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ANNUAL REPORT- 2014

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

◆ ASIA AND PACIFIC ◆



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Year End Report

Dear Members,

2014 was another successful year as we were able to increase membership, organize a successful Regional Assembly, raise the voice of cooperatives, manage leadership transition, and carry out most planned activities.

We have highlighted experiences of some individuals who participated in the trainings, workshops and exchange programmes organized this year. Their stories show that they have gained through these experiences and more importantly many have put into practice what they have learned. This is the objective of any training and we are glad this is happening.

The 11th Regional Assembly and 8th Co-operative Forum held in Indonesia adopted the Bali Resolution on, "Cooperatives for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific," to recognize the relevance of Sustainable Development Goals and position co-operatives in the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda. This year, we hope through our joint efforts, co-operatives get a mention in the final declaration at the United Nations. The ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation, which participated in the World Conference on Youth in Sri Lanka, in May, ensured the role and importance of co-operatives was recognized in the final declaration. These are important steps and will help to create an enabling environment to foster the cooperative model of business.

The Malaysia Business Office has been fully functional and four seconded staff from All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC), China; Angkasa, Malaysia; Japanese Consumer Cooperative Union (JCCU), Japan; and National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF), Korea are in place.

We are thankful to our sponsoring organizations – ACFSMC, Angkasa, JCCU, JAZENCHU, and NACF. We continue to receive generous support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Japan to foster leadership and develop cooperatives in the Asia Pacific region. We are grateful for the generous time and support we received from our board, regional office staff, members, governments, partners and other stakeholders.

We look forward to 2015 and hope to have another fruitful cooperative year!

Li Chunsheng
President

Balu Iyer
Regional Director

11th Asia Pacific Regional Assembly- 2014

The Assembly adopted the Bali Resolution on, "Co-operatives for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific," to recognize the relevance of Sustainable Development Goals and position co-operatives in the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda.



Mr. Setyo Heryanto, Mr. Balu Iyer, Dame Pauline Green, Mr. Li Chunsheng and Mr. Nurudin Halid at the 11th Regional Assembly.

The 11th Regional Assembly and 8th Co-operative Forum were held in Bali, Indonesia from September 16 to 20. Over 500 cooperators from the region, registered to take part in the Assembly and related events. The Assembly adopted the Bali Resolution on "Co-operatives for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific," to recognize the relevance of Sustainable Development Goals and position co-operatives in the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda.

The welcome address was delivered by Mr. Setyo Heryanto, Deputy Minister of Co-operatives and Small and Medium enterprises, Republic of Indonesia. Mr. Li Chunsheng, President, ICA-AP and the Chairman of ICA-AP Regional Assembly, opened the meeting and welcomed all the members and special invitees. He expressed his happiness at the large participation of ICA member organizations in Asia and Pacific.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISCUSSED AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Introduction of the new Regional Director
- Confirmation of minutes of the 10th Regional Assembly held in Kobe in 2012
- Minutes of the Regional Board Meetings held since last Regional Assembly
- Financial Report of the ICA-AP for 2012-2014
- ICA membership situation in the Asia and Pacific Region

- Presentation of the ICA Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade by the ICA Director General
- Report of the 1st Asia-Pacific Co-operative Registrars' Conference-2013 held in Malaysia
- Status of ICA-AP Malaysia Office
- Reports from ICA-AP Sectoral/Thematic Committees
- Report of the 8th Co-operative Forum on "Co-operatives for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific"
- Consideration of venue and date of next ICA-AP Regional Assembly-2016

The sector and thematic committees of ICA-AP held their annual meeting and events in conjunction with the Regional Assembly. The Chairpersons of the committees presented their reports at the Assembly.

Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) and Vice Chairperson of the ICA-AP offered to host the 2016 Regional Assembly in India. The Regional Assembly unanimously accepted the offer of NCUI. Dr. Yadav extended a warm invitation to all the delegates.

Mr Li Chunsheng made the closing remarks and extended his gratitude to all the members for their active participation in the assembly and related events. He thanked the host DEKOPIN for making

excellent preparations and arrangements. The Regional Assembly proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Balu Iyer and ICA-AP staff for organizing the events successfully. The Regional Assembly also expressed its thanks to Dame Pauline Green, President, ICA and Mr. Charles Gould, Director General, ICA for their participation and valued contribution in enriching the discussion of the Regional Assembly.



H.E.Dr. Syarifuddin Hasan , Mr. Li Chunsheng, Mr. Nurudin Halid, Dame Pauline Green and Mr. Balu Iyer at the Regional Assembly.

8th Asia Pacific Cooperative Forum- 2014

Mr. Setyo Heryanto, Deputy Minister of Co-operatives and Small and Medium enterprises, Republic of Indonesia in his inaugural address emphasized his government's support to development of co-operatives, especially women cooperatives. He said his government was giving support in the form of funding, training, capacity building to develop human resources and creating an enabling environment. He said it was apt the Forum was being held in Bali which epitomizes the "Cooperatives Spirit".

The 8th Co-operative Forum was held on 18 September on the theme, 'Co-operatives for Sustainable Development in Asia Pacific' during the 11th Regional Assembly. Mr. Setyo Heryanto, Deputy Minister of Co-operatives and Small and Medium enterprises, Republic of Indonesia in his inaugural address emphasized his government's support for development of co-operatives, especially women cooperatives. He said his government was giving support in the form of funding, training, capacity building to develop human resource and creating an enabling environment for co-operatives. He said it was apt that the Forum was being held in Bali which epitomizes the "Cooperatives Spirit".

In his welcome address, Mr. Nurudin Halid, Vice President of DEKOPIN, emphasized the role of cooperatives in sustainable development and their contribution to the national GDP. Mr. Li Chunsheng, President ICA-AP said cooperatives have a huge role to play in society. The Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade lays out the roadmap for cooperative development. Dame Pauline Green said that the International Year of Cooperatives in 2012 gave a great boost to the co-operative movement. Co-operatives are key to sustainable development because they take part in all walks of life. She wanted the participants to be aware that they are part of a movement which has over billion members. She invited all the participants to take part in promoting the cooperative identity by adopting the COOP marquee.

Prof. I Wayan Windia, Senior Expert on Subak Agriculture and Professor at Udayana University said that co-operatives are based on community and not an individual approach. A community based approach takes into account social and economic equity and concern for environment which ensures sustainable development. As a Balinese native he mentioned about, Tri Hita Karana, the three causes of well-being which includes harmony among people, harmony with nature or environment, and harmony with God.

The Cooperative Forum was divided into three sessions that covered issues relating to evidences of sustainable socio-economic-environmental growth through co-operatives in the region; role of data, research and innovation in sustainable development; and panel discussion and an open forum: Co-operatives Build a Sustainable Society. The technical experts who delivered were Prof. Frederick O. Wanyama, School of Development and Strategic Studies, Maseno University, Kenya; Mr. Gianluca Salvatori, CEO, European Research Institute on Co-operative and Social Enterprises; Dr. Burhanudin Abdullah, President, Co-operative University of Indonesia; and Mr Peter Van Rooij, Director, International Labour Organisation (ILO) Country Office for Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

Experiences from Co-operative movements were shared by Rep. Cresente C Paez, House of Representatives, Philippines; Mr. Enkhbold Nyamaa, President of Mongolian Co-operative Alliance; Mr. Zakaria Motevalli, Deputy of International Affairs of Iran Central Chamber of Co-operatives; Mr. A. Praveen Reddy, President, Mulkanoor Co-operative Rural Bank



Charles Gould, ICA Director General with Panellists at 8th Co-operative Forum

and Marketing Society Ltd.; and Mr. Akira Kurimoto, Director, Japanese Consumer Co-operative Institute, Kobe, Japan. The moderators for the sessions were Mr. Agung Sudjatmoko, Vice President of DEKOPIN; Mr. Charles Gould, Director General, ICA; and Dame Pauline Green, President, ICA.

The Forum resolved to assess and measure the contribution of co-operatives, invest in technology, education and training for members, staff, management and board to increase participation, service and competitiveness of co-operative enterprises, initiate activities at national and local level, focusing on achieving inclusive and democratic

sustainable development, call upon national governments, inter-governmental agencies and other stakeholders to recognize co-operatives as representative of a significant section of the population, and to work with the national, regional and global co-operative movements in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, urge national co-operative movements to call on their governments to revise co-operative laws and policies in conformity with internationally recognized definition of co-operative and work closely with the Alliance (ICA) to identify responses of co-operatives to each of the Sustainable Development Goals to be adopted by the international community, and create an enabling atmosphere for co-operatives to play a larger role in realising the goals so adopted.

During the concluding session, Dr. Syarifuddin Hasan, the Minister of Co-operatives and Small and Medium Enterprises, Indonesia, spoke about the Indonesian governments support to cooperatives by dedicating a ministry for cooperatives that undertakes marketing cooperative products, financing for co-operative members and training and education through universities. Mr. Li Chunsheng, President, ICA-AP and Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, read out the proposed resolution of the Forum. Mr. Li, added words of appreciation and thanked the host DEKOPIN for the excellent arrangements.




Cooperatives Delegates at the 8th Cooperative Forum

Bali Resolution (2014) on the Role of Cooperatives in Sustainable Development

The Bali Resolution on the “Role of Cooperatives in Sustainable Development”.

The 8th Asia Pacific Co-operative Forum, representative of the ICA in the Asia and Pacific and the co-operative movements therein; having met during the 11th Regional Assembly of the ICA Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) from 16 – 19 September, 2014 at Bali, Indonesia, while

- Recognizing the relevance of Sustainable Development Goals and the importance of positioning co-operatives in the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda,
- Reaffirming the International Co-operative Identity Statement and its promotion in theory and practice at all levels of co-operative education and training systems,
- Realising the significance of the ICA Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade and its themes as indicators in the development of co-operatives in the 21st Century, and in achieving sustainable development while articulating the concern of co-operatives for the community,
- Noting the contribution of co-operative enterprises in ethical and value based business practices and the role of the global co-operative movement in promotion of Sustainable Development Goals.
- Appreciating the inherent ability of co-operative enterprises in mainstreaming women, youth and marginalised sections of the society and, in creating equal opportunity for all and,
- Conscious of inadequate enabling legal, policy and regulatory environment for co-operatives and the resultant constraints in realisation of the complete potential of people-based economic enterprises in Asia Pacific region, hereby resolve with the spirit of co-operation to,
 1. Commit to assess and measure the contribution of co-operatives while increasing the body of co-operative research and knowledge by efficient data collection and management, to enable dissemination of information on co-operatives and sustain sovereign support of national governments and other stakeholders,
 2. Invest in technology, education and training for members, staff, management and board to increase participation, service and competitiveness of co-operative enterprises in realizing their inherent sustainable nature,

- 
3. Initiate activities at national and local level, focusing on achieving inclusive and democratic sustainable development through increased member participation with greater focus on women, youth and other marginalized persons, while addressing their socio, economic, cultural and environmental needs and aspirations,
 4. Call upon national governments, inter-governmental agencies and other stakeholders to recognize co-operatives as representative of a significant section of the population, and to work in co-operation with the national, regional and global co-operative movements in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by pledging support, integrating resources and implementing joint strategies in developing co-operatives in sectors vitals for sustainable development such as clean energy, marine/ ocean resources etc.
 5. Urge national co-operative movements to call on their governments to revise co-operative laws and policies in conformity with internationally recognized definition, meaning and scope of co-operative enterprises, to participate in the global co-operative movement as a significant institutional partner and,
 6. Work closely with the Alliance (ICA) to identify responses of co-operatives to each of the Sustainable Development Goals to be adopted by the international community, and create an enabling atmosphere for co-operatives to play a larger role in realising the goals so adopted.

Committee Meetings and Events- 2014

REGIONAL BOARD MEETING



Board Members with ICA President Dame Pauline Green

Two Regional Board meetings were held during the year; the first in Beijing in February and the second in Bali, prior to the Regional Assembly.

Mr. Li Chunsheng warmly welcomed Dame Pauline Green, ICA President, Charles Gould, ICA Director General and members of the ICA-AP Regional Board and thanked Mr. Nurudin Halid for the meeting arrangements made in Bali. Mr. Nurudin Halid, representing DEKOPIN, also welcomed the board members and talked about the benefits the week long Regional Assembly was to bring to co-operatives in the region.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved and minutes of the last Regional Board meeting were confirmed. Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director presented the activity report, financial report and progress report of the Malaysian Business Office (MBO) for the period of Jan-Aug 2014 and the draft ICA-AP activity plan for 2015. He appraised the board on membership in the region and said that the region currently has 85 members from 26 countries. He also introduced the new website of ICA-AP and gave an overview of its features.

Dame Pauline Green laid emphasis on the significance of the regional board meeting and applauded the development of the new user-friendly website. She informed the board that since the launch of the new global Co-operative Identity in November last year, 750 co-ops in 75 countries had successfully registered to use the COOP marque. In addition, there are 8,000 .coop domains registered in 89 countries. The ICA has now launched a toolkit to promote Co-operative Identity to help achieve the aim of co-operatives becoming one of the best known ethical marques in the world by 2020.

Some of the key items discussed in the meeting related to admission of new members in ICA and the pending membership application of National Farmers' Association (NFA) in Taiwan; and decentralization of MBO and clear delineation of financial responsibility. Mr. Yaguchi proposed that the term of office of ICA-AP President should be for a maximum of two terms and that it should be stipulated in the election rules. The ICA-AP was requested to study this issue and



Board meeting in progress

come up with a proposal at the next board meeting. The proposal was supported by Dame Pauline Green, who hoped for better clarity and transparency in the next elections.

During the Regional Meeting there was a special presentation by Dr. Sukesh Zamwar, Chairperson of the Youth Committee. He said that the Youth Committee had been successful in getting co-operatives mentioned in the Colombo Declaration. They were planning to work with university/campus co-operatives and needed support from all the board members.

Mr. Balu Iyer, announced the next Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference is due in 2016. Indonesia had agreed to host the conference but given the change in government it was not clear if this was still the case. Mr. Halid requested more time for them to confirm with the new Indonesian Minister for Co-operatives; to which the board agreed. The next Regional Assembly will be held in India in November 2016. An affectionate invitation was extended by Mr. Viton Naewpanit, Chairman of Co-operative League of Thailand for all to attend the 2016 celebrations to mark, 100 years of co-operatives in Thailand.

MEETING OF THE ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON CREDIT & BANKING

The 12th Meeting of ICA-AP committee on Credit & Banking was held on 16 September, 2014. The President Mr. Li Chunsheng, welcomed the members and observers. In addition to routine matters, the committee discussed and finalized work plan for the next two years (2015-2016). The members made presentations on the topic, "Current scenario of Co-operative Banking".

SEMINAR ON CREDIT & BANKING

The committee meeting was followed by a seminar on, "Capitalization–Challenges for Co-operative Banks." Mr. Robby Tulus, former Regional Director of ICA-AP and Mr. B.D. Sharma former Consultant led the discussions.

MEETING OF THE ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

The 40th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Agriculture was held on 16 September, 2014. There were 19 members in attendance from China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, and Palestine.

The committee acknowledged the importance of the UN International Year of Family Farming (IYFF). The Chairman, Mr. Won Byung Choi from National Agricultural Cooperative Federation, Korea saw the IYFF as an opportunity to raise the profile of family farming and small holder farmers. It was a platform



Agriculture Committee members and participants

to highlight the potential of family farmers to eradicate hunger, preserve natural resources and promote sustainable development. He urged members to attend the seminar to be organised by International Co-operative Agricultural Organization (ICAO) the following day to share and exchange their experiences.

The committee approved the membership of the Nepal Agricultural Co-operative Central Federation Limited.

MEETING OF THE ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH

The 2nd meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Co-operative Research was attended by members from India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. Dr. Y. Dongre, talked on the need to increase membership of Research Committee and to encourage youth researchers to participate by offering them scholarships. The existing Steering Committee will continue to function for the next two years along with Prof. Morris Altman from New Zealand. The Steering Committee consists of 7 members, five from India and one each from Japan and New Zealand. The next Co-operative Research Conference will be held in Pune, India in 2015.



Participants at the Research Committee meeting



Mr. Balu Iyer giving speech during the meeting

CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The 9th ICA-AP Cooperative Research Conference was held on 16 September 2014. 39 participants from China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Sri Lanka, attended the conference. The Conference Chair, Dr. G.N. Saxena, praised the research committee for its commendable performance over the years and for holding the research conference every year. Mr. Akira Kurimoto, Vice Chairperson of the Committee recounted the history of the activities of the research committee beginning from 2000 till the last seminar at the University of Mysore in India. He also explained the various international research events and forthcoming research projects.

The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Morris Altman from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, on “Cooperative Organizations as an Engine of Equitable Rural Economic Development.” He talked about the critical and contemporary challenges of co-operatives in the context of changes in the global economy. This was followed by presentation and discussion on the eight papers based on the theme of the seminar, ‘ICA Blueprint for Co-operative Decade.’ The conference ended with concluding remarks by Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP. He highlighted the importance of research and said that ICA-AP office will provide all possible assistance to the Committee.

MEETING OF THE ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON YOUTH COOPERATION

The 7th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation (ICYC) was held on 17 September, 2014, on the theme, “Financial Literacy for Youth.” The meeting was attended by 17 members (11 men and 6 women) from Bhutan, China, India, Malaysia and Indonesia. In addition, observers from Iran and Palestine participated and contributed to the deliberations.

The Chairperson, Dr. Sukesh Zamwar, presided over the meeting, and updated the members about the activities of ICYC during the past year. He laid emphasis on the importance of judicious use of money by youth for nation building. He said that youth needed to practice the habit of being thrifty as this would save them from being a victim of consumerism and ensure a sustainable future for the society.

During the meeting, video presentations and messages sent by Ms. Anna Gabriella Buffa, ICA Global Youth Chair and Mr. Mumshad Ali Khan, Member-ICYC were played. Ms. Buffa’s video featured Mr. Ernesto Guevara, Manager of Training, Caja Popular, Mexico who brought out the features of credit co-operatives for youth and the work undertaken by his organisation. Ms. Buffa highlighted the role of the Global Youth Network and the slow yet steady progress it was making towards formalizing the association. The Chairperson launched the new look of the ICYC website (www.youth-asiapacific.coop). He also welcomed, Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director as Honorary Member of the committee. Mr. Iyer assured his support and congratulated members on the success achieved during the World Conference on Youth 2014. The meeting tentatively decided to meet in Malaysia in 2015 and work closely with the Global youth Network.



Ernesto Guevara – Manger of Training, Caja Popular Mexicana making a video presentation



MEETING OF THE ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY AND CAMPUS COOPERATIVES

The 6th University/Campus Co-operative Committee Meeting was held on September 17, 2014. Prof. Zenaida S. Diola was nominated as Chairperson of the Meeting. Members and observers from 12 countries took part in the meeting where ANGKASA, DEKOPIN and SNCF furthered their nominations to the committee. Members elected a new board to serve until 2016 during the meeting.

Prof. Kokichi Shoji participated in his last meeting as committee Chairperson owing to his retirement from NFUCA. He proposed the University/Campus Co-operative Committee to nurture ambitious co-operators to help revitalize the movement. The Meeting continued with discussions on activities for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 besides deliberating on budget and hosts for the next meeting. Members from TCOFU, Thailand expressed their interest to host the next meeting. Dr. Sukesh introduced himself as the Chairperson of the Youth Committee and an observer to the meeting. The Youth Committee, during their Committee meeting the day before, had discussed that they could work together with the University/Campus Co-op Committee. Dr. Sukesh suggested that seminars with various themes, such as on financial literacy, could be explored.

The Meeting elected Prof. Furuta (NFUCA) as Chairperson and Prof. Park (KUCF) and Dr. Azlan (ANGKASA) as joint Vice Chairpersons. The Committee also took forward talks on the inclusion of students as members of the committee.

