, July-Sept., 2005

## ICA General Assembly held in Cartagena, Colombia



Young boys and girls performing at the welcome reception in Cartagena



The ICA President carrying a fruit basket at the Reception

The ICA has held its General Assembly at the Hilton Hotel in Cartagena, Colombia. In its 110 year history, this is the first time that ICA held a General Assembly in Latin America.

More than 1400 delegates participated at the General Assembly and related meetings. The main theme of this year's General Assembly was 'Co-operating Out of Poverty', which show-cased how co-operatives could be the most effective vehicle to eliminate poverty, which is one of the UN Millennium goals.

Several sectoral organizations and thematic committees also met during this period. Elections were also held to the ICA Board and a list of new ICA board members are given below.

-P. Nair

### New ICA Board Members

#### Board Members

Mr. Ivano Barberini - President, Italy  
Mr. Mu Li -Vice President, China  
Dame Paline Green-Vice President, UK  
Mr. Stanley Muchiri-Vice President, Kenya  
Mr. Carlos Palacino-Vice President, Colombia  
Ms. Gun-Britt Martensson-Sweden  
Mdm. Rahaiah Baharen - Malaysia  
Mr. Alban d'Amours - Canada  
Mr. Paul Hazen - USA  
Mr. Felice Scalvini - Italy  
Mr. Seah Kian Peng - Singapore  
Mr. Steinar Dvergsdal - Norway  
Ms. Elizabeth Aba Smith - Ghana  
Ms. Lourdes S. Ortellado - Paraguay  
Mr. Americo Utumi - Brazil  
Mr. Jean-Claude Detilleux  
Mr. Isami Miyata - Japan  
Mr. Ramon Zuniga Imperial - Mexico  
Mr. Janusz Paszkowski - Poland  
Mr. Dae-Kun Chung - Korea

#### Audit & Control Committee

Ms. Esther Gicheru, Kenya  
Mr. Philip Holmes, UK  
Mr. Shugo Ogura, Japan  
Mr. Roy Berg Pedersen, Norway  
Mr. Rene Sittner, Germany

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## Fifth ICA Regional Workshop for Managers of Consumer Co-operatives held in Singapore

The 5th ICA Regional Workshop for Managers on 'Managing Consumer Co-operatives' was held 11-13 July in Singapore, with the support and collaboration of NTUC Fairprice Co-operative. There were 19 participants from 7 countries (India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines and Korea) in the Asia Pacific region.

The workshop was divided into three types of sessions, class room lectures, study visits and presentations. In the classroom session, participants learned the knowledge and skill of managing consumer co-operatives. Next day, they visited NTUC Fairprice stores and its competitors and they were exposed to the severe



*The participants of the workshop at the NTUC Fair Price*

competition in the retail market. On the final day, they drew-up action plans for their stores to overcome

weaknesses and made presentations on 'What are you going to implement in your organization?'

*-Tsubasa Nakamura*

## ICA Asia-Pacific holds Youth Steering Committee



*The youth delegates with the 'not-so-youth' at the Singapore meeting*

The ICA Asia-Pacific held a meeting of the Youth Steering Committee in Singapore, 15-16 July, 2005. The meeting, hosted by SNCF, was attended by youth representatives from India, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Zulkifli Mohammad, Chief Executive of Singapore National Co-operative Federation welcomed the delegates. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA, Jan Eirik Imbsen, Director

(Development), ICA Geneva, Jiro Ito, former Director (Special Programs) of ICA in the Region, Tsubasa Nakamura, Special Advisor, P Nair, Program Officer and Boku Nakano of JCCU, also attended the meeting. Teo Say Hong of Singapore chaired the meeting. The meeting discussed the modalities and strategies for setting up a thematic committee under the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific. The Committee

is expected to be formalized during the next Regional Assembly to be held in Sri Lanka during the last quarter of 2006.

The meeting discussed and finalized the draft constitution of the Committee and also action plans for the period until 2007. The meeting also discussed the holding of the next Youth Seminar in Sri Lanka in conjunction with the Regional Assembly.

Another topic discussed was the participation of youth from this Region at the International Youth Seminar in Cartagena, Colombia.

The meeting also decided to nominate Mr. Teo Say Hong of Singapore as the Youth Representative on the ICA Board. They felt that the Regional Standing Committee should also have youth representatives on it. It was proposed that the Steering Committee should meet again in the first quarter of 2006, for more concrete discussions on the topics.

*-RNair*

# Colombia Conference adopts International Youth Action Plan

The representation of Youth on the ICA Board, more than Just a space for participation, it is a space for young people to act inside the cooperative movement. Being here implies organizing our work, defining the motives that lead us to be here and draw the course of action to make our dreams come true.

Coherence is required to be in this position; that means acting according to our beliefs. It means forming and consolidating interdisciplinary, inter-generational and international working groups that allow a more precise interpretation of the needs and aspirations of the people represented.

The collective design and action is the only possible way to make a solidary - co-operative scenario a feasible reality.



*The old and the new. Ms. Jo Biby Scullion, the retiring youth member on the ICA Board with Juan Carlos Mejia, the new representative.*



*Youth forming a network*

Colombia assumes the challenge of this representation, led by Juan Carlos Mejia, who besides having the support of Colombia ICA members, counts on the young people

organized in the youth network in Colombia. We have constituted a support group, to struggle to make the following proposals a possible reality.

The Conference adopted an International Youth Action Plan, which has major strategies like a web-page, a youth digest, participate in various events, joint ventures, representation, structure and constitution, funding, employment, entrepreneurship and agreements, with action plans to match these.

Mr. Juan Carlos Mejia, the youth representative on the ICA board, could be contacted at : [<jmejiacu@eafit.edu.co>](mailto:jmejiacu@eafit.edu.co) for more information on Youth co-operative activities.

*-P. Nair*

Edited by P. Nair, Communication Officer, ICA-Asia & Pacific, 9 Aradhana Enclave, Sector 13, R. K. Puram, New Delhi-110066. [<nair@icaroap.coop>](mailto:nair@icaroap.coop) Tel.: 26888250 (Ext.110). Designed and printed at Diamond Offset, HS-14, Kailash Colony Market, New Delhi-110048. Phone : +91-98111-72786 E-mail : [amin\\_zaidi@yahoo.com](mailto:amin_zaidi@yahoo.com)



## 5th ICA-Japan Women Leaders Training Course held

The International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), in association with its member organisation in Japan, the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives of Japan (JA-Zenchu) and the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA) organised the 5th ICA-Japan Training Course for "Strengthening Women's Agricultural Co-operatives in Rural Areas and Improvement of Farm Management and Rural Life" in Malaysia and Japan. Eight participants - two each from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Sri Lanka, attended the Training



*The women delegates pose for a group photo*



*Participants of the 5th ICA/Japan Women Leaders Training Course*

Course. The Course was organised and held by the ICA at the IDACA premises from 4th to 28th September 2005. The 10-day component of Comparative Field Study Visits was held in Malaysia from 25th August to 3rd September in collaboration with the National Co-operative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA). The program is funded by the Government of Japan in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

The main objective of the Training Course was "to train women leaders in rural areas in developing countries by means of strengthening women's agricultural co-operatives, farm

management, and improvement of rural life". The Training Course also provided training for the capacity building of the participants with a view to organise women's associations and study co-operative activities.

The field study visits were arranged to agricultural co-operatives and women's associations in Yamagata Prefecture of Japan. Lecture-cum-practical field study visits assignments were combined to impart necessary knowledge to the participants on the working of women's associations and the general activities of agricultural co-operatives in Japan. The participants also held group

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

In view of the experience gained by the participants through class room lectures, field study visits in Malaysia and Japan, interaction among themselves, and based upon their own work environment, the participants were able to develop brief outlines of their Action Plans which they would recommend to their organisations after their return to their home countries. These plans were developed through holding group discussions and on the basis of their discussions with their seniors before joining the Training Course.

The concluding session of the Training Course was held on Wednesday, 28th September 2005 with Mr. Hideo Ishida, Assistant Director, International Co-operation Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) as Chief Guest.

Mr. Shigeri Fukamachi, Managing Director of IDACA and Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Planning Officer of ICA-AP also addressed the closing session. 'Certificate of Participation' was awarded to the participants by the IDACA.

*-Sethumadhavan*

## International Co-operative Day celebrated in Iran

The International Co-operative Day was celebrated in Iran.

Mr. Abdol Rahman Cheraghali, Chairman of the Board & Managing Director, General Director of Central Union of Rural & Agricultural Co-operatives of Iran, Board members, Deputies and general managers attended the celebration, which was also attended by a large number of co-operative members.

The ICA's Co-operative message on "Microfinance is our business –Co-operating out of Poverty" was read

out on the occasion and Mr. Cheraghali emphasized the important role of Microfinance in co-operatives and the necessity of re-engineering co-operatives in the era of economic globalization.

