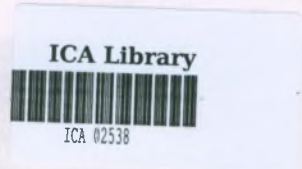
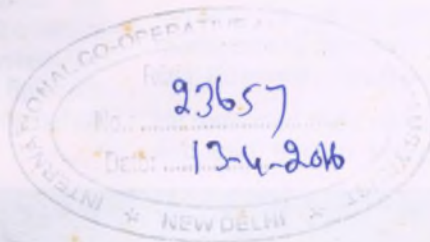
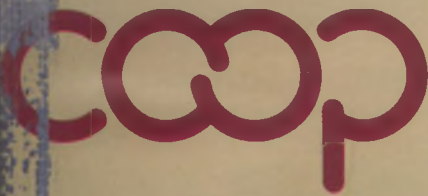


ICA 02538





## Building up the Co-operative System in Laos



Participants with Mr. Phoumy Phoumanivong, Director General of DAEC and Balu Iyer

The National Conference on "Building up the Co-operative System in Laos" was held from 11th to 12th November 2014 in Vientiane in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Laos provided support from International Co-operative Alliance Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP).

More than 50 national and international participants attended the Conference. In addition to MAF and ICA-AP the speakers from Co-operative League of Thailand (CLT), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Deutscher Genossenschafts und Gewerkschaftsverband (DGRV) Laos, Institute for Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA) Japan and Co-operative Academic Institute (CAI), Kasetsart University Thailand.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Phoumy Phoumanivong, Director General of Department of Agriculture Extension and Co-operative Administration (DAEC), delivered opening address and declared the Conference open. He appreciated the efforts and initiatives of ICA-AP in helping Laos to build their co-operative system. Dr. Phommouk Thirasack, DDG of DAEC, MAF, Lao and Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP welcomed the participants on behalf of their respective organisations.

There were representation 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 active participation by all stakeholders will go a long way in realising a coordinated effort for formulation of co-operative law and policy in the country.

Mr. Balu Iyer gave a brief introduction of the background, objectives and expected results. He called MAF to join ICA and gain for exposure access to worldwide experience in the field of co-operative business development. ICA has been engaging with MAF over the past decade to enhance income of farmers by building up the system of co-operative business. From 2004-2009, ICA-AP supported training and workshops for women farmers. Regular invitation were given to MAF officials and farmers, for taking part in trainings on quality and safety management of farm products, fostering core leaders to revitalize rural economy and empowerment of rural women.

He reminded the Conference of engagement of Lao with ICA and said that in February 2012, H.E. Dr. Phouangparisak

### THIS ISSUE

Building up the Co-operative System in Laos  
Enhancing the role of women in co-operative business

- Improving Capacity of Rural Women
- Development of Consumer Co-operatives
- ICYC Pilot Activity on Financial Literacy for Youth Co-operation

- Member of the Month: VCA, Vietnam
- New Member: BUCCS, India
- Regional News
- Upcoming Events

## From the Editor



Welcome to the 'Year End' issue ! We have been able to complete all projects and activities in partnership with our members. As many as 5 major activities have been implemented during November-December before the members could go on in holiday mode. One of the significant initiatives of the year, the National Conference was held in Laos in collaboration with the MAF and resulted into consensus building on establishing a coop system for sustainable development in the country by introducing appropriate law and policy.

Besides training for gender mainstreaming and development of consumer co-operatives, a new project for financial literacy of youth in coops has been launched. The VCA is featured as 'Member of the Month' in this issue as co-operatives are focused on achieving sustainable development in the country.

With Season's Greetings,  
– Savitri Singh

## MEMBERSHIP POSITION

**ICA GLOBAL:** 228 Members + 39 Associate Members from 93 countries

**ICA-AP:** 85 Members from 26 countries

Pravongviengkham, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Government of Laos attended the 9th ICA-AP Co-operative Ministers' Conference in Thailand and stated that the government of Laos is committed to decentralisation of most development activities and has accorded high priority to growth of co-operatives in all sub sectors of the rural economy. ICA-AP conceptualized the project in order to help Laos attain sustainable development by mobilising its rural economy through co-operatives.



Mr. Bussi, ILO Director addressing the participants

Mr. Maurizio Bussi, Director from the ILO Regional Office of Asia-Pacific while addressing the participants talked about gender equality in co-operatives and ILO's 95 years of collaboration with ICA and the co-operative movement. He also said, "let me join the call of Regional Director of ICA-AP to MAF, Laos to become member of the ICA."

Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit, President of CLT and ICA-AP Board Member in his speech offered to support MAF in developing co-operative legal framework as well their business.

The conference discussions covered issues at the local as well as regional and international level; experiences from neighbouring countries, and expertise from international agencies such as DGRV, ICA, IDACA and ILO.

Mr. Kham Ouane Khamphoukeo, Head of Production Group Promotion, Co-operative and Agribusiness Division, MAF presented the country status paper on the Co-operative Decree and gain an insight into the progress and gaps thereof. The discussions and presentations from the conference will be used further to establish the legal and policy framework on co-operatives and take forward the PM's Decree on Co-operatives.

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 presented rich experience from a co-operatively developed country like Japan and added value to the Conference.

The Conference adopted a comprehensive approach to look beyond structure and towards the next steps in the development of co-operative business. It also discussed a value chain approach that looks at the links from producer to consumer. The Farmer Shop model developed by CAI, Kasetsart University show cased and explained to co-operators and government representatives the importance of a holistic approach. Further, given the close linkage between Thailand and Laos, the participants have been able to better relate to this presentation.

## Objectives of the Conference

In view of considerable progress made by the country in the form of Prime Minister Decree on Co-operatives and have organised co-operatives, the objective of this Conference is:

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

DGRV a Germany based co-operative organisation and also a member of ICA has been working in Laos to improve the economic situation of farmers' and micro, small and medium enterprises; contributing to the development of a legal framework with regard to the co-operative system; supporting the setting



Visit to a farmer's group

up of farmers' cooperatives; and strengthening the member based organisations such as village banks and savings and credit unions. Mr.V. Holger Grages, the country representative of DGRV shared his work, experience and also talked about need and requirement of a legal framework for development of co-operatives in the country.

Mr. Balu Iyer presented an international perspective on co-operative policy and legal frame work with focus on Asia and Pacific, ICA Blueprint and positioning of co-operatives as builder of sustainability. Mr. Guy Ryder discussed the work of ILO in Lao PDR such as, Co-operative Legislation in the light of 2002 ILO Recommendation No. 193, role of government, workers' org, employers' org and co-operatives and also instruments of ILO.

The low levels of participation of women in co-operatives, especially in agriculture co-operatives is a critical issue and ICA is making efforts to establish enabling law and policies for participation of women and farm labourers. Mrs. Savitri Singh, Adviser-Gender Program and Communication, ICA-AP shared information/experience 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.

### Useful findings/results

Dr. Somnuck Thirasack, Deputy Director (DAEC), MAF was the Chief Coordinator of the Conference and presented following results drawn from the discussions and papers presented at the conference:

### Lessons learnt

- Lao PDR is ASEAN member, but is not ICA-AP member;
- Lao PDR doesn't have Co-operatives law ;

- To be a cooperative member, one must accomplish with seven fundamental criteria, but some of Lao farmers understand that when he or she is co-operative member, only then they have access to credit from the bank that is wrong;
- When a father or mother becomes a co-operative member, automatically the family members are also considered to be co-operative member or associate member;
- Gender balance in co-operative must be considered;
- Some countries integrate co-operative in the curriculum early in the primary school;
- In the co-operative move-

ment, the objectives focus not only on economic, but also on social and environment issues;

- Lao PDR recognizes the importance of co-operative, Thailand has 98 years of co-operative foundation, Japan 114 years and Germany 164 years.
- The strong support of policy maker facilitates smooth co-operative movement.

### Co-operatives partners

Many countries have precious lessons with regard to co-operative movement that could be good references for Lao in setting up co-operatives. Therefore, future plans should be,

- Apply to be member or associate member of ICA in the near future;
- Lao Government should collaborate more with ICA, ILO and other experienced countries in the cooperative movement;
- Lao must capitalizes all of good lessons from experienced countries;
- 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;
- Co-operate more with NPAs, NGOs and donors for drafting a cooperative law roadmap is a top priority;
- Insist high authority to organize co-operative board committee as quick as possible;
- ILO is willing to provide necessary instruments for Lao partners concern with regard to cooperative and ICA/AP, ILO, CLT, CPD, CAD, IDACA, KU, DGRV among others all are willing to help the cooperative movement in the Lao PDR.

## Enhancing the role of women in co-operative business

A workshop on enhancing the role of women in co-operative business was held in Hanoi. 20-25 participants from six countries participated. Mrs. Savitri Singh, Advisor-Gender programs and communication ICA-AP, the co-ordinator of the program, delivered the welcome address and Mr. Nguyen Dac Thang, Vice president of VCA delivered inaugural speech and welcomed the participants to the workshop.



*Mrs. Savitri Singh with Mr. Nguyen Dac Thang at the workshop*

Ms. Tran Thu Hang, Vice Director of VCA made a presentation on the theme, "Enhancing the role of women in co-operatives business". She gave an overall profile of the situation of women in Vietnam, their socio economic participation as well as contribution and their participation in co-operative sector. Mrs. Singh gave an insight on Gender integration and situation of women in co-operatives Asia Pacific region by covering ICA's initiatives, strategy, programs and its future plans on Gender mainstreaming. The two introductory presentations had set the tone of the discussions at the workshop.

Representatives from co-operative Institute of Mongolia, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative from India (IFFCO), Co-operative College of Malaysia (CCM), National Confederation of Co-operatives (NATCCO), National Coop Federation & Development Center from Philippines (VICTO), All-China Federation of Supply & Marketing Co-operatives from China (ACFSMC) and Micro-Finance and Community Development Institute of Vietnam (MACDI) were the representatives prepared detailed presentation on the situation of women's empowerment and their participation as workers on leaders and their contribution in the national economy as well as in co-operatives. The members discussed about the activities and their plans on gender mainstreaming. The participants were inquisitive about the business activities for participating in co-operatives; and

lengthy discussions took place on the presentations which were prepared at the information sharing session. There was an open session for question and answer after each business session, where the participants interacted by asking questions and expressing their opinions. The day-long information sharing session ended in the evening and a formal closing ceremony took place. Mr. Thang, and Mrs. Singh delivered the closing speech. The next day, all the participants visited the Minh Dhuontg Textile Co-operatives in the BAC Ninh province of Vietnam.

### Study Visit to Minh Dhuontg Textile Co-operatives

Minh Dhuontg Textile Cooperatives was started in the year of 2012 by Ms. Vu Thi Duyen, its current chairperson. This textile cooperative is in business of manufacturing readymade garments. Out of 25 members, only 4 members in this co-operative are male. There are three women board of directors including chairperson, vice chair, and the secretary. The cooperatives are willing to admit new members for a membership fee of 10-15 million Dong (Vietnam currency). Based on the services of the co-operatives, members would get yearly dividend.

The co-operative was started with 10 members, 5 machines and a share capital of 500 million dong (collected by the members). Within two years, they have increased to 25 members and 25 machines. VCA, through its Provincial Co-operative Alliance (PCA) office gave a loan of 300 Million Dong. All the 25 members are regular worker at the tailoring and manufacturing centre. They also employ 35 part time workers.



*Members of the Minh Dhuontg textile Co-operatives at work.*

All members got trained from the Ministry of Industry. PCA gave loan of 900 Million Dong and rest of the funds were mobilised from members which is now being treated as working capital. This co-operative is creating a profit of 30-35 million Dong per month. The income has considerably improved the standard of living of the members and their family. Some of the members are farmers who get leave to attend their farming work from time to time.

## Training: Improving Capacity of Rural Women

The 1st ICA-Japan Training Course on "Improving Capacity of Rural Women" was held in Thailand and Japan from 12th November to 10th December 2014. Ten women participants from nine countries, namely, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam attended the training.