MEETING OF THE ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON WOMEN

The 9th meeting of the ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and Pacific was held on 16 September, 2014. The meeting was attended by 22 (20 women and 2 men) members as well as observers from 9 countries. The Chairperson at the meeting was Ms. Mashako Shinbo and the special invitee was, Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP. The meeting saw the election of Ms. Masako Shinbo, as Chairperson and Ms. Maria Elena Canda Limocon, as

Vice Chair. Ms. Savitri Singh, reported on the progress of the Resource Guide for Advanced Training of Co-operatives on Entrepreneurship Development of Women and Gender Equality.

One of the major agenda of the meeting was to increase the membership of the committee. Several members offered suggestions and expressed their views. The Committee also proposed and approved the work plan for 2015. This was followed by presentation of country reports by members from India, Vietnam, Malaysia and Japan.



Women Committee meeting in progress

Mr. Balu Iyer in closing the meeting praised the committee for its commendable efforts to empower women and gender mainstream in co-operatives. He expressed his enthusiasm to support the activities of the Women Committee to encourage more participation of women. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held in India, in 2016, in conjunction with the ICA Regional Assembly.

ICA-AP REGIONAL WOMEN FORUM- 2014

The 8th ICA-AP Regional Women Forum, held on 17 September, focused on the theme, “Gender Mainstreaming in Co-operatives for Sustainable Development.’ The forum was attended by 40 women and men co-operators from 8 countries. The members of the Committee presented 5 papers. Ms. Savitri Singh, started the proceedings by welcoming the participants and giving a introduction on the ICA-AP Regional Women Forum, its purpose and objectives. The Forum was graced by Ms. Masako Shinbo, Chairperson of the ICA-AP Committee on Women and the Special Guest for the event was Dame Pauline Green, ICA President. Ms. Maria Elena Limocon, Vice Chair of Women Committee delivered the vote of thanks and expressed her gratitude to all guests and participants.

Dame Pauline Green made a presentation on, “Gender mainstreaming in Co-operatives for Sustainable Development.” She briefly introduced ICA and its work on sustainable development and explained the situation of women’s participation in co-operatives. The Keynote speech was given by Mr. Peter Van Rooij, Director, International Labour Organisation, Indonesia on the theme, “Gender mainstreaming in Co-operatives for Sustainable Development.” Other speakers at the Forum were Mr. Robby Tulus, former Regional Director of ICA-AP, Ms. Keiko Okawara, chairperson of the National Association of Women of Japan Agriculture Co-operatives group and Ms. Maria Elena Limocon, Vice Chair of committee, Philippines. A stimulating group discussion was also held on the topic, “How to overcome cultural and legal barriers towards gender equality in Coops”.



Savitri Singh, Pauline Green, Masako Shinbo, and Peter Van Rooij with participants of the Women Forum-2014



Panel discussion in progress

MEETING OF THE ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The 26th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) was held on 17 September. The meeting was attended by 9 members and 30 observers from India, Iran, Malaysia, Philippines and Sri Lanka and presided by Dr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chairman of the Committee. Dr. Dinesh, Chief Executive of NCUI spoke about the Global Human Resource Development Networking portal and said that NCUI was in the process of amending/modifying the portal. The portal will be up and working again from October 2014 onwards. Country reports were presented by members from India, Iran and Sri Lanka.

Dr. Dinesh and Mr. Jose Romeo Ebron, were elected as Chair and Vice Chair respectively for the next four years. The next seminar on the theme, "HRD as a Tool for Improving Performance in Co-operatives" will be hosted by NCUI in India in 2015.

SEMINAR ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Bhagwati Prasad, opened the seminar and spoke on good governance as a process for making and implementing decisions in a manner that leads to accomplishing desired objectives. He said, the importance should not be on "correct" decisions, but rather the best possible process for making those decisions. According to him, good decision-making processes and good governance are characterized by participation, rule of law, transparency, responsiveness, consensus-oriented, equity and inclusiveness, effectiveness and efficiency and accountability. He pointed out that, in cooperatives, good governance can be best accomplished by following principles, values, philosophy and ethos in true spirit by all stakeholders of cooperatives including members, board members and employees. HRD intervention enables stakeholders to prepare themselves and enables them to make good decisions and implement them. Dr. Prasad's address was followed by presentations by three experts who highlighted various aspects of good governance with focus on HRD.

The seminar concluded with the understanding that HR policy should be an integral part of business policy of every co-operative. The need to involve youth while they are studying in school was emphasized. The examples of Corruption Commission in Malaysia, Aflatoun program for children in Philippines, and mandatory training of board of directors as implemented in Malaysia were highlighted as good examples to follow.



Participants at the HRD Committee meeting

MEETING OF THE ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVES

The 48th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Co-operation was held on 17 September. 9 Committee members and 19 observers from 8 countries attended the meeting. The meeting commenced with an opening address by Mr. Amano Haruyoshi, Chairperson of the committee. Ms. Nishimoto Yuki, Secretary of the committee, presented the Activity Report since last meeting in Singapore (2013) and Activity Plan for 2014-2015. The committee members made presentations of their recent activities and business results.

The meeting was followed by election of the Office Bearers of the Committee. Mr. Amano Haruyoshi of JCCU, Japan was re-elected as Chairperson for another term of four years. Mr. Poh Leong Sim of NTUC FairPrice, Singapore and Mr. D.S.K. Pathirana of COOPFED, Sri Lanka were elected as Vice-Chairpersons unanimously. The next committee meeting is scheduled to be held in 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Participants and members of the Consumer Committee

SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

In conjunction with the meeting of the Consumer Committee, a seminar on environmental protection was also held. The guest speakers were Ms. Desi Kusumadewi, Director, Indonesian Office of Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and Mr. Jung Won-Gak, Chairperson of iCOOP Co-operative Development Centre. Ms. Kusumadewi gave an “Overview of RSPO”, during which she covered the current situation of consumption and production of palm oil in the world, environmental and social issues, and certification system of RSPO. Mr. Jung made a presentation on, “Business and Activity of iCOOP Korea for Environmental Protection”. The presentation included back ground of iCOOP Korea, eco-friendly agricultural food business, and practices of iCOOP Korea such as protecting Korean native wheat, paddy, wetland conservation activities, and participation of consumers’ in environmental movement.

Participation: Stories and Experience Sharing

1. REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON “ENHANCING ROLE OF WOMEN IN CO-OPERATIVE BUSINESS”

A three days workshop on “Enhancing Role of Women in Co-operative Business,” was held from 2-4 December 2014 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The workshop was attended by 25 participants from six countries. In attendance were “Mr. Nguyen Cuu Vice President and Mr. Hoang Nghia Trung Director General of Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA). The program coordinator, Mrs Savitri Singh, delivered the welcome address and Mr. Nguyen Dac Thang, Vice President of VCA delivered the inaugural address.

Co-operatives in Asia Pacific are widely represented in the traditional sector of economy, namely agriculture and agriculture related business such as farming, dairy, handloom and fisheries.

Statistics from most of the countries reveal that women contribute up to 50% to 70 % of labour in these businesses but, participation of women in co-operatives is still low due to socio-economic and cultural constraints. Therefore, women farmers, producers and workers are often being deprived of services and other benefits provided by a co-operative. ICA-AP is committed to enhancing the capacity of women as well as co-operative institutions to increase women’s participation in co-operative business in the region. The workshop is designed to:

1. Provide opportunity to women co-operators to meet and build up business network
2. Share information and learn about different types of co-operative businesses

The representatives from Co-operative Training Institute of Mongolia; Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative, India; Co-operative College of Malaysia; National Confederation of Co-operatives and National Coop Federation & Development Center, Philippines; All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Cooperatives, China and Micro Finance and Community Development Institute, Vietnam gave detailed presentations. They spoke about the situation of women’s empowerment, their participation as workers and leaders and their contribution to cooperatives and the national economy. The members discussed their activities taking into account the current situation, including issues and challenges; and their plans for gender mainstreaming

A study visit was organized to the Minh Dhuontg Textile Co-operative in the Bac Ninh province.



Participants with Mr. Nguyen Dac Thang, Vice President of VCA

EXPERIENCE SHARING

Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) interns Tecla Van Bussel (Vietnam) and Olivia Tran (Mongolia) reflect on the role of gender in co-operatives following the International Co-operative Alliance Asia-Pacific's Workshop "Enhancing the Role of Women in Co-operative Business" held in Hanoi, Vietnam, December 2014.

'In both Vietnam and Mongolia there is poor female representation in politics and high level positions of power. In co-operatives, most leadership positions are held by men. In Vietnam, a lack of qualifying education and a cultural expectation of "shyness" can hinder women from taking these positions even when the opportunity to do so becomes available. In Mongolia, confronting gender barriers to leadership is not considered an important issue by both men and women because they already perceive their society as being gender equal.

The International Cooperative Alliance - Asia Pacific (ICA-AP) workshop held recently in Hanoi, are essential to provide a common meeting ground for women to share best practices on co-operative business, leadership and gender mainstreaming. Tools and practices discussed at the ICA-AP workshop, such as sex-disaggregated data (to discover patterns in membership and participation), gender advocacy education for men and women, and proper implementation of gender quotas (especially for leadership positions), all have their merits and must be implemented in an individual co-op context in order to work.

From the workshop, and from our experiences working in Vietnam and Mongolia, we have been able to think more critically about development initiatives. Considering the diverse lived experiences of women around the world, asking the question "What barriers still exist for women in co-operatives today, and how do we overcome them?" seems daunting in its breadth and complexity, and there is no one answer. However, this is a question that must be asked by both men and women, by both development practitioners and local co-operators, in order for co-operative development to affect equitable social, political, and economic change."

FULL POST CAN BE FOUND AT:

Huffingtonpost

link: http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/canadian-cooperative-association/gender-gap-co-ops_b_6502940.html



A participant sharing her experiences

2. TRAINING ON “IMPROVING CAPACITY OF RURAL WOMEN” AT IDACA JAPAN.

Reflection from a participant Ms. Kavita Khobragade, Assistant Manager (Marketing) of Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. (IFFCO)

It is an honour to get selected by ICA-AP to attend the training program on “Improving Capacity of Rural Women” at Thailand and Japan from 12th November to 10th December 2014. I don't have words to express my gratitude to IDACA for hosting the 2nd part of this training program and acquainting us with Japanese culture, their politeness, food habits, punctuality and also disaster management. During our training in IDACA, we learnt about Women's Association and the past and present situation of women in Japan. Earlier women were treated like cattle and labourers; but, now times have changed and many have become entrepreneurs. Cooperatives in Japan are strong and a reason for this is the involvement of women in cooperative movement. This change occurred with strong support from men in the community. Over time, men understood that agriculture cannot be possible without women and they encouraged them to actively engage in agriculture and business.

During our training program we also learnt about the cooperative movement in Japan. They started was back in 1843 through the spirit of mutual aid. After many ups and downs in cooperatives - before, during and after - World War I & II, the Agriculture Cooperatives Act was enacted in 1947, to establish agricultural cooperatives as economic organization to guarantee farmers independence. In 1954, the Agriculture Cooperatives act was revised and an apex organization, the Central Union of agricultural Cooperatives (JA-Zenchu) formed to coordinate agricultural cooperative movement. In 1963, IDACA was established in order to nurture agriculture cooperative movement in developing countries in the Asia region. The Agricultural cooperatives consist of a) PACs (JA) – multipurpose agriculture coop; b) Prefectural level organizations; c) National Federations and other organizations (doing different business like marketing, insurance, finance, welfare etc; d) JA – Zenchu – collaborates with 47 Prefectural Unions of agriculture cooperatives, provides management guidance, audits, advocates on farm policy and public relation activities for primary cooperatives and federations, and provides training and education; e) Members Organizations – hamlet organizations, commodity wise groups, Youth and Women associations.

We learnt about the formation of Japanese Women's Association (JAWA), which plays important role in business and operations of JA. They are involved, among other things in farming, food processing, running direct sale shops, and conducting welfare activities. We also learnt about JA's activities i.e., providing training and education, marketing, storage and transport facilities, supplying production material, loans, insurance, food processing, welfare services etc. We learnt about JAWA's 'local production for local consumption' movement, education program for children on food and agriculture, welfare activities for elderly people, kindergarten, activity for supporting disaster stricken area, 6th industry etc.



Ms. Khobragade receiving 'Certificate of Participation' from the Executive Director of IDACA, Japan

During our four days visit to Hiroshima prefecture, we visited Peace Memorial Park and Museum and paid our tribute to the victims of the atomic bomb. It was very depressing to see the remains of victims in the museum, but at the same time it teaches us how to come together, unite, cooperate, gather courage to overcome any disaster, be it atomic bomb, earthquake or tsunami. Here we visited direct sale shops, winery, tofu making club and learnt about the working pattern. We went to Kimita Nishiirigimi Mame Mame club and learnt tofu production. We learnt how this club was formed with 8 members; but now only 2 members are remaining, due to ageing. We also learnt about the most difficult but important aspect of life, how to say no politely, .i.e. assertiveness. During one day visit to Gunma prefecture we learned about women entrepreneurship activities and were very impressed that a 70 year old woman was running a business and propagating agriculture in younger generation.

During the entire training program we gained lot of knowledge, which will definitely help me in performing my duties in my organization.

3. TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MANAGERS OF CONSUMER COOPERATIVES

EXPERIENCE SHARING

The ICA/JCCU Training Program for Managers of Consumer Coops in Japan -2014. An experience sharing by Ms. Ligaya Adame Barbadillo, Store Manager of Co-op Mart, ADTEMPCO, Philippines.



Miyagi Coop



ADTEMPCO-Coop Mart

I am very thankful to ICA/JCCU for inviting me to join the training course for managers that was held in Japan in 2014. I made new friends from different countries with different culture and religion; but even if we had these differences we also had similarities that are for the betterment of cooperatives in the pursuit of global competitiveness. I learnt a lot from the training course and following are some the lessons I have already adopted at our Co-op Mart.

Promote Member's Product: we provided display shelves exclusively for our members product. Just like Miyagi Coop and other Japanese Coops, we always think of ways in which we can help uplift quality of life of our members.

Social media: since we are now living in a modern society, our Cooperative decided to adopt the strategy of Miyagi Coop to increase both sales and membership through social media and social networking (Facebook account). You can visit our FB account: **ADTEMPCO Coop Mart Lagangilang Branch.**



Miyagi Coop



ADTEMPCO-Coop Mart

Customer service: as a customer service provider, we must serve our members/customers from the bottom of our HEART. We adopted another strategy of Miyagi Coop – Welcome greetings! Simple act of gratitude will surely satisfy our members/customers.



Ms. Ligaya with fellow trainees at the Miyagi Coop



Community service: just like Co-op Net in Japan, our cooperative is also helping less fortunate children in our community. We give FREE education (scholarship) to qualified students and FREE school supplies and feeding program for young children.

Let me take this opportunity to again thank ICA/JCCU management and staff for giving me a chance to be a part of the training course. The chance to catch sight of your beautiful country and see the disciplined people, which I strongly admire. The learnings, experiences and memories that I gained in the training course will always be remembered and cherished in my whole life.

Again, Arigato gozaimasu for your kindness and generosity!



Japanese Coops



ADTEMPCO



ADTEMPCO

Charles Gould further said , “This year marks the 50th anniversary of the passing of Vaikunthbhai Mehta, whose memorial lecture I am privileged to be able to deliver today. The honour is not only in associating my words with the life of Shri Mehta, but also with the words of the 16 individuals who have delivered the memorial lecture in years past — individuals like the legendary Dr. V Kurien and the International Co-operative Alliance’s own Ivano Barberini, our immediate past President, may he rest in peace.” The full speech can be read at <http://ica-ap.coop/icanarticles/global-perspective-and-road-ahead>

CHARLES GOULD REACHES OUT TO MEMBERS IN INDIA

“Shri Mehta, as his biography claims, was the doyen of the Indian Co-operative Movement, but we need not limit his fame to this country. He stands with Raiffeisen in Germany and Desjardins in Canada and Toyohiko Kagawa in Japan and others around the world in having an impact that was intended for their own country and yet which has inspired and influenced others far beyond the ground they personally trod. And so I applaud NCUI for its efforts to keep his story alive and well-known through these lectures,” said Mr. Charles Gould , Director General, ICA while delivering the 17th Vaikunthbhai Mehta Memorial Lecture on 16th June 2014 at National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) auditorium in New Delhi. The Vaikunthbhai Mehta Memorial Lecture Series established by the NCUI is in honor visionary leader and veteran co-operator, Shri Vaikunthbhai Mehta (26 October 1891 - 27 October 1964).

Shri Vaikunthbhai Mehta served the Bombay State Cooperative Bank (now Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank) as Chief Executive for an uninterrupted period of about 35 years. He was Minister of Finance and Cooperation of the then Bombay State and was first Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission. The contribution of Vaikunthbhai Mehta to the cause of Cooperative Education and Training was pioneering and foundational. As a tribute to and in memory of the great co-operative leader and philosopher, the National Co-operative Institute has been named the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management (VAMNICOM) in Pune, Maharashtra, India.



Charles Gould delivering lecture on Vaikunth Mehta



Sri Vaikunthbhai Mehta



Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, NCUI President speaking at the Vaikunth Mehta Memorial Lecture.

Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, President of NCUI inaugurated the event and introduced Sri Vaikunth Mehta and talked about how his contribution to the cooperative movement of India had helped in sustainable development of communities.

The Memorial Lecture was attended by about 400 co-operators including officials, leaders, and ICA-AP and NCUI staff.

The Director General, during his three days visit to New Delhi, took the opportunity to meet leaders of IFFCO, NCUI and several other co-operatives. Mr. Gould had a special meeting with Dr. Yadav, wherein he discussed several issues concerning NCUI and their expectation from ICA. The purpose of this meeting was to gain Member Insight into the ICA Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade, value of ICA membership and member expectations.



Director General with the officials of Panipat Arban Co-operative Bank

and the Panipat Urban Co-operative Bank in Haryana. He was very much impressed with the performance of both institutions and their contribution to employment generation and the sustainable development of their community.

Sustainability



FAMILY FARMING IN BHUTAN

A summary report on the presentation made by Mr. Sangay (Farmer) Rinchen, CEO & Founder Happy Green Co-operative, Thimpu, Bhutan and Member of the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation, at the Meeting of the International Co-operative Agricultural Organization (ICAO) in Bali during the 11th Regional Assembly of the ICA Asia and Pacific organized in co-operation with DEKOPIN at Bali, Indonesia from 17-20 September 2014.

ICA Asia and Pacific in its continued efforts to promote the co-operative movement and agriculture in Bhutan, facilitated the representation of Mr. Sangay (Farmer) Rinchen, as the guest speaker.

Bhutan's national vision is to attain a society based on happiness, which is prescribed in its constitution.

Bhutan has an area of 38,000 sq km with a population of about 800,000 (in 2014). The arable land is around 11% and land under cultivation is only 3%; the forest cover is approximately 85%. Bhutan's economy, like many other south Asian countries is based on an agrarian economy and agriculture directly supports 65% of its population. Agriculture traditionally employs all members of the 'farmers' family and the farming arrangement usually integrates livestock development, agriculture and forestry.

Farming in Bhutan is based on self-sufficiency and what goes to the market is only the surplus produce to the market, mirroring the co-operative philosophy. Such farms operate on traditional co-operative systems of operations and functioning. The farms are in tandem with the philosophy of Bhutan's Gross National Happiness and are treated with natural and non-chemical fertilizing systems. Bhutan's lawmakers envisage a 100% organic production and consumption by 2020.



Farmer Sangay at the Happy Green Cooperative Grocery Store

At the moment there are 37 co-operatives in Bhutan, chiefly operating in the agriculture sector. The co-operative movement in Bhutan is aiming at increasing memberships in co-operative farming, ethical procurement of raw materials, enhancing technology and increasing production of small-scale farm businesses.