He further mentioned that the Central organization of Rural Co-operatives (CORC) network in Iran has provided wide range of training facilities to 501413 co-operative members on comprehensive solutions in commercial and cultural services.

Considerable efforts of our members

led to the establishment of micro-finance divisions including a total of 263769 members throughout the country so that local production meets the optimum quality which creates higher income. Global technologies in WSIS & WGIG digital communication bridges currently are considered as our major means to provide standard technology and seamless service locally and worldwide backed with comprehensive global coverage and strong local market expertise.

*-Abdol Rahman Cheraghali*

## Deep Chand Sharma re-elected Chairman of National Co-op Housing Federation

Shri Deep Chand Sharma, a very senior and veteran leader of the Co-operative Movement has been unanimously re-elected the Chairman of the National Co-operative Housing Federation of India (NCHF) by the newly constituted Board of Directors in their meeting held on 27 July for a term of 5 years.

Mr. Sharma, a veteran Congress Leader, has been prominent in the

Indian Co-operative Movement for the last six decades. He is also the Chairman of Delhi Co-operative Housing Finance Corporation Limited.

S.T. Somashekar, President, Karnataka State Co-operative Housing Federation Ltd. and B.S. Manhas, Chairman, J&K Co-operative Housing Corporation Ltd., Jammu, were also re-elected Vice-

Chairmen of the Federation. The National Co-operative Housing Federation of India is a national level organization of the entire co-operative housing movement in the country and functions under the Government of India in the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation and responsible for the organized development of housing co-operatives.

*- M.L. Khurana*

## ICA-CLT Workshop for Sensitisation of Co-operative Leaders to Generate Awareness for Prevention of Spread of HIV/AIDS

The ICA-AP has taken initiative to address the HIV/AIDS crisis in the region and a strategic project focusing on prevention and intervention activities has been put in place to cover all the member co-operatives in the region.

According to the plan to cover the countries with high HIV prevalence first, a workshop for sensitisation of co-operative leaders to generate awareness for Prevention of Spread of HIV/AIDS has been held on 1-2 July 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand in collaboration with Co-operative League of Thailand. The participants



*Participants at the workshop*

were co-operative leaders, directors and managers from various sectors of Thai co-op movement.

The workshop has been inaugurated by Dr. Suthiporn Chirapada, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Govt. of Thailand. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA-A&P, Wisoot Sutthinoon, Chairman of the CLT, and Dr. Wiwut Daengsubha, Executive Director of CLT addressed the participants.

Bhagwati Prasad, Chief executive of NCUI, India shared his experience about ongoing HIV/AIDS awareness activities in co-ops in India with the participants.

*-Mrs.Savitri Singh*

# ICA-NACF study visits programme to Agricultural Co-operatives in Korea

The ICA-AP, in collaboration with the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation (NACF) organized an exposure and networking programme for women co-operative leaders of our region in Seoul, Korea, 5-10 September, 2005. Twenty persons, 10 men and 10 women attended the programme.

Women are the most sufferers from the rapid changes societies are undergoing due to globalization and free trade. In the context of these challenges, ICA Regional Women's Committee has been making attempts to share information with women co-operative leaders in the region and expecting to find ways and means to promote women's economic security and empowerment through the co-operatives.

The participants visited to Hanoramart Chain Store Division, Agriculture Co-ops including meeting with Women Association in the co-op and Kyoyang Agricultural Marketing Complex and Agricultural Co-operative College.



*The delegates at a photo opportunity*

The information sharing during the exposure visits to successful co-operatives, focused upon co-operative endeavour to promote women's interests. The participants got an opportunity to understand the challenges of globalization and free trade, affecting the lives of people unevenly across the world, and the threats of free market.

The participants prepared success stories of co-operatives helping

women's economic empowerments in their country/co-operative and good practices for advancement of women in their respective countries.

During the interaction session the participants discussed with their Korean counterparts role of the farm credit business and spoke about activities of their own country and co-operatives.

*-Mrs.Savitri Singh*

## National Workshop for TOT held in Sri Lanka

The ILO-Co-op Net and ICA ROAP has developed a training manual for leadership development of women in co-operatives in the Asia Pacific region. The manual is being used for training of trainers of co-operatives who in turn will train the women co-operative leaders.

The ICA ROAP has decided to conduct the training for women and men trainers of primary, secondary and tertiary co-operatives whose role and task is to conduct training activities on gender sensitivity and accountability and on leadership capacity building of women in co-operatives.

A national seminar was held at the National Institute of Co-operative

Development, Polgolla, Sri Lanka, 1-6 August, 2005. The NICD invited 29 women and men trainers of primary, secondary, and tertiary co-operatives with basic knowledge of co-operatives and substantial grasp of gender issues and concern in the society, committed to the advocacy for gender equity and equality in society in general and in co-operatives in particular.

The objective of the training was to raise the awareness of women and men leaders and members of co-operatives on gender issues, on the manifestations of gender bias (against women) in co-operatives, and on the effects of gender discrimination on the personal and



*Mrs. Savitri Singh speaking at the seminar. Also seen are Mr. Paul Sinnappan, Mr. Udaya Seneviratne and Mr. Tsubasa Nakamura*

interpersonal growth of its leaders and members as well as on the organizational development of co-operatives and to build up the capacity of current and potential women leaders of co-operatives by equipping them with knowledge and skills.

*-Mrs.Savitri Singh*



## An Appeal to all the Member Organisations of ICA

Dear Members,

You all know that the recent devastating earthquake on 08 October 2005 shook and shriveled hilly terrain of Kashmir in India & Pakistan by killing more than 13,000 on Indian side and 79,000 on Pakistan side of Kashmir. Several thousands of dead and affected had belonged to the primary co-operatives in these areas.

Main areas affected on Indian side fall in Uri division and on Pakistan side fall in Abbotabad, Mansehra, Koshistan, Batagram, Haripur, Bunair, Swat and Shangla. There are just rough estimates available on the scale of the disaster due to extremely difficult terrain and slow rescue operations. However, the authorities in Pakistan have reported the number of affected co-operatives close to 1440 with a membership base of approximately 70,000 families. The estimates are changing every day with the recovery of more and more dead bodies from the wreckage.

We at the ICA Asia Pacific appeal to the fraternal co-operative community through our Member Organisations (MOs) to please come forward generously in helping the most severely damaged co-operatives and the unfortunate victims of the co-operative community in these areas.

Please send your contribution either directly to **National Co-operative Union of Pakistan**, addressed to :

**Mr Nasser Anwar**, Secretary, NCUP

Tel : 0092-51-921 7523, Fax : 0092-51-2822635,

E-mail: [ncup@isb.paknet.com.pk](mailto:ncup@isb.paknet.com.pk) or to **International Co-operative Alliance, New Delhi**;

E-mail: [info@icaroap.coop](mailto:info@icaroap.coop)

We shall share all the details of the list of members and the quantum of funding. In case you want to specify the usage of your contribution, you could do so. ICA Asia Pacific, on its own, would also ensure best value to the contribution for the relief of affected communities.

**Shil Kwan Lee**

Regional Director, ICA Asia Pacific.

# The Force that shook the Earth

The recent earthquake which devastated several parts of Kashmir in India and Pakistan has wreaked havoc among vast populations in both the countries. Several thousand co-operators in these countries suffered loss of life and damage to property and homes. We, the ICA in Asia-Pacific appeal to the co-operative community globally to come to the aid of the poor co-operative breatheren in these countries.





# ICA Asia Pacific Coop News

A NEWS BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE - ASIA & PACIFIC  
 (For Private Circulation only) ISSN : 0971-7013 Vol. 12, No. 4, Oct. - Dec., 2005

## Co-operative-Government organized by ICA - AP in Malaysia

The Co-operative – Government Dialogue was organized by ICA-AP in collaboration with national co-operative apex of Malaysia the ANGKASA from 14 to 17 November 2005 in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

The dialogue that was attended by more than 70 international delegates from the governments and movements of 15 countries deduced following major concerns:

### *Co-operative Policy & Legislation:*

The Government should recognize co-operatives as unique entities with a blend of economic and social responsibility in the light of ICIS of ICA and recommendation 193 of ILO and as a catalyst alongside the public and private sectors in the national development plan.



Hon. Minister of Entrepreneur and Co-operative Development Yang Berhormat Dato Mohd. Khaled bin Nordin speaking at the Dialogue.



The delegates of the Dialogue

Co-operative policy must also identify co-operatives as capable of providing services in the areas that are otherwise remained outside the mainstream national development channels.

Co-operative Policy must state the role of the government as that of a facilitator and regulator and not that of a controller. The co-operatives deserve to be enshrined in the constitution of the country for uniform and smooth development of the nation.

### *Effective Participatory Governance:*

A successful Co-operative requires enlightened and informed membership. Although the membership of co-operatives in terms of numbers has increased manifold but dormant membership and the absence of active participation of

members in their management have resulted in institutional ailments and has also encouraged the dominance

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Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, the Hon'ble Minister and Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz at the Dialogue.

of vested interests causing blockages in the percolation of benefits to the members.