- (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.



*Participants at the 1st ICA-Japan Training Course on "Improving Capacity of Rural Women"*

The main objective of the training course was to assist capacity building of leaders of rural women for promotion of more organized business activities in the countries of South-East Asia and South Asia.

Part-I of the program – field study visits with a focus on observation of activities of co-operatives/women groups and social institutions – was held in Thailand from 12th to 18th November in collaboration with (CLT), a member organization of ICA.

Part-II of the program held at the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) from 19th November to 9th December included extensive classroom work and study visits to agricultural co-operatives in Hiroshima Prefecture of Japan. Lecture-cum-practical field study visits assignments were combined to impart knowledge to the participants on the working of women's associations and general activities of agricultural co-operatives in 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 Cooperatives;

Using the experiences gained through class room lectures, field visits in Thailand and Japan, the participants were able to improve their Action Plans. They would be recommending these to their respective organizations on return to their home countries.

An end-of-the Course Evaluation was conducted at the conclusion of the Training Course. The participants felt that the training was very relevant for the women leaders of agricultural cooperatives in Asia and hence it should be continued. They also expressed their greatest appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan for providing financial. They hoped that MAFF would continue to support this training program in the future also for the development of rural women in developing countries.

A Certificate of Participation was awarded to each participant at the concluding session held at IDACA in Tokyo on 9th December.

The Chairman invited members to send a plan of proposed activities for the coming two years and a proposal to host the next meeting. The dates of the next meeting will be confirmed after deliberation by the Chairman and the Secretariat.

## Development of Consumer Co-operatives



*Participants at the ICA/COOPFED workshop*

ICA/COOPFED Workshop on "Development of consumer co-operatives" was held on 3rd December 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The workshop hosted by Consumer Co-operatives Societies Federation Limited COOPFED Sri Lanka was attended by 115 delegates from consumer co-operative societies from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Malaysia and Japan.

The objective of the workshop was to promote understanding of Co-operative principles, strengthen management of consumer co-operative societies, understand the present status and problem of consumer co-operatives, and issues central to "Chain Store Management." South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) countries focusing on the development of consumer co-operatives in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

## ICYC Pilot Activity on Financial Literacy for Youth Co-operation

The ICA-AP Committee on Youth Co-operation has initiated pilot activities in Bhutan, India and Nepal to establish youth and youth-led co-operatives in this triad of nations. The theme of its 7th Annual Meeting – Financial Literacy for Youth Co-operation is also the theme of the proposed ICYC Project. Seminars were held in Kathmandu (7 December 2014), Thimpu (11 January 2015) and New Delhi (4 February 2015).

### **Kathamandu : Extension activities in Chitwan and Pokhra**

The activity began in Nepal on 7 December 2014 where Ms. Indira Panta, Member-ICYC volunteered to organise one-day seminars in Kathmandu, Chitwan and Pokhra. Dr. Sukesh Zamwar, Chairperson-ICYC and Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, Secretary-ICYC were present at these workshops. VYCCU, Nepal, a union of credit societies that started as an association in Chitwan and Pokhra Credit Co-operative Union and the Royal Pokhra Credit Co-operative Society, and Videsh Sanchar

At the inauguration ceremony, T.M Ruwan Bandara Tennakoon, Chairman of COOPFED gave a welcome speech which was followed by opening remarks by Mr. Amano Haruyoshi, Chairman of the ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and Pacific. During the workshop, four reports were presented: a) Outline of Co-operative Law in Sri Lanka, b) Overview of NTUC Fairprice and their Training & Development, c) Basic Knowledge of Chain Store Theory and how to make Good Store and d) Outline of Consumer Co-operative.

The second day, participants have visited Beralapanathara Multi-purpose co-operative society. This Co-operative society is located in mountainous region of Urubokka, around 5 hours drive from Colombo. 34,000 members or over 60

percent of population of the area are members of the Co-operative. The business of Co-op includes credit, tea farms, rice, transportation, retailing, funeral services, construction and health services.

The Co-op contributes to the local society by providing social activity, such as health and life management services, health check for pregnant woman, kids activities and the funeral services for people having neither kith nor kin. The Beralapanathara Multi Purpose Co-operative Society has been awarded the Best Co-operative in Sri Lanka for 5 years.

Thanks to COOPFED and Beralapanathara Multi-pupose cooperative society, Participants got a good opportunity to learn about the active consumer cooperative movement in Sr Lanka.

Media Cooperative, co-organised the pilot workshops in the respective cities in Nepal. The workshops in Nepal saw the attendance of 300 persons including school and university students, parents and teachers. The workshop in Kathmandu was graced by the presence of the Minister of Finance, Minister of Youth Affairs, Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank, Chairperson of the National Co-operative Federation of Nepal, Secretaries and Registrar of Co-operatives among others. The Recommendations and Observations from Nepal are as follows.

### **A. Recommendations**

1. Knowledge on management of personal finance is extremely important for youth in Nepal.
2. Creation of employment is a prime focus area of the Nepalese Government.
3. The law governing savings among youth needs amendment in lines with Singapore and Philippines law.



Indira Panta speaking at the ICYC Seminar and Mr. Santosh Kumar (left)

4. National co-operative Federations, especially the credit and banking federation and Bank must partner to support the financial institutions created by youth by providing banking services.

5. The co-operative model to be developed must have multi purpose activities depending on the needs identified by youth at campus and support those activities with savings and the interest thereon.

#### B. Observations

1. ICYC's Role has to be pronounced by creation of appropriate project tools and Logo.
2. Credit co-operatives in Nepal can provide banking service based on location.
3. Dedicated budget for training and training of trainers.
4. Partnership of Government, national federations and Co-operatives on specific areas of work.
5. A need for a national consultant with finance background and experience of running projects.

## MEMBER OF THE MONTH: Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA)

The Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA) is a non-governmental social, economic organisation and an apex organisation of Vietnam Cooperative Movement. It is organised at the central and provincial levels. The co-operative enterprises at the primary level are affiliated to the provincial cooperative alliance, which, federate into the central alliance. The cooperative alliance has been established in all 63 provinces and cities throughout Vietnam. At the end of 2006, there were 17,500 cooperatives and cooperative associations in the whole country, including 8,458 agricultural cooperatives, 586 trade and service cooperatives, 2,205 industrial – craft industry cooperatives, 557 construction cooperatives, 486 fishery cooperatives, 1,060 transportation cooperatives, 915 credit cooperatives, 2,585 electronic cooperatives, and 217 other types of cooperatives. The head quarter of VCA has around 100 staffs. There are 15 regional offices and field offices and also there are 8 companies which are affiliated to VCA which deals with import and export business which helps them to contribute in financial help of VCA. VCA plans to increase fee from the members.



Mrs. Savitri Singh, Advisor-gender programme and communication visited Hanoi for organising and conducting ICA-AP workshop on the theme of enhancing the role of women in co-operative business from 1st to 4th December 2014. She got an opportunity to meet the VCA officials to get an insight into member's activities and future plans. She also met Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Dzung, Director General of International Co-operation Department of VCA, had a discussion on the activities and future plans of VCA and also the current situation of co-operative movement in the country.

The new Co-operative law-2011, recognises VCA as a nongovernmental organisation whereas VCA has plans to regularise itself as an autonomous organisation. The government has provided decree on cutting down the subsidy to VCA and phase out the subsidy in five years starting from 2016.

- The new co-operative law 2011 gives priority to the members of cooperatives in getting service provided by agricultural cooperatives. Non members can also use the services.
- Earlier, members had an option to pay share capital or contribute towards labour. As per the new law, every member should contribute towards share capital.
- Initially 30% of non members could avail the services of co-operatives, after amendment of new law, only 20% of non members are allowed to avail the services.

#### Current Activities

1. Consultation to member co-operatives such as business activities, how to establish co-operative business, handle operations, legal requirements, support on trainings on use of farm technology, credit etc
2. The co-operative development fund owned by VCA is used to provide credit to members. Total 19,000 cooperative are there in the country out of which only 10,000 are members of VCA. 4000 co-operative are too small and non functional.
3. According the new law, small co-operatives should be merged to become financially viable.

#### Future Plans

VCA had recently shifted to a new building which has 2.6 hectares of land as its office premises. In case the government withdraws subsidy, VCA has to generate its own funds and resources to continue serving the agriculture co-operative





Mrs. Savitri Singh with VCA President at their new office

sector. VCA has plans to convert the land into exhibition ground and rent it for displaying agricultural products which can generate income. VCA would encourage members to participate in exhibition for which VCA would pay 50% to support the farmers for displaying their products at the business centre. VCA is looking for funds from International non-governmental organisation (INGO) to support co-operatives. It would adopt the approach used by Co-operative League of Thailand (CLT) to generate funds by collaborating with NGOs and other

National and International agents.

### Relation with and Benefit from ICA Membership

The Director, Mr. Dzung expressed satisfaction in VCA's association with ICA and the services that have been provided by the Regional Office. ICA has contributed significantly in capacity building, enhancing skills of co-operative members, leaders; and advocacy programs such as Regional Assembly, Co-operative Forum, Co-operative Ministers Conference etc. In future, VCA would like ICA to help them in connecting with more international organisations. Currently, VCA is working with organisations such as GIZ and DGRV, Germany; KOIKA, Korea; JICA, Japan; SSC and SOCODEVI, Sweden; and ILO local office in Vietnam.

These organisations are collaborating with VCA to implement development programs such as sanitation and industrial relations etc. VCA is attending trainers program of ILO and also getting funds to implement some programs.

### VCA Workshop 2015

VCA has planned to conduct an international workshop in 2015 on the theme, 'Potential of co-operatives and capacity for co-operation,' in order to explore potential collaboration and cooperation from INGOs and donors.

VCA would like to invite ICA and expects to help in inviting possible partners from across the globe. It has also planned to invite existing members and also new members such as UNDP, World Bank, Care etc.

## New Member

### We welcome the **Buldana Urban Co-operative Credit Society (BUCCS) – India**

BUCCS has become our member from December 2014. It is one of the largest credit co-operative society in India. They provide loans to rural members, run schools, hotel and guest houses, provide health insurance, operate 40 ambulances, sugar factory, medicine factory, mineral water plant, and small capacity textile mills and promote green energy.

They carry out social projects with IFAD and other international agencies also. It has members in two states in India and has got permission for three other states.

### Brief Profile:

- Individual members in 2012 : 382,454
  - Member societies 2012 : 382,454
  - Turnover in 2012 : INR 58,230,000,000 (EUR 735,531,000)
  - Employees : 5,500 directly employed and 7,000 indirectly employed
  - Branches : 350
  - Warehouses : 300
- For more information on BUCCS, please visit [www.buldanaurban.in](http://www.buldanaurban.in)



## Regional News

**Capricorn Mutual Ltd.**, is an ICA member from Australia. Capricorn's head office has moved effective Monday 13 October 2014 to the following address:

### **28 Troode Street, West Perth WA 6005**

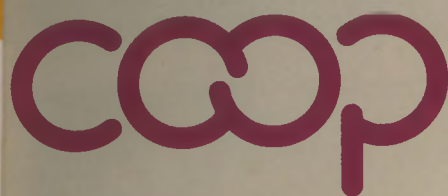
The new postal address is: **Locked Bag 3003, West Perth WA 6872**

The new locked bag address is able to be used effective immediately. All phone numbers will remain unchanged. Capricorn Mutual Ltd and all other Capricorn businesses (including Capricorn Risk Services Pty Ltd, Capricorn Mutual Management Pty Ltd, Capricorn Travel Australia Pty Ltd and Capricorn Society Financial Services Pty Ltd) located at the following addresses in Western Australia will be moving to this new head office location:

- 172 Burswood Road, Burswood, WA;
- 141 Burswood Road, Burswood, WA; and
- 34 Welshpool Road, Welshpool, WA.