Happy Green Co-operative was set up in the year 2007 as the first autonomous co-operative in Bhutan. It began by integrating a few families around the Thimpu area and has grown since to involve members from various sections of the society with an interest in farming. It has now has diversified into consumer goods such as potato wafers.



Happy Green Chips (produced by HGC)

Identity

COOP Marque

There are 1,200 registered users of the global Co-operative Marque in 96 countries.

The leading countries from the Asia Pacific are Republic of Korea (89), Philippines (28), India (25), Australia (12), and Sri Lanka (9)

STATEMENT ON THE CO-OPERATIVE IDENTITY

The Statement on the Co-operative Identity was adopted at the 1995 General Assembly of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), held in Manchester on the occasion of the Alliance's Centenary. The Statement was the product of a lengthy process of consultation involving thousands of co-operatives around the world.

Definition: A Co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise.

Values: Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

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

- **Voluntary and Open Membership:** Co-operatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.
- **Democratic Member Control:** Co-operatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary co-operatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote), and co-operatives at other levels are also organized in a democratic manner.
- **Member Economic Participation:** Members contribute equitably to an democratically control the capital of their co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-operative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for



Coop Identity

any of the following purposes: a) Developing their co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible. b) Benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-operative. c) Supporting other activities approved by the membership.

- **Autonomy and Independence:** Co-operatives are autonomous, self help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain the co-operative identity.
- **Education, Training and Information:** Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives. They inform the general public- particularly young people and opinion leaders- about the nature and benefits of co-operation.
- **Co-operation Among Co-operatives:** Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.
- **Concern for Community:** Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

DOMAIN

Adding .coop to the end of your web or email address is the most cost effective way to let people know you're a co-operative. The .coop domain is an exclusive name reserved purely for cooperatives, so you'll be in good company. And because it's exclusive to co-ops you have a fantastic choice of names with far less limitation than with .com or other domains.

BHUTAN: FIRST CO-OPERATIVE SHOP OPENS IN BHUTAN

The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan saw agriculture development scale to a new level when the Royal government formally created an enabling environment in 2001, with the enactment of the Cooperatives Act of Bhutan (CAB), for farmers' groups and cooperatives. In 2009, following an amendment to the CAB, the responsibility to implement the Act was taken up by the newly created, Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives under, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MOAF). Agriculture plays a major role in the Bhutan's goal of achieving self-sufficiency and there is need to promote the expansion of farmers groups and cooperatives and infusion of technical expertise and finance.



Cooperative Shop Bhutan



B-Coop Shop Bhutan

There are currently 170 farmers groups, 34 registered cooperatives and one co-operative federation under the department of agriculture marketing and cooperative (DAMC). The department has linked these groups and cooperatives with schools, hydropower projects and other offices to help them market their products. On May 12, 2014, the first Bhutan Cooperative Shop (B-COOP Shop), opened in Thimphu, the capital city of Bhutan. The B-COOP shop will help the farmers groups and cooperatives to display and sell their products directly to the consumer and by pass the middlemen.

USE OF THE MARQUE AND LOGO IN THE ASIA PACIFIC COUNTRIES

REWARDS HOTEL ...the first Condominium Hotel owned and operated by OFW Cooperative.

The condominium is the first such ambitious and bold development operating as a hotel for investment purposes by OFWs as one of the many Passive Income businesses for them to get out of the Rat Race, and the lead program of the cooperative for OFW Re-integration Program to the Philippines for its members and stakeholders. The project **OFW COOP HOTEL** is owned by the only and current premier OFW Cooperative organization whose common bond of association is occupational Overseas Filipino Workers - the **JuanREWARDS Multipurpose Cooperative (JRMCo)** in partnership with the first real estate cooperative - the **Creating Abundance in Real Estate Network (CARENET)** Multipurpose Cooperative as hotel manager and operators.

[click here to see the possible Costing, Price, Promo, Layout Plans, and Passive Income of JRMCo Members...](#)

Juan Rewards Co-operative, Multipurpose co-operative, www.juanrewards.coop



Central Tea Cooperation Federation <http://www.ctcf.org.np>

ABOUT .COOP

.coop is an email and web address top-level domain (TLD), which forms the end of a web address just like other TLDs such as .com and .org. Unlike these extensions, which can be used by any organization or person, .coop is exclusively available to bona fide cooperatives.

The .coop domain is used by thousands of cooperatives all over the world, making it the global identity for the world cooperative movement. It helps co-operative organizations enhance and market their businesses, better connect with their members and network with other cooperatives across the world.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

The .coop story started on 16th November 2000, when the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), supported by the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), approved the creation of the .coop TLD.

Legal



The President of Sri Lanka with Youth Delegates from various countries

1. WORLD CONFERENCE ON YOUTH, MAY 2014, SRI LANKA

The ICA-AP Committee on Youth Co-operation (ICYC) participated in the World Conference on Youth- 2014 (WCY2014) held in Sri Lanka from 5-10 May 2014. The conference was held at the National Youth Services Council, Ministry of Youth and Skills Development, Maharagama, Colombo.

More than half the world's population (3.5 billion people) is under 25 years of age and a large percentage of them are in Asia. The WCY 2014, being held in Asia for the first time, was a recognition of the number and importance of youth in Asia.

The ICYC made space at the conference for its members to highlight the value based alternative model and principles that co-operative enterprises run on. The ICYC delegates from China, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka who participated in the conference organized events such as 'the Coop Difference – A Talk on the co-operative business model' and exhibition booth at the Conference Exposition center to showcase products of co-operatives from the ICYC member countries. The Chairperson of ICYC, Dr. Sukesh Zamwar, participated at the Roundtable plenary pertaining to Full Employment and Entrepreneurship to highlight the difference a democratically controlled and member owned economic enterprise such as co-operatives could make in shaping the world.

In the current Millennium Development Goals framework, young people are seen as beneficiaries rather than partners. Youth also account for a large percentage of the most vulnerable and affected population around the



Young Cooperators with Mr. Purvottam Poudel, Minister of Youth, Nepal at the Coop Booth



world. There is no international convention on the Rights of Youth or any other high-level body dealing specifically on youth issues. To address these concerns and to mark a change in the way youth related issues are dealt with, the conference adopted the Colombo Declaration to involve young people in the policy making framework. The Declaration also recognized the role and importance of co-operatives and called upon governments to create an enabling environment to foster such models of business. The excerpt mentioning co-operatives in the declaration is placed below and the full text can be accessed by clicking on the official logo of the WCY 2014.

COLOMBO DECLARATION RECOGNIZES CO-OPERATIVES FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

FULL EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

27. Create an enabling business environment and multi-stakeholder partnerships, including between developing and developed countries, that are environmentally sustainable to boost entrepreneurship, including startups and apprenticeship for youth and alternative models of enterprise such as co-operatives and intra-regional business incubators with focus on young women and young persons living with disabilities.



World Conference on Youth

2. NATIONAL CONFERENCE: BUILDING UP THE CO-OPERATIVE SYSTEM IN LAOS

The National Conference on “Building up the Co-operative System in Laos” was held from 11th to 13th November 2014 in Vientiane in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). The Chief Guest, Mr. Phoumy Phoumanivong, Director General of Department of Agriculture Extension and Co-operative (DAEC), in his opening address appreciated the efforts of ICA-AP to help Laos build its co-operative system. Dr. Somnuck Thirasack, DDG of DAEC, MAF, Lao and Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP welcomed the participants on behalf of their respective organisations.



Participants with Mr. Phoumy Phoumanivong, Director General of DAEC

Over 50 national and international participants attended the conference. There were representatives from all stake holders in the country, including officials from Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Home Affairs, National Parliament, Prime Ministers' Office and Ministry of Industry. Farmers and co-operative members from various provinces were also present. The invited speakers were from Co-operative League of Thailand (CLT), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Deutscher Genossenschafts and Raiffeisenverband (DGRV) Laos, Institute for Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA) Japan and Co-operative Academic Institute (CAI), Kasetsart University Thailand.



Mrs. Savitri Singh giving a technical presentation

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CONFERENCE WERE:

- To contribute in the progress of establishing co-operative system through enabling law and policy frame work in Laos.
- To provide technical input for framing of Co-operative Law and Policy

Over two days, there were intensive presentation and discussions on the conference issues. Mr. Kham Ouane Khamphoukeo, Head of Production Group Promotion, Co-operative and Agribusiness Division, MAF presented the status paper on the Co-operative Degree and gave an insight into the progress and gaps thereof. Mr. Holger Grages shared DGRV's experience on its contribution to the development of a legal framework for cooperatives in Laos; support to set up farmers' cooperatives; and strengthen member based organisations such as village banks and savings and credit unions. Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit, President of CLT and ICA-AP Board Member offered to support MAF in developing co-operative legal framework as well their business. Mrs. Savitri Singh, Adviser-Gender Program and Communication, ICA-AP shared information on inclusive law and policy enabling participation of women in co-operatives. She suggested that woman of the household/member's spouse and farm labourers should be inducted as members/associate members to derive benefit from the services of co-operatives. Mr. Maurizio Bussi, Director from the ILO Regional Office of Asia-Pacific talked about gender equality in co-operatives and ILO's 95



Mr. Maurizio Bussi speaking at the Conference



The conference participants with a Farmer's Group in Porakon region



Visit to an organic fertilizer plant

years of collaboration with ICA and the co-operative movement. IDACA has worked closely with MAF and the farming community in Laos to enhance farmers' income through the co-operative model of business. Mr. Terunuma Hiroshi from IDACA presented the rich experience from Japan. The conference adopted a comprehensive approach to look beyond structure and towards the next steps in the development of co-operative business. Prof. Juthatip Patrawart from CAI, Kasetsart University presented the Farmer Shop model to show the direct link that could be developed between producers and consumers.

Dr. Thirasack, presented the following observations based on the discussions and papers presented:

- Lao PDR is ASEAN member, but is not ICA-AP member
- Lao PDR doesn't have cooperative law
- To be a cooperative member, one must abide by the seven fundamental principles. However, in many instances farmers join because of the incentives offered; this needs to be changed
- When a parent becomes a co-operative member, automatically the others in the family considered to be associate member
- Gender balance in co-operative must be considered
- Integrate co-operative in school curriculum (as is the case in some countries)
- Objectives should focus not only on economic, but also on social and environment issues
- Strong support from policy maker facilitates smooth co-operative movement.

THE NEXT STEPS SUGGESTED WERE:

- Apply to be member or associate member of ICA in the near future
- ICA-AP, ILO, CLT, CPD, CAD, IDACA, KU, DGRV are willing to help the cooperative movement in the Lao PDR. Lao PDR Government should collaborate more with these agencies

- Dissemination of the decree 136/ PM and the two MAF decisions is a top priority in 51 Districts, 109 villages and step by step in other remaining Provinces and Districts;
- Prioritize drafting of cooperative law roadmap with NPAs, NGOs and donors
- Insist high authority to organize co-operative board committee as quickly as possible
- ILO is willing to provide necessary instruments for Lao partners to develop cooperatives

EXPERIENCE SHARING

Mr. Hiroshi Terunuma, consultant, IDACA sharing his experience from the ICA-AP-MAFF. “National Conference: Building up the Co-operative System in Laos.” At the conference that was held for two days in a panel discussion format, introduction to the background of and experiences in the development of agricultural cooperatives in Japan, and presented some proposals on what kind of activities would be required in the future based on the current situation in Laos. The main speakers were Regional Director Balu Iyer and Ms. Savitri Singh from ICA-AP; Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit, Chairman of the Co-operative League of Thailand, Mr. Holger Grages, Country Director of the German Co-operative and Raiffeisen Confederation; ILO representative from Thailand and Ms. Juthatip Patrawart, Director of Co-operative Academic Institute, Kasetsart University of Thailand. About 50 people from Laos participated in the conference, including government officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and the Ministry of the Interior, as well as representatives of agricultural cooperatives and producers’ groups.

Currently in Laos, there are about 2,400 unregistered producers’ groups, and if the arrangements by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry are implemented, they are to be registered on a timely basis. There are currently no agricultural co-operative laws in Laos, but the Prime Minister’s Decree concerning the establishment of cooperatives was promulgated in February 2012. This Decree stipulates the framework of various cooperatives, but because there are no detailed provisions covering the details of the nature of the agricultural cooperatives, such as the qualifications of the members, the business activities to be handled, and investment conditions as agricultural cooperatives, the enforcement of the Agriculture and Forestry Minister’s “Arrangements for the Establishment of Agricultural Cooperatives and Producer Groups” is being awaited, and it can be said that the establishment of full-fledged agricultural cooperatives has yet to start.

It was good to see that several former participants of ICA/ IDACA Training Courses were involved in this conference, including speakers and conference management staff from Thailand, and government administrators from the Department of Agricultural Extension and Cooperatives, as well as the Planning and International Affairs Departments, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Laos.



Mr. Terunuma (left) at the Conference along with Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit, former Chairman of the Cooperative League of Thailand (center)

In Laos in the future, it will be necessary to formulate a medium - and long-term plan (roadmap) for fostering agricultural cooperatives. To that end, coordination among government ministries and agencies, as well as effective utilization of and coordination with aid agencies and opportunities are required. Therefore, efficient fostering of agricultural cooperatives is necessary through cooperation with ICA-AP, the ASEAN Secretariat, aid agencies, and so forth, as well as cooperation with the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) and the Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD). Amid this process, the former participants of ICA/IDACA training programs are playing a central role. One of good examples of cooperation between Lao PDR and Thailand cooperative movement is ICA-Japan Training course for fostering of core leaders of agricultural cooperative which were conducted over 2 times in the last fiscal year. The course provide opportunity for Lao PDR, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan to study development process of agricultural cooperatives and technical matters such as accounting and business planning in Thailand for 3 weeks and 3 weeks in Japan. This course was extremely relevant and useful for Lao PRD to study about cooperative development as their languages are similar and it makes easy to understand each other.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ICA AND AARDO

Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP and Eng. Wassfi Hassan El-Sreihin, Secretary General of Afro Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 2 July, 2014. The objectives of MOU are to:

- a) Ensure that there is continuous and sustainable process of sharing of lessons and experiences, particularly in establishing, strengthening, harmonising and articulating the role of the respective institutions for promotion of technical cooperation in all the fields of economic activity based on the priority areas as mutually defined
- b) Facilitate collaboration in capacity building, training and skills development and building economic linkage in the areas of sustainable economic development, promotion of agriculture and rural development and allied activities.



*Balu Iyer and Eng. Wassfi Hassan El-Sreihin,
Secretary General of AARDO*

The salient features of the MOU are:

- i. Maintenance of close contact with each other and periodically exchange information on the co-operative sector
- ii. Recommendation and introduction of co-operation opportunities and partners in concerned areas
- iii. Establishment of linkages between AARDO member states and the offices affiliated with ICA-AP
- iv. Collaboration in the organisation of AARDO member states agricultural missions for carrying out studies on co-operatives in AARDO member states including India
- v. Consultations and exchange of information and expertise.

Capital

TRAINING ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF COOPERATIVES FOR WOMEN COOPERATORS

Women empowerment and gender mainstreaming in cooperatives are priority areas of ICA given the low to negligible levels of participation of women at all levels of cooperatives; especially at the leadership level. To address this, ICA-AP implements a number of capacity building programmes for member co-operatives to promote gender mainstreaming, enhance the number and quality of women participation. Each year, ICA-AP conducts a skill development programme, 'Building Management Capacity of Women for Co-operative Development' in one of the member countries. This program is designed to address the need for economic empowerment of women and start a process of empowerment through entrepreneurship and management capacity building.



Chief Guest, Mr. Mohammad Mashiur Rahman Ranga, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Local Government Rural Development & Co-operatives, Bangladesh delivering opening speech

20 women co-operators from various co-operatives across Bangladesh attended a five days residential training in Dhaka. The training was organized by ICA-AP in collaboration with the Department of Co-operatives (DOC), Bangladesh from on 07 to 11 July 2014 at the Bangladesh Institute for Administrative Management (BIAM) Dhaka. Mr. Mofizul Islam, Registrar of DOC delivered the welcome address and Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP and, Mr. M.A. Qudersarker, Secretary, Rural Development and Co-operative Division the inaugural speech. The Chief Guest

for the event were, Mr. Mohammad Mashiur Rahman Ranga, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Local Government Rural Development & Co-operatives, Bangladesh.

This training devoted a substantial time on capacity building of the participants in financial management besides focusing on technical skills such as entrepreneurship and leadership. The discussion on various aspects of co-operative enterprise management and financial management was facilitated by resource persons from ICA-AP and the Confederation of Credit Union of League of



Participant giving speech

Bangladesh. The discussions were followed by education and training on various skills crucial for quality participation of women and men in co-operative business and management. Besides, social and developmental issues like awareness on climate change and economic recession impacting co-operatives and members were also addressed during the course.



Chairpersons and CEOs of Savings and Credits Cooperative in Pokhara, Nepal at the workshop

YOUTH FINANCIAL LITERACY

The ICA-AP Committee on Youth Co-operation (ICYC) initiated pilot activities in line with its theme for the year, Financial Literacy for Youth Co-operation. The first pilot to establish youth and youth-led co-operatives was held in Nepal in December and others are planned in Bhutan and India in 2015. Over 300 persons including school and university students, parents and teachers attended the three one-day seminars in Nepal. The initiative was led by Ms. Indira Panta, member-ICYC along with VYCCU, Nepal; the Royal Pokhara Credit Co-operative Society; and Videsh Sanchar Media Cooperative. The workshop in Kathmandu was attended, among others, by the Dr. Ram Sharan, Mahat, Minister of Finance, Mr. Purvsottam Poudel, Minister of Youth Affairs, Dr. Yuvraj Khatiwada, Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank, Dr. Keshav Prasad Badal, Chairperson of the National Co-operative Federation of Nepal, Secretaries and Registrar of Co-operatives. ICA was represented by Regional Board member and Chairperson of ICYC, Dr. Sukesh Zamwar. Creation of employment is a prime focus of the Nepalese Government and within this youth have a central part to play. Improving



Students and members of National Cooperative Federation of Nepal at the workshop



their knowledge on management of personal finance is important for youth in Nepal. However, for this to happen, the law governing savings among youth needs amendment in lines with Singapore and Philippines law. National co-operative Federations, especially the credit and banking federation and banks must partner to support the financial institutions created by youth by providing banking services. The ICYC will help create appropriate project tools and logo, facilitate partnership with government, national federations and co-operatives in specific areas and seek sources of funding for training and training of trainers.

EXPERIENCE SHARING



Mrs. Indira Pantra member- ICA-AP (ICYC) giving speech at the workshop

Ms. Indra Panta, Member ICYC, Nepal. It is an honor to share my experience with the ICA Asia and Pacific during 2014 with fellow cooperators from various countries across the region and beyond. My direct association with ICA-AP began in 2013 when I was nominated to the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation or ICYC by the Nepal Agriculture Co-operative Central Federation Ltd. Since late 2014, I have been the point person for the proposed project of the ICYC on Financial Literacy for Youth Cooperation that aims to create a larger awareness of the cooperative model among youth in Nepal along with India and Bhutan. The

project aims to engage more youth in co-operatives, primarily through formation of multipurpose co-operatives that include financial services. The committee under the guidance of its chairperson, Dr. Sukesh Zamwar and the Regional Director of ICA-AP, Shri Balu Iyer, organized the first series of pilot workshops in Nepal. These workshops received resounding success with overwhelming participation from students, parents, the teaching committee and the representatives of the Nepalese Government.