In a large number of cases, elections and general body meetings in co-operatives are not held regularly. The non-conduct of elections and general body meetings regularly has been creating apathy among members towards the management. Meeting of the General Body and Audit of the co-operatives' functioning be made mandatory by law.

Good governance has to be ensured by adopting a clear mission and vision statement coupled with guidelines prescribing role of members, leaders and managers and defining code of conduct.

Political interests of the co-operative leaders should not be catered at the cost of the co-operatives' operational freedom and viability. Creation of new leadership or second line leadership involving youths and women be made mandatory as per law.

#### *Institutional Capacity Building:*

Co-operatives have a unique character of fraternity and federated system. Each tier integrates the value chain in the business operations and hence enjoys a special status.

The role of each tier is specific to the mandate and purpose. Lack of proper guidance and education at the primary level and un-professional

management of the businesses at both primary and secondary levels are some of the traditional institutional constraints hampering sustainable growth of the co-operatives.

Government should recognize the important role of the co-operative apex bodies in the formulation and implementation of development

## **Regional Women's Committee Office Bearers meet in Kuala Lumpur**

A meeting of the Office bearers of the ICA Regional Women Committee was held on 14th November, 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Ms. Rahaiah Baهران, chaired the meeting to discuss about work plan of the committee for the next year 2006 and also to finalize the arrangements for proposed conference in 2006.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICAAP was specially invited to attend the meeting. He expressed his satisfaction with the progress of committee's work and offered all the support from the office. Minutes of the last meeting held in Bangkok on 26th February, 2005 have been adopted. The secretary presented the report on the action taken.

plans. The state and fraternity support must come in the form of capacity building interventions aimed at delivering right knowledge on management and operations and imparting necessary skills on project formulation, business planning, market intelligence and modern technology to compete and sustain in post WTO globalize set-up.

#### *Protection to Vulnerable Sections of the Society:*

Co-operatives belong to resource deficient segments of the society. The co-operative policy of the government must lay special stress on protection of the vulnerable target groups, women, youths and refugees through co-operative action.

#### *Resource Mobilisation:*

There is a dire need to build professional competence and capacity of the co-operatives to leverage existing institutional resources to compete and survive in globalize market economy and boundary less markets.

*-Rajiv ID Mehta*



Mrs. Savitri Singh, Ms. Sally Ganebe, Mdm. Rahaiah and Mr. Shil Kwan Lee discussing a point.

The committee adopted the work plan for 2006 as proposed in the agenda. In view of the proposed Women's Conference in 2006, there would be no Women's Forum during 2006.

However, there will be a Regional Women's Committee meeting to elect new office bearers to the Committee.

*-Savitri Singh*

## HRD Workshop on “Importance of Co-operative Governance and Social Responsibility” and 18th Meeting of the ICA Committee on HRD for Asia and Pacific

The much-publicized corporate fallout of national and international corporations in many countries has created greater awareness on the need for good corporate governance in the business fraternity. This heightened awareness has led to the urgent need for good corporate governance in all economic sectors and in voluntary welfare organizations and charities.

Increasingly, corporate governance and transparency are being looked upon as competitive advantages in the market place. The other important area of concern and emphasis has been the corporate social responsibility. Many seminars and conferences have been organized for the corporate sector on above subject.

Co-operatives, which have always looked upon social responsibility as one of its key objectives, need to re-evaluate policies and practices on governance and social responsibility in the context of current thinking. It would help the co-operatives in the region to become more competitive in open market and help strengthen relevance of ICA's role in serving its members rightfully. The International Standardization Organization (ISO) has also launched an extensive effort to establish an ISO Advisory



*Delegates at the seminar intently watching a presentation*

Guideline on this matter, which would of course be referred in setting benchmarks.

To address the aforesaid important issues of concern, the ICA-Asia and Pacific in collaboration with Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) organized a workshop on “Importance of Co-operative Governance and Social Responsibility” in Singapore on 24th and 25th October 2005. 27 participants from India, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore and ICA-AP attended the workshop.

The opening ceremony of the workshop was held at Quality Hotel in Singapore on 24th October. The opening session was addressed by

Mr. Leow Peng Kui, Chairman of ICA-AP HRD Committee; Mr. Zulkifli Mohammed, Chief Executive of SNCF; and Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA-AP. The following presentations were made: a) Overview of the Singapore Co-operative Movement; b) Importance of Good Co-operative Governance, and; c) Co-operatives bench-marking Social Responsibility. Field visits were also arranged to NTUC Child Care, NTUC FairPrice and Sea Care Co-op.

The 18th Meeting of the ICA Committee on HRD for Asia and Pacific was also held at the meeting room of Sea Care Co-operative on 25th October at 14:00 hours. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Leow Peng Kui, Chairman of the HRD Committee. 23 participants from India, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Singapore attended the meeting. A presentation on “Networking of Co-operative HRD Institutions in Asia and Pacific” was made by Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive of NCUI and Vice Chairman of the HRD Committee. Country reports on Initiatives on HRD were presented by India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. It was decided to hold the next meeting in Sri Lanka in conjunction with the Regional Assembly.

*-K. Sethumadhavan*



*The Regional Director, ICA-AP, Chair and Vice-Chairs of HRD Committee at the seminar*



## National Workshop on Strengthening of Consumer Co-operatives, Cebu and Manila

A National Workshop on Strengthening of Consumer Co-operatives was organized by ICA-AP at Cebu, Philippines on 21-23 November 2005. 13 participants from consumer co-operative stores from around Cebu participated. VICTO hosted the workshop. Prof. S.C. Misra was invited by ICA-AP as Resource Person. World Scenario of Retail Management was presented by Professor Misra.

A similar workshop was organized in Manila, Philippines on 24-25 November 2005. Here also 13 participants from Manila and nearby provinces participated. NATCCO hosted this event.



*Participants of the workshop in Cebu, Phillipines*

## Follow-up workshop on Strengthening of Consumer Co-operatives held in Bangkok



*Partcipants of the Bangkok workshop*

A critical study on consumer co-operatives in Thailand was conducted by Dr. Asanee Ratnamalai. A follow-up workshop on Strengthening of Consumer Co-operatives was also held in Bangkok, Thailand from 27-29 October, 2005.

30 participants from all over Thailand participated at the workshop, which was organized in collaboration with the (CLT) Co-operative League of Thailand.

*- A.K. Taneja*

## ICA-AP Standing Committee meets in Geneva, Switzerland

The meeting of ICA-AP Standing Committee was held in Ramada Park Hotel, Geneva, on 5 December 2005 from 14:00 to 19:00 hours.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President and Chairman of Standing Committee. 16 members/observers attended the meeting. The meeting approved the ICA-AP Work Plan and Budget for 2006.

The meeting also discussed the following:

(a) ICA's Governance Working Group Report and Regionalization Issues;

(b) Membership Formula;

(c) Association of Youth Representative with Standing Committee; and

(d) Dates of Next Regional Assembly and other events to be held in Sri Lanka from 14 -19 August 2006.

The next meeting of the Standing Committee will be held in Guilin (China).

The dates for the meeting, convenient to members will be decided later, after consultations with the members.

*-K. Sethumadhavan*

# ICA-AP/ACCU/NABARD Regional Workshop on Co-operatives and Micro-Finance

The ICA-AP/ACCU/NABARD organised a Regional Workshop on Co-operatives and Micro-Finance on 18-21 October, Goa, India.

An overview of co-operative credit and banking sector in majority of the developing countries of the Asia-Pacific Region shows that while credit unions have achieved appreciable success in the sphere of micro-finance, other co-operatives, by and large, appear to be perhaps the last entrants in internalizing innovative micro-finance programmes.

Thus, it was high time to introduce such ground-breaking schemes to a larger area and dimension, as micro-financing the employment generating activities for poor, down-trodden and under-privileged of the society is one of the prime concerns to improve their physical quality of life.



Participants at the workshop

In line with the theme of the International Day of Co-operatives "Micro Finance is our Business! Co-operating out of Poverty", this regional workshop on co-operatives and micro-finance, organized by the International Co-operative Alliance in partnership with Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) of India, aimed at discussing important



Distinguished delegates at the dias

issues and facilitating growth of a more inclusive co-operative financial sector for the poor.

There was also a need to deliberate upon the problems of the co-

for each stakeholders involved in micro-finance. Specifically, the outputs were:

- (a) workable model of co-operative micro-finance;
- (b) model for co-operative insurance, and
- (c) support systems for co-operative micro-finance.

Eminent resource persons from Asia-Pacific region have made presentations on the following subjects: i. Co-operative Sector - changes required to operationally internalize concept of micro-finance, ii. Micro-finance and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) - concept, formation, linkages with banks and policy initiatives, iii. Micro-finance product designs, delivery systems and institutional support systems for sustainable micro-finance, iv. Development of co-operative micro-insurance system for the poor.