## Upcoming Events

- Launch of the financial literacy project among youth in Bhutan
- 2nd ICA-Japan Training Course on "Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives-2014"
- ICYC Pilot Activity on Financial Literacy for Youth - (SRCC) New Delhi
- IFFCO Foundation leadership training for women co-operative members in Shah Talai, India.



International  
Co-operative  
Alliance  
Asia and Pacific

# newsletter

SELF-HELP • SOLIDARITY • CO-OPERATION

ISSN : 0971-7013 (For Private Circulation only)

Vol. 4 Issue 5

September - October 2014

## 11th Regional Assembly and 8th Co-op Forum-2014 Co-operatives: Builders of Sustainable Society



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

The 11th Regional Assembly was held in Bali, Indonesia, from 16 to 20 September 2014. The theme of the Assembly was, "Co-operatives build a Sustainable Society". The biennial event was attended by over 310 co-operators from 20 countries and 45 member organizations from the Asia Pacific region. The Assembly saw the participation of 61 women which included cooperators, staff and interpreters.

The Chief Guest at the Assembly was the Honourable Minister of Co-operative Small and Medium Enterprises, Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Dr. Syarifuddin Hasan. In attendance were, Dame Pauline Green, President of ICA; Mr. Charles Gould, Director General of ICA; Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of ICA Asia and Pacific; Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, Vice President of ICA-AP; and Mr. Nurudin Halid, Vice President of ICA-AP.

The 11th Regional Assembly adopted the Bali Resolution of the 8th Co-operative Forum on, "Co-operatives for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific." It recognized the relevance

of Sustainable Development Goals and the need to position co-operatives in the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda. The 8th Co-operative Forum resolved to assess and measure the contribution of co-operatives, invest in technology, education, and training of its members to increase participation and initiate activities at national and as well as local level focused on achieving inclusive and democratic sustainable development. It also called upon national governments, inter-governmental agencies and other stake holders to recognize co-operatives as representatives of a significant section of the population and to work with their national, regional and global co-operative movements in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Assembly urged national co-operatives movements to call on their governments to revise co-operative laws and policies according to the internationally recognized definition and work closely with ICA to lobby the international community to recognize the role of co-operatives in achieving the Sustainable Development goals.

### IN THIS ISSUE

11<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly and  
8<sup>th</sup> Co-op Forum-2014

Regional Board Meeting

Co-operative Research Conference

Meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on

Co-operative Research

- Meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Agriculture
- Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on HRD
- Meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Co-operation
- Meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Women

- ICA-AP Regional Women Forum-2014
- Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Co-op
- Meeting of ICA AP committee on Credit & Banking

## From the Editor



Dear Co-operators,

Happy to present the autumn issue! There is so much to share from our two very important biennial events – the 2014 Regional Assembly and Co-operative Forum.

The Regional Assembly reiterated the claim of co-operatives as 'builders of sustainable society.' The claim was supported by evidences from co-operators, researchers and representatives of international organisations. The reports of the Assembly can be found at [www.ica-ap.coop](http://www.ica-ap.coop)

The co-operatives resolved to be recognised as business model for sustainable development and growth. The Honourable Minister of Co-operatives of Indonesia extended his support to our claim. DEKOPIN extended its warm hospitality and provided a conducive environment for deliberations to take place.

All regional committees and some international sectoral organisations also held their annual meetings and side events. It is interesting to know that all the committees are quite active in advocacy around their respective areas.

The overall enthusiasm and active participation of our members reflects a bright future for the co-operative business model.

– Savitri Singh

### MEMBERSHIP POSITION

**ICA GLOBAL:** 228 Members + 39 Associate Members from 93 countries

**ICA-AP:** 85 Members from 26 countries

Prof. I Wayan Windia, of Udayana University and an expert on Subak Agriculture Management system in Bali delivered the keynote speech on the "Role of Co-operatives in sustainable development of local communities." Mr. Charles Gould, Director General of ICA; co-operative leaders from Indonesia, India, Philippines, Mongolia, Iran, Japan, Kenya; and international experts from Maseno University, European Research Institute on Co-operative and Social Enterprises and ILO Indonesia presented papers and participated in the panel discussions.

The Co-operative Forum deliberated on the following topics, which led to adoption of the Bali Resolution:

- Evidences of Sustainable Socio-Economic-Environmental Growth through Co-operative in the Region.
- Role of data, research and innovation in Sustainable Development.
- Panel discussion and open Forum on the topic: Co-operatives Build a Sustainable Society.

## Regional Board Meeting

Mr. Li Chunsheng extended a warm welcome to Dame Pauline Green and members of the ICA-AP Regional Board. He also thanked Mr. Nurudin Halid for the wonderful meeting arrangements made in scenic Bali.

Mr. Nurudin Halid, representing DEKOPIN, the host for the event, welcomed the board members and talked about the benefits the week long Regional Assembly would 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, ICA-AP 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

In conjunction with the Regional Assembly, the other events held were the Regional Board Meeting and the general meeting of the regional sector and thematic committees. The Chairpersons of each committee presented their reports to the Regional Assembly. The committees also organized workshops and seminars. The International Co-operative Agriculture Organization (ICAO) with support from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) celebrated the (IYFF) International Year of Family Farming by organizing a conference on, "Fostering Family Farming with the Agriculture Co-operative Business Model," to high-light the contribution of family farming in food production and socio-economic development in rural areas.

Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) and Vice President of ICA-AP moved a proposal for India to host the 2016 Regional Assembly. The Assembly unanimously approved this move.

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 have successfully registered to use the COOP marquee. 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 the Co-operative Identity becoming one of the best known ethical Marquees in the world by 2020.

Some key points discussed in the meeting related to admission of new members in ICA and the pending membership application of National Farmers' Association (NFA) in Taiwan. In addition to these, Mr. Yaguchi, repre-



*The Board Members with ICA President, Dame Pauline Green*

senting Mr. Akira Banzai, Board Member from Japan, mentioned the need for full decentralization of MBO and clear delineation of financial responsibility. He also said that the total income of ICA-AP and MBO should be reported separately.

Mr. Yaguchi proposed that the term of office of ICA-AP President should be for a maximum of two terms and it should be stipulated in the election rules. The ICA-AP was requested to study this issue and 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-ops 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. Jose Romeo B. Ebron offered the Philippines as an alternative. Mr. Halid requested 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 and heartfelt invitation was extended by Mr. Viton Naewpanit, for all to attend the 2016 celebrations to mark, 100 years of co-operatives in Thailand.

The next Regional Board meeting is scheduled to be held in Singapore in March/April 2015 in conjunction with the global board meeting.

## Co-operative Research Conference

The 9th ICA-AP Co-operative 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 was chaired by Dr. G.N. Saxena who praised the research committee for its commendable performance over the years and for holding research conferences every year. He called upon researchers to make purposive and valuable contributions to the co-operative sector.

Mr. Akira Kurimoto, Vice Chairperson of the Committee praised and recounted the history of the activities of the research committee beginning from 2000 up till the last seminar held 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 "Co-operative 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 of eight papers based on the theme of the seminar, "ICA Blueprint for Co-operative Decade", (1) participation, (2) sustainability, (3) identity, (4) legal framework, and (5) capital.

The Conference ended with concluding remarks by Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP. He highlighted the importance of research and said that the ICA-AP office will provide all possible assistance to the Committee.

## Meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Co-operative Research



*Participants at the Research Conference and Committee meeting*

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, advised that, membership of the Research Committee should be increased and youth researchers should be encouraged 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

## 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 (IYFF). The Chairman laid special emphasis upon the celebration of the IYFF and saw it as an opportunity to raise the profile of family farming and small holder farmers. It was a platform to highlight the potential that family farmers have to eradicate hunger, preserve natural resources and promote sustainable development. He urged members to attend the seminar to be organised by (ICAO) the following day to share and exchange their experiences.

The committee approved the membership of the Nepal Agricultural Co-operative Central Federation Ltd. (NACCFL). The participants from China and the Philippines made a request to become members of the committee. The participants from Indonesia, Nepal, Malaysia, Palestine and the Philippines reported about agricultural co-operatives in their respective countries.



*Agriculture Committee members and participants*

The Chairman invited members to send a plan of proposed activities for the coming two years and a proposal to host the next meeting. The dates of the next meeting will be confirmed after deliberation by the Chairman and the Secretariat.

## Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on HRD



*Participants at the HRD Committee meeting*

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 over by Dr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chairman of the Committee

Dr. Dinesh, Chief Executive of (NCUI) spoke about the Global Human Resource Development (GHRD) Networking portal. NCUI is in the process of amending/modifying the portal and a consultant has been appointed for the job. 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 HRD**

Dr. Bhagwati Prasad, opened the seminar and spoke about how good governance is regarding processes for making and implementing decisions in such a manner that leads to accomplishing desired objectives. He gave importance not to

the "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. Dr. Prasad 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 co-operatives including members, board members and employees. HRD intervention enables stakeholders to prepare themselves and enables them to make good decisions and implement them. Dr. Bhagwati Prasad's address was followed by presentations made 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 involves youth while they are in studying in school, committee budget in co-operatives for training and education and there is need to promote based trainings. 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.

## Meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Co-operation

The 7th Meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Co-operation 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 also participated and contributed to the deliberations.

The Chairperson, Dr. Sukesh Zamwar, presided over the meeting, and updated the Committee members about the activities of ICYC during the past years. He went on to lay emphasis on how important it is to understand the 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 presentation 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 in Mexico. Ms. Buffa highlighted the role of the Global Youth Network and the slow yet steady progress it was making towards formalizing the association.



*Ernesto Guevara, Manager of Training, Caja Popular Mexicana*

The Chairperson launched the new look of the ICYC website ([www.youth-asiapacific.coop](http://www.youth-asiapacific.coop)). He also welcomed Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director of ICA Asia and Pacific 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 and talked about commitment of ICA in promoting youth in co-operatives. The meeting tentatively decided to meet in Malaysia in 2015 and work closely with the Global Youth Network.

## 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 8 (out of 11) members and in total there were 22 (20 women and 2 men) members as well as observers from 9 countries. The Chairperson at the meeting was Ms. Masako Shimbo and the special invitee was, Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director of the ICA-AP.

The Committee members discussed the proceedings of the last meeting and the changes incorporated since then. The Secretary, Mrs. Savitri Singh, presented the 'Action Taken' report and enumerated the activities that have been completed.

The meeting also saw the election of Ms. Masako Shimbo, as Chairperson of the ICA-AP Committee on Women, and Ms. Maria Elena Canda Limocon, as Vice Chair. This was followed by Ms. Singh, reporting on the progress of the Resource Guide for Advanced



*Women Committee meeting in progress*

Training of Co-operatives on Entrepreneurship Development of Women and Gender Equality.

One of the major topic of concern at the meeting was the need to increase membership of the Committee. Several members offered suggestions and expressed their views. The Committee also proposed and approved the work plan for 2015.

The members and participants attending the meeting were encouraged to bring forth their ideas and exchange valuable information. This was followed by presentation of country reports by members from India, Vietnam, Malaysia and Japan.

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



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

The 8th ICA-AP Regional Women Forum, held on 17 September 2014, 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, opened the Forum by welcoming the participants and giving a brief introduction to ICA-AP Regional Women Forum, its purpose and objectives. The Forum was graced by Ms. Masako Shimbo, 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 WC 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 Develop-

ment." She briefly introduced ICA and its work on sustainable development and explained the situation of women's participation in co-operatives through data from some countries. She was passionate about her stand for empowering women.

The Keynote speech was given by Mr. Peter Van Rooij, Director, International Labour Organisation (ILO) 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 WC, Philippines.

A stimulating group discussion was also held on the topic: "How to overcome cultural and legal barriers towards gender equality in Co-ops".



## Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Co-op



*Participants and members of the Consumer Committee*

The 48th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Co-operation was held on 17 September 2014. 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 next year (2014-2015). The committee members then made presentations of their recent activities and business results, which were followed by active and fruitful discussions.

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.

## Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on Credit & Banking

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

### Seminar on Environmental Protection

In conjunction with the meeting of the Consumer Committee, a seminar on environmental protection was also held. The guest speakers for the seminar 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 related to palm oil, 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.

### Seminar of Credit & Banking Committee

The committee meeting was followed by a seminar on the topic, "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 at the seminar.



## MOU between ICA and AARDO



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

On 02 July 2014, 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) to work together in the areas of sustainable economic development, promotion of agriculture and rural development and allied activities. 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 linkages.

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. Recommendations 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.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- MOU between ICA and AARDO
- Building Management Capacity of Women for Co-operative Development
- Co-operative-to-Co-operative (C2C) Trade Workshop
- Training on Agricultural Product Marketing and Logistics for Co-operatives
- Fostering Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of Agricultural Co-ops
- International Co-operative Fisheries Organization
- From the Region
- Change of Contact Person/e-mail
- New Members

## From the Editor



Dear Co-operators,  
ICA-AP and AARDO have renewed their long standing partnership by entering into an

MoU that will benefit co-operatives. The MoU will take forward both organizations common agenda to achieve sustainable development through empowerment of rural and agricultural community.

The National Co-operative Federation of Nepal (NCF) held its General Assembly in April and elected a new Board which consists of a woman Vice Chair. This is indeed a welcome change. ICFO has introduced a scholarship program that is aimed at increasing the involvement of women and youth in the field of fisheries. We laud ICFO for this initiative.

During the reporting period we organised trainings for women co-operators in Bangladesh; Agricultural Product Marketing and Logistics for Co-operatives in China; and Fostering Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of Agricultural Co-operatives in Japan. A workshop was organised on co-operative to co-operative trade.

Hope to see you in Bali!

– Savitri Singh

### MEMBERSHIP POSITION

**ICA GLOBAL:** 228 Members + 39 Associate Members from 93 countries

**ICA-AP:** 81 Members from 25 countries

## CAPACITY BUILDING

### Building Management Capacity of Women for Co-operative Development



Mr. Balu Iyer being welcomed at the opening of the training

20 women co-operators from co-operatives across Bangladesh attended 5 days residential training in Dhaka, Bangladesh organized by ICA-AP in collaboration with Department of Co-operatives (DoC).

AP is implementing a number of capacity building programmes for member co-operatives to promote gender mainstreaming by enhancing number and quality of participation of women. Towards this endeavour, ICA-



Experience sharing and discussion by participants

Women empowerment and gender mainstreaming in co-operatives are priority areas of ICA-AP as we are very concerned about the low to negligible levels of participation of women at all levels of co-operatives; especially so at the leadership level. To address this, ICA-

AP regularly conducts 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 the

process of empowering through entrepreneurship and management capacity building.

It was planned to organise this programme for the co-operative movement of Bangladesh this year. The programme aimed at assisting co-operatives movement to review the status of

of the program provided the logistical details. Bangladesh Jatiya Sambhaya Union (BJSU), ICA-AP member in Bangladesh was represented by Mr. Rafiqul Islam, one of the Board of Directors at the opening ceremony.

The training was broadly based on the 'Resource Guide for



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

gender integration and women's participation, constraints and possible solutions to enhance their quantitative and qualitative participation in co-operatives.

The inauguration ceremony was held on 7 July where Mr. Mofizul Islam, Registrar DoC delivered and Mr. Balu G. Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP welcomed the participants. Mr. M.A. Qudersarker, Secretary, Rural Development and Co-operative Division delivered a special speech and the Chief Guest, Mr. Mohammad Mashiur Rahman Ranga, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Local Government Rural Development & Co-operatives, Bangladesh the inaugural address.

The Honorable Minister and other officials reiterated their commitment to achieve gender equality in co-operatives by enhancing skills and capacity of women. They welcomed the initiatives of ICA-AP for building capacity of women and in conducting this training for co-operators of Bangladesh.

Mr. Balu Iyer said there is need to achieve gender equality at all levels in co-operatives. He emphasized the importance of women's participation in their own empowerment as well as development of co-operative business. On the part of co-operatives he said there is need to provide better services to members for their growth. He also talked about how these goals can be achieved and the initiatives being undertaken by ICA.

Mrs. Savitri Singh, Adviser – Gender Program and Communication of ICA-AP gave a brief introduction to the program topics, methodology, resource persons etc. Mr. Subrata Bhaumik, Joint Registrar of DoC, the main coordinator

Advanced Training of Co-operatives on Entrepreneurship Development of Women and Gender Equality' developed by ICA-AP.

Mr. Md. Asaduzzaman, Additional Registrar, DoC presented the Status Paper on the "Situation of co-operative movement and women's participation in Bangladesh" and covered information and data about the overall situation of women in the country as well as in co-operatives. He said there are only 18% women in co-operatives and DoC would focus on increasing number of women through various programs.

Mrs. Savitri Singh made a presentation on "ICA Gender initiative and Leadership Development of Women in Co-operatives – Global Perspective".

The discussion on various aspects of co-operative enterprise management and financial management was facilitated by Mrs. Savitri Singh and Mr. Ratan F Costa, General Manager of Confederation of Credit Union of League of Bangladesh (CCULB). Two well known experts Ms. Ferdousi Sultana, former Gender Expert of Asian Development Bank (ADB), Bangladesh and Ms. Sheepah Hafiza, Director, BRAC Bangladesh were invited to take sessions on Situation of Women and Gender Mainstreaming in Bangladesh and Understanding Gender and Situation of women in agriculture in Bangladesh respectively.

One of the important tools of empowerment of women is knowledge sharing and networking to form a support group. The program scheduled an 'experience sharing session' or coop story sharing by the participants who had come from different parts of Bangladesh and were meeting for the first time. Each

of the participants had so much to say and share that even a full day fell short. They talked about success and failures, personal struggles and so on.

The DoC arranged a field visit to Kingshuk Bahumukhi Samabaya Samiti (Kingshuk Multipurpose Co-operative Society) in downtown Dhaka on 12 July 2014. This co-operative was established in 1987 and has 82 General Body members, 9 Executive Committee members, 450 staff and 42,000 beneficiaries. There are only 6 women out of 82

members of the coop, no women in the Executive Committee and they do not have data about women employees. The Joint Registrar of DoC, Dhaka area informed that according to rules of DoC, there must be 1/3 women members in the managing committees of a coop society. Mrs. Savitri Singh observed that DoC may like to follow this matter not only with this coop but with other coops as well to ensure that rules of inducting 1/3 women are being implemented.

## Co-operative-to-Co-operative (C2C) Trade Workshop



*Balu Iyer addressing the workshop*

ICA-AP concluded a successful two-day workshop on Co-operative-to-Co-operative (C2C) trade in Kuala Lumpur in August (20 and 21). The workshop on "C2C – Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Ahead," was jointly sponsored by ACFSMC and Angkasa and attended by over 40 participants from 13 countries. The Malaysian Minister of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism, Dato Sri Hasan Bin Malek addressed the participants at the welcome dinner on August 20, 2014.

Mr. Ge Shuyuan was responsible for coordinating the workshop and was ably assisted by Azlinn, Ruzly, Yuki, Hellen and Lee. The workshop presentations are posted on Google drive.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/#my-drive>

Some of the outcomes of the C2C workshop that will be carried out this year and next are:

- Trade missions to China with the support of ACFSMC to explore trade opportunities
- Expos in Malaysia organized by Angkasa and MyAngkasa to show case co-operative products from Malaysia and countries in the Asia Pacific region
- Fair Trade workshop with the possible support of the Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union

- Development of a trade platform along the lines of GoCoop Platform
- Workshop on C2C trade with possible focus on buyers from co-operatives

In case readers/cooperators are aware of countries that would benefit from C2C trade and have ideas of their own, please feel free to write to Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP ([balu.iyer@icaap.coop](mailto:balu.iyer@icaap.coop))



*Group of participants*

## Training on Agricultural Product Marketing and Logistics for Co-operatives



(l-r) on the dais Mr. Zhang Wenming, Dr. CPS Yadav, Mr. Li Chunsheng, Mr. Balu Iyer and Mr. Zhangwangshu

The ICA-ACFSMC training on Agricultural Product Marketing and Logistics for Co-operatives was held in Harbin, China from 23-28 June, 2014. The training is aimed at enhancing the capabilities of managers of Asia and the Pacific co-operatives in agricultural marketing and logistics. It is also intended to promote business communication and cooperation among cooperatives.

There were 17 participants representing 7 countries - India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Thailand and China. The resource persons were from the ILO and China Co-operatives.

The training was inaugurated by Mr Li Chunsheng, Vice President of ACFSMC. Mr. Zhang Wenming, President of Heilongjiang Provincial Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives made a presentation on the co-operative movement in Heilongjiang Province. Dr. CPS Yadav, President of National Co-operative Union of India and Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director of the ICA-AP spoke on the occasion.

The ICA-AP Regional Board who had gathered for an informal board meeting participated in the opening ceremony.

The following lectures/papers were presented by the resource persons and trainers:

1) Introduction to China Co-op and the "New Network Project." The ACFSMC resource person introduced the current situation of China Co-op in agricultural marketing and logistics by taking the participants through its evolution and provided the legal and regulatory

framework. The lecture highlighted some of experiments and lessons of China Co-op in agricultural marketing and logistics.

- 2) Application of Information and Data Management in Co-op Management. Mr. Burak Canboy, Managing Director of Winrar GmbH, described the value and meaning to cooperatives of deploying effective and efficient data management.
- 3) Fundamentals of Agricultural Co-operative Management. ILO Resource person Mr. Husein Polat presented a lecture on the fundamental conceptual and theoretic framework for management of co-operatives.
- 4) Commodity Exchange and its Role in Agricultural Commodity Trade. The resource person from Dalian Commodity Exchange, a leading commodity exchange presented a case study on the mechanism and value of future market in agricultural production.
- 5) Cold-chain Logistics Management for Agricultural Produce. The resource person from ACFSMC Jinan Fruit Institute presented the importance of cold chain logistics for value-addition to agricultural co-operatives and gave technical guidance on building such facilities.

The participants visited Happy Life Co-op Super Chains in Harbin and took field trip to Rice Production Bases in Suihua City to watch demonstration of 'How China Co-operatives conduct marketing and logistics business'.

The Training concluded with a statement made by Mr. Xu Mingfeng on behalf of the organizing secretariat and

ACFSMC. Mr Husain Polat, mentor of the course, handed over certificates to the participants.

## Fostering Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of Agricultural Co-operatives



*Participants with the Executive Director of IDACA*

The 1st ICA-Japan Training Course on "Fostering Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of Agricultural Co-operatives" was held from July 23-16 August 2014 at IDACA, Tokyo, Japan.

Organizing farmers and strengthening marketing activities of their organisations is essential for ensuring sound development of agriculture and activation of rural economy.

The training course has been designed based on an agreement among ICA, Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives of Japan (JA ZENCHU) and Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA) and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

Seven participants from India, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand, attended the course.



*(Seated in the center) BG Iyer with the participants*



Participants at a dairy plant in Tokyo

The participants visited to Iwate Prefecture and saw co-operative projects such as rice mill, Plaza company, fertilizer processing, fresh fruit and meat wholesale market. They also observed the welfare facilities operated by coop such as Day Care Home for elderly, kindergarten for children etc.

Mr. Balu G. Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP who was visiting IDACA showed keen interest in the program and met with the participants.

**INTERNATIONAL**

**International Co-operative Fisheries Organization**



Chairman Lee, Jong-koo of ICFO is interacting with selected students for scholarship

The International Co-operative Fisheries Organization (ICFO) has selected Mr. Samek Shrestha from Nepal and Ms. Heny Aprianita from Indonesia as the first recipients of the ICFO Scholarship. This is under the MoU to foster talent in the field of fisheries signed between ICFO and Pukyong National University in January 2014.

College graduates from various countries, including Nepal, Indonesia and Turkey applied for the scholarship. The ICFO and Pukyong National University made a final decision after a careful evaluation of the candidates' major field of study, fluency in English, academic grades and other factors.