One of the key areas targeted is the legislative gap that exists in Nepal where youth under the age of 18 years are not allowed to engage in financial transactions, either directly or otherwise. This gap was filled in the Philippines by way of Laboratory co-operatives and in Singapore through campus co-operatives. The hope is that the project envisioned by the members of the ICYC while keeping the Colombo Declaration on Youth 2014 in mind, makes breakthroughs in the lives of Nepalese youth, with the help of the co-operative model.



Students reacting to the workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Half the total population in Nepal and most of her youth still don't have access to financial Institutions and depend on money lenders to fulfill their short term and long-term financial requirement for which pay heavy interest rates. Even if they save some money, there is no institution to keep it safe.

There are about 40,000 primary schools and high schools in Nepal, about 11,000 universities and 12 State run & planned universities. About 93 lakhs youth attend these educational institutions. It is indeed a loss that these groups of individuals have yet not come under the umbrella of co-operatives. As per the government data every year around 4 to 5 lakhs youth enter labor market and a sizeable portion of them leave the country on a daily basis in search of work. In my opinion and through the experience gained by the ICYC workshops, this challenge can certainly be addressed with the alternative that co-operatives and co-operative entrepreneurship provide. The nation's financial development can be made productive and ethical by the citizens of tomorrow in their schools. Educational institutions are envisaged to be developed as resource centers for co-operative skills' development, training and awareness.

AS A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PROJECT, WE HOPE TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Establish co-operatives through membership of students, staff, teachers and parents associated with formal educational institutions.
2. Facilitate the association of such co-operatives with reliable credit co-operatives.
3. Contribution to national output through use of local labor, capital and skills and Train youth for regular savings and loans utilization among members.
4. Facilitate the operation of education related activities/businesses (stationary, books, cafeteria etc.) and make these centers for public awareness on co-operatives.



Chairperson, Member and Secretary of ICYC along with Minister of Finance, Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank, Chairperson NCF and Chairperson of Nepal Centre Health Cooperative among others at the workshop in Kathmandu.

Pilot activities were held in Kathmandu, Nawal Parasi and Pokhra and caught the stakeholders' attention and interest. I believe that through proper planning, resources and concerted efforts among the partners in India and Bhutan, the proposed project can create a lasting impact.

I thank the Nepalese Co-operative movement and our friends at the ICA for giving me the opportunity to share my experience and feelings towards this new step to engage youth who are the citizens of tomorrow and the future of the global co-operative movement.

Activities specifically engaging youth, co-operatives and personal finance had never been organized before in Nepal. I found everyone participating, find a direct connect with our ideas and the co-operative philosophy in general. Members of the co-operative movement present during the workshops also were overwhelmed with the response they received from various quarters of the society. All major stakeholders in this vision, including Ministers of Youth, Finance and the Governor of the Nepal Rastra Bank were happy to join the workshop as this project gave them an idea to undertake the concepts of financial inclusion and entrepreneurship for youth.

Malaysia Business Office

2014 was the first full year the Malaysia Business Office (MBO) has been operational. The MBO was registered as a society and four seconded staff from All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC); Malaysian National Cooperative Movement (ANGKASA); Japanese Consumers Cooperative Union (JCCU); and National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of Korea (NACF) were in place. The MBO has been set up to increase business interaction between cooperatives in the region through workshops, promotion of trade, technical exchanges, and transfer of technical and managerial know-how.

A regional workshop on Cooperative-to-Co-operative Trade (C2C) Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Ahead was organized in Kuala Lumpur from 19-22 August with the support of ACFSMC and ANGKASA. The Malaysian Minister of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism, Dato Sri Hasan Bin Malek spoke of the importance of trade in Malaysia's context and the role cooperatives could play as the third pillar of development. Over 40 cooperators from the Asia Pacific region representing 13 countries made presentations and discussed the opportunities and challenges to C2C trade. Some of the challenges mentioned were limited access to trade information of potential partners; inadequate business resources such as managers with expertise, efficient teams and finances; and the small scale and scope of cooperative business. Mr. Vitoom Naewpanit, Chairman of Cooperative League of Thailand said the cooperative movement needed to play a more active role in the ASEAN community and take advantage of the regional integration. Following the workshop, there were two Trade Missions to China organized by ACFSMC in October and December. These missions offered participants from China, India, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, Philippines, and Sri Lanka the opportunity to have face-to-face interaction with business managers and decision-makers of cooperatives. Expos were organized in Malaysia by ANGKASA and to show case co-operative products from Malaysia and countries in the Asia Pacific region.

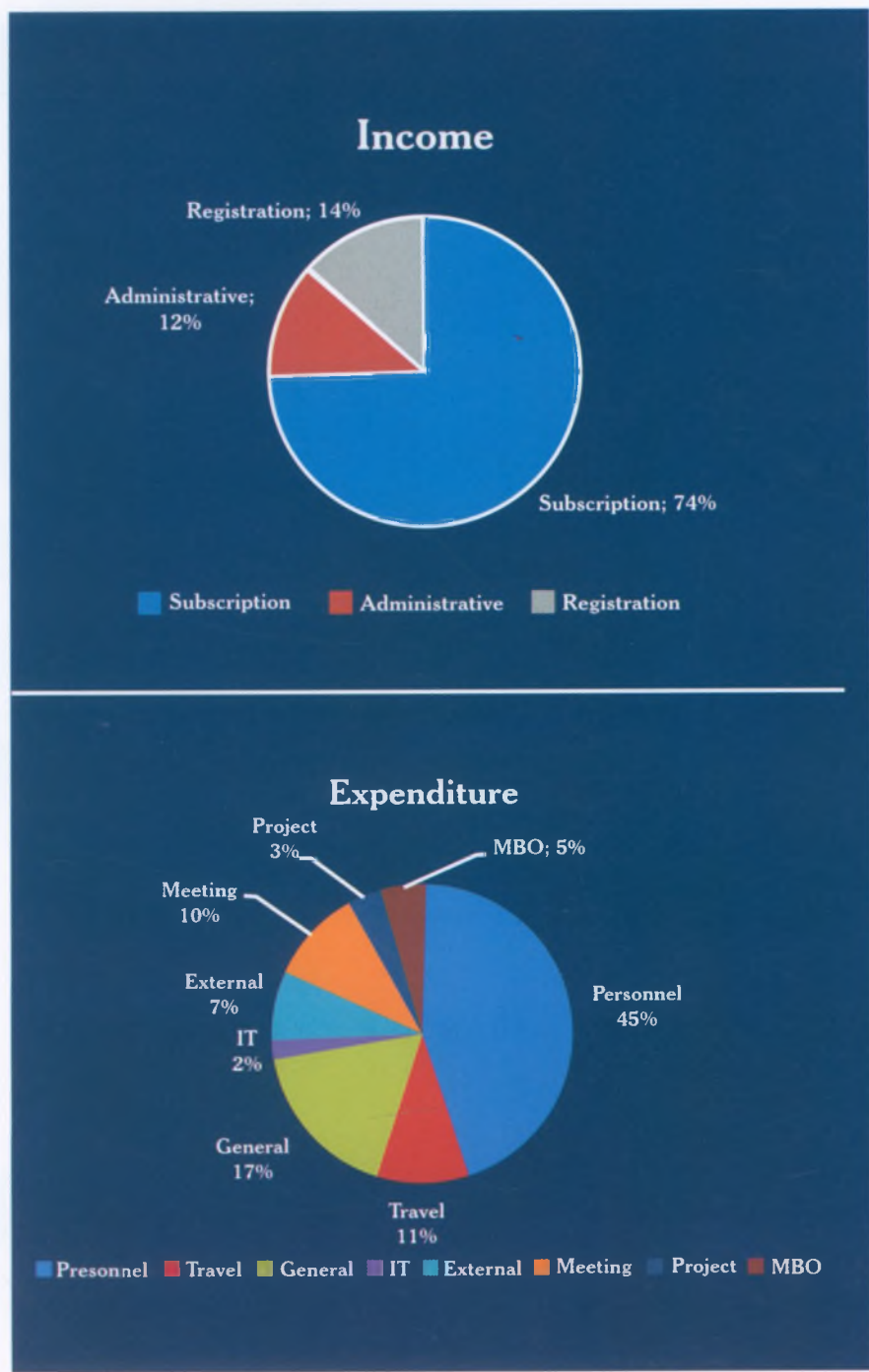
The 1st Asia-Pacific Conference of Credit and Banking Cooperatives was held in Selangor, Malaysia, from 2-4 December with the support of NACF and ANGKASA. 76 participants (26 foreign and 50 Malaysians) from seven countries attended the Conference and deliberated on the theme, "Opportunities through Islamic Finance". Inaugurating the event, Mr. Seri Ahmad Bashah Md. Hanipah, Deputy Minister of Domestic Trade, Cooperative and Consumerism, spoke of Malaysia's central role in Islamic finance and the knowledge and know-how it could offer to countries in the region. He spoke of the close association of the underlying values of Islamic finance and cooperative principles. The presentations at the conference were in the areas of Islamic Economics and Promotion of Business, Business Contract in Islamic Finance, Investment and Cooperative Banking and Malaysian Cooperative Islamic Banking. The visit to Bank Rakyat, the number one ranked cooperative bank in Malaysia, gave the participants the opportunity to see first hand the banks operations.



Dato Fatah Abdullah presenting a plaque to Dato Seri Ahmad Bashah Md. Hanipah, Deputy Minister of Domestic Trade, Cooperative and Consumerism with Balu Iyer looking on.

ICA-AP Income and Expenditure for 2014

The income for the Asia Pacific region comes from three sources – subscription redistribution, administrative contribution for projects and meeting registration income. In 2014, the total income for the region was \$458,538 of which \$341,529 was subscription, \$55,097 was administrative and \$61,912 meeting registration income.



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Calendar of Events

ACTIVITY PLAN-2014

| S.# | Title | Sponsoring Organization | Date | Venue | Staff Assigned |
|-----|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 01 | ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting ICA Global Board Meeting | ACFSMC-China | 16-17 February | Beijing, China | Mr. Sethu Mr. Kukreja |
| 02 | Office- Bearers Meeting of ICA-AP Committee for Women. | JCCU-Japan | 20-21 March | Manila, Philippines | Mrs. Savitri Singh |
| 03 | ICA-Japan Training Courses on "Fostering Core Leaders in Agricultural Cooperatives" (2 times) | MAFF-Japan | 1 March-4 April 3 Sept-11 October | Thailand and Japan | Mr. Taneja |
| 04 | Workshop on Enhancing the Role of Women in Cooperative Business | JCCU-Japan | May | Tajikistan | Mrs. Savitri Singh |
| 05 | 14th ICA-AP Regional Workshop For Managers on Management of Consumer Cooperatives | JCCU-Japan | 23-26 June | Singapore | Ms. Yuki |
| 06 | ICA-ACFSMC Training Course on Agricultural Product Marketing and Logistics for Coops. | ACFSMC-China | 23-28 June | Harbin, China | Mr. Ge |
| 07 | Management Capacity Building of Women for Gender Integration and Co-operative Development | JCCU-Japan | 7-11 July | Dhaka, Bangladesh | Mrs. Savitri Singh |
| 08 | ICA-Japan Training Course on Fostering Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of Agricultural Cooperatives. | MAFF-Japan | 23 July-16 August | Tokyo, Japan | Mrs. Savitri Singh |
| 09 | Cooperative Banking Conference in Asia-Pacific (The 3rd MBO Council Meeting) | COOPBANK & ANGKASA-Malaysia | August | Kala Lumpur Malaysia (MBO) | Mr. Lee |
| 10 | ICA-JCCU Training Programs for Managers of Consumer Cooperatives | JCCU-Japan | August | Miyagi, Japan | Ms. Yuki |
| 11 | The 11th ICA-AP Regional Assembly ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting The 8th Co-operative Forum ICA-AP Committees' Meetings | DEKOPIN-Indonesia | 15-20 September | Bali, Indonesia | |
| 12 | ICA-AP-ILO joint Seminar on Middle-East Cooperatives | ICC- Iran | October | Tehran, Iran | Mrs. Savitri Singh |
| 13 | ICA-Japan Training Course on Improving Capacity of Rural Women. | MAFF-Japan | 12 Nov-10 Dec | Tokyo, Japan | Mr. Sethu |



| S.# | Title | Sponsoring Organization | Date | Venue | Staff Assigned |
|-----|--|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 14 | ICA-AP/ NACF Joint Workshop on the Agricultural Coop System in Korea. | NACF-Korea | 24-29 November | Seoul, Korea | Mr. Kukreja |
| 15 | Sub- Regional Workshop on Development of Consumer Cooperatives | JCCU- Japan | 3-4 December | Colombo, Sri Lanka | Ms. Yuki |
| 16 | 1st Asia-Pacific Conference of Credit and Banking Cooperatives | ANGKASA | 2-4 December | Selangor, Malaysia | |
| 17 | Workshop on Enhancing the Role of Women in Cooperative Business. | JCCU-Japan | 2-4 December | Hanoi, Vietnam | Mrs. Savitri Singh |
| 18 | Workshop on Development of Consumer Co-operatives | JCCU-Japan | 3-4 December | Colombo, Sri Lanka | Ms. Yuki |
| 19 | Pilot Workshop on Financial Literacy for Youth Cooperation | ICA-AP | 7 December | Kathmandu, Nepal | Mr. Santosh |
| 20 | Building up the ICA-AP Internet Portal at the Malaysian Business Office (MBO) - Cataloguing of Commodities Produced by ICA-AP Member Cooperatives. | ACFSMC-China | Jan-Dec. | ICA-AP (MBO) | |
| 21 | Improvement of the ICA-AP Website – Coop Laws, Members’ Data, ICA Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade, Internet Library. | ICA-AP | Jan-Dec. | ICA-AP New Delhi | |
| 22 | Publication of ICA-AP Newsletter and 2013 Annual Report. | ICA-AP | Jan.- Dec. | ICA-AP New Delhi | |

- ACFSMC : All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Co-operatives
- ANGAKASA : Malaysian National Cooperative Movement
- COOPFED : Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Ltd.
- DECOPIN : Indonesian Cooperative Council
- ICAO : International Co-operative Agricultural Organization
- ICFO : International Co-operative Fisheries Organization
- ICC : Iran Central Chamber of Cooperatives
- JCCU : Japanese Consumers’ Cooperative Union
- NACF : National Agricultural Co-operative Federation (Korea)
- NCF : National Cooperative Federation (Nepal)
- MAFF : Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry, Japan

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ICA-AP Sectoral and Thematic Committees

| S. No. | Name of the Committee | Name | Designation | Organisation/country |
|--------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | ICA-AP Committee on Women | Ms. Mashako Shimbo | Chairperson | Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union (JCCU), Japan |
| | | Ms. Maria Elena Canda Limocon | Vice Chair | Women's representative to NATCCO board AWCF |
| | | Ms. Savitri Singh | Secretary | International Co-operative Alliance Asia and Pacific |
| 2. | ICA-AP Committee on Youth | Dr. Sukesh Zamwar | Chairperson | Association Of Asian Confederation of credit unions(ACCU) |
| | | Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur | Vice Chairperson | Karachi Cooperative housing Societies Union Ltd (KCHSU) |
| | | Mr. Ukwaththa Liyanage Udaya Prabath | Vice Chairperson | Consumers Co-operatives Societies federation of Sri lanka Ltd. (COOPFED) |
| | | P. Santosh Kumar | Secretary | International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific |
| 3. | ICA-AP Committee on Consumer | Mr. AMANO Haruyoshi | Chair person | Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union (JCCU), Japan |
| | | Mr. Poh Leong Sim | Vice Chairperson | NTUC FairPrice, Singapore |
| | | Mr. D.S.K. Pathirana | Vice Chairperson | Consumer Cooperative Societies Federation of Sri Lanka Ltd |
| | | Ms. Nishimoto Yuki | Secretary | International Co-operative Alliance Asia and pacific (MBO) |
| 4. | ICA-AP Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) | Dr. Dinesh | Chairperson | National Cooperative Union of India(NCUI) |
| | | Mr. Jose Romeo B. Ebron | Vice Chairperson | National Confederation of Cooperatives |
| | | Mr. Sethu Madhavan | Secretary | International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific |
| 5. | ICA-AP Committee on Agriculture | Mr. K.Srinivasa Gowda | Chairperson, | Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd IFFCO Sadan |
| | | Mr. Hajme Haguchi | Vice chairperson, Executive Director | Central Union of Agriculture Coops (JA-Zenchu) |
| | | Mr. A.K. Taneja | Secretary | International Co-operatives Alliance Asia and pacific |

| S. No. | Name of the Committee | Name | Designation | Organisation/country |
|--------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--|
| 6. | ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus | Prof. Furuta MOTOO | Chairperson | National Federation of University Co-operative Association, Japan |
| | | Prof. Park Chang Hun | Vice Chairperson | Korea University Cooperative federation(KUCF) |
| | | Dr. Mohd. Azlan Yahya | Vice Chairperson | ANGKASA Malaysia |
| | | P. Santosh Kumar | Secretary | International Co-operative Alliance Asia and Pacific |
| | | Prof. Zenaida S. Diola | Co-Secretary | Metro manlia Federation of Consumers Co-operatives, Philippines |
| | | Prof. Yashwantha Dongre | Co-Secretary | University of Mysore, India |
| 7. | ICA-AP Committee on Research | Dr. G.N. Saxena | Chairperson | IFFCO, India |
| | | Mr. Akira Kurimoto | Vice Chairperson | Consumer Co-operative Institute of Japan |
| | | Mr. A.K.Taneja | Secretary | International Co-operative Alliance Asia and Pacific. |
| 8. | ICA-AP Committee on Forestry | Mr. Shigeyoshi Satoh | Chairman, President | National Federation of forest owners' Co-operative Associations |
| | | Mr. K.G. Wankhede | Vice Chairman | Indian farm Forestry Development Co-operatives Ltd(IFFDC) |
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| 9. | ICA-AP Committee on Banking | Mr. Shivadasan Nair | Chairperson | National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd. (NACARDBF) |
| | | Ms. Divina C. Quemi | Vice Chairperson | National Confederation of Co-operatives (NATCCO), Philippines |
| | | Mr. K. Kukreja | Secretary | International Co-operative Alliance Asia and Pacific |



- Australia
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- China
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Israel
- Japan
- Kazakhstan
- Korea
- Kuwait
- Malaysia
- Mongolia
- Myanmar
- Nepal
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Cooperative Principles

1. VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

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

2. DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

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

3. MEMBER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-operative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4. AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

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

5. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives. They inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

6. CO-OPERATION AMONG CO-OPERATIVES

Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7. CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

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

Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade

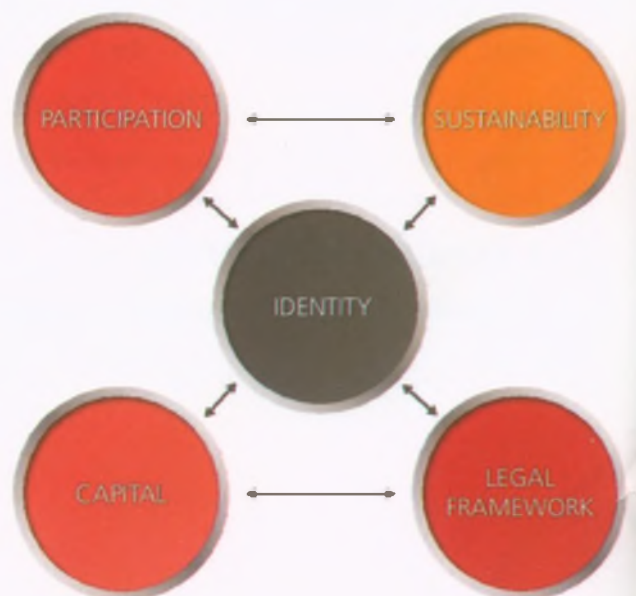
SUMMARY OF THE BLUEPRINT STRATEGY

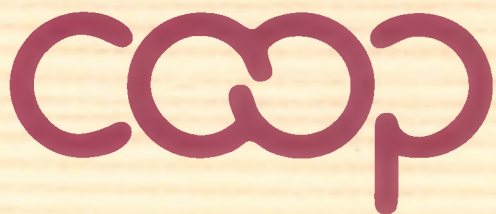
The starting point for the strategy for a global co-operative future is the powerful claim which co-operatives make to the outside world that they have a way of doing business which is both better, and brings a more effective balance to the global economy than the dominance of one single model as now.