In addition, case studies on best practices relating to co-operative micro-finance system, mentioned below, were also presented at the workshop.

The workshop was held at the Goa-Bogmallo Beach Resort, Goa, India.

-B.D. Sharma

operative sector and also the potential of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) as micro-finance models for co-operatives to emanate as also the possibility of integrating other important inputs and financial services for the poor like micro-insurance.

The workshop will draw a road map with broad contours on the role of co-operatives in operationally internalizing micro-finance, including defining the role and responsibilities

# Co-operatives as Counter-Weight To For-Profit Enterprises: ICMIF Conference in Singapore

In the era of the free market, the co-operative movement can act as a counter-weight to for-profit enterprises.

Co-operatives can provide that balance, operating in the same environment as the other global players, not to maximise profits, but to deliver the best value to customers, earning sufficient profit to keep going.

Mr Lim Boon Heng, NTUC Secretary-General and Minister, Prime Minister's Office, made this comment at the International Co-operative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF) Biennial Conference held on 16 to 18 November 2005.

Recognising the role that they play is an important starting point for co-operatives, however, that alone does not guarantee success, he added.

Co-operative members expect good performance, including special benefits, from their co-operatives. This includes comprehensive financial success, good quality products and low prices, special offers, discounts, bonus-payments and dividends.

"Hence, co-operatives will need to have corporate governance and business practices, that are as strong as, if not even stronger, than its competitors in order to be able to fulfill its role of acting as a counter-weight to the pure for-profit enterprises."

The ICMIF Conference, which created a platform for 230 management-level personnel of the ICMIF's 136 members all over the world, was hosted by NTUC Income. Topics on corporate governance, capital adequacy, global pooling for catastrophic cover and innovations in insurance were discussed.

In his speech, Mr Lim, who was the conference guest-of-honour, also touched on the pioneering role of NTUC Co-operatives in Corporate



*The Co-operative Insurance leaders at the ICMIF Conference*

Social Responsibility (CSR). He pointed out that CSR and the principal of profits as the means not the end have been embedded into the mission of all of NTUC Co-operatives. The Co-operatives are founded in sectors where co-operatives have a social role to play, while being commercially viable.

The NTUC Co-operatives aim to make a real difference in improving the lives of workers by ensuring that workers get the best value for their money and getting real increase in

purchasing power and not just nominal increases.

"The NTUC Co-operatives have done their work quietly most of the time. However, in order to ensure that they remain true to their missions, they publish a social report card annually," said Mr Lim.

Through the social report card, they will know how they have performed socially, and the public will also judge them on their performance, and push them to do better.

Key speakers of the three-day conference included Mr Jean-Louis Bancel, Chairman ICMIF & Deputy Vice-President of Credit Cooperatif, Mr Yoshihiro Kawai, Secretary General, International Association of Insurance Supervisors (France), Mr Tan Kin Lian, CEO, NTUC Income and Ms Kathy Bardswick, President and CEO, The Co-operators (Canada).

*-Ms. Karen Lim, SNCF*



## MOU signed between ICA and SNCF

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the International Cooperative Alliance - Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) and Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) was signed on 15th November 2005.

According to this MOU the SNCF will continue to sponsor the ICA Business Office in

Singapore for a term of two years more commencing from 1st January 2006 with an annual sponsorship of S\$ 30,000 per annum.

Part of this sponsorship sum will be utilized by ICA-AP for co-operative development activities in some countries of the region.

*-K. Sethumadhavan*

# ANGKASA Commemorates World Rural Women's Day

Co-operators from all regions of Malaysia convened at ANGKASA to celebrate the World Rural Women's Day this year. Over 140 women and men members from 51 co-operatives took part in the event.

The World Rural Women's Day was held for the fifth year at the Wisma Ungku A. Aziz, ANGKASA, Kelana Jaya from the 25th to 26th November, 2005 and the theme was, "The Right to Knowledge- Production and Marketing of Tapioca Chips."

Madam Hajah Rahaiah Baهران, Vice President of ANGKASA and ICA Board Member, officiated the ceremony. Madam Baهران explained that the focus this year was to introduce and to encourage ANGKASA's women co-operators to get involved in the tapioca chip production industry. She explained that ANGKASA was committed in helping its members to attain an in-depth knowledge of the industry. She also reaffirmed that ANGKASA would provide suitable training and education programs to its members



*Mdm. Rahaiah Baهران, Vice President, ANGKASA and ICA Board member delivers her inaugural speech.*



*Participants at te Rural Women's day*

and, would subsequently match them up with the appropriate government assistance.

After the opening ceremony, participants were introduced to the chip-making business by guest speaker, Mrs Hajah Che Rahani Zakaria, Manager of the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI). Mrs Zakaria explained the various production, packaging and technological options currently existing in the industry.

On the second day, Mrs. Wan Faizatul Aniza binti Ismayatim, Director of the Marketing Division at the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority of Malaysia (FAMA), provided the participants with an insight into the potential market of the product and the marketing strategies available. This talk was followed by a discussion session with Mrs Mokinah binti Haji Sirat of Sepang RJ Pty Ltd., and Mrs Hajah Mariam binti Boon of Azhar Food Product, who had become successful entrepreneurs in the chip production industry.

The World Rural Women's Day concluded with a speech by Madam Baهران, who reiterated the commitment that ANGKASA has



*Mrs Mokinah binti Haji Sirat speaking at the Rural Women's day meeting.*

towards empowering its women co-operative members.

*-Ms. Sharine Khoo, ANGKASA*

*The Asia-Pacific Co-op News wishes its readers and all Co-operators worldwide a Very Happy, Prosperous, Successful, Co-operative New Year 2006.*

*-Editor*

## ICA-AP WORK PLAN FOR 2006

The following is the list of the major activities the International Co-operative Alliance in Asia-Pacific propose to hold during the year 2006.

-Editor

1. 20th ICA-Japan Training Course on Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-ops, India/China/Japan, 15th January to 22nd April, 2006
2. Capacity Building of Co-operative Leaders of Afghanistan, India, March, 2006
3. Conference on Role of Co-operatives in Poverty Alleviation, Vietnam, March, 2006
4. Replication of Success Story of "SAIGON CO-OP" to other Regions, Vietnam, March, 2006
5. Office Bearers Meeting of ICA Regional Women's Committee, Philippines, March, 2006
6. Seminar on WTO Impact on Small Family Farmers and Co-operatives, India, April, 2006
7. Publication of Report on Sex Dis-aggregated Data of Co-operatives, ICA-AP Office, April, 2006.
8. Board Meeting of Asia Pacific Health Co-op Organization (APHCO) and Workshop on Prevention of HIV/AIDS, Vietnam, May, 2006
9. Conference on Gender Integration in Co-ops – 10 years before and after, Philippines, May, 2006
10. Campus Co-operative Development Workshop, Iran, June, 2006
11. Committee Meetings (Agriculture, Consumer, University, HRD, Women, RCBA), Sri Lanka, 14-15 August, 2006
12. 3rd Regional Youth Seminar, Sri Lanka, 15th August, 2006
13. HRD Seminar on New Trends in Co-operative Leadership Development, Sri Lanka, 15th August, 2006
14. 4th Research Conference, Sri Lanka, 15-16 August, 2006
15. 4th Regional Co-operative Forum, Sri Lanka, 16-17 August, 2006
16. 7th Meeting of ICA Regional Assembly and Co-op Forum, Sri Lanka, 18th August, 2006
17. 6th ICA-Japan Rural Women Leaders Training Course, Japan, August-September, 2006
18. 6th Regional Workshop for Managers on Management of Consumer Co-ops, Singapore, September, 2006
19. Study Tour to Agricultural Co-operatives, Republic of Korea, September, 2006
20. Four Training Programs for Managers of Consumer Co-ops, Miyagi/Tokyo/Kanagawa/Kobe, September-December, 2006
21. International Co-operative Trade Exhibition, Iran, November, 2006
22. Trainers' Training Program for Women Leadership Development, Vietnam, November, 2006
23. Publish Quarterly Newsletter (ASPACON)/ Annual Report & Webpage and Information Service, ICA-AP Office, January-December, 2006
24. Post Earthquake Rehabilitation Project in Gujarat, India, January-March, 2006
25. Project on Organization of Informal Workers in Co-operatives, Nepal, January-December, 2006
26. Post Tsunami Rehabilitation Project, India/Sri Lanka, January-December, 2006

Edited by P. Nair, Communication Officer, ICA-Asia & Pacific, 9 Aradhana Enclave, Sector 13, R. K. Puram, New Delhi-110066. Email : nair@icaroap.coop Tel.: 26888250 (Ext.110).  
Designed and printed at Diamond Offset, HS-14, Kailash Colony Market, New Delhi-110048. Phone : +91-98111-72786  
E-mail : amin\_zaidi@yahoo.com



# ANNUAL REPORT 2005



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## Message from the President

As in the year 2004, the ICA in Asia-Pacific was able to initiate and undertake a number of activities this year also.