ICFO will fully cover boarding expenses (including daily expenses) and airfare and Pukyong National University will be responsible for tuition for the two-year Master's course (September 2014 - August 2016).

On 28 August, the two scholarship recipients visited Pukyong National University before the start of the school year to see the developments of Korean fisheries and fisheries co-operatives, and various activities of ICFO. They attended a student orientation on 29 August at Pukyong National University before starting the course in September.

Chairman Lee stressed the importance of the scholarship program when he met the two students saying, "I believe you will highly contribute to the development of world fisheries by learning from the expertise and knowledge of Korean fisheries. Education is the best way to further develop fisheries for the future." The students expressed their appreciation to ICFO and the KNFC for the wonderful opportunity and fully committed themselves to the program.



## FROM THE REGION

## IFFCO Foundation: Consultation Meeting for Leadership Development of Women

The IFFCO Foundation held a consultation meeting on 19 August 2014 chaired by Dr. JNL Srivastava, Managing Trustee of the Foundation. The Foundation aims at creating a pool of 100 women co-operative leaders across the country by training potential women co-operative leaders. Representatives from all national co-operative federations and professionals including ICA-AP were invited to discuss and work out the

modalities. This initiative of the Foundation was welcomed and lauded by stakeholders.

ICA-AP was identified to play a major role in providing curriculum and designing the programme based on its work on women empowerment and gender main streaming in the region.

## Election of Board of NCF, Nepal

The 22nd Annual General Assembly of the National Co-operative Federation of Nepal was held in Lalitpur, Nepal from April 7-8, 2014. The new management committee elected by the General Assembly consists of 21 members including following Office Bearers:

1. Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, Chairperson
2. Mr. Min Raj Kadel, Sr. Vice Chairperson
3. Ms. Om Devi Malla, Vice Chairperson

The new account committee elected by the same General Assembly consists of 3 members.

## JOIN US IN BALI ! September 16-20, 2014

### 'Co-operatives Build a Sustainable Society'

The 11th ICA-AP Regional Assembly, 8th Co-operative Forum, Committee Meetings and events will be held from 16-20 September, 2014. The overall theme of the Assembly is, "Co-operatives Build a Sustainable Society."

The joint opening of the Regional Assembly and the Co-operative Forum will be held on 18 September 2014 at the Bali International Convention Centre (BICC), Nusa Dua in Bali, Indonesia.

Official Website <http://icaapra-indonesia2014.com/>



## Change of contact person/e-mail

Following are the new contact persons for National Association of Labour Banks, Japan

- a) Mr. Yoichi Shirai: [yoichi\\_shirai@k.rokinbank.or.jp](mailto:yoichi_shirai@k.rokinbank.or.jp)
- b) Mr. Shigenari Hirata: [shigenari\\_hirata@k.rokinbank.or.jp](mailto:shigenari_hirata@k.rokinbank.or.jp)

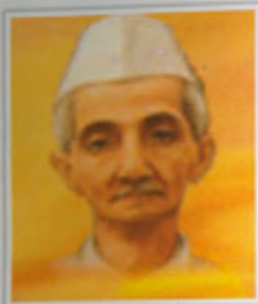
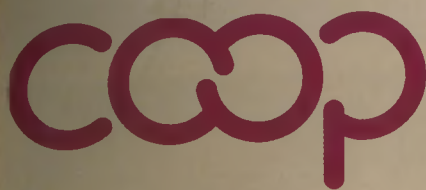
Mr. Momoko Ishijima from IC Net Ltd sent an e-mail on behalf of JF Zengyoren, Japan informing of their new e-mail address: [kokusai-gyosei@r6.dion.ne](mailto:kokusai-gyosei@r6.dion.ne)

Ms. Nemati of the Rural Co-operatives of Iran (CORC) informed their new e-mail address: [corc.news@chmail.ir](mailto:corc.news@chmail.ir)

## New Members

We welcome following members to ICA family:

1. The Co-operative Union of the Philippines (CUP) has become a full member of ICA with effect from July 2014.
2. The National Federation of Farmers Procurement, Processing & Retailing Co-operatives of India Ltd. (NACOF).



## Charles Gould delivered Vaikunthbhai Mehta Memorial Lecture

“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 of International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) as he was invited to deliver the prestigious 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 National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) is in honour of visionary leader and veteran co-operator, Shri Vaikunthbhai Mehta (26 October 1891 - 27 October 1964).

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 seen at [www.ica-ap.coop](http://www.ica-ap.coop)

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. He said, “Co-operative Training is not merely a prerequisite but a permanent condition of co-operative activities”.

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 state, India.

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 has 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.

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 state, India.



Charles Gould delivering the lecture

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Charles Gould delivered Vaikunthbhai Mehta Memorial Lecture
- Charles Gould reaches out to members in India
- ASEAN Co-operative Organisation
- Forum: A Welcome Initiative
- Colombo Declaration recognizes Co-operatives for Youth Development
- Reaching out to members in Malaysia
- MBO staff joined AGM of ANGKASA
- Training on Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives held
- From the Region
- Useful Information
- New Members

**From the Editor**



The challenges to co-operatives in Asia are never ending. The reforms proposed in Japan to dissolve multi-purpose agricultural co-operatives as well as reducing the role of the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (JA-ZENCHU), an apex organisation of JA-Group, is alarming and is opposed by ICA. In India, the Board of National Consumer Cooperative Federation of India (NCCF), has been superseded and the Government has appointed an administrator.

On the positive side, the Korean National Federation of Fisheries Co-operatives celebrated World Fisheries Co-operative Day with gusto on 15 June. DEKOPIN in Indonesia organised the ACO Forum to discuss ways in which co-operatives in the ASEAN region could play a greater role in the ASEAN Vision 2020, which aims to integrate the entire region into One Community.

Mr. Charles Gould, Director General of ICA was in India to deliver the Vaikunth Mehta Memorial Lecture. He energised the Indian co-operators with his thoughtful lecture wherein he equated the legendary co-operator to Raiffeisenin, Desjardins and Toyohiko Kagawa. Mr. Gould also reached to members to gain Member Insight. This is an initiative to improve and strengthen ICA-Member relationship.

Please join us in Bali in September for the 11th ICA-AP Regional Assembly and 8th Co-operative Forum to avail the opportunity to network and join hands to build a sustainable world.

– Savitri Singh

**MEMBERSHIP POSITION**

**ICA GLOBAL:** 228 Members + 39 Associate Members from 93 countries

**ICA AP:** 81 Members from 25 countries



*Dr. CPS 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 has

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.

**Charles Gould reaches out to members in India**



*(r-l) Mr. Charles Gould releasing Annual Report of the Panipat Co-operative Bank alongwith Dr. Dinesh and Mr. Sharma, Chairman of the Haryana State Urban Bank Federation*

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, President of NCUI 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 Co-operative Decade, value of ICA

membership and member expectations.

Mr. Gould also visited a Model Dairy Plant of the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) 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 community.

## ASEAN Co-operative Forum: A Welcome Initiative

Co-operators from the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) gathered in Bali in April to discuss strategies to integrate co-operatives in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). ASEAN has committed to become one community by 2020. The forum was organised against the backdrop of ASEAN members approval to develop a "Single and Coherent Blue Print" for advancing AEC by identifying clear targets and time lines for implementation.

Mr. H. AM. Nurdin Halid, President of ACO in his presidential remark at the forum said that "AEC envisages the following:

- a. a single market and production base
- b. a highly competitive economic region
- c. a region equitable economic development
- d. a region fully integrated into the global economy

The integration of ASEAN into a single economy will bring tremendous changes in many aspects of ASEAN, including economic and social development. The AEC will increase competition for co-operatives both in quality and quantity. The co-operatives in ASEAN are mainly categorised as small and

medium enterprises (SME) and they will experience great challenges with the free flow of goods, services and capital including labour. The ACO was created to respond to the situation and to position co-operatives in dealing with the potential challenges posed by AEC."

Mr. Halid appealed to the ACO Forum members to join hands to formulate the strategy for co-operatives in general and specifically for ACO. The representatives from ICA-AP, members from Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and observers from Timor Leste participated in the Forum. The Forum proposed a series of action items for co-operatives and their expectation of ASEAN to address needs of co-operatives.

Mr. Balasubramanian G.Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP was invited as guest speaker at the forum along with other eminent speakers from ANGKASA Malaysia and IKOPIN, Indonesia. The forum also invited co-operative leaders in ASEAN, researchers, and resource persons from co-operative universities and related field. Local observers and media were also present.

## Colombo Declaration recognizes Co-operatives for Youth Development

More than half the world population (3.5 billion people) is under 25 years and a large percentage of them are in Asia. This was the first time that the Youth Conference as being held in Asia.

The ICA-AP Committee on Youth Co-operation (ICYC), created space for its members at the conference to highlight the value based alternate model and principles on which co-operative enterprises run. The ICYC members from China, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated at the Conference as delegates. They organizing events such as 'the Coop Difference – A Talk on the co-operative business model', manned an exhibition booth at the Conference Exposition center that showcased products of co-operatives from ICYC member countries and attended the main event wherein the Chairperson of the ICYC, Dr. Sukesh Zamwar participated at the Roundtable plenary pertaining to Full Employment and Entrepreneurship. Dr. Zamwar highlighted the difference a democratically controlled and member owned economic enterprise such as co-operatives could make in shaping the world.



*Young Co-operators in the Coop booth at the Conference*

In the current Millennium Development Goals' framework, young people are seen as beneficiaries rather than partners. However, the changing global economic paradigm is compelling governments to involve young persons in

formulating the policy making framework. Even though youth account for a huge percentage of the most vulnerable and affected populations around the world, there is no international convention specifically on the Rights of Youth or any high-level body dealing specifically on youth issues. To address these concerns, the conference adopted the Colombo Declaration that 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 WCY2014.



### 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.*  
...

## Reaching out to members in Malaysia

New Regional Director Mr. Balasubramanian (Balu) Iyer visited Malaysia in April-May. Accompanied by staff of the Malaysia Business Office (MBO), he visited Malaysia Co-operative Movement (ANGKASA), Cooperative College of Malaysia (CCM) and National Land Finance Societies Limited

(NLFSL). It was his first official meeting with members in Malaysia and he shared information about ICA-AP activities, especially functioning of the MBO, and acquainted himself with members.



Mr. Iyer with President and Board Members of ANGKASA



(seated 4th & 5th from left) Mr. Sahdevan, Chairman of NLFSCS and Mr. Balu Iyer with their respective staff

Mr. Iyer held separate meetings with the MBO staff to discuss their work and to review the performance of the office.

## MBO staff joined AGM of ANGKASA

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of ANGKASA was held on 30-31 May 2014. The MBO staff were invited to participate in the events which was attended by 3,000 cooperative delegates from all over Malaysia.

With the help of host, ANGKASA, the MBO staff set up an information booth in the meeting hall to network with delegates, introduce ICA member network, and provide them information about opportunities to collaborate on trade especially, with co-operatives in China, Korea, Japan and Malaysia.

Dato' Hj Abdul Fatah Hj. Abdullah, President of ANGKASA visited the Booth and expressed his appreciation to MBO staff for the work done by them.



The ICA-AP Malaysia Business Office booth at AGM of ANGKASA

## Training on Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives held



Group of participants with ICA-AP, MAFF and IDACA officials

The 2nd Training course on "Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives-2013" was organized by ICA-AP, in

India and Japan between 14th February and 11th April 2014. The objective of the training program was to assist the core leaders, who are expected to play leading role in agricultural co-operatives and farmers' groups and contribute to improvement of agricultural production and income of the farmers in the Least Developed Countries (LDC) of Mekong river countries and South Asian countries.

Eleven participants from 10 countries – Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam attended the training jointly organized by ICA and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MAFF) of Japan in collaboration with Institute for Rural Management (IRMA), India and Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA) Japan.