The starting point for the strategy for a global co-operative future is the powerful claim which co-operatives make to the outside world: that they have a way of doing business which is both better, and brings a more effective balance to the global economy than the dominance of one single model as now

Co-operatives are better because they give individuals participation⁴ through ownership, which makes them inherently more engaging, more productive, and both more useful and more relevant in the contemporary world. The aim is to elevate participation within membership and governance to a new level.

- Co-operatives are better because their business model creates greater economic, social and environmental sustainability.
- Co-operatives are better because they are a business model that puts people at the heart of economic decisionmaking and bring a greater sense of fair play to the global economy. The objective is to develop our external identity. Chapters 1 (Participation) and 2 (Sustainability) explain why co-operatives offer a better way of doing business. Chapter 3 then effectively sets out the co-operative proposition for today: what it means to be a co-operative and what are the defining characteristics or “irreducible core”.
- This is looked at through the lens of identity – which is defined by the core values and principles of co-operation, and needs to be communicated through a powerful and distinctive message to ensure that co-operatives are seen and understood by everybody from policy-makers to the general public. So the aim is to build the co-operative message and secure the co-operative identity. With the intrinsic and abiding value of the co-operative model clearly established, and a distinctive co-operative identity and proposition described, attention turns in chapters 4 and 5 to what facilitates or inhibits co-operatives.
- Co-operatives in every jurisdiction sit within a legal framework. This framework plays a critical role for the viability and existence of co-operatives. The Blueprint seeks to ensure supportive legal frameworks for co-operative growth.
- Co-operatives need access to capital if they are to be established, grow and flourish. The aim is to secure reliable co-operative capital while guaranteeing member control.
- These are the five interlinked and overlapping themes of the Blueprint strategy, which can be illustrated as follows:





**International
Co-operative
Alliance**
Asia and Pacific

Annual Activities Report



**INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE
ASIA AND PACIFIC**



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YEAR END REPORT

Dear members,

It gives us great pleasure to present the International Co-operative Alliance Asia and Pacific 2015 Annual Activities Report.

The year saw a devastating earthquake strike Nepal in April affecting thousands of our co-operative members. The response from the apex organizations in Nepal and from the region to aid the victims was immediate and spontaneous. We collected close to \$500,000 dollars through the ICA earthquake relief fund and there was direct assistance provided in cash and kind from IFFCO, India and the JA Group, Japan. It was very emotional to hear Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal recount the tragedy during the board meeting in Antalya and his gratitude for the support received from members in the Asia Pacific region and beyond. We would like to recognize the contributions made by ACFSMC, China; Angkasa, Malaysia; BCCM and Capricorn, Australia; CLT, Thailand; JA-Zenchu, JCCU, JJC, and Zenrosai, Japan; Midland Co-operatives, UK; NACF, Korea; SNCF, Singapore; and VICTO, Philippines.

There were two important Regional Consultations held in Jakarta in October and Kathmandu in December. The consultations covered the role of co-operatives in countering the adverse impacts of urbanization (in formalization, migration from rural areas); addressing regional and global issues, namely, trade, finance, and people within the context of Sustainable Development Goals; and promoting legislative and regulatory environment to facilitate co-operative development. Among the recommendations put forth were the need for cluster approach to mitigate migration from rural to urban areas; skill development undertaken in a manner that results in the actual establishment and development of sound co-operatives; and provision of "start-up funds", not "subsidies" to stimulate and generate members' contributions to the development of co-operatives.

For the first time, an ICA-AP event was held in Ramallah, Palestine with the support of our member the Economic Social Development Center of Palestine. The workshop to promote women in business showed that despite adversities, women are engaging in co-operatives and seeking new opportunities. We released the Resource Guide for Advanced Training of Co-operatives on Entrepreneurship Development of Women and Gender Equality, developed under the aegis of the ICA-AP Committee on Women at two events: at the 59th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York and the Alliance Global Board Meeting in Singapore.

During the year we organized a two-day Round Table Dialogue on the role of co-operative banks and social finance institutions in promoting and financing social initiatives and social and solidarity enterprises with the Mont-Blanc Meeting's International Forum.

The Malaysia Business Office undertook workshops and seminars in the areas of co-operative-to-co-operative trade, e-commerce, fair trade, and halal certification. At the Annual Research conference in Pune, India more than 30 papers were presented by researchers from Australia, India, Korea, Malaysia and Philippines. The financial support of our members from China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand ensured that we were able to carry out trainings and workshops in agriculture, business development, ecommerce, consumer, trade, women and youth. We are thankful to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan for their continued support in the development of co-operatives in the region. We would also like to recognize the support received from DGRV, European Union, the International Labor Organization, and We Effect.

The number of members increased from 82 (from 26 countries) in 2014 to 89 (from 29 countries) in 2015. We welcomed the following new members: Supervision and Coordination Central Union of Rural and Agriculture Co-operatives, Iran; Maldives Fisherman's Association, Republic of Maldives; Office of Co-operative Societies, Papua New Guinea; Federation of peoples' Sustainable Development Coop, Philippines; Philippine Co-operative Center, Philippines; Co-operatives and Business Development services, Vanuatu; and Vietnam National Industrial, Handicraft and Commercial, Vietnam. We regret the move of Israel from the Asia Pacific to the Europe region.

In order to improve communication, the Regional Office started a monthly e-newsletter from September. The e-newsletter captures activities carried out during the month, upcoming activities and also features news from members.

This year also we are highlighting voices from our youth members and participants from workshops and trainings. Ms. Nguyen Thi Mai, from National Economic-Technical College (NETC), Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA) talks about the profound impact the Japanese work style and life style has had on her personally and professionally, while Mr. Kamaalannathan Kulanthavelu from National Land Finance Co-operative Society Limited (NLFCS), Malaysia mentions how he has started putting into practice the action plan he developed. Ms. Jacqueline Mtongolo of Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Co-operatives Limited (KUSCCO), Kenya a participant at the Palestine workshop highlights the critical need to document success stories for all women co-operatives to ensure we are able to monitor their growth and measure the impact of interventions. Ahsan Ali Thakur, Youth Representative, Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union, Pakistan narrates how being engaged with co-operatives has helped in his growth and development while the youngest member of the Youth Committee, Ngawang Gyeltshen, writes about the birth of Bhutan's first Social Co-operative following the seminar on "Youth Cooperation for young, by the young" organized in January. It is heartening to hear about the successes and the impact our trainings and capacity building efforts are having. We would like to thank the board and staff for their dedicated work during the year. We thank you for your active support and wholehearted participation!

Li Chunsheng
PRESIDENT

Balu Iyer
REGIONAL DIRECTOR



Solidarity with Nepal Co-operatives

A devastating magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Nepal on the morning of April 25. Following the big one, there were more than 49 aftershocks that measured over 4 on the Richter scale (two over 7, two over 6, 16 over 5, and 29 over 4; anything below 4, which were in the hundreds, were not reported). The earthquake, known as the Gorkha earthquake, killed more than 8,800 people and injured more than 23,000. Hundreds of thousands of people became homeless with entire villages flattened across the 14 affected districts. Co-operatives were badly affected with around 1,000 losing their lives and over 1,500 getting injured.

Within an hour of the quake hitting, the National Co-operative Federation, Nepal (NCF/N), put out an appeal to all its members for help. The National Agricultural Co-operative Central Federation (NACCFL) through the support of its members provided relief packets, medicines, and rescued people out of debris/ rubble from 85 villages.

The Alliance launched an immediate appeal to assist in relief and to rebuild co-operatives in Nepal. The assistance raised by Alliance members for Nepal earthquake totaled close to \$1 million dollars. This included in-kind assistance of \$250,000 from IFFCO, and monetary contribution of \$363,000 from JA-Zenchu group, \$183,000 from U.K. Co-operatives, and the rest from members in Australia, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Korea, Philippines, and Singapore.

There were two tranches released to NCF/N and the NACCFL. NCF/N provided soft-loan and grants to co-operatives/unions to improve livelihood and improve infrastructure.

The soft-loan of USD 70,000 was provided to 7 primary co-operatives/unions in dire need as well as to the co-operative based portal after the assessment. The grant of USD 30,000 was provided to 10 co-operatives to repair chilling vat, collection centres, processing centres, cold stores, service centres, co-operative building etc. The main objective of NACCFL is to support agricultural co-operative members in Dolakha, Sindhupal



View of the sites affected by Nepal quake

chowk and Kathmandu districts. The assistance was used to support income generating activities, provide vegetable seeds and seedlings for horticulture, and construction of a warehouse. Priority was given to single women, disadvantaged groups and those highly dependent on agriculture.

IFFCO aids in Nepal earthquake relief work

Within hours of the tragedy, Dr. U.S. Awasthi, Managing Director IFFCO and Mr. Aditya Yadav, Director ICA (Global Board) and IFFCO Board were on the phone with Mr. Keshav Chandra Badal, Chairman of NCF/N to see how they could respond. Based on NCF/N's urgent appeal, IFFCO sent some 10,000 packets of relief materials as an immediate response. The packets meant for one family had enough provisions (polythene sheet, mat, blanket, dhoti, saree, rice, pulses, sugar, salt, roasted gram, turmeric powder, tea, milk powder, pickle, matchbox, candle) to meet a week's requirement. The packets were packed in one of IFFCO's facility in India and transported in trucks across the border. NCF/N adopted very effective guidelines for distribution. Even before the relief material reached them, they had conducted block level meeting of co-operators and representatives and identified the most affected area and needy people. Days before the distribution of relief material, coupons were distributed to the identified people which was collected during the distribution. In most of the cases, the materials were distributed through the District Co-operative Union and District Administration Office and Central Disaster Relief Committee. In order to ensure safe passage of the relief material, the trucks were escorted by the armed forces and paramilitary forces from the border of Nepal to the distribution centres.

Being a farmer's organization IFFCO also took the initiative to help the affected farmers by providing 10,000 packets of vegetable seeds containing 10 packets of different vegetables in each; 4,500 packets of water soluble fertilizer and 200 sprayers to spray water soluble fertilizer and other chemicals.



Mr. Aditya Yadav, ICA Global Board Member and Staff of IFFCO flagging the Relief Convoy

Japanese Cooperative rally to support in rehabilitation of earthquake affected cooperatives in Nepal

The Japanese Cooperative Movement rallied as one to come to the aid of cooperatives in Nepal. In a span of three months, members of the Japanese Cooperative Movement were able to raise \$420,000 to support relief and reconstruction efforts.

A team of JA Zenchu officials led by Vice President, Mr. Toshi Yuki Morinaga visited Nepal on 23-24 November 2015. The purpose was to express their solidarity with co-operators in Nepal, share in the grief and loss, and hand over the contribution raised to the NCF/N and NACCFL, both members of ICA.



Mr. Toshi Yuki Morinaga and the Japanese Delegation with Nepalese Co-operators.

On the morning of the day of their arrival, the team visited areas around Kathmandu city to get a sense of damage caused by the earthquake. In a brief ceremony organised at NCF, Mr. Morinaga handed over a cheque of \$ 242,000 to the Chairperson of NCF. In the first phase, NCF will provide grants of \$ 8,000 to selected cooperatives in 14 districts to support reconstruction of warehouses, purchase of machinery, and aid in livelihood improvement. In the second phase, soft loans will be provided to cooperatives in these districts.

On the second day, the team visited Jeevanpur Small Farmer's Agricultural Cooperative Limited in Dhading. Later in the day, Mr. Morinaga handed over a cheque of \$ 121,000 to the Chairperson of NACCFL. The fund will be used for the construction of warehouses, reconstruction of irrigation infrastructure, and to support agricultural based income generating activities.

The Nepalese Cooperative Movement and ICA express their deep felt gratitude for the generous support provided by the Japanese Cooperative Movement.

EARTHQUAKE RELIEF IN THE NEWS

Co-operatives launch appeals to aid earthquake victims in Nepal

<http://www.thenews.coop/94854/news/co-operatives/co-operatives-launch-appeals-to-aid-earthquake-victims-in-nepal/>

IFFCO relief material brings smiles to Nepal

<http://www.indianco-operative.com/iffco/iffco-relief-material-brings-smiles-to-nepal/>

Nepal – doors with no walls

<http://www.ica-ap.coop/icanews/nepal-doors-no-walls-mr-balu-iyer>

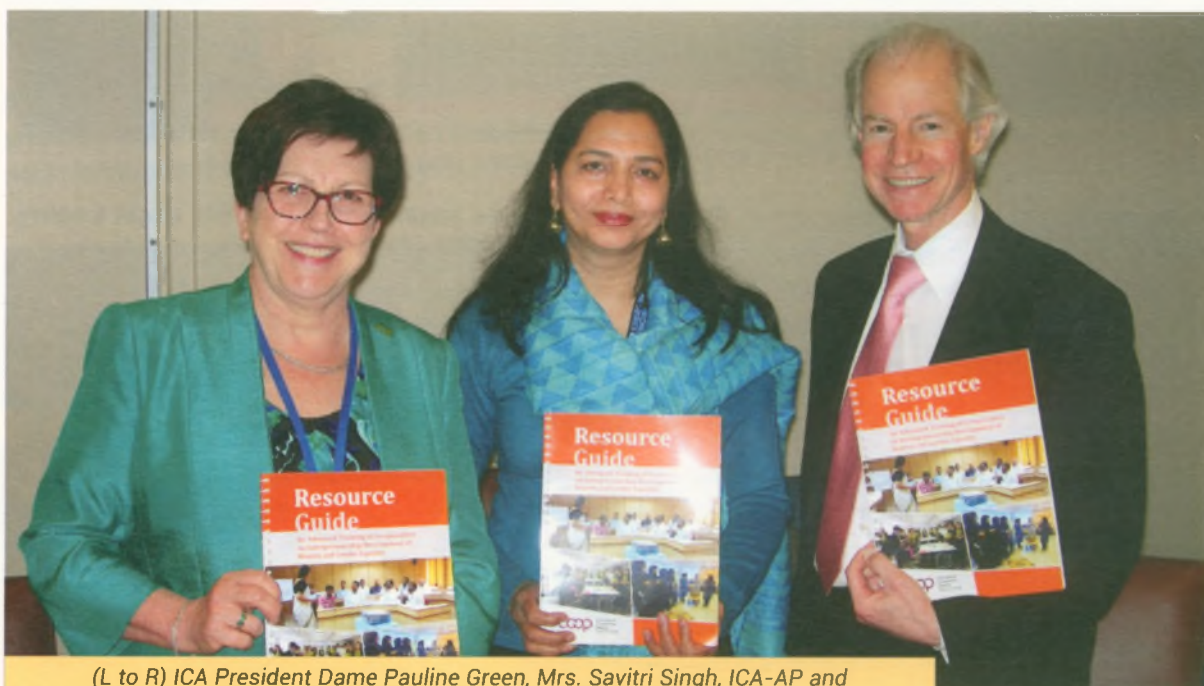


Resource Guide on Gender Equality

The Resource Guide for “Advanced Training of Co-operatives on Entrepreneurship Development of Women and Gender Equality” was formally released by ICA President, Dame Pauline Green on March 10. The venue was a side event, “Co-operatives: Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment” held by ILO-ICA in conjunction with the 59th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women/ Beijing+20, in March at the UN headquarters in New York. Ms. Baasanjav Otgonjargal, State Secretary, Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection of Mongolia and H.E. Od Och, Ambassador, Mission of Mongolia to the UN were guests at the event. The side event was attended by several co-operators and officials of the ILO network members and trade unions.

The Resource Guide developed by the ICA-AP Committee on Women is an advanced version of the ICA-ILO COOPNET leadership training manual for Women Leaders of Co-operatives 2005. It was developed following feed-back provided during training and the felt needs of co-operative members.

The Resource Guide was also released by ICA President at the Global Board meeting in Singapore on March 30, where Ms. Masako Shimbo, Chairperson of the ICA-AP Committee Women was also present.



(L to R) ICA President Dame Pauline Green, Mrs. Savitri Singh, ICA-AP and ICA Director General Mr. Charles Gould at the event.



Engaging with European Union: Policy Forum on Development

The Policy Forum on Development (PFD) under the auspices of the European Commission (EC) brings together civil society organizations (CSOs), local authorities (LAs) and private sector representatives from different parts of the world to dialogue on global development issues and contributes to EU development policies and programs. The gathering of CSOs and LAs from the Asia Pacific region took place in Bangkok on June 24 and 25. The backdrop of the gathering was to provide space for collective planning among CSOs, LAs and private sector to influence the agenda in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) negotiations; reinforce commitment to Asia Pacific's needs for Development Justice, and come up with policy recommendations on the how the EU can build and implement a just and transformative agenda for Asia Pacific.



Gathering of CSOs and LAs from the Asia Pacific region at the PFD meeting Bangkok, Thailand.

ICA has engaged with the PFD since its inception at the global and regional levels. The typology of the actors involved in the PFD's include: CSOs (including Trade Unions, Co-operatives, NGOs and Foundations in the large sense), LAs, organizations representing the private sector (including Chambers of Commerce and Employers Federations). In the Asia Pacific region the first regional consultation was held in Bali in 2013 and the June meeting in Bangkok was the second; in fact it was the first full fledged meeting involving all the PFD actors. The Co-operatives were represented by ICA staff from the regional offices (Asia-Pacific, Africa and Europe) and by National Apex organizations: Co-operative League of Thailand (CLT), Thailand; Malaysian National Co-operative Movement (ANGKASA), Malaysia; National Confederation of Co-operatives, Philippines; and National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Co-operatives, Mongolia (NAMAC).

The SDGs, a vision for universal development, follow the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were agreed by governments in 2000, and are due to expire at the end of 2015. The SDGs

comprise of 17 universal set of goals and 169 targets and indicators. In order to make the SDGs inclusive the UN has been undertaking the largest consultation program in its history to gauge opinions on form, process of implementation and funding. In a similar vein, donors, such as the EU have been providing platform for dialogue on the proper implementation and monitoring of SDGs in order to ensure the common objectives of eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities, providing dignity for all and developing in a sustainable way are achieved.



Representatives of co-operatives at the PFD meeting

The meeting in Bangkok provided the opportunity for the participants to hear about the EU Roadmap for CSO Engagement in this the, European Year of Development, updates on the 2015 SDG process, and the major EU programs in the Asia Pacific region. The Voices from the Region panel discussion provided the opportunity to hear from regional actors on the key challenges and opportunities of the post-2015 development agenda, in light of Zero Draft. The gathering called on the EU to champion Development Justice in its policies and actions in Asia and the Pacific. The five foundations of Development Justice: Redistributive Justice, Economic Justice, Social Justice, Environmental Justice, and Accountability to Peoples, provide a transformative framework that aims to reduce inequalities of wealth, power, opportunities, and resources between countries, between rich and poor and between men and women. A rights-based approach would ensure that the human rights principles of equality, equity, non-discrimination and inclusive participation and decision-making underpin its development cooperation in the region.