A number of important workshops and seminars were organized for agricultural co-operatives in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. The major initiative this year was the organizing of the Government-Co-operative Dialogue in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as a prelude to the next Co-operative Ministers' Conference. A large number of co-operative leaders and governmental representatives participated at this Dialogue, which was a great success.

Another important event was a seminar on Micro-credit organized in Goa, India, where participants discussed on the micro-credit situation in Asia-Pacific.

As in the past, several initiatives in the consumer, health and gender were organized during the year. One initiative was the preparatory meetings and discussions on setting up a Regional Co-operative Youth Committee to cater to the young co-operators in the region, while another was making the co-operative leadership aware of HIV/Aids.

Our member organization in Korea, NACF, has hosted a seminar on WTO and also coordinated an exchange visit programme for agricultural co-operative leaders. A number of activities were hosted, as in the past, by most of our member organizations in countries like Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Japan, etc. The Japanese consumers' co-operative union and its affiliates have initiated special in-house training programmes for consumer co-operative managers and board members in Japan.

The ICA/Japan Management Training Course, the 19th in the series, were held successfully this year also.

The ICA President, Director General and the Regional Director visited and surveyed Tsunami

affected areas and co-operatives in India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia. Several rehabilitation and reconstruction operations are being carried out by ICA's development partners and member organizations, which are closely coordinated by the ICA in Asia-Pacific.

To the fag end of the year another calamity was waiting to happen in the region, which was a large scale earthquake which wiped out co-operatives, homes and facilities and killing over 70,000 people, many of them co-operators, in Kashmir (both in India and Pakistan). The ICA Asia-Pacific had issued an appeal to the world co-operative community and we hope our member organization would come out with support as in the past.

The ICA Asia-Pacific collaborated with the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC) has agreed to host study visits for the 20th ICA-Japan Management Training course participants in China during the next year.

The ICA Asia-Pacific has been able to closely associate with a number of development agencies in tsunami reconstruction, agricultural, consumer co-operatives, health and other sectors this year also. We hope to continue this trend in the years to come.

As I mentioned last year, you would agree with me that the ICA in Asia-Pacific has emerged as a major initiator of co-operative development in the world.

I would request all ICA members, both old members and newly joined members, in the Region to continue supporting the activities of the Regional office, which I would very sincerely appreciate.

**Mu Li**  
President,  
ICA Asia - Pacific





## Message from the Regional Director

The year 2005 was another good year for the ICA Asia-Pacific. We conducted a number of activities during the year, covering all sectors of co-operatives and have also carried out activities and programmes of sectoral importance. To add to it, the ICA was successful in collaborating with a number of development partners in providing support to the co-operative movements of Sri Lanka, India and Indonesia for the reconstruction and rehabilitation needs of the Tsunami affected people in these countries. A large number of member organizations provided help in cash and kind, on project basis and also direct assistance to these countries.

We continued our collaboration with AGRITERRA, Netherlands, to continue development activities for the agricultural sector in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Some of the major activities during the year was the Government Co-operative Dialogue organized in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the Micro-Credit Seminar in India.

This year we also organized a meeting of the regional youth leaders of the Youth in Singapore and decided to organize a Youth Seminar in Colombo, Sri Lanka, to be followed-up with the actual setting up of a Regional Youth Committee under the Regional Assembly. It is expected that the Regional Assembly will approve the setting up of this Committee during its meeting in 2006.

We have had excellent collaboration from our member organizations in the region – All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Co-operatives, ANGKASA (Malaysia), JA-Zenchu, JCCU and IDACA (Japan), NACF (Korea), SNCF (Singapore), NCUI (India), CLT (Thailand), VCA (Vietnam) and many other member organizations. With their support and collaboration, we organized a number of activities of sectoral interest for our members in the region.

The Gender Integration project of ICA in Asia-Pacific, was able to publish the Leadership Development Manual for Women co-operators in collaboration with the ILO. This is in addition to a number of regional and national training of trainers conducted by us.

The Consumer Co-operative Development Project has been able to hold a number of training activities for consumer co-operative managers, board members and leaders in Singapore, Japan,

Thailand and the Philippines, in addition to the usual meetings of the committees.

The Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organisation and the ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University/College Co-operatives held their meetings in India and Japan respectively.

The Human Resource Development and Research Project held a couple of seminars in conjunction with meetings of the committee. The Agricultural Development Project and the Regional Co-operative Banking Association, and the Regional Women's Committee also organized seminars and meetings.

As in previous years, the two major Training Courses for Managers of Agricultural Co-operatives and for Rural Women Co-operative Leaders, with the support and assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan, in close collaboration with the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA), continued during 2005. We hope that these courses will continue in the coming years too.

This year another tragic earthquake affected several co-operatives and co-operators in Kashmir (both in India and Pakistan) and we have sent out an appeal to the co-operative community of the world. Some co-operative organizations have offered support to the earthquake-affected co-operatives.

I would reiterate that our member organizations are our assets and we appreciate the support, co-operation and collaboration extended by them and look forward to receive such sincere support from them in the future also.

We are happy that a few new co-operatives have joined us as our members and we wish to recruit more and more members in the Region. We would request co-operative organizations in the Region to join under the ICA umbrella for mutual benefit.

I would once again extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to our member organizations in this region and our development partners in supporting us during the year 2005, which we hope will continue in the years to come.

– Shil Kwan Lee

Regional Director, Asia - Pacific

## 19th ICA/Japan Training Course on Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives

The 19th Training Course was inaugurated by Mr. D.K. Bhatt, Marketing Director of Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Co-operative Limited (IFFCO) at IFFCO's Fertiliser Marketing Development Institute, Gurgaon, near Delhi, on Monday, the 17th January, 2005.

12 middle level managers from 10 countries (China, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) will be participating this year's training course.

The participants were welcomed by Dr. D.P. Bhattacharya, Senior Manager, HRD, IFFCO. Mr. Prem Kumar, Programme Advisor briefed the participants. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, Mr. S.Fukamachi, Managing Director of IDACA, Tokyo, and Mr. T. Inoue, First Secretary at the Japanese Embassy in India also addressed the participants. Dr. R.N. Kundu, course coordinator for the IFFCO segment of the course, delivered the vote of thanks.

The IFFCO segment of the course was held until 31 January, 2005, and thereafter the participants

proceeded to the Institute of Rural Management (IRMA) in Anand, Gujarat where they underwent an extensive module until 2nd March.

The participants then travelled to Indonesia for comparative field study visits.

The Part II of the Training course at IDACA concluded on 22 April, 2005, which covered extensive field visits in Japan.



*Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director has a word of advice to the participants*



*Mr. Shigeri Fukamachi addressing the delegates*

The concluding session of the Nineteenth Training Course was held at IDACA on April 22, 2005. The session was attended by Mr. Kazuo Tanaka, Senior Officer, International Co-operation Division, International Affairs Department, MAFF, Mr Shigeri Fukamachi, Managing Director of the IDACA, including all his senior staff, and Mr. Prem Kumar, Programme Advisor of the ICA-Asia & Pacific, New Delhi.

Mr Prem Kumar presented a summary of the End-of-the-Course Evaluation and congratulated the participants on their successful completion of the training course.

Addressing the session, Mr. Tanaka of MAFF mentioned that Japan's agricultural co-operatives have played an important role as a conduit to link farmers and government policy, thereby helping contribute to the development of regional agriculture. He exhorted the participants to use the knowledge and experience gained from this training, in their respective countries.

In a message sent, Mr. Miyata Isami, President of JA-ZENCHU, congratulated the participants for the successful completion of about one and half month-long training without any trouble. He expected that the participants will make use of the



*Participants of the course at a photo opp at IDACA*

results obtained from the training for the development of agricultural co-operatives in their respective countries in some way or the other.

Mr. Shigeri Fukamachi, Managing Director of the IDACA, thanked Mr. Tanaka for sparing his valuable time to attend the closing session. He also appreciated Mr. Prem Kumar for his wonderful management and hard work in making this programme a great success. He extended congratulations to the participants on successful completion of the training course.

Ms Chitra Thamsuhang, a participant from Nepal, and Mr. Setiana, a participant from Indonesia, extended vote of thanks on behalf of the participants.

Ms. Chitra thanked the ICA Regional Director for Asia-Pacific for giving them an opportunity of participating in the training course.

Mr. Setiana mentioned that the course has generated goodwill among the agricultural co-operatives as well as for the ICA.

Visits to various JAs had enabled the participants to better appreciate and understand the progress of the agricultural co-operatives, especially in fields of amalgamation, farm guidance, day care centre for aged, grading and packaging of fruits and vegetables etc. With simple guidance and extension services, co-operatives have been able to generate additional income and services for their members.