FROM THE REGION

**India : NFTC observes the UN Global Road Safety Week**



*Padmabhusan Shri Shivajiraoji Patil (3rd from right) and other guests releasing a short film on Road Safety produced by NFTC*

The National Federation of Tourism & Transport Co-operative of India Limited (NFTC) organised an event to observe the UN Global Road Safety Week. The NFTC released a short information film on road safety. The film will be shown in schools and co-operatives to spread awareness about road safety.

Mrs. Savitri Singh, Advisor Gender Program and Communication of ICA-AP represented ICA-AP at the event. She appreciated the initiative of NFTC in producing the film on road safety and suggested that they should promote awareness about stricter norms for issuance of driving licence to individuals.

**Pakistan: Co-operative Housing Society opens Education Institution for Girls**

C.P. & Berar Co-operative Housing Society, is one of the 24 member Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union Limited (KCHSU) in Karachi, Pakistan. The housing co-operative is one of the oldest, having been established in November 1948, immediately after the independence of Pakistan.

KCHSU had established a High School for girls and a College for women in 2000. The school became functional in March 2001 and had 160 students enrolled. The school has an all female staff with only the administration and support services manned male. The school secured the 1st position in Sindh Board Examination in consecutive years 2010-2012 and has earned a good reputation in the area as a "Co-operative Girls School."



*Mr. Sharif Bhajji, Chairman of KCHSU with the children in the Montessori*



*The Montessori*

In November 2012, Mrs. Errum Sharif Bhajji, Director of KCHSU joined the school as honorary Vice President. She initiated the opening of Montessori in the school which was a demand of the residents of the housing co-operative.

The Montessori opened its doors in August 2013 with 25 students and within a month the number increased to 52. This Montessori which is run by the co-operative keeps pace with other schools of excellence and provides high standard of education at a minimum fee.

## Bhutan: First Cooperative shop opens in Bhutan

The small Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan saw agriculture development reach new levels in 2001 when it created an enabling legal environment for farmers' groups (FGs) and cooperatives with the enactment of the Cooperatives Act of Bhutan (CAB). The Royal Government has adopted the Act as a policy to promote FGs and co-operatives for sustainable socio-economic development. In 2009, with the amendment of the CAB, the responsibility to implement the act was taken up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF). This was followed by the establishment of the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Co-operatives (DAMC) under MoAF. Agriculture plays a major role in the country's goal of achieving self-sufficiency. However, despite the huge potential, Bhutan has not been able to generate much income from the agriculture sector due to lack of technical expertise and finance.

There are currently 170 FGs, 34 registered co-operatives and one co-operative federation under the DAMC. The department



1st Co-operative shop of Bhutan

has linked these groups and cooperatives with schools, hydro-power projects and other offices to help them market their products. However, many groups and cooperatives are still struggling to find a decent market to sell their produces without the involvement of middlemen. On 12th May 2014, the First Bhutan Co-operative Shop (B-Coop Shop), opened in Thimphu, the capital city of Bhutan.

The aim of B-Coop Shop project is to help FGs and cooperatives around the country to market their products without the interference of middlemen. The shop sells varieties of products such as dried fruits, fermented cheese, paper plates etc. Besides marketing the products, the shop is also meant to showcase and set an example of selling standard

quality goods with quality packaging and labeling. The shop will be fully backstopped by the MOAF for a year after which it will be handed over to a FG or co-operative. The plan is to replicate the shop in other commercial towns.

## Useful Information

1. **The National Co-operative Federation of Nepal (NCFN)** has added two more email addresses in its contact: [ncf@nepal.coop](mailto:ncf@nepal.coop) and [info@nepal.coop](mailto:info@nepal.coop)
2. **New Managing Director of KRIBHCO**



**Mr. N. Sambasiva Rao** has taken over as Managing Director of Krishak Bharati Co-operative Limited (KRIBHCO). Mr. Rao had been working as Marketing Director of KRIBHCO since 2009.

An ICA member, KRIBHCO is the second largest fertilizers producing and marketing co-operative organization in India. Besides fertilizers, KRIBHCO also produces and

markets agro inputs like seeds, bio-fertilisers, liquid bio fertilizer etc. and has a combined turnover of over INR. 50,000 million.

Contact him @ Phone Number : +91-120-2537124

Email : [nsrao@kribhco.net](mailto:nsrao@kribhco.net)

## New Members

1. **Economic & Social Development Center of Palestine (ESDC)** joined ICA as an Associate Member.

ESDC is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation whose goal is to develop rural and marginalised areas of Palestine with a special focus on co-operatives and women self-help groups.

For more information : [www.esdc-pal.org](http://www.esdc-pal.org)

If you wish to contact the organisation directly, their current information is in the online ICA Member Directory.

2. **Korea University Co-operative Federation (KUCF)** from Korea joined as an Associate Member. This is an university co-operative which was established by its members – students, faculty and staff – to make their lives in campus better. They are a joint purchasing co-operative and run cafeterias, convenience stores, stationary stores, bookshops and vending machines. They cooperate with local organisations to run various project such as environmental conservation projects and community services. They also provide technical expertise to co-operatives to establish university co-operatives and foster community spirit in college. 32 university co-operatives in Korea co-operate and collaborate with KUCF.

For more information : [www.univcoop.or.kr](http://www.univcoop.or.kr)





International  
Co-operative  
Alliance  
Asia and Pacific



DEKOPIN

Welcome to the  
ICA ASIA AND PACIFIC

11th Regional Assembly & 8th Co-operative Forum  
Committee Meetings and Events

Theme: “CO-OPERATIVES BUILD A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY”

15-20 September 2014

Bali International Convention Centre (BCCI), Bali, Indonesia



**Official Website:** <http://icaapra-indonesia2014.com/>

**Registration Fee:** A consolidated Registration Fee of US\$ 400 is to be paid by each participant attending the events in Bali.

**Mode of Payment:**

- a) Bank transfer (*up to 15 August 2014*) to Current A/c No. 525-0-501177-4 Standard Chartered Bank, 10, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001, India. Swift Code: SCBLINBBXXX – under intimation to ICA-AP.
- b) US\$ Demand Draft (in favour of International Co-operative Alliance, New Delhi) No..... Dated.....
- c) Payment on Arrival (in US Dollars): .....

**Registration deadline:** You are kindly requested to get registered online at <http://icaapra-indonesia2014.com/> Please note that the last date for registration is **15 August 2014**.

**Hotels:**

Hotel	Single	Double	Premium	Suite
Westin Nusa Dua Hotel	US\$ 165	US\$ 180	US\$ 280	US\$ 360
Nusa Dua Beach Hotel	US\$ 160	US\$ 175	-	-

**Airport transfer facility :** The host will provide airport pick up service on 15 to 17 September to designated hotels and for your departure on 20 and 21 September 2014.

**Travel to Bali :** Bali is listed as “Denpasar” (DPS) in airline timetables. This is the name of the capital of Bali island. However, from Bali’s international Ngurah Rai Airport it takes just 15 to 30 minutes by car to reach to Nusa Dua and surrounding areas.

**VISA :** Visa on arrival is available at the Bali airport on payment of US\$ 25.

**Contact : ICA-AP, India**

- 1. Savitri Singh, ICA-AP  
E-mail : savitrisingh@icaroap.coop;
- 2. Mr. K. Sethumadhavan  
E-mail : sethu@icaroap.coop

**DEKOPIN, Indonesia**

- 1. Mr. Ilham Nasai (Manager for International Relations)  
Email : ilhamnasai@gmail.com  
Mobile : +62 81 56987363.
- 2. Mr. Bambang Indra (Staff for Int'l Relations Dept.)  
Email : bambangindra@ymail.com



International  
Co-operative  
Alliance  
Asia and Pacific

# newsletter

SELF-HELP • SOLIDARITY • CO-OPERATION

ISSN : 0971-7013 (For Private Circulation only)

Vol. 4 Issue 2

March - April 2014

## ICA President addressed First National Cooperative Congress of Nepal



ICA President with Mr. BADAL, Chairman of NCF (far left) at the Conference

The Honourable President of Nepal, Dr. Rambaran Yadav inaugurated the First National Cooperative Congress of Nepal held on the theme- "Sustainable Economic Development and Social Justice through Cooperatives" at the National Stadium in Kathmandu from 25-27 March, 2014.

Dame Pauline Green, President of ICA was also present at the Congress as Special Guest of Honour. Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director of ICA-AP was invited as Guest Speaker.

The congress was organized by the National Cooperative Federation of Nepal (NCF/N) in collaboration with the Government of Nepal and has been attended by thousand of co-operators from all over the country representing various sectors of cooperatives, Ministers, Members of the Constituent Assembly, International Cooperation Agencies, Secretaries of

the Nepal Government, international cooperative delegates representing India, China, Thailand, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Malaysia.

In his opening address, President Dr. Rambaran Yadav said "Cooperatives can play a vital role to mitigate poverty and to enhance development of rural economy since the interim constitution of Nepal-2006 has recognized cooperative sector as one of the three pillars of economic sector for the national economic development. President Dr. Yadav expressed happiness in mentioning that after the enactment of Cooperative Act-1992 the cooperative sector made tremendous progress in the areas of agricultural production, distribution and non agricultural services.

The technical sessions were held to deliberate upon various

### IN THIS ISSUE

- ICA President addressed First National Cooperative Congress of Nepal
- Meeting of the Office Bearers of
- Women's Committee held
- Meeting for Youth Co-operation
- International Events
- From the Region
- Announcement
- New Officials
- Change of Management

## From the Editor



Dear Co-operators,  
Let's welcome Mr. B.G. Iyer, the new Regional Director of ICA- AP who has taken charge in April succeeding Dr. Chan Ho Choi. We bid farewell to Dr. Choi and wish him success in all his future endeavours.

Our hearty congratulations to the co-operative movement and to the Government of Nepal for organising the First National Co-operative Congress of Nepal which saw attendance of the President and Prime Minister of Nepal along with ministers, members of Parliament and of course, thousands of co-operators. The President of ICA, Regional Director of ICA AP and delegates from international co-operative fraternity were also present. The President of Nepal reposed confidence in co-operatives for poverty alleviation and rural development in the country whereas President of ICA called it a historic event witnessing the passion, energy and drive of thousand plus co-operators.

The ICA has declared the theme of the Co-operative Day 2014 as "Co-operative enterprises achieve sustainable development for all" and sets the agenda for co-operatives to act upon achieving sustainable development. The ICA GEC has also released message on the International Women's Day which was widely celebrated by the members.

If you enjoy reading this issue, please let us know!

– Savitri Singh

## ICA STATISTICS

As on April 2014, the new ICA membership statistics are: 262 member organisations including 227 Members and 35 Associate Members from 93 countries.



ICA President posing with the co-operators during the Conference

issues concerning development and growth of cooperatives. On the second and the third day of the Congress, more than 12 working papers were presented by national and international co-operative experts on different issues of cooperative sectors during the separate parallel sessions where more than 955 national participants and 16 international delegates benefitted from very

participants at the meeting" she added.

The Prime Minister of Nepal Honourable Mr. Sushil Koirala had closed the three days congress in a jubilant ceremony. Prime Minister Koirala stated on the occasion that the cooperative sector is gradually gaining popularity among the people in order to develop their economic activities.



ICA President, (2nd from left), with Hon'ble Sushil Koirala, Prime Minister of Nepal

productive discussions and interactions enriched by the working paper presented in the sessions.

Congratulating NCF/N and the Nepal government, ICA President Ms. Pauline Green expressed happiness in participating in the historic event- First National Cooperative Congress in Kathmandu.

"This was my first visit to Nepal and I have learned so much and seen the passion, energy and drive of 1000 plus

On the same occasion ICA President Ms. Green confidently stated-"Rapid growth, huge enthusiasm, bursting with ideas-just ready for the next step forward in building its member owned economy."

Dr. CHOI presented a paper on the topic "ICA Blueprint Implementation and ICA-AP Strategic Plan – 2013-2016" in the first technical session.