Round Table Dialogue to promote Social and Solidarity Enterprises

Mumbai, India was the venue for the two-day round table dialogue (RTD) held on the role of co-operative banks and social finance institutions in promoting and financing social initiatives and social and solidarity enterprises (SSEs). The RTD was organized under the aegis of the ICA-AP, National Federation of State Co-operative Banks, Eco Foundation for Sustainable Alternatives, the Mont-Blanc Meeting- International Forum of the Social and Solidarity Economy Entrepreneurs, the International Co-operative Banks Association and the International Association of Investors in the Social Economy. In attendance at the meeting were over 30 representatives from State and Urban Co-operative Banks, National Federation of Urban co-operative Banks, National Co-operative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks' Federation, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, UNDP, National Co-operative Union of India, Anupamma Pariwar Group, SEWA, IFFCO Foundation, and subject matter experts.



Chairpersons and CEOs of the Co-operative Banks, Coop Unions, Regional Director of ICA-AP and other participants at the round table

SSEs are composed of a plurality of organizational forms that produce goods and services to their members or to the community. They are based on the primacy of people over capital, hold a long-term perspective, emphasize participation of member's stakeholders in the governance of the organization and reinvest profits into their mission. SSE includes co-operatives and other forms of social enterprises, self-help groups, community-based organizations, common groups, associations of informal economy workers, service provisioning NGOs, solidarity finance schemes, amongst others. Its role has become even more significant in recent years, as it has proved to be a major anti-cyclical force in confronting the economic crisis. Given the importance of the SSEs, the RTD emphasized the need for concerted action at the global, national and local level. The MBM as an observer on the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on SSEs has been advocating for governments to promote innovative social and economic forms of organizations to pursue both Financing for Development and Sustainable Development Goals and foster a favorable framework, including a more favorable access to financing and regulatory systems to encourage SSEs. Social and Solidarity-based Finance (SSF), including Co-operative Banks and Social Finance, rooted in the territories, can generate local resources to promote sustainable development in India.



Governance: Regional Board Meetings

The first meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board, hosted by the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF), was held at Pan Pacific Hotel on Sunday, 29 March 2015. At the outset, Mr. Li Chunsheng, Chairman of the Board informed the meeting about the death of Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, Founder Prime Minister of Singapore on 23 March 2015 and offered his condolences to the people of Singapore. Dame Pauline Green, President ICA and Director General ICA Mr. Charles Gould were also present in the meeting along with 11 board members, observers and interpreters. Mr. Seah Kian Peng, ICA Global Member from Singapore extended his warm welcome to the board members. Dame Pauline Green addressed the meeting and said that advocacy on SDGs is very important. In the coming months it will be important for all co-operatives to advocate for the inclusion of co-operatives in the SDGs. ICA was also advocating with the G20 countries as they controlled 84% of the global GDP. In addition to routine agenda, the meeting discussed the following important items: ICA-AP membership situation; Israel's request to move from AP region to European region; revision of rules for election of Regional Board and AP President; engaging regional board members in ICA-AP Committees; and the 10th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference being held in Indonesia in April 2016. It was also decided to hold the next Regional Board meeting in Turkey in November 2015 in conjunction with the ICA General Assembly.



The Regional Board members with ICA President and ICA Director General in Singapore

The second meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held on 9 November 2015 in Antalya. Besides discussing the activity reports and plans, the board discussed the revision of rules for elections, the status of Ministers Conference and Regional Assembly. With regard to Israel's request to move regions, the global board had discussed this issue at its Buenos Aires meeting and put it to vote. A majority of the global board members consented to Israel's request to move to the European region with effect from 1 January 2016. Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, Chairman of NCF/N made a presentation on relief and reconstruction work undertaken by the NCF/N for earthquake victims. The results of the elections related questionnaire was presented and discussed. However, in absence of any consensus, the Elections Working Group was asked to consider the views expressed by members and put its final views at the next board meeting. The proposal to form an ICA-AP Committee on Trade and Business and development of Strategic Plan 2017-2020 was briefly discussed and will be taken up at the next meeting.



Legal: Regional Consultations

In preparation for the forthcoming 10th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference the regional office has held two regional consultations, first in Jakarta for countries of ASEAN Region and the second in Nepal for countries of SAARC region.

Jakarta Consultation

The first Regional Consultation of High Ranking Government Officials and Co-operative Leaders from the ASEAN++ (including China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia and Timor Leste) was held in Jakarta from 30th September to 3rd October. The consultation held in collaboration with the Ministry of Co-operatives and SMEs and the Indonesian Co-operative Council (DEKOPIN) was attended by 40 participants from 11 countries. Minister Secretary Agus Muharram, inaugurated the consultation at the behest of Mr. AAGN Puspayoga, Honorable, Minister of Co-operatives and SME of Indonesia. The set of recommendations to participating governments included earmarking a specified amount of funds to match educational funds developed from within the co-operative movements themselves, to empower co-operative leaders, managers and members, especially women and the young; engaging co-operatives in program activities dealing with women and youth empowerment; providing access to digital technology for co-operative organizations equal to their public and private counterparts, urging the ASEAN Secretariat to involve co-operatives in activities of the ASEAN Economic Community above and beyond Agricultural ones; supporting the "young countries", i.e. in terms of their co-operative development phase, to undertake catch up work by way of practical comparative studies and technical cooperation; establishing a "Co-operative Rating Agency" by way of funding and financial technical know-how based on the feasibility study prepared by the ICA AP; committing themselves to empowering co-operatives to have access to social and financial services, while facilitating the inclusion of co-operatives in the process of reaching food sovereignty and security; and augmenting the role of co-operatives in pursuing the public-private partnerships, and in organizing returning migrant workers and people still trapped in the informal economy.



Jakarta Consultation in progress

Kathmandu Consultation

The two-day Regional Consultation of South Asia Co-operatives was held on December 14 and 15 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The opening ceremony was attended, among others, by the Honorable Chitra Bahadur KC, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Co-operatives and Poverty Alleviation, Nepal and Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa, Secretary General, SAARC; while the closing ceremony was graced by Mr. Bishnu Prasad Paudel, Finance Minister, Government of Nepal and Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada, Vice-chairperson National Planning Commission. The Regional Consultation discussed in earnest the issues relating to the Sustainable Development Goals, in association with the ICA Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade, with more focus on the following five thematic issues, Food Sovereignty, New Co-operative Approaches (Innovation), Co-operatives and the Transition of the Informal into the Formal economy, Regional and Global engagement of Co-operatives, as well as Enabling Environment. Country presentations by six participating countries in the South Asia Region, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, were followed by group discussions. The recommendations included cluster based approach in an effort to mitigate the migration from rural to urban areas; skill development undertaken in a manner that results in the actual establishment and development of sound co-operatives; provision of "Start-up Funds", not "Subsidies", to stimulate and generate members' contributions to the development of their own co-operative; strong and direct linkages built and developed between producers and consumers co-operatives, in an effort to stabilize pricing, to strengthen value chains and to establish sound co-operative branding; existing public-co-operative partnership strengthened, and new ones built, on an equal basis to channel government programs in a responsible, transparent and effective manner; promotion and establishment of broad-based engagement of co-operatives with multiple stakeholders, including the media, parliamentarians, international organizations, NGOs etc.; and the development of new co-operative legislation to be more responsive to contemporary issues and amenable to new co-operative approaches.



Kathmandu Consultation in Progress



Sustainability: Food Sufficiency and Sovereignty

Agriculture is the main stay of people in Asia-Pacific and a substantial portion of co-operative membership consists of farming and rural community. ICA member activities are focused on improvement of quality and quantity of agriculture production and marketing to enhance income and quality of lives of farmers and their community. The following programs were conducted during the year in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan and JA-Zenchu.

The 2nd Training Course on Fostering Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of Agricultural Co-operatives was held in Japan in collaboration with IDACA, Japan from 15 July to 8 August. The objective of the training course was to review improvement of business for its reinforcement including credit business, farm guidance and economic businesses.



Trainees at an agricultural product shop in Japan

These were reviewed from the view point of newly industrializing economies in South East Asia and South Asia. Eight participants from four countries (India, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand) attended the training course. Some of the key subjects covered were management of credit business, ways to embark on better living related businesses, methods of formulating business plans of agricultural co-operatives and strategic approaches. Besides classroom lectures, the participants also visited Iwate prefecture for study visits. The participants finalized their Action Plan based on the experience and knowledge gained during the training course.

The 2nd ICA-Japan Training course on "Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives-2014" was held in Thailand and Japan from 25 February to 4 April 2015. The overall objective of the training program was to assist fostering of the core leaders, who are expected to play leading roles in agricultural co-operatives and farmers' groups that will contribute to the improve the agricultural production and income of the farmers in the LDCs of Mekong river countries and South Asian countries.

10 participants from 6 countries, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal and Vietnam attended the training.



Inauguration of "Improving Capacity of Rural Women" training course in Thailand.

The ICA-Japan Training Project Follow-up was held in Indonesia and Myanmar from 8 to 20 February. The purpose was to assess the impact and effects of the past training courses held since 2013. In particular, to see how Action Plans drafted by the participants have been implemented upon return. The follow-up study was conducted through a questionnaire, exchange of views and ideas with ex-participants and site visits to some of the co-operatives where the former participants were working. The team held one-on-one meeting with the participants to discuss how the learning from the training was being used and implemented by them in the field and the problems faced by them in the course of implementation. The team also held meetings with the heads of sponsoring organizations for a briefing about the objectives of the follow-up program and their opinion on its usefulness. The report of the follow-up visits has been submitted to MAFF, Government of Japan.



A participant receiving certificate of participation at IDACA.

VIEWS FROM THE FIELD



MR. KAMAALANNATHAN KULANTHAVELU

Senior Assistant Manager, Kuala Perak Estate
National Land Finance Cooperative Society (w),
Malaysia



(Participant - 2nd ICA-JAPAN training on "Fostering Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of Agricultural Cooperatives, Japan)

The 2nd ICA-JAPAN training on "Fostering Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of Agricultural Cooperatives" was an eye opener course for me. There was a lot to see, learn and understand about agricultural cooperatives and its functions for the society and country. I am glad and very much thankful to ICA-AP and MAFF, Japan for coordinating such a wonderful and useful course. It was a life time opportunity for me to meet and establish a good network with new friends from organizing and participating countries.

This training course was well designed and coordinated by ICA-AP and IDACA with good lecture topics and knowledgeable resource persons. The training programme was well balanced with classroom lectures and field visits to Japanese agricultural cooperatives facilities and farming activities. We were amazed to see the facility, technology and system adopted by JA to support the farmer members.



Participants at the field visit.

As part of the training curriculum, I had prepared and presented an "Action Plan" during the course to be implemented at my workplace. Keeping in view the background of declining average yield of Fresh Fruit Bunch (FFB) of Palm, the action plan was prepared to meet the following objectives,

- Improvement in yield and quality of crop produced.
- Reduction in production cost and increase of earning.
- Lesser dependency on manual labour/foreign labour by adopting mechanization.
- Bring youth back to agricultural/plantation sector

I have already started working on the implementation of my action plan. I have adopted the ideas and systems used in Japan and modified /adapted them to suit my operations. It is moving along very well.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank ICA-AP and IDACA management and staff for the wonderful experience and hospitality provided in Japan during my stay there. I wish ICA-AP will continue with more trainings pertaining to the cooperatives movement in years to come.



Capital: Co-operative to Co-operative Business

A Business development of Consumer co-operatives

The 15th ICA A-P Regional Workshop for Managers of Management of Consumer Co-operatives was held by ICA-AP Consumer Committee in Singapore from 2 to 5 June. The workshop was hosted by NTUC Fairprice (Singapore) and attended by 14 cooperators from Malaysia, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The objectives of the 4-day training workshop were to promote understanding of the socio-economic role of consumer co-operatives, the use of social media and to establish an international network of consumer co-operative leaders and managers. Mr. Seah Kian Peng, CEO, NTUC Fairprice and ICA Global Board member took part in the workshop along with his other colleagues and motivated the participants.

The first batch of the 2015 Training Program for Managers of Consumer Co-operatives was organized in collaboration with Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) in Japan from 17 July to 8 August. Coop Kobe and the Coop Net Business Association provided the training ground, facilities and resource persons. Five staff from NTUC Fair Price (Singapore) and Saigon Coop (Vietnam) attended the training which was designed to address the training requests made by the trainees. The trainees received 2-day orientation course at JCCU headquarters, where they attended lectures on the outline and product development policy of JCCU. At the Co-op Net Business Association, they received explanation on the structure of the business association and their social and environmental initiatives. In Coop Kobe, they were introduced to the organization and its various initiatives. The trainees elaborated on the competitive environment in the retail industry in both Singapore and Vietnam and discussed ways to enhance their competitiveness by improving staff skills and adding more value to customer service. At the end of the training, an Action Plan was drawn by the trainees to address what they intended to achieve upon returning to their home countries.



Participants of the Workshop

The 49th ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and Pacific meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on December 1, 2015. 8 Committee members and 11 observers from 9 countries attended the committee meeting. The meeting started with opening addresses by Mr. Amano Haruyoshi, Chairperson of the committee; Mr. Haji Nasir Khan Yahaya, CEO, ANGKASA; and Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP. Ms. Nishimoto Yuki Secretary of the committee, reported the Activity Report since last meeting in Bali 2014 and the activity plan for 2016. The committee members made presentations of their recent activities and business results, which were followed by active discussions. The next committee meeting is scheduled to be held in New Delhi, India, in conjunction to the Regional Assembly in November, 2016.

In conjunction with the Committee meeting, a seminar on Consumer Protection was organized. Ms. Indrani Thuraisingham, Head of Consumers International (CI) Office for Asia Pacific, made a presentation on "The Problems among Consumers in Asia and Pacific". CI, an independent organization advocates for the global voice for consumers and to protect and empower consumers everywhere. CI focuses their activities in four strategic areas - Financial Services; Consumers in the Digital Age; Consumer Justice and Protection; and Food Safety, Security and Nutrition". Among the issues touched upon were obesity caused by increasing consumption of fast food and their inappropriate promotion by global fast food corporations; and the haze caused by slash and burn methods in the Indonesian forests. It is important that consumers take action and express their opinion while choosing products. Ms. Hisa Anan, former Secretary General of Consumer Affairs Agency, Government of Japan, gave a lecture on, "The issues among Consumers' Policy in Japan – Realize the consumer civil society by power of Co-op!" Her presentation included a report on recent consumer issues in Japan, such as internet shopping, dishonest businesses targeting senior citizens and people with difficulties and relief systems for consumer-protection. She explained that there is an "isolation" of individuals and the need to realize the "Consumer Civil Society" through communication of Advising each other, Learning with each other, and Helping each other, in the community.

VIEWS FROM THE FIELD



MS. NGUYEN BICH LY

Director of Co-op Mart (Tuy Hoa) Saigon Co-op,
Vietnam

(Participant - 2015 Training Program for Managers
of Consumer Cooperatives in Japan)



It was my honour to attend the 2015 training program for Managers of Consumer Cooperatives in Japan. My fellow trainees and I got a deeper understanding about the spirit of cooperatives and learned a lot from the program. Some of which included, building and managing consumer cooperatives as community based, stable and reliable business, value of member contribution and member participation, and staff attitude and approach.

Based on the training, I have put into practice the following activities at co-op mart of Saigon Co-op and seen positive results:

Member activities: we invite customers and engage them as a group in four activities: childcare, health care, cooking and fashion. We allow them to chat and share their experiences and in the process seek comments on how we could improve customer service in the mart.



Member's room at co.opmart
Tuy Hoa



Member's room at Miyagi COOP



Local products at co-op Mart

Train staff to improve their communication skill and customer service: focus on three actions to deliver strong and clear message:

- Always be well-dressed and ready to serve customers
- Always say thank you to customers with a bright smile
- Always receive and bid customers good-bye with folded hands

Promote Vietnamese Agricultural products: Similar to Sanchoku and Megumino in Japan, we provide an outlet to local farmers to showcase their products. We offer large shelves and clearly indicate the province from which the product is coming. We believe this offers the consumer quality and safe products and boosts the local economy.



Megumino in Miyagi COOP



Co-op Mart's" Commitment of Dedicated actions
"Dedicated delivery staffs at Miyagi COOP

The training provided us an opportunity to understand each other and to share ideas. We were welcomed wherever we went, by management and by our Japanese friends. Thank you!



Nguyen Bich Ly (in yellow) at the study visit

B Co-operative Trade

The ICA-AP and Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA) jointly organized the workshop on Development of Co-operative to Co-operative Trade through e-commerce in Hanoi from 13 to 17 July. The workshop in Hanoi was follow-on to the one, ICA-AP, ANGKASA and ACFSMC co-organized in Kuala Lumpur in 2014. The workshop focused on the opportunities through e-commerce and traditional methods. Experts in e-commerce were invited to share their experiences, strategies and solutions. The expected outcomes were as follows: (a) to improve understanding of the value proposition and opportunities in e-commerce; (b) to have a clear roadmap for MBO to carry forward Co-operative to Co-operative trade initiatives with co-operatives, research institutions and other interested organization; and (c) to strengthen cooperation among ICA-AP members.

Accelerating global trade between co-operatives is not only an important part of ICA Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade, but also a cornerstone for China Coop's international business strategy. ICA-AP and ACFSMC organized the Asia-Pacific Co-operative E- Business Summit in Kunming (China) from 8 to 12 October. The Summit was designed to promote C2C trade by taking advantage of opportunities brought about by the fast-growing e-business. 63 participants from 17 countries attended the Summit.

E-business has changed the landscape of world economy and trade. China Coop has identified the opportunities of e-business, and adapted its existing business networks to the new trend. Today 1,037 China Coop members offer online services to members and customers through their independent websites or leading third-party web portals. The Summit saw presentation of e-business initiatives from Australia, China, India, Korea, Malaysia and New Zealand. Interest was expressed by members from Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Turkey, and Sri Lanka to learn from other members and start in their respective countries. The conference culminated in a signed joint declaration to commit to the development of e-business in the Asia Pacific region.

The first China-Europe Co-operatives Business Summit was held in Shanghai on December 9 and 10. The Summit was organized to provide the opportunity for co-operative leaders from China and Europe to hear about the business potential and explore opportunities for engagement through direct face-to-face meetings. The 20 Chinese co-operatives representatives from Guangdong, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Chongqing and Beijing provinces were engaged in retail and wholesale trade, import and export food, beverages, fertilizers, and farm equipment. The European side was represented by 26 participants from 20 co-operative federations from Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Israel, Italy, and UK. Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of the ICA-AP region explained the importance of trade for China and that the "One Belt, One Road" linking Asia and Europe presented an opportunity for the development of cross-border trade e-commerce. Mr. Petar Stefanov, Global Board member, heading the European delegation spoke of the importance of the Summit in strengthening linkages between the two important regions. The presentations from both sides revealed the opportunities that exist for trade in a variety of areas such as food, beverages, agriculture inputs, and farm machinery.



Gender Equality: Capacity Building of Women

The meeting of Office-Bearers of ICA-AP Committee on Women took place in the premises of CLT in Bangkok on March 31. The meeting was attended by Ms. Masako Shimbo, Chairperson of the Committee; Mrs. Savitri Singh, Secretary of the Committee; Mr. Phanuwat Wanraway, Head of the International Affairs of CLT; Ms. Kruewan Boonrin, Member of the ICA Committee on Women represented by Asian Women Co-operative Development Forum and Ms. Nittay Na Mahachai, Chief of Bureau Data Analysis and project development, Board of Directors and Secretary of the Agricultural Co-operative Federation of Thailand. Three new members (2 from VICTO, Philippines and 1 from CCS-Myanmar) were admitted to the Committee. The current membership of the Committee is 14 members from 10 countries.



Participants at the Palestine workshop in September

Training of Trainers for Management Capacity Building of Women for Co-operative Development: Mongolia ranks 42 among 142 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2014 published by the World Economic Forum. It fares much better in comparison to some of the more advanced countries like Japan and China. Mongolian women have been ranked high in economic participation, higher education and in health and survival. Despite the many indicators reflecting positive socio-economic and political environment for gender equality in Mongolia, the notion of superiority of men persists. ICA-AP in association with the NAMAC, organized the training from 11 to 15 May in Ulaanbaatar City. The training consisted of lectures, hands-on exercises, and field visits and covered issues such as gender perspective and projects in Mongolia; status of Mongolian Co-operatives Business; ICA gender initiative and leadership development; leadership skills and personal management and financial management; and monitoring and evaluation.