Mr. Setiana, on behalf of the participants thanked IDACA and ICA.

Certificates of Participation from the ICA as well as from the IDACA were awarded to the participants during the concluding session.



*Participants visited a farmer's Green House in Japan*

## 5th ICA-Japan Women Leaders Training Course held

The International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), in association with its member organisation in Japan, the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives of Japan (JA-Zenchu) and the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA) organised the 5th ICA-Japan Training Course for "Strengthening Women's Agricultural Co-operatives in Rural Areas and Improvement of Farm Management and Rural Life" in Malaysia and Japan. Eight participants - two each from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Sri Lanka, attended the Training Course. The Course was organised and held by the ICA at the IDACA premises from 4-28 September 2005.

The 10-day component of Comparative Field Study Visits was held in Malaysia from 25 August to 3 September in collaboration with the National Co-operative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA).

The main objective of the Training Course was "to train women leaders in rural areas in developing countries by means of strengthening women's agricultural co-operatives, farm management, and improvement of rural life". The Training Course also enabled capacity building of the participants with a view to organise women's associations and study co-operative activities.

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

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



*The Women leaders posed for a photo with the Japanese hosts*

The concluding session of the Training Course was held on Wednesday, 28 September 2005 with Mr. Hideo Ishida, Assistant Director, International Co-operation Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) as Chief Guest.

Mr. Shigeri Fukamachi, Managing Director of IDACA and Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Planning Officer of ICA-AP also addressed the closing session. 'Certificate of Participation' was awarded to the participants by the IDACA.

## Co-operative-Government Dialogue organized by ICA-AP in Malaysia

The Co-operative – Government Dialogue was organized by ICA-AP in collaboration with national co-operative apex of Malaysia the ANGKASA from 14 to 17 November 2005 in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

The dialogue that was attended by more than 70 international delegates from the governments and movements of 15 countries deduced following major concerns:



*Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, the Hon'ble Minister and Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz at the Dialogue*

### Co-operative Policy & Legislation:

The Government should recognize co-operatives as unique entities with a blend of economic and social responsibility in the light of ICIS of ICA and recommendation 193 of ILO and as a catalyst alongside the public and private sectors in the national development plan.

Co-operative policy must also identify co-operatives as capable of providing services in the areas that are otherwise remained outside the mainstream national development channels.

Co-operative Policy must state the role of the government as that of a facilitator and regulator

and not that of a controller. The co-operatives deserve to be enshrined in the constitution of the country for uniform and smooth development of the nation.

### Effective Participatory Governance:

A successful Co-operative requires enlightened and informed membership. Although the membership of co-operatives in terms of numbers has increased manifold but dormant membership and the absence of active participation of members in their management have resulted in institutional ailments and has also encouraged the dominance of vested interests causing blockages in the percolation of benefits to the members.

In a large number of cases, elections and general body meetings in co-operatives are not held regularly. The non-conduct of elections and general body meetings regularly has been creating apathy among members towards the management. Meeting of the General Body and Audit of the co-operatives' functioning be made mandatory by law.

Good governance has to be ensured by adopting a clear mission and vision statement coupled with



*Hon. Minister of Entrepreneur and Co-operative Development Yang Berhormat Dato Mohd. Khaled bin Nordin speaking at the Dialogue*

guidelines prescribing role of members, leaders and managers and defining code of conduct.

Political interests of the co-operative leaders should not be catered at the cost of the co-operatives' operational freedom and viability. Creation of new leadership or second line leadership involving youths and women be made mandatory as per law.

#### **Institutional Capacity Building:**

Co-operatives have a unique character of fraternity and federated system. Each tier integrates the value chain in the business operations and hence enjoys a special status.

The role of each tier is specific to the mandate and purpose. Lack of proper guidance and education at the primary level and un-professional management of the businesses at both primary and secondary levels are some of the traditional institutional constraints hampering sustainable growth of the co-operatives.

Government should recognize the important role of the co-operative apex bodies in the formulation and implementation of development plans. The state and fraternity support must come in the form of capacity building interventions aimed at delivering right knowledge on management and operations and imparting necessary skills on project formulation, business planning, market intelligence and modern technology to compete and sustain in post WTO globalize set-up.

#### **Protection to Vulnerable Sections of the Society:**

Co-operatives belong to resource deficient segments of the society. The co-operative policy of the government must lay special stress on protection of the vulnerable target groups, women, youths and refugees through co-operative action.



*Participants of the Co-operative-Government Dialogue in Malaysia*

#### **Image Building:**

There is a dire need to build professional competence and capacity of the co-operatives to leverage existing institutional resources to compete and survive in globalized market economy and boundary-less markets.

## ICA organizes Agricultural Co-operative development projects in Laos and Cambodia

The ICA-Asia & Pacific in collaboration with AGRITERRA, Netherlands, is organizing agricultural co-operative development projects in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

The ICA had initiated discussions with governments of Laos and Cambodia and the Vietnam Co-operative Alliance in this regard.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA, recently visited Vientianne and met Dr. Ty Phommasock, Vice Minister for Agriculture and Forestry in the Government of Laos and held discussions in this regard.

A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed soon to initiate project activities, in Laos. MOUs were already signed with Cambodia and Vietnam.

In pursuance of its Key Result Area of Co-operative Policy Development and Legislation, ICA-AP collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Government of Lao PDR to organize a workshop on Sharing Experiences on "Regulation of Co-operatives" from 5-7 July 2005. The workshop was organized as a part of ICA Project on Strengthening and Promoting Agricultural Co-operatives initiated recently in partnership with MAF and with support of AGRITERRA of Netherlands.

Nearly 30 senior officials at policymaking level of MAF and representatives of Water User Associations and Farmers' Groups participated in the workshop.

The main objective of the workshop was to share the experiences of neighboring countries, namely, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam on regulation for co-operatives with participants from Laos to enable the latter to work out a practical framework of Co-operative Law/Regulation based on field situation.

His Excellency Dr. Siene Saphanthong, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Government of Laos, formally opened the workshop in the presence of



*Shil Kwan Lee with the Hon'ble Minister*

senior officials of MAF; Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director and officers of ICA-AP, resource persons from Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, ILO and AGRITERRA.

In his opening address H.E. Dr. Siene Saphanthong appreciated ICA-AP interventions in Lao PDR to revive co-operatives and observed "since the development of the new economic mechanism of our country since 1986, the development of agricultural co-operatives in Laos is still at its early stage. At present there exist some forms of co-operatives, namely, the water user group on irrigated land".

### **Outputs of the Workshop**

After intensive discussions and groupwork, the following outputs emerged from the deliberations: (a) Broad Framework for Co-operative Policy; and (b) Strategy for Formulation of Co-operative Law for Laos.

In the sidelines of the workshop an MOU with Government of Lao PDR was signed by Mr. Shil Kwan Lee on behalf of ICA-AP for implementing a Project on "Strengthening and Promoting Agricultural Co-operatives in Laos".

## ICA President, Director General and Regional Director visit Tsunami affected Sri Lanka and Indonesia

ICA Director-General, Iain Macdonald and President, Ivano Barberini, recently visited tsunami affected regions in Indonesia and Sri Lanka. The visit has only reinforced their determination that the ICA does all it can to help in the rebuilding.

*"...I don't think I have ever seen anything so dramatic as the Tsunami devastation in Banda Aceh. We spoke to a co-op manager who was away from his village when it struck - all 18,000 people were killed including all his family, absolutely nothing remains. He led us through what had been his shops - it was like Hiroshima."*

– Iain Macdonald



*A boat on the middle of the road washed well away from the coast in Banda Aceh, Indonesia*



*A large ship washed on the road*

The ICA President, Ivano Barberini, Director General, Iain Macdonald, and Regional Director, Shil Kwan Lee, visited Tsunami affected areas of Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

The team visited Sri Lanka, 22-24 April and had discussions with the Sri Lankan co-operative leaders, government representatives, the Minister for Co-operatives and also the Prime Minister. The team then proceeded to Indonesia, Nias and Aceh, which were completely destroyed by the Tsunami, 25-29 April, 2005. Mr. Robby Tulus, Special Envoy and Field Coordinator also accompanied the President, DG and RD during their visits in Indonesia.

The President has requested all collaborating donor agencies for their urgent support and instructed the ICA officials in Geneva and in the Asia-Pacific Region to do all that is possible for the hapless tsunami victims in the region, in this hour of need.

The devastation caused by the Tsunami in Sri Lanka is massive, only second to Indonesia, and the outpouring of generosity from various governments and the international community has been outstanding.

The humanitarian and relief efforts that ensued, however, have been slow where the government is concerned, with the NGOs and the Co-operative movement (mainly SANASA) responding far more swiftly to this humanitarian disaster as they struck. As this report would testify below, there was no discrimination where assistance must go to at the outset, because the human damage and suffering must be given immediate attention to avoid further casualties. Hence NGOs and SANASA went straight to the base communities to aid the suffering.