At the end of the closing ceremony the 11 point declaration was announced.

## GOVERNANCE

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



*The meeting in progress*

The Meeting of the Office Bearers of ICA AP Committee on Women, hosted by NATCCO was held on 21st March 2014 in the meeting room of NATCCO in Manila, Philippines.

Ms. Divina Cabunoc Quemi, Vice Chairperson of the Women Committee, Ms. Masako Shinbo, Board Member of JCCU and successor of Mrs. Hitomi Tanaka, ex-Chairperson of the Committee, Mrs. Savitri Singh, Secretary of the Women

Committee, Ms. Emi Minachi and Ms. Satoko Horiuchi, Secretaries to Ms. Shinbo, attended the meeting.

Ms. Silvia Parague, CEO of NATCCO made a short appearance to meet and greet the Office Bearers and other delegates. Ms. Savitri Singh thanked her for hosting the meeting and providing great hospitality.

Ms. Tanaka, Chairperson of the ICA AP Committee on Women retired from her sponsoring organisation, Japanese Consumers Cooperative Union (JCCU) in July 2013. The election of the Committee is due in 2016. Ms. Masako Shinbo succeeded Ms. Tanaka as Board Member of JCCU.

The JCCU nominated Ms. Shinbo and her nomination as Chair of the Committee was ratified and the office bearers warmly welcomed Ms. Shinbo as the Chairperson of the Committee.

Ms. Savitri Singh presented the Action Taken Report and made a presentation showcasing the work done by the committee during January to December 2013 and reported that all the activities as planned have been implemented.

The meeting also discussed plan for implementation of the activities such as organising of Women's Committee meeting and Regional Women Forum in September 2014.

The Work Plan-2014 was also approved by the meeting as proposed. The next meeting will be held in the first quarter (January-March) of the 2015.

## Meeting for Youth Co-operation



*Chairperson of the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Co-operation presenting the co-operative flag to the Working Director – Sri Lanka Youth Council, Ministry of Youth and Skill Development.*

The ICA AP Committee on Youth Co-operation, based on its decisions taken at the 6th Meeting in 2013 and the 4th Electronic Meeting in January 2014, visited the Ministry of Youth and Skill Development, Government of Sri Lanka to negotiate for a place to participate in the World Conference on Youth (WYC) scheduled from May 6-10, 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The consultation meetings were held in Colombo on 12 and 13 March, 2014 and resulted in getting two slots marked for co-operatives and youth from co-operatives i. e. the Main event and a Side event. The COOPFED, ICA Member in Sri Lanka, facilitated the exchange in the presence of ICYC Members Mr. Udaya Prabath, Vice Chairperson and Mr. Roshan De Silva. Dr. Suresh Zamwar, Chairperson affirmed the Committee's commitment to provide appropriate platforms to youth from co-operatives at an international level. The WYC will have the ICYC participation in sessions on the theme 'Employment and Entrepreneurship' during the Conference.

More on the Conference can be found at [www.wcy2014.com](http://www.wcy2014.com)

## INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

### International Women's Day-2014

#### International Women's Day-2014: Message from the ICA Gender Equality Committee

Dr. María Eugenia Pérez, Chairperson of the Gender Equality Committee of International Co-operative Alliance issued message on the International Women's Day, 8th March 2014. The theme of the message is based on the theme of UN International Women's Day-2014;

#### *"Equality for women: progress for all"*

Excerpts from the Message; "Like other global development bodies, the International Co-operative Alliance recognises that equality between women and men is an essential requirement in achieving human development, thus improving the lives and opportunities of people.

Over the last few years, the challenge of achieving equality between women and men has been incorporated as a development objective and strategy. Today we know that gender equity, understood as fair treatment for both women and men in accordance with their respective abilities and specific needs, is the main tool in facilitating access to progress.

In 1995 our commitment to equality was made manifest when we, the co-operators of the world, approved the Resolution on Gender Equality in Cooperatives at the International Co-operative Alliance Centenary Congress, thus setting it as a global priority. At that moment in time, we agreed that, "a better balance between female and male co-operators and employees would be a re-energising force and source of competitive advantage to co-operatives. [...] Women and men must have equal participation and job opportunities, the same working conditions and equal pay for equal work, as well as

equal training and educational opportunities. [...] Shared influence and shared responsibilities between women and men are key to co-operative excellence" and therefore, "equality between men and women in decision making positions and in the activities of the cooperative movement" is an essential aim for our movement to move forward.

On the occasion of the celebrations for International Women's Day 2014 and through the Gender Equality Committee, the International Co-operative Alliance recognises the efforts and initiatives of cooperative organisations around the world in closing social, cultural, economic and political gaps that are perpetuated by gender inequalities.

We stand firm before the world as co-operators committed to achieving the goal of ensuring the participation of women under equal conditions in the spheres of work, politics and social aspects. We are committed to achieving more inclusive economic development, strengthening the economic participation of women, improving current levels of representation on our boards, where women have scope for leading decision making on the future we want, bringing about a shift so that providing care is not a task which falls solely upon women, pulling down obstacles which continue to stand in the way of women joining the cooperative movement on an equal footing, while also improving economic and working conditions.

We are called upon this year to maintain our steadfast and collective action in consolidating a cooperative movement and a society which is led by men and women, providing recognition and working together for equality, solidarity, democracy and development.

### International Day of Co-operatives-2014

The International Cooperative Day is celebrated on the first Saturday of the month of July every year. As per the tradition, the ICA has declared the theme of the Day as "Co-operative enterprises achieve sustainable development for all" and has issued following message to commemorate the 92nd Alliance International Co-operative Day and 20th UN International Day of Co-operatives..

Message: "This year, International Co-operative Day, to be celebrated on 5 July, will have the theme of "Co-operative enterprises achieve sustainable development for all." Concern for the community is one of the co-operative movement's founding values and, as such, the need to sustainably safeguard favourable living conditions for communities underpins all co-operatives' operations and vision.

In a general sense, sustainability is the capacity to support, maintain or endure. Since the 1980s, the concept of

sustainability has evolved to mean the integration of environmental, economic and social dimensions. Co-operatives here again are the forerunners of modern sustainability. By placing human need at their centre, they respond to today's crises of sustainability and deliver a distinctive form of "shared value".

One of the goals of the Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade is to "position co-operatives as builders of sustainability." The co-operative sector needs to explain and show to the world that sustainability is part of its intrinsic nature, and that co-operative enterprises make a positive contribution to sustainability.

As part of this, the Alliance commissioned a scan of co-operatives from different sectors and regions around the world to see how closely linked they are to sustainability. Launched at our global conference in Cape Town in November 2013, the report concluded that co-operatives embed sustainability into

their operating model and values, and that the United Nations can and should recognise this. Indeed, in a resolution adopted in December 2001, the UN urged governments to encourage and facilitate “the establishment and development of co-operatives, including taking measures aimed at enabling people living in poverty or belonging to vulnerable groups to engage on a voluntary basis in the creation and development of co-operatives”.

The United Nations is currently setting ambitious new targets

for the period after 2015 and these will be called the Sustainable Development Goals. The co-operative movement touches one billion people worldwide and through our vision of sustainable development for all, we can be key partners in this.

We would like to urge co-operatives around the world to use 5 July to showcase how co-operatives are the best-placed enterprise model to develop and build sustainability in the 21st century.”

## FROM THE REGION

### India: IFFCO Foundation celebrates Women’s Day



(l-r) Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Dr. JNL Srivastava, Mr. Ashish Bhutani, Ms. Chaudhary and Prof. R B Singh releasing the Souvenir commemorating International Women’s Day

The IFFCO Foundation celebrated International Women’s Day on 8th March 2014 with an objective to review the current initiatives, limitations and challenges in the context of empowerment of women through cooperative entrepreneurship development in India.

The Conference held on the theme, “Aspiring Change: Role of Cooperative and Entrepreneurship in Women Empowerment” provided a platform to more than 100 women entrepreneurs from villages and small towns to get together and ask questions, discuss issues of concerns and share their experiences and network for business development. It also provided opportunity to learn from the knowledge and information sharing by eminent persons invited from various fields. The guest speakers included policy makers, government officials, experts from dairy cooperatives, women cooperative banks, ICA AP and FAO who are involved in empowerment of women through entrepreneurship development projects and programs.

The IFFCO Foundation, promoted by the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO), one of our active members from India, has a Mission to achieve enhanced, inclusive and sustained agrarian livelihood security and prosperity through providing technical assistance and policy advocacy to the national agricultural and rural development system.

Sustainable agrarian livelihood can’t be secured without the empowerment of women who contribute 50-60% labour in food production.

Dr. J.N.L. Srivastava the Managing Trustee of IFFCO Foundation Mr. Suresh P. Prabhu, Trustee, Mr. A.K Bhutani, Joint Secretary and Central Registrar of Cooperatives, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Mrs. Nita Choudhary, Secretary, Government of India and Prof. R.B. Singh, Chancellor of Central Agriculture University were the eminent speakers at the opening ceremony.

## Pakistan: KCHSU organises carnival on Women's Day



*Celebration of Women's Day by lighting candles produced by women entrepreneurs*

A family carnival was organized at Union Cooperative Club of Karachi Cooperative Housing Societies Union Limited, Pakistan to mark "International Women's Day" on 8th March 2014.

The women cooperative entrepreneurs were invited to participate and sell their products at the carnival. The products ranging from garments, fabrics, handmade decoration pieces, gift boxes made of recycle material, different shapes of candles were displayed. Face paintings, food items and mehandi were also some of the entertainments for the families of members of Union Cooperative Club.

In a brief opening ceremony, Ms. Errum Sharif Bhajji, the Executive of women wing of Karachi cooperative housing societies union and member of the ICA-AP Committee on Women addressed the audience and shared her experience of working under the banner of cooperative and appreciated the work of rural hard working women. Other guests from coops and NGOs also made speeches and shared experience facilitating networking among women.

At the end of programme a competition was held among the children and young girls and prizes were distributed.

## Thailand: CULT Celebrating International Women's Day

On March 6, 2014, the Credit Union League of Thailand (CULT) along with the Credit Union Women's Committee, conducted the National Seminar of women leaders to commemorate the International Women's Day, 8th March 2014 at CULT office in Bangkok, Thailand. More than 30 women leaders representing each region of the country participated in the seminar.

Ms. Kruewan Boonrin, member of the ICA-AP Committee on Women and Chairperson of the Asian Women in Cooperative

Development Forum (AWCF) was invited as speaker to share her experience with Global Women Network and what she has learnt from her association with such networks.

The participants also shared information about their activities from each region during the Experience Sharing session and the seminar also conducted a group discussion on the topic "How to strengthen credit unions for women in future".

## Korea: ICFO Fosters Fisheries Talent in the Developing Countries

The International Co-operative Fisheries Organisation (ICFO), chaired by President Lee Jong-koo of Korean National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives, is making great endeavors to foster talent in the field of fisheries especially in the underdeveloped countries.

The ICFO and Pukyong National University concluded a memorandum of understanding on cooperation for nurturing talents in the field of fisheries, in attendance of Mr. Lee Jong-koo, Chairman of ICFO, Mr. Kim Young-seup, President of Pukyong National University and other participants, on 24th January 2014 at Pukyong National University, Busan, Korea.

The two organizations signed the MOU, mutually recognizing the need to build up human resource in the fisheries sectors in developing countries for sustainable development of fisheries and vigorous cooperative movement around the world.

Pukyong National University has launched a 2-year graduate course for 2 students from developing countries, who had



*Mr. Lee Jong-koo, Chairman of ICFO, Mr. Kim Young-seup, President of Pukyong National University with the MoU*

completed university education in fisheries or fisheries-related fields. The ICFO plans to select 2 university graduates every year with the support from Pukyong National University. The tuition fee will be fully funded by Pukyong National University. The ICFO will offer scholarship benefits such as airfare and boarding expenses including daily expenses.

Moreover, the two organizations will spare no efforts in implementing consistent collaboration and information exchange for human resource development in the fisheries sectors.