A three days workshop on Enhancing the Role of Women in Co-operative Business was held in Ramallah, Palestine, from 15-17 September. The workshop was attended by 35 participants from five countries while the opening session was attended by 87 participants. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Naser Qatami, Deputy Minister in Ministry of Labor, Palestine. The opening session was also addressed by Mr. Mahmud Husain, Chairman of Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine (ESDC); Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director of ICA AP; Mr. Mohammed Khalid, Country Director of WE Effect; and Mr. Mounir Kleibo, ILO Representative in Palestine.

Ms. Savitri Singh, Advisor, Gender Programs and Communication of ICA-AP opened the business session with a presentation on, "Gender Integration and Situation of Women in Co-operatives in Asia and Pacific." Mr. Abed Yassien, ESDC Program Director made a presentation on Women's Co-operatives Impacting Livelihoods in Palestine. Ms. Hanan El-Youssef, Strategy Manger, ICA presented the international perspective about ICA Blueprint and Gender Equality in Co-operatives. Mr. Mounir Kleibo of ILO presented the ILO initiatives and program in Palestine to achieve Gender Equality. The workshop was characterized by active participation and discussion among participants. The attendees interacted actively and lengthy discussions took place on the presentations made at the information sharing session.

The 2nd ICA-Japan Training Course on Improving Capacity of Rural Women was held in Thailand and Japan from 16 September to 14 October. Eight women participants from seven countries attended the Training Course. The objective of the training was to assist in capacity building of leaders of rural women for promotion of more organized business activities in South-East Asia and South Asia. Part-I of the program was held in collaboration with CLT. Part-II of the program held at IDACA included extensive classroom work and study visits to agricultural co-operatives in Mie Prefecture of Japan. Some of the key subjects covered at IDACA were: (a) Development of Agricultural Co-operatives in Japan; (b) Women's Associations of Japanese Agricultural Co-operatives; (c) Rural Women's Entrepreneurship (marketing and local agro-processing); (d) Women's Participation in the Rural Development; (e) Finalization and Presentation of Action Plans; and (f) Reporting and Evaluation. Based on the experiences gained by the participants through classroom lectures, field visits in Thailand and Japan, the participants were able to prepare their Action Plan which they would be recommending to their respective organizations for implementation. A course evaluation was conducted at the conclusion of the training. The participants felt that the training course was very relevant for women leaders of agricultural co-operatives in Asia and it should be continued. The Training Course is funded by MAFF, Government of Japan.

Training of Women Co-operative Leaders in India

The IFFCO Foundation in India initiated a project in 2014 to impart leadership training to 100 women cooperative members in India and create a pool of trained women leaders to actively participate in the management of cooperatives. The Foundation approached ICA-AP to provide technical support in design and implementation of the training program as ICA-AP had developed a training manual on the subject and organized leadership training for women co-operators in the region.



Participants of the Training Program at Shahtalai PACS

The first leadership training was held from 14 to 17 January in Himachal Pradesh at the training center of the Shahtalai Primary Agriculture Co-operative (SPACS). The SPACS covers 5 gram panchayats (village development units), has 4,500 individual members, and an annual business volume of Rs.700 million. Women comprise 55% (2500 out of 4500) of the membership. For the 50 women attending the training, this was the first time they were attending a training of any kind and they had never heard about gender or gender equality.

Ms. Savitri Singh participated in the training as master trainer and conducted the training based on the ICA-AP Resource Guide developed for advanced training of co-operatives on entrepreneurship development of women and gender equality. Representatives of project partners such as Regional Director of the National Cooperative Development Centre; Principal and staff of Cooperative Training Institute, Shimla; Consultants of IFFCO Foundation and the National Center for Co-operative Education were also present.

Training Program on Women Empowerment – a Co-operative Corridor

The Punjab Institute of Co-operative Training Limited (PICT), India organized a "Training Program on Women Empowerment – A Co-operative Corridor" on 20 October 2015 at the PICT training hall in Chandigarh, India. The participants were women assistant registrars, co-operative inspectors, members of co-operatives and self-help groups. The objectives of the program were to help the participants have a good understanding of gender issues and self help concept and to enable them to improve their capacity to organize sustainable self help groups and co-operatives.

Dr. S.K. Batish, Managing Director of PICT delivered the welcome address and Mrs. Nisha Rana, Additional Registrar of Co-operative Societies gave an overview of women empowerment through co-operatives and self help groups. Mr. Arunjit Singh Miglani, Registrar of Co-operative Societies of Punjab was the Chief Guest. Mrs. Savitri Singh of ICA-AP was invited as a special guest and resource person. Punjab is one of the agriculturally successful states in India and women enjoy the reputation of being hard working and contributing to the largely agrarian economy. In spite of economic well being, gender discrimination is rampant here and there is limited mobility for women to explore newer areas of livelihood or in the



Dr. Batish, Mr. Miglani, Ms. Savitri Singh and Ms. Nisha Rana at the opening of the training program

expansion of existing businesses. The Co-operative Department in Punjab has shown support towards women's economic endeavors and their development through co-operatives. Ms. Singh shared stories from co-operatives in various countries and encouraged participants to share their own stories with others. A few participants informed the group about their access to markets in Delhi and that, they had been regularly participating at national and international trade fairs.

VIEWS FROM THE FIELD



MS. WANJALA JACQUELINE SALIMA

Senior Research and Consultancy Officer,
Kenya Union of Savings and Credit
Co-operatives Ltd. (KUSCCO)



(Participant-ICA- AP Workshop on "Enhancing the Role of Women in Co-operative Business", September 2015, Ramallah, Palestine)

LEARNING

Kenya is regarded as the home of co-operatives in Africa and ranked number seven in the world in terms of number, size and contribution to co-operatives. However women co-operatives in Kenya are relatively few and of these, very few have documented success stories. My visit to Palestine was very critical in helping me better understand how to enhance the role of women in co-operatives. There were very informative presentations that focused on the following themes: 'Gender integration and situation of women in co-operatives in Asia Pacific', 'Enhancing role of women in co-operative business including best practices in Palestine', 'Enhancing women's participation in co-operatives', and 'Gender equality in co-operatives'. There were also presentations on success stories and best practices by participant countries. A study visit was organized to 3 women co-operatives in Palestine which helped me better understand the operations of the same. Palestine has elaborate success stories of women co-operatives which are performing fairly well and are supported by various stakeholders like ICA, ILO, ESDC, WE EFFECT and the Government. The support by the various stakeholders has ensured growth and sustainability of these co-operatives.

I also had an opportunity to interact with people from different countries and cultures and established contacts that are going to be instrumental to me as a member of The Alliance Africa Gender Committee.

Take away

The most critical take away for me was the learning on documenting success stories for all the women co-operatives that we have worked with. This will ensure that we monitor their growth and thus are able to measure the impact of interventions of the various stakeholders. It will also ensure that future interventions are targeted in areas with greatest impact for these co-operatives.

Overall Impression

As a member of The Alliance Africa Gender Committee, I learnt the issue of women's low level active participation and their under-representation in decision-making and leadership is common in all regions. The regions that are making progress in addressing this issue are those that have come up with deliberate initiatives and programs to ensure gender concerns are mainstreamed in their co-operative structures. The success stories of women co-operatives in Asia Pacific gave me great insights, some of which we can adopt for our women co-operatives in Africa. The theme of the workshop "Enhancing the role of Women in Co-operative Business" was adequately expounded by all presenters and the quality of the presentations was very good. I enjoyed my stay in Palestine and our host made it a memorable one. The exposure we had will go a long way in helping us impact our women co-operatives positively. I am very grateful to ICA-AP for facilitating our participation in the workshop and I wish more of such forums are organized to help build capacity to better impact women co-operatives.

Thank you.

VIEWS FROM THE FIELD



MS. NGUYEN THI MAI

Head of Technology Science and International Cooperation Department, National Economic Technical College (NETC), Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA)



(Participant - 2nd ICA/Japan Training Course 2015 on "Improving Capacity of Rural Women," Japan)

Japan is a preferred destination for anyone wanting to go abroad. It is a country with long history, boasts a healthy and clean environment and its people while holding high self-esteem are very hospitable. When the announcement of the 2nd ICA/Japan Training Course on "Improving Capacity of Rural Women" was sent to us, I was very excited and immediately put in my application. I was honored to be chosen as one of the participants.

The training program was fully packed and demanding. I did not get stressed because I knew all the things I would learn would be useful and relevant to my job in Vietnam.

From the lectures at IDACA, I came to know how Japan, which was at the "bottom" of development before and during World War II dramatically developed itself to become a powerful, respected and admired country.

I was fascinated to learn about the history of the Japanese co-operative movement, especially the development of agricultural co-operatives. They were initially based on the Industrial Co-operative Law of 1900 and restructured following the enactment of Agricultural Co-operative Law

in 1947. The aim was to develop the co-operative organization of farmers to enhance agricultural production, improve the socio-economic status of farmers and contribute to the development of national economy.

The apex organization of Japan agricultural co-operatives is the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (JA Zenchu), which is the management body and covers all the prefectures. The members of JA consist of: (1) regular members who can contribute share capital and have one vote; (2) associate members who can pay share capital but have no voting rights; and (3) non-members who don't pay the share capital but can utilize the JA services. The main businesses of Japan agricultural co-operatives are farm-skill enhancement, marketing, manufacturing and processing, credit, supply of production materials, medical & health care services, mutual Insurance, welfare for elderly and shared-use facilities.

For me, one of the most interesting findings from the lectures and study visits was to learn about the JA Women's Associations (JAWA). During and after World War II, Japanese women, especially those in the rural areas led a very harsh and dark life. They used to be regarded as a tool to produce children and were expected to undertake all the work of their husband's family. In order to change the women's status and to empower them, the JAWA was founded with the aim to: (1) cooperate with each other to protect women's rights and improve social and economic status of rural women; (2) promote participation of women in JA's activities in order to reflect voices of women to the co-operative movement and take action related to the movement; (3) strive to create comfortable local communities with affluence, close contact with each other and mutual help through the co-operative activities. The activities of JAWA are focused on farm products processing, mutual help group, culture circle, farmers' market group, cooking study & extension group, sports club, local volunteer group, and farm guidance improvement group.

As part of the training, we were taken to Mie prefecture, Yamanashi to visit and observe different co-operative organizations, direct sales shops, supermarkets, road-side stations, entrepreneur women's associations, and facilities base for the elderly people etc. I could learn how the farmers and women run and manage their business and community activities. At "Nabana Sushi Workshop", I observed the group of women who make local sushi and deliver to surrounding office and also sell directly at shops/supermarkets. We worked with a group of women who made local sweets and sold them at the direct sales shops. All the places we visited, I noticed that high hygiene was maintained and strict adherence to food and food processing safety standards. At a sericulture house, I was heartened to see the owner try to preserve traditional sericulture farming even though it was hard work and generated fewer benefits than before.

After the field trip in Japan and study time in IDACA, I was impressed by (although it is not new) the way people there work diligently, think positively and treat each other in a friendly and hospitable way.

I, as well as the other participants, will never forget the warmth with which we were hosted everywhere we went and especially the long waves of hands when we said goodbye to any person.

After coming back to Vietnam, I notice that I am following the Japanese work (hard work, punctuality) and life style (tidiness, caring and politeness)! I would like to express my sincere thanks to ICA-AP and to IDACA for giving me a chance to participate in the training and visit Japan to learn about their co-operative movement.



Catch them Young: Inclusion of Youth in Co-operatives

Engaging with Youth in Thimpu & New Delhi

The ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation (ICYC) initiated pilot projects in Bhutan, India and Nepal to establish youth and youth-led co-operatives. The project is in line with the theme of the 7th Annual Meeting – Financial Literacy for Youth Cooperation.

The campaign in Bhutan was carried out by Mr. Sangay Rinchen, member-ICYC in Thimphu on January 11. The Minister of Agriculture along with the Secretary and the Registrar from the Department of Cooperation graced the Seminar on Financial Literacy for Youth Cooperation with emphasis on “Youth led Social Co-operatives”. Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP and Honorary Member of the ICYC, in his keynote address highlighted the core values of cooperation and gave examples of successful youth led co-operative movements in Japan and Europe. The Resolution of the seminar was to set up a core group of youth volunteers and mobilize youth movements into a co-operative with social benefit.



Mr. Balu Iyer addressing students of SRCC during ICYC Pilot Activity

The pilot activity in India was carried out by the students of the Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) under the guidance of Dr. Mallika Kumar, Assistant Professor on February 4. The seminar was chaired by Dr. Sukesh Zamwar, Chairperson ICYC. Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director gave a special address on co-operative awareness and the benefits of working on one's own rather than working for another enterprise. Heads of various societies of the SRCC shared their achievements and challenges as student groups functioning in the campus. Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, Secretary ICYC gave a thematic presentation on the situation of youth-led and youth based co-operatives in the Asia Pacific region and urged the students to partner in the proposed ICYC project. Dr. Navin Anand, moderator of the Microfinance Community of the UNDP Solution

Exchange shared his thoughts on co-operatives and areas of work in financial sector for youth. This was followed by a panel discussion chaired by Mrs. Savitri Singh, ICA-AP. Based on the key recommendations of the pilot activities in Nepal, Bhutan and India, the Youth Committee will continue to develop new initiatives related to establishing youth co-operatives that are tailored to local interests.

Regional Workshop for Youth and Campus Co-operatives

Over a hundred youth participants representing twelve countries gathered to work and strategize on moving towards a Sustainable Growth and Development in the Co-operative Decade #coops2020 at the Asia Pacific Workshop on Youth and Campus Co-operatives. The event was hosted by CLT in association with the Consumer Co-operative Federation of Thailand from 17 to 19 September. The regional workshop was jointly convened by the ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives and the ICYC. These two committees also conducted their annual meetings on separate dates. The workshop saw student members of university co-operatives from Japan, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, India, Philippines, Thailand and a delegation of youth officers/managers of credit co-operatives in Nepal, work in small groups on three topics: (a) ethical consumption, (b) career development, and (c) financial literacy for youth cooperation.

Lectures delivered by international resource persons included Mr. Matthieu Cognac, Youth Employment Specialist from the ILO (Bangkok office), Mr. Aditya Yadav, youngest Alliance Global Board member, Dr. Yashvantha Dongre from the Mysore University (India). The participants shared their experiences and finally adopted a Resolution on Role of Youth and University Co-operatives in moving towards Sustainable Growth and Development in the Co-operative Decade on 19 September. The Regional Director of ICA-Asia and Pacific shared the commitment of the ICA to highlight youth movement in co-operatives at the right global platforms. He encouraged participants to engage with ICA-AP by sharing ideas and information on their experience and challenges in the co-operative sector.



Participants taking selfie at the Workshop

VIEWS FROM THE FIELD



AHSAN ALI THAKUR

Youth Representative, Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union, Pakistan; Vice Chairperson – ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation; Executive Member, Global Youth Network of the ICA



My relationship with the co-operative movement via the ICA began when my organization, Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union (KCHSU) Ltd., was welcomed to the Alliance membership. The rainbow flag of cooperation was handed over to Mr. M. Sharif Bhaiji in Singapore, 2007. It was a momentous day as it opened the gates to enormous opportunities and information that our co-operative had not imagined before. The same year, I attended the 1st Regional Youth Committee meeting organised by the SNCF in Singapore. I am proud and honoured to be a part of this committee since it was constituted fully, as a full ICA-AP Committee. Earlier, issues related to youth were addressed via the ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Co-operatives. I have come a long way in my discovery of co-operatives and the opportunities for its development in the region and must thank the ICA-AP to have helped me continue my professional journey beyond the region.

The Youth Co-operative Wing of Pakistan (YCWP) that I consider an achievement of the KCHSU was inspired from the activities of the Youth Committee. The YCWP carries forward the co-operative movement in the interest of Pakistani youth through workshops, training programs and other social activities such as blood camps. This will have an impact on future engagement of youth with Co-operatives in Pakistan.

ICA has supported the co-operative movement in innumerable countries by gathering intelligent minds and discussing issues relating to co-operatives at various platforms. It continues to develop its influence through the trainings it organises in collaboration with various institutions and organisations. A dedicated training programme for youth may be designed by the ICA to start the process of free sharing of knowledge on co-operatives and best practices from an early age. I have met many youth co-operators with the help of my membership at the ICA committees. I show particular gratitude to the Co-operative College of Malaysia and the Government of Malaysia that collaboratively organise the Malaysia Co-operative Training Programme at extremely subsidised costs for youth.

My experience with the ICA-AP and the committee in 2015 was tremendous to say the least. The first collaborative workshop of the Youth Committee and the University/Campus Committee increased my understanding of youth focussed activities in universities and educational organisations in other parts of the region. Youth Committee's activity on Financial Literacy that was piloted in Bhutan, Nepal and India have resulted in the formation and registration of Bhutan's first social co-operative; formation of 200 savings clubs in schools in various parts of Nepal; and in cooperation with co-operatives in Philippines and Thailand. The YCWP too, has initiated engagement with the

education sector to target youth by organising trainings of school teachers on co-operatives. The ICYC members also attended the ICA General Assembly, Antalya, Turkey and optimised the great opportunity to interact with youth from the other regions. The Global Youth Network Executive Committee elections resulted in the retention of Dr. Suresh Zamwar as Vice Chairperson and my position as Executive Member. The efforts of Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, who is part of ICYC as secretary, have been most helpful for the committee's development.



Participants at the 8th Meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation

VIEWS FROM THE FIELD



MR. NGAWANG GYELTSHEN

Founder Member – Youth Social Co-operative,
Thimpu, Bhutan
Member – ICA-AP Committee on Youth
Cooperation



Bhutan, the Land of Happiness as many have come to know it, is a young nation long clouded from the outside world by myth and mysticism. It was only in 2008, that the young nation opened her doors to the most celebrated of western ideologies; democracy. An ideology founded on values of liberty, freedom and equality. Democracy in Bhutan was gifted to the people by the royal throne, an institution loved and revered in Bhutan till this day. It was the Fourth King of Bhutan, His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who also gifted Bhutan and the world the ideology of Gross National Happiness (GNH).

Gross National Happiness

Bhutan's rich Buddhist tradition and culture has led the nation on a path seldom travelled by other countries. Under the leadership of the fourth King or the Great Fourth as many affectionately address him, Bhutan values the Happiness of her people over the materialistic growth of the country. Such a developmental paradigm has ensured that any developmental activity needs to keep at heart the very purpose of economic progress; wellbeing of the people. Bhutan's internationally celebrated success in environmental conservation is credited to the country's vision of happiness over wealth.

The Birth of Bhutan's first Social Co-operative: A retrospective

12th January, 2015: More than 150 youth in Bhutan gathered in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan, to participate in the national youth seminar, "Youth Cooperation for young, by the young". The seminar exhibited one quintessential thing needed in making democracy work, cooperation. The event was supported by ICA-AP office in Delhi and the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Co-operatives, MoAF. The event was coordinated by youth leaders and Sangay Rinchen, founder and CEO of Happy Green co-operative. Sangay Rinchen, a retired civil servant turned farmer is a pioneer in Bhutan. He is widely respected for his innovative ideas and humility. The participating youth, numbering in hundreds, learned how the co-operative principles could help Bhutan in her quest for GNH. The seminar was a workshop of creativity, innovation and a glaring example of how 'Youth is NOT wasted on the young'. But perhaps the highlight of the seminar was the birth of Bhutan's one of a kind youth co-operative called, Youth Social Co-operative, Y Co-Op. Y Co-Op aims to inspire, unite and strengthen the youth of Bhutan; to bring out the best in the youth in realizing the dream of GNH. The main motto being 'Innovate- Inspire'.