At this stage, however, the emergency situation has subsided, and relief efforts are geared more



towards rebuilding the life of survivors by post-trauma counseling, health rehabilitation, and community redevelopment. More detailed data and information are being collected by the Government and other agencies, including co-operatives, to size up the damage for future reconstruction.

Mully Dor, Board member of the Central Co-operative Society and NISPED, with 5 other



*A scene in Kadaloor, Tamil Nadu, India, after the Tsunami*

delegates representing Israeli NGOs (like ISRAID) and P. Nair started work from 26 February to March 2. Robby Tulus joined the delegation on his arrival on March 01, and continued work with co-ops in the next three days.

The Israeli cooperative movement and the International Center for Co-operative Studies of NISPED, Israel are prepared to work closely with the Sri Lankan cooperative coordinating committee and the ICA-ROAP in developing programs relevant to the post-tsunami reconstruction phase.

This activity could focus on an integrative and multi-faceted program designed to help rebuild and strengthen the cooperative frameworks in a particular region and to increase their ability to contribute to its economic and social reconstruction.

The activity would also include programs designed to further community development, programs emphasizing the rebuilding of women's livelihoods and their empowerment and programs

in the fields of education and youth. These programs could focus on leadership training and "training of trainers", but could also be concerned with organizational and administrative rebuilding, with the expansion of cooperative activity to new areas of concern, and with such practical areas as agriculture (dairy, fishery, etc. as well as marketing and storage).

A further area of concern might be that of the introduction of non-agricultural economic activities into rural areas, parallel to the furtherance of agriculture. The Israeli delegate also indicated that the Israeli group could help in seeking for financial and administrative support for these programs.

The visit of the Israeli Team from NISPED was organized and coordinated by Mr. Pathirana, General Manager of COOPFED and Mr. Udaya Seneviratne of NICD, Kandy, coordinated our visit.

The team also had meetings with Mr.G.S.L. Fonseka Commissioner of Co-operative Development & Registrar of Co-operative Society in Sri Lanka, Mr. A.M. Madduma Banda General Manager of National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka, Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, Chairman of the SANASA group.

Mr. Fonseka reported that more than 31,000 people died and 880,000 misplaced in Sri Lanka after the Tsunami.



*Mr. Mully Dor from Israel with the General Manager of Hambantota MPCS*

## APHCO Board and General Meeting at Tellicherry, Kerala, India

The 11th Board Meeting and 5th General Meeting of Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organization (APHCO) was held on 30th April 2005 at Tellicherry, Kerala, India. The meetings were hosted jointly by Tellicherry Co-operative Hospital and Kerala Co-operative Hospitals Federation. 31 persons from India, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal and Sri Lanka attended the meetings.

Among routine agenda, Work Plan for the year 2005-2006 was discussed and approved. A Special Report on "Implementation of Micro Insurance and Expectation to Health Co-operatives" was presented by Mr. Nobumasa Kitajima, former ILO Technical Officer for South Asia, who was invited by the Committee.

Election of the office bearers of the Board of APHCO took place in the General Meeting. Following persons were elected:

1. Dr. Yasuvuki Takahashi, Japan (*Chairperson*)
2. Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe, Sri Lanka (*Vice-Chairperson*)
3. Mr. E. Narayanan, India (*Vice-Chairperson*)
4. Dr. S. Horiuchi, Japan (*Member*)
5. Dr. Vijay Deshmukh, India (*Member*)
6. Dr. Bala Raja, Malaysia (*Member*)
7. Dr. Bharat Pradhan, Nepal (*Member*)



At the APHCO meeting in Tellicherry, Kerala, India

Approval was granted by the General Body to admit two new members from Sri Lanka. They are (1) Colombo Co-operative Hospital, and (2) Nuwara-Eliya Multi-purpose Co-operative Society Ltd.

It was decided in the meeting that the next meeting of APHCO may be held in Vietnam. The Secretary of APHCO will discuss the matter with Vietnam Co-operative Alliance. After that announcement of the date and venue will be made.

## “Importance of Co-operative Governance and Social Responsibility” – Theme of the ICA Committee on HRD for Asia and Pacific

The much-publicized corporate fallout of national and international corporations in many countries has created greater awareness on the need for good corporate governance in the business fraternity. This heightened awareness has led to the urgent need for good corporate governance in all economic sectors and in voluntary welfare organizations and charities.

Increasingly, corporate governance and transparency are being looked upon as competitive advantages in the market place. The other important area of concern and emphasis has been the corporate social responsibility. Many seminars and conferences have been organized for the corporate sector on the above subject.

Co-operatives, which have always looked upon social responsibility as one of its key objectives, need to re-evaluate policies and practices on governance and social responsibility in the context of current thinking. It would help the co-operatives in the region to become more competitive in open market and help strengthen relevance of ICA's role in serving its members rightfully.

The International Standardization Organization (ISO) has also launched an extensive effort to establish an ISO Advisory Guideline on this matter, which would of course be referred in setting benchmarks.

To address the aforesaid important issues of concern, the ICA-Asia and Pacific in collaboration with Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) organized a workshop on “Importance of Co-operative Governance and Social Responsibility” in Singapore on 24th and 25th October 2005. 27 participants from India, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore and ICA-AP attended the workshop.

The opening ceremony of the workshop was held at Quality Hotel in Singapore on 24th October. The opening session was addressed by Mr. Leow Peng Kui, Chairman of ICA-AP HRD Committee; Mr. Zulkifli Mohammed, Chief Executive of SNCF; and Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA-AP. The following presentations were made: a) Overview of the Singapore Co-operative Movement; b) Importance of Good Co-operative Governance, and; c) Co-operatives benchmarking Social Responsibility. Field visits were also arranged to NTUC Child Care, NTUC FairPrice and Sea Care Co-op.

The 18th Meeting of the ICA Committee on HRD for Asia and Pacific was also held at the meeting room of Sea Care Co-operative on 25th October. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Leow Peng Kui, Chairman of the HRD Committee. 23 participants from India, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Singapore attended the meeting. A presentation on “Networking of Co-operative HRD Institutions in Asia and Pacific” was made by Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive of NCUI and Vice-Chairman of the HRD Committee. Country reports on Initiatives on HRD were presented by India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka.



Shil Kwan Lee, Leow Peng Kui and Bhagwati Prasad at the HRD Seminar in Singapore

## ICA-AP/NACF hold Symposium on WTO Framework Agreement and Impact on Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia -Pacific

The ICA-Asia Pacific and the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation hosted a symposium on 'WTO Framework Agreement and the Impact on Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia and the Pacific'. The meeting/symposium was attended by representatives of agricultural co-operatives from Korea, Japan, Nepal, India, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, China and France.

The 36th meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture for Asia-Pacific was also held in conjunction with this seminar. Rajiv Mehta coordinated the Committee meeting, which was attended by Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA Asia-Pacific.

The meeting deliberated on three pillars of WTO negotiations, viz. market access, domestic support and export competitiveness.

Dr. Chan Ho Choi presented his paper on Agricultural Co-operatives in the Era of Trade Liberation. An overview of the DOHA round of negotiations in the WTO and the implications on co-operatives was presented by Raul Montemayor, FFCI, Philippines.

The seminar deliberated on:

- i. Quantitative restrictions through tariffication and tariff rate quota for most favoured nations,
- ii. Special Products (SP) and linking of tariff with value and quantity through tariff bands and tariff caps,
- iii. Special and Differential Treatment (SND) and Special Safeguard Mechanisms (SSM),
- iv. Trade and distortive non-distortive support through various boxes (Green, Blue and Amber boxes), and
- v. Poor awareness on WTO at the level of farmers.

Both positive and negative implications for co-operatives were discussed, like increased export



*Delegates at the WTO Symposium*

market, improved access to cheaper inputs, trade remedies and SND provisions, trend towards market concentration, threat of cheaper subsidized imports, trend towards privatization and deregulation, etc.

The seminar identified the following strategic actions for co-operatives and recommended:

- Optimise value addition chain
- Enhance business efficiency
- Increase vertical alliances
- Introduce structural reforms
- Encourage joint ventures, and
- Create subsidiary companies.

It was concluded that the co-operatives needed more specific policy provisions to attain comparative advantage in national and international context. It was also felt that greater understanding of SP and SSM was required to compete with developed countries.

## ICA General Assembly meets in Cartagena, Colombia

The ICA has held its General Assembly at the Hilton Hotel in Cartagena, Colombia. In its 110 year history, this is the first time that ICA held a General Assembly in Latin America.

More than 1400 delegates participated at the General Assembly and related meetings. The main theme of this year's General Assembly was 'Co-operating Out of Poverty', which show-cased how co-operatives could be the most effective vehicle to eliminate poverty, which is one of the UN Millennium goals.

Several sectoral organizations and thematic committees also met during this period. Elections were also held to the ICA Board.

The representation of Youth on the ICA Board, more than just a space for participation, it is a space for young people to act inside the cooperative movement. Being here implies organizing our work, defining the motives that lead us to be here and draw the course of action to make our dreams come true.



*President of Colombia addressing the General Assembly of ICA in Cartagena*

Coherence is required to be in this position; that means acting according to our beliefs. It means forming and consolidating interdisciplinary, inter-generational and international working groups that allow a more precise interpretation of the needs and aspirations of the people represented.

The collective design and action is the only possible way to make a solidary - co-operative scenario a feasible reality.

Colombia assumes the challenge of this representation, led by Juan Carlos Mejía, who besides having the support of Colombia ICA members, counts on the young people organized in the youth network in Colombia. We have constituted a support group, to struggle to make the following proposals a possible reality.

The Conference adopted an International Youth Action Plan, which has major strategies like a web-page, a youth digest, participate in various events, joint ventures, representation, structure and constitution, funding, employment, entrepreneurship and agreements, with action plans to match these.

Mr. Juan Carlos Mejía, the youth representative on the ICA board, can be contacted at : [<jmejiacu@eafit.edu.co>](mailto:jmejiacu@eafit.edu.co) for more information on Youth co-operative activities.



*The members of the board, with some outgoing members, at the governing council meeting*

## Fifth ICA Regional Workshop for Managers of Consumer Co-operatives held in Singapore

The 5th ICA Regional Workshop for Managers on 'Managing Consumer Co-operatives' was held from 11–13 July 2005 in Singapore, with the support and collaboration of NTUC Fairprice Co-operative. There were 19 participants from 7 countries (India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines and Korea) in the Asia Pacific region.

The workshop was divided into three types of sessions; class room lectures, study visits and presentations. In the classroom session, participants learned the knowledge and skill of managing consumer co-operatives.

The next day, they visited NTUC Fairprice stores and its competitors and they were exposed to the severe competition in the retail market. On the final day, they drew up action plans for their stores to overcome weaknesses and made presentations on 'What are you going to implement in your organization?'.



*The Trainees at NTUC Fairprice Co-operative*

## ICA-CLT Workshop for Sensitisation of Co-operative Leaders to Generate Awareness for Prevention of Spread of HIV/AIDS

The ICA-AP has taken initiative to address the HIV/AIDS crisis in the region and a strategic project focusing on prevention and intervention activities has been put in place to cover all the member co-operatives in the region.

According to the plan to cover the countries with high HIV prevalence first, a workshop for sensitisation of co-operative leaders to generate awareness for Prevention of Spread of HIV/AIDS has been held on 1-2 July 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand in collaboration with the Co-operative League of Thailand. The participants were co-operative leaders, directors and managers from various sectors of Thai co-op movement.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Suthiporn Chirapada, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Government of Thailand. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA-A&P, Wisoot Sutthinoon, Chairman of the CLT, and Dr. Wiwut Daengsubha, Executive Director of CLT addressed the participants.

Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive of NCUI, India shared his experience about the ongoing HIV/AIDS awareness activities in co-ops in India with the participants.



*Co-operative leaders in Bangkok, Thailand at the HIV/AIDS awareness workshop*

## ICA-NACF study visits programme to Agricultural Co-operatives in Korea

The ICA-AP, in collaboration with the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation (NACF) organized an exposure and networking programme for women co-operative leaders of our region in Seoul, Korea, 5-10 September, 2005. Twenty persons, 10 men and 10 women attended the programme.

Women are the most sufferers from the rapid changes societies are undergoing due to globalization and free trade. In the context of these challenges, ICA Regional Women's Committee has been making attempts to share information with women co-operative leaders in the region and expecting to find ways and means to promote women's economic security and empowerment through the co-operatives.

The participants visited to Hanoramart Chain Store Division, Agriculture Co-ops including meeting with Women Association in the co-op and Kyoyang Agricultural Marketing Complex and Agricultural Co-operative College.

The information sharing during the exposure visits to successful co-operatives, focused upon co-operative endeavour to promote women's



*Participants of the study visit programme in Korea*

interests. The participants got an opportunity to understand the challenges of globalization and free trade, affecting the lives of people unevenly across the world, and the threats of free market.



## Regional Workshop on Co-operatives and Micro-Finance

The ICA-AP/ACCU/NABARD organised a Regional Workshop on Co-operatives and Micro-Finance on 18-21 October, at the Goa-Bogmallo Beach Resort, Goa, India.

An overview of co-operative credit and banking sector in majority of the developing countries of the Asia-Pacific Region shows that while credit unions have achieved appreciable success in the sphere of micro-finance, other co-operatives, by and large, appear to be perhaps the last entrants in internalizing innovative micro-finance programmes.



*Participants at the Regional Workshop at Goa, India*

Thus, it was high time to introduce such groundbreaking schemes to a larger area and dimension, as micro-financing the employment generating activities for poor, down-trodden and under-privileged of the society is one of the prime concerns to improve their physical quality of life.

In line with the theme of the International Day of Co-operatives "Micro Finance is our Business! Co-operating out of Poverty", this regional workshop on co-operatives and micro-finance, organized by the International Co-operative

Alliance in partnership with Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) of India, aimed at discussing important issues and facilitating growth of a more inclusive co-operative financial sector for the poor.

There was also a need to deliberate upon the problems of the co-operative sector and also the potential of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) as micro-finance models for co-operatives to emanate as also the possibility of integrating other important inputs and financial services for the poor like micro-insurance.

The workshop will draw a road map with broad contours on the role of co-operatives in operationally internalizing micro-finance, including defining the role and responsibilities for each stakeholder involved in micro-finance. Specifically, the outputs were:

- (a) workable model of co-operative micro-finance;
- (b) model for co-operative insurance, and
- (c) support systems for co-operative micro-finance.

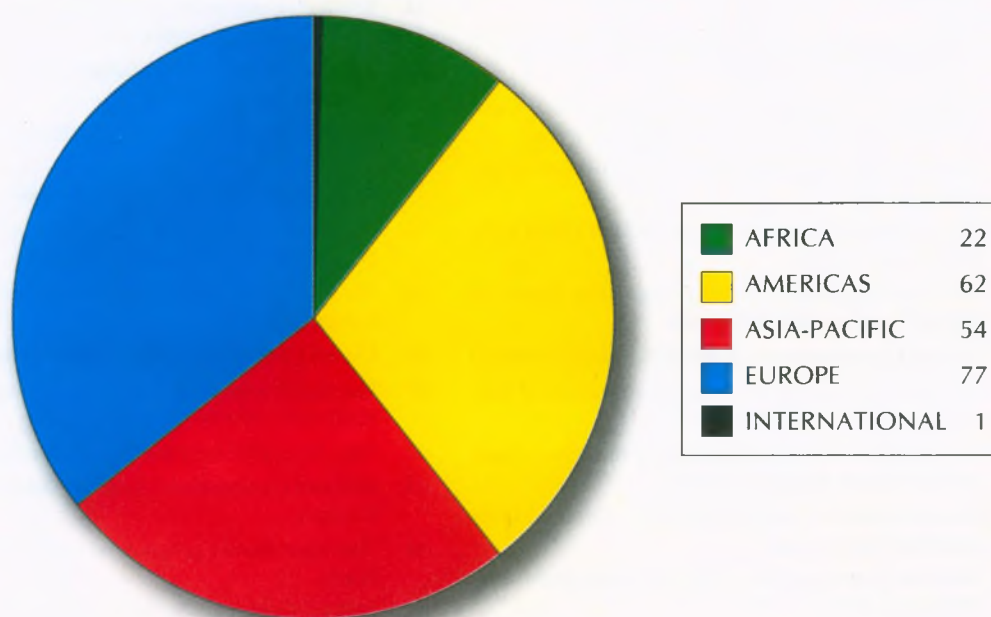
Eminent resource persons from Asia-Pacific region have made presentations on the following subjects: i. Co-operative Sector - changes required to operationally internalize concept of micro-finance, ii. Micro-finance and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) - concept, formation, linkages with banks and policy initiatives, iii. Micro-finance product designs, delivery systems and institutional support systems for sustainable micro-finance, iv. Development of co-operative micro-insurance system for the poor.

In addition, case studies on best practices relating to co-operative micro-finance system, were also presented at the workshop.

## ICA Membership

2005

(31.12.2005)



TOTAL MEMBERS : 216

Region	No. of Members	
AFRICA	22	10.19%
AMERICAS	62	28.70%
ASIA-PACIFIC	54	25.00%
EUROPE	77	35.65%
INTERNATIONAL	1	0.46%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>216</b>	

## ICA Member Organisations in Asia and the Pacific

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

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

1. Institute for Indonesian Co-operative Development Studies (LSP 21), Jakarta, Indonesia.
2. Co-operative College of Malaysia, Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia
3. National Co-operative Development Corporation, India

### INTERNATIONAL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

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