Y Co-Op's first two projects were collaborations between various non-governmental organizations and private enterprises. Script Weavers, the first project, was an oral history documentation project with Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy. The project involved members from the co-operative documenting oral histories of people aged above 60, in attempt to preserve their life tales and help bridge a growing divide among the young and the old. The documented stories will soon be published for the general public. The second project was making of a short youth movie to generate awareness among the general public about the growing youth issues. The entire movie-crew consisted of the youth. Both the projects were featured in Bhutan's first newspaper, The Kunsel.

Being the youngest member of ICA-AP Youth Committee

My experience as the youngest member of ICA-AP youth committee has been a journey of self-discovery. The support from member colleagues of ICA-AP youth Committee has helped our small co-operative reach new heights in our understanding of co-operative ideology and in our progress. The Renowned Economist Joseph Stiglitz in his article, moving beyond market fundamentalism to a more balanced economy, states that inequality is perhaps the biggest threat the global economy faces now. I understand that in this fight against inequality, Co-operatives play a very vital role. My humble contributions to this cause as a member of ICA-AP Youth Committee will always be one of my proudest achievements.

Ngawang Gyeltshen, a TEDx Speaker, is the founder and CEO of Youth Social Co-operative (Y Co-Op). Currently studying Economics and Innovation at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan. He happens to be the youngest member of ICA-AP youth Committee.



The 2nd data study on Status and Participation of Women and Men in Co-operatives commissioned

The ICA-AP commissioned the Second data study on Status and Participation of Women and Men in Co-operatives” to review the situation-progress or lack thereof. The study will look at the state of affairs as it relates to participation of women and their role in decision making in co-operatives and provide data on the changes that have happened on status of women since the information was last collected in the first data study, Engendering Database in Co-operatives in 2005. In February 2016, ICA-AP will hold the Third Regional Conference in Tagaytay (Philippines) to review the situation 10 years after the second conference and look ahead to see how gender mainstreaming can be further consolidated in co-operatives. The conference will also make recommendations to the 10th Co-operative Ministers Conference.

Regional Co-operative Research Conference

The 10th ICA-AP Regional Co-operative Research Conference was held at Vaikunta Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management (VAMNICOM), Pune, India, on November 5 and 6, 2015. The theme of the conference was Governance of Co-operatives: Issues and Challenges. Financial support for the conference was provided by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), NCUI, and district level banks.

The opening ceremony was attended among others by Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and President of NCUI; Er. Sanjeeb Patjoshi, IPS, Director of VAMNICOM & CICTAB; and M.V. Ashok, Chief General Manager, NABARD. In his inaugural address, Dr. Yadav stressed on the upon the need for co-operatives to emerge as autonomous entities started and operated by members community. He provided a historical sketch of the contribution of co-operatives in India and said that co-operatives



Research conference in progress

help hold different segments of the economy on a balanced footing. In his key note address, Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP underlined the importance of research in strengthening the co-operative movement.

The Research Committee had invited research papers on the following sub themes:

- Theories and models of governance
- Structure and processes of governance
- Political and economic democracy
- Member participation
- Women and youth participation
- Legal environment affecting governance
- Role of board and executive
- General body powers and limitations
- Co-operative leadership

Out of 60 abstracts received, 35 were selected through a process of blind review and 30 research papers presented by authors from Australia, India, Korea, Malaysia and Philippines in two parallel sessions on the above sub themes. Each session was well attended and at the end of each presentation there was a lively exchange of questions and answers. The papers presented in the conference will be further reviewed and selected papers will be published in the form of a book shortly.

Research Conference in Iran on Capacities and Advantages of Co-operatives for Economic and Social Development

The Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare, Islamic Republic of Iran organized a two-day international conference on the theme "Advantages and Capacities of Co-operatives in Economic and Social Development". The Government of Iran is committed to ensuring that cooperatives contribute to 25% to the national GDP. Dr. Kalantari, Deputy Minister in-charge of Cooperatives and his team convened the conference around pathology of the cooperative sector, where the challenges and shortcomings that cooperatives encounter today and what they may experience in the run up to the culmination of the Co-operative Decade in 2020. The conference was attended by Iranian policy makers, international agencies dealing with cooperatives such as the ILO Coop, Huia.coop (New Zealand), Cooperative Bulk Handling (Australia), and scholars, researchers and representatives from universities from Iran and outside. Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, Vice President – ICA Asia and Pacific and the President of the National Cooperative Union of India led the Indian delegation. Ms. Savitri Singh and Mr. Santosh Kumar from the ICA-AP regional office attended the conference and presented papers on pathology of cooperative sector development, gender equality and participation of youth.

Activities in Malaysia

Malaysian Carnival of Co-operatives' Products and Services

The second Malaysian Carnival of Co-operatives' Products and Services (MACCOPS) was held at the Malacca Trade Centre from November 20 to 26, 2015. The event in its second year is promoted by ANGKASA to showcase co-operative products and services from Malaysia and the region. The theme for this year was, "Bersama-sama Mengukuhkan Jaringan Ekonomi Koperasi," which translates to "Together to strengthen Economic Co-operative Network." The Malaysian National Co-operative Policy has co-operatives playing an active role in the following clusters: financial; wholesale and retail; agriculture and agro-based industry (including plantations); tourism and health; community development; real estate and construction; and in innovation, technology and telecommunication. In line with this, the co-operative fair had over 227 stalls displaying an array of products and services ranging from neatly packaged food products, halal certified products, hydroponic gardening, traditional health products, handicrafts, banking and finance. The food products were aligned with the Makanan Selamat Tanggungjawab Industry (MeSTI), or the "Food Safety is the Responsibility of the Industry", a food safety program undertaken by the Ministry of Health. On the lighter side, the Co-operative Artists groups provided entertainment to the people visiting the fair. The conference also provided the opportunity for co-operatives from neighbouring countries to show case their products. Taking advantage were the Co-operative League of Thailand, DEKOPIN from Indonesia, Samakaya from Brunei and CHAM Business Network from Cambodia. During MACOOPS, Angkasa launched the site <http://www.mykoperasi.coop/> to encourage co-operatives to register for the COOP domain and marquee.



Halal Products and Services display at the Co-operative Fair.

Improving Value Chain through Fair Trade and Halal Certification

A seminar to explore opportunities to improve value chain through Fair Trade and Halal Certification was organized in Kuala Lumpur on December 2 and 3, 2015. The seminar was hosted by ANGKASA, JCCU, and NACF, Korea and attended by 40 participants from 12 countries - China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka Singapore and Vietnam. The seminar had presentations from

experts in the field, experience-sharing by co-operatives involved in the activities, and field visits. Mr. Erwin Novianto provided an overview of Fair Trade International, the premium that fair trade products commanded, and the opportunities for co-operatives. Ms. Han Geumee, traced the history of iCoop's association with fair trade since 2007 and about their partnership with 17 producer organizations from 12 countries. Ms. Elizabeth Dellina, from Panay Fairtrade Center Philippines spoke about their co-operative's association with iCOOP Korea in sourcing products such as mascobado sugar, ginger, and banana.



Participants at the Halal Development Corporation

Mr. Jamie Rammie, from the Halal Development Corporation (HDC), presented an overview of the \$1.5 trillion Halal market and HDC's role in promoting halal business. Mr. Mohd Naim Aziz, explained the requirements of JAKIM (Malaysian Halal certification) and its recognition in over 63 countries. Mr. Rushdi Siddiqui, Co-founder and CEO of Zilzar gave a comprehensive overview of Zilzar, the leading e-Halal e-commerce platform. Mr. Kim Moon from NACF spoke about the importance they were attaching to halal products and their target to export \$200 million by 2020.



New Members

The Alliance membership from the Region has been increased from 82 members from 26 countries in 2014 to 89 members from 29 countries in 2015. The following were the new members accepted to ICA:

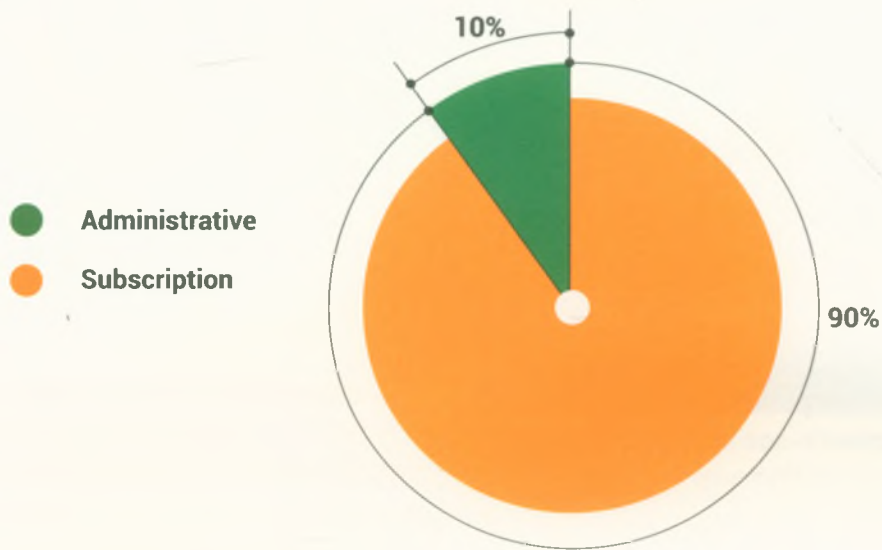
1. Supervision and Coordination Central Union of Rural and Agriculture Co-operatives (SCURA)
Tehran, Iran
2. Maldives Fisherman's Association (MFA)
Boduthakurufaanu Magu,
Male, Republic of Maldives
3. Office of Co-operative Societies (OCS-PNG)
Boroko, National Capital District
Papua New Guinea
4. Federation of peoples' Sustainable Development Coop
Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines
5. Philippine Co-operative Center (PCC)
Quezon City, Philippines.
6. Vietnam National Industrial, Handicraft and Commercial
Coop Enterprise Association (ViCCA)
Hanoi City, Vietnam
7. Co-operatives and Business Development services (ORCBDS)
Port Vila, Vanuatu



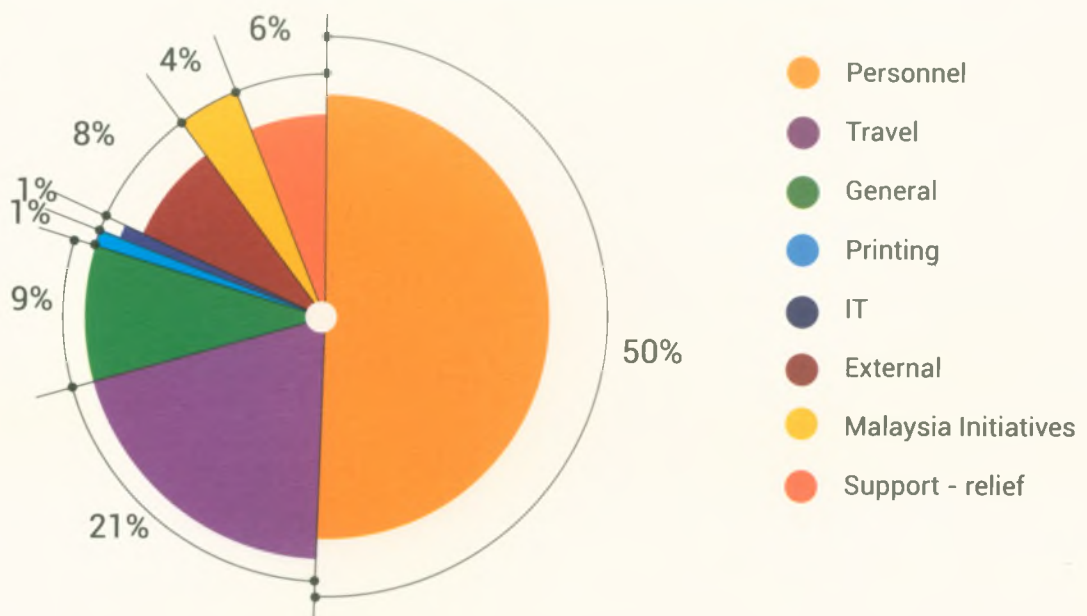
Income and Expenditure - 2015

The income for the Asia Pacific region comes from two sources – subscription redistribution, and administrative contribution for projects. In 2015, the total income for the region was \$ 431,200 of which \$ 388,200 was subscription and \$ 43,000 administrative income. The expenditures were mainly towards personnel, travel, Malaysia activities, support for earthquake relief and operations.

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



2015 Calendar of Events

| S.No. | Activity Details | Sector / Committee | Partners | Location | Period |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------|--|--------------------|------------------------|
| Quarter 1 - January to March | | | | | |
| 1 | Financial Literacy for Youth - Pilot Projects | Youth | DAMC, Bhutan; SRCC, India; JCCU, Japan | Bhutan, India | 9-14 January |
| 2 | ICA-Japan Training Courses - Follow-up Visits | Agriculture | IDACA, MAFF, Japan; ICA-AP | Indonesia, Myanmar | 8-20 February |
| 3 | ICA-Japan Training Course on Fostering Core Leaders in Agricultural Cooperatives. | Agriculture | MAFF, IDACA Japan; CLT, CPD, Thailand | Thailand and Japan | 25 February to 4 April |
| 4 | Release of Resource Guide | Women | JCCU, ICA | New York, USA | 10 March |
| 5 | ICA-AP Regional Board and Global Board Meetings/ Release of Resource Guide | Governance, Women | JCCU; SNCF, Singapore | Singapore | 29-31 March |
| Quarter 2 - April to June | | | | | |
| 6 | Meeting of the Office Bearers of ICA-AP Committee on Women | Women | JCCU, CLT | Bangkok, Thailand | |
| 7 | Conference on Social Banking ICBA and Mont-Blanc Meeting | Banking | ICBA; NAFSCOB, India | Mumbai, India | 2-4 April |
| 8 | Research on Cooperatives in Sri Lanka | Consumer | JCCU; COOPFED, Sri Lanka | Sri Lanka | 26-30 April |
| 9 | Training of Trainers for Management Capacity Building of Women for Cooperative Development. | Women | JCCU; NAMAC, Mongolia | Mongolia | 11-15 May |
| 10 | 15 th ICA-Fairprice Workshop for Managers on Management of Consumer Cooperatives | Consumer | JCCU; NTUC Fairprice, Singapore | Singapore | 1-4 June |
| 11 | ICA-ACFSMC Training Course on Small Cooperative Finance and Risk Management | Trade | ACFSMC, China | Nantong, China | 8-13 June |
| Quarter 3 - July to September | | | | | |
| 12 | Workshop on Development of Cooperative to Cooperative Trade through E-commerce | Trade | ACFSMC; VCA, Vietnam | Hanoi, Vietnam | 13-17 July |
| 13 | ICA-Japan Training Course on Fostering Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of Agricultural Cooperatives | Agriculture | MAFF; IDACA; CLT | Japan | 15 July to 8 August |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 14 | ICA-JCCU Training Program for Managers of Consumer Cooperatives | ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Cooperatives | JCCU | Japan | 27 July to 9 August |
| 15 | Workshop on Enhancing the Role of Women in Coop Business. | ICA-AP Committee on Women | JCCU, ESDC, Palestine | Ramallah, Palestine | 15-17 September |
| 16 | 2 nd ICA-Japan Training Course on Improving Capacity of Rural Women | Agriculture | MAFF, IDACA, CLT | Thailand and Japan | 16 September to 14 October |
| 17 | 8 th Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation & 7 th Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Cooperatives | Youth and University Cooperatives | JCCU; KCHU, Pakistan; BUCCS, India; CLT; NFUCA, Japan | Bangkok, Thailand | 17-20 September |
| 18 | Regional Consultation of Cooperatives in Asean (++) Countries : Jakarta Consultations | Advocacy | DEKOPIN, Indonesia | Jakarta, Indonesia | 30 September to 3 October |
| Quarter 4 - October to December | | | | | |
| 19 | Asia-Pacific Cooperative E-business Summit | Trade | ACFSMC | Kunming, China | 8-12 October |
| 20 | 10 th ICA-AP Regional Research Conference (Theme: Governance of Coops: Issues and Challenges) | Research | IFFCO; VAMNICOM, India | Pune, India | 5-6 November |
| 21 | ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting | Governance | | Antalya, Turkey | 8-13 November |
| 22 | ICA-JCCU Training Program for Managers of Consumer Cooperatives | Consumer | JCCU | Japan | 23 November to 6 December |
| 23 | 49 th Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Cooperation, Fair Trade and Halal Seminar | Consumer, Malaysia initiative | JCCU; ANGKASA, Malaysia | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | 1-3 December |
| 24 | Regional Consultation of Cooperatives from SAARC Countries: Kathmandu Consultations | Advocacy | NCF, NACCFL, NCDB, NEFSCUN, Nepal | Kathmandu, Nepal | 14-15 December |
| 24 | Engendering Database in Cooperatives | Women | JCCU | ICA-AP | Started in July, still continuing |
| 25 | Publication of ICA-AP Newsletter and 2014 Annual Report | Communications | | ICA-AP | January to December |

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| | Mr. Hajme Haguchi | Vice Chairperson, Executive Director | Central Union of Agriculture Coops (JA-Zenchu) |
| | Mr. Ashok Kumar Taneja | Secretary | International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific |
| Consumer Committee | Mr. Haruyoshi Amano | Chair person | JCCU, Japan |
| | Mr. Poh Leong Sim | Vice Chairperson | NCCF, India |
| | Mr. D.S.K. Pathirana | Vice Chairperson | COOPFED, Sri Lanka |
| | Ms. Yuki Nishimoto | Secretary | International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific |
| Co-operative Research | Dr.G.N. Saxena | Chairperson | IFFCO, India |
| | Mr. Akira Kurimoto | Vice Chairperson | Consumer Co-operative Institute of Japan |
| | Mr. Ashok Kumar Taneja | Secretary | International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific |
| Credit and Banking Committee | Mr. Shivadasan Nair | Chairperson | NACARD |
| | Ms. Divina C. Quemi | Vice Chairperson | NATCCO, Philippines |
| | Mr. K. Kukreja | Secretary | International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific |
| Forestry Committee | Mr. Shigeyoshi Satoh | Chairman, President | National Federation of Forest owners' Co-operative Associations |
| | Mr. K.G. Wankhade | Vice Chairman | Indian farm Forestry Development Co-operatives Ltd. (IFFDC) |
| | Mr. Ashok Kumar Taneja | Secretary | International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific |

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| | Ms. Maria Elena Canda Limocon | Vice Chair | Women's representative to NATCCO board, AWCF |
| | Ms. Savitri Singh | Secretary | International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific |
| HRD Committee | Dr. Dinesh | Chairperson | National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) |
| | Mr. Jose Romeo B. Ebron | Vice Chairperson | National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) |
| | Mr. K. Sethumadhavan | Secretary | International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific |
| University/ Campus Committee | Prof. Furuta | Chairperson | National Federation of University Co-operative Association, Japan |
| | Prof. Park | Vice Chairperson | Korea University Cooperative federation (KUCF) |
| | Dr. Azlan | Vice Chairperson | ANGKASA Malaysia |
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| | Prof. Zenaida S. Diola | Co-Secretary | Metro manlia Federation of Consumers Co-operatives, Philippines |
| | Prof. Yashwantha Dongre | Co-Secretary | University of Mysore, India |
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| | Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur | Vice Chairperson | Karachi Cooperative housing Societies Union Ltd. (KCHSU) |
| | Mr. Ukwaththa Liyanage Udaya Prabath | Vice Chairperson | Consumers Co-operatives Societies federation of Sri Lanka Ltd. (COOPFED) |
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