Chairman Lee Jong-koo said, "It is essential to encourage cultivating of competent individuals in the field of fisheries. We

will put forth a multilateral effort into developing and supporting the best minds in the fisheries sectors in developing countries."

The ICFO, as a leading organization of the international cooperative movement, is receiving a favorable evaluation on its efforts to share Korean cooperatives' best practices with developing countries by spreading Korea's distinctive model for cooperative organizations.

This MOU on nurturing global talents will help develop the fishing industry of developing countries by sharing academic expertise of Korea.

## Singapore: SNCF Co-op Scholarship -2014

The SNCF Co-op Scholarship is an undergraduate degree scholarship that supports talented, high-calibre students with a heart for the people. Our scholars have the courage to strive for academic excellence and to make the difference to society through the Co-operative Movement, a proven model of self-help in Singapore since 1925. Co-operatives are professionally run and sustainable business entities that serve more than 1.3 million members in Singapore.

From 2010 to 2012, the SNCF Co-operative Scholarship saw an

increase of 250% in the number of applicants. The calibre of the candidates in terms of not just grades but also level of community service was also seen at a never before level. It is indeed heartening to know that youths of today not only excel in their studies, but also have a strong commitment and the heart to serve. This is indeed a very heartwarming sign to see, and SNCF is looking forward to welcoming the batch of 2014 scholars to the co-operative family.

For further information contact: [www.sncf.org.sg](http://www.sncf.org.sg)

## Announcement

Dear members and cooperators,

The ICA is presently calling on co-operatives to provide their data for the World Co-operative Monitor.

We would like to ask your support to motivate co-operatives in your network to fill out the survey. (<http://goo.gl/E7B508>)

We propose an e-mail signature for your office to use in their e-mail messages, as shown at the bottom of this note. The e-mail signature is hyperlinked to the Monitor web page.

### How to use

- To use the signature in your emails, simply copy and paste it from this message into your outlook signature box. Most people are familiar with this, though in case of doubt, please find it explained here:

Outlook: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-001/outlook-help/create-and-add-an-email-message-signature-HA010352514.aspx>

Gmail: <https://support.google.com/mail/answer/8395?hl=en>

- Please test and make sure that the hyperlink works!

### How the monitor helps

Since 2013 the World Co-operative Monitor has turned out to be a great catalyst for co-operative business.

The Monitor is shared with international organisations, NGOs, and governments trade departments. Co-operatives who have participated and are listed in the Monitor benefit from

enhanced credibility and visibility. With basic financial details at hand, such as turnover, the survey takes 30 minutes at maximum.

Please forward this message to your network, so that more co-operators take it up.

Thank you in advance. With your support we'll have better data to prove that co-operatives are businesses in progress.

The Co-operative Monitor is a joint project of ICA and Euricse.

*For further information, please contact:*

Jan Schiettecatte, Communications Director of International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) at [schiettecatte@ica.coop](mailto:schiettecatte@ica.coop)

## New Officials

1. **Mr Mohammad Ghebleh** is the new President of Iranian Vegetable Oil Industry Association & Farda Cooperation, Iran. His e-mail address is: [ivoia@ivoi.ir](mailto:ivoia@ivoi.ir)
2. **Ms. Masako Shinbo**, Board Member of Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU) has been ratified as Chairperson of the ICA-AP Committee on Women. She succeeded Ms. Hitomi Tanaka.
3. **Mr. Kenki MAEDA** is appointed as Manager of the International Division of JA-Zenchu, Japan. His contact is [maeda-kenki@zenchu-ja.or.jp](mailto:maeda-kenki@zenchu-ja.or.jp). He has succeeded Mr. Takuo ICHIYA who has been transferred to Executive Office of the organization as Manager.



## Change of Management

### Welcome to the New Regional Director



**Mr. Balasubramanian (Balu) Iyer** joined as Regional Director of ICA Asia and Pacific in April, 2014. He has succeeded Dr. Chan Ho CHOI. Mr. Iyer has over 25 years' experience managing international development operations and overseeing multiple country offices including experience building new offices from the ground up.

Mr. Iyer worked in India in co-operative development before moving abroad to work on Asian regional concerns for overseas agencies, and in particular in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Korea, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. He has worked with the Aga Khan Rural Support Program, ActionAid India, International Development Exchange and the Asia Foundation.

Mr. Iyer was born in India and educated in India and the United States, receiving a degree in Civil Engineering from the National Institute of Technology at Durgapur, a Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Management from the Institute of Rural Management at Anand, India, and Masters in Public Policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy at U.C. Berkeley.

Mr. Iyer was working with The Asia Foundation, as Director, Field Operations (South Asia) at the Field Operations unit at San Francisco headquarters before joining the ICA-AP.

### Bidding Farewell to Dr. Chan Ho CHOI



**Dr. Chan Ho CHOI** served the ICA-AP office as Regional Director from January, 2010 ~ March 2014.

He had worked with NACF, Korea and also with ICA H.Q. in Geneva before joining the Regional Office and had brought vast experience.

The office has organised several important events under his guidance such as 50th Anniversary of inception of the office in the Region, organising of Regional Assemblies, UN IYC-2012, Regional Cooperative Forums and Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference. He also initiated and held the 1st Asia-Pacific Co-operative Registrars' Conference.

Dr. CHOI also took keen interest in research and studies and several studies were commissioned and completed during his tenure.

He is a Ph.D. in Development Communication from University of the Philippines, MS in Agricultural Education, Seoul National University and Diploma in Rural Leadership (SEARSOLIN).

In an informal farewell meeting held by the staff, he said that he will devote his time in working with rural people and teaching in Agriculture Institute.

We wish him all the best for his future endeavour!

### You are Invited!

Please join the 11th Regional Assembly and 8th Cooperative Forum of ICA-AP in Bali.

11th Regional Assembly and 8th Cooperative Forum and related events will be held from 15-20 September 2014 at Bali International Convention Centre (BICC), Nusa Dua. We appreciate cooperation from our esteemed member, DEKOPIN for hosting the events.

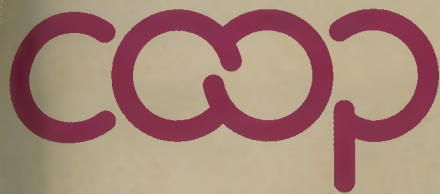
The Regional Board Meeting and other committee meetings will be held on 16 & 17th September.

The joint opening of the Regional Assembly and the Cooperative Forum will be held on 18th September and the 11th Regional Assembly will take place on 19th September.

The DEKOPIN will invite the Honourable President of Republic of Indonesia to grace the opening ceremony.

Detailed program and other logistics information will be made available soon.





## Regional Board Meeting held



*Regional Board Members with Mr. Li Chunsheng and Dr. Chan Ho CHOI*

The meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held at the Peninsula Hotel in Beijing, China on Sunday, 16th February 2014, chaired by Mr. Li Chunsheng, ICA-AP President and Chairman of the Regional Board. 22 persons including members, observers and interpreters attended the meeting hosted by the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC).

Dame Pauline Green, President of ICA and Mr. Charles Gould, Director General (DG) of ICA were also present in the meeting.

Recruitment of the new Regional Director of ICA-AP and preparation for the Regional Assembly-2014 were the special agendas along with discussion on the regular governance issues.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Li Chunsheng extended warm welcome to all the participating members and especially to the ICA President and Director General.

The Chairperson started the meeting and took up agenda for discussion. The Regional Director, Dr. Choi gave a brief account of the activities carried out from November 2013 to January 2014 and presented the financial report of the year 2013. The Chairperson and members noted and appreciated the overall outstanding performance and good financial position of the ICA-AP. He also informed that the renovation of the MBO is now complete and all the four staff, one each on secondment from NACF-Korea, ACFSMC-China, ANGKASA-Malaysia, and JCCU-Japan are working from this new office.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Regional Board Meeting
- 1st Asia-Pacific Co-operative Registrars' Conference: Engaging with ILO
- ICA-AP Research Conference
- Fostering Core Leaders of
- Agricultural Co-operatives
- ICA-Japan Training follow up
- Induction Training of ICA-AP MBO staff
- NCCT National Colloquium on Co-operative Training
- From the Region
- New ICA Member
- The International Year of Family Farming
- New Officials
- Coop Story: Bhutan

## From the Editor



We are happy to present first issue of the 2014 and will continue sharing important developments to keep you abreast with the latest in the sector.

The ICA is determined to see co-operatives as fastest growing business model through implementation of the Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade. Constant growth, with an eye to its primary objective "member service" is a necessity for co-operatives today.

The ICA-AP "Strategic Plan 2013-2016" is in force to achieve the goals of the Blueprint in collaboration with members and other stakeholders. A series of advocacy and capacity building activities will be implemented and the Regional Assembly-2014 in Indonesia may deliberate upon consolidation of efforts to move forward uninterrupted. The ICA board meeting and meeting of the ICA-AP board were held in China and some important governance issues have been discussed.

The new Regional Director has been appointed and will take over in April.

ILO and other UN agencies are long time partners in our quest for cooperative excellence. Excerpts of the speech of ILO representative at the 1st Asia-Pacific Co-operative Registrars' Conference is presented in this issue which emphasises upon long standing ICA-ILO relationship.

We will present more such speeches/papers for interesting reading.

– Savitri Singh

## ICA STATISTICS

As on January 2014, the new ICA membership statistics are: 272 member organisations including 232 Members and 40 Associate Members from 94 countries.



*Dr. Choi congratulating Mr. Iyer upon his selection as Regional Director*

In view of good financial position of the ICA-AP, the ICA Director General requested that ICA-AP should contribute to ICA-Africa region as solidarity.

The meeting was informed that Economic and Social Development Centre of Palestine has been admitted into membership of ICA and with this, **the current total ICA-AP membership is 81 member organizations from 25 countries.**

Dr. Choi also reported to the Board about the impact of Typhoon Haiyan, which hit the Tacloban area of Philippines, based on his visit to the co-operatives in the affected area in November 2013. He thanked the members for their generous support for helping the co-operatives in that area.

The DEKOPIN informed that the 11th ICA-AP Regional Assembly and related events would be held in Bali (Indonesia) from 15 to 20 September 2014. Due to Quebec Summit in the 1st week of October, DEKOPIN was requested to find out the possibility of advancing the events to 1st week of September and inform ICA-AP as soon as possible.

Mr. Li Chunsheng thanked the ICA Director General for working hard on the recruitment process of the Regional Director for ICA-Asia and Pacific region.

Mr. Charles Gould shared the details of the process adopted for the recruitment of Regional Director and announced the name of Mr. Balasubramanian G. Iyer as the next Regional Director of ICA-AP with effect from April 2014. He congratulated Mr. Iyer on his selection. The board members approved his appointment.

Mr. Iyer addressed the Regional Board and committed to serve ICA according to the Strategic Objectives set for the organisation.

Dr. Choi expressed his deep sense of appreciation to all the board members for their kind support and cooperation in making his tenure quite successful and rewarding. He reposed his confidence in the team of ICA-AP.

Mr. Li Chunsheng thanked Dr. Choi for his valued contributions and requested him to share his valuable experiences with Mr. Iyer in making this region progress continuously.

It was decided to hold the next board meeting in Bali in conjunction with the ICA-AP Regional Assembly-2014.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks to Chair and Dr. Choi thanked the ACFSMC for making excellent arrangements for the meeting and the kind hospitality provided to the board members.

## 1st Asia-Pacific Co-operative Registrars' Conference: Engaging with ILO

Mr. Maurizio Bussi, Director, Decent Work Technical Support Team for East, Southeast Asia and the Pacific International Labour Office, Bangkok attended the 1st Asia-Pacific Co-operative Registrars' Conference on 10-12 December 2013 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and delivered a speech on the topic 'The ILO and the Co-operative Spirit: A historical partnership with a vision for the future.'

At the outset he conveyed the "very warm greetings of the ILO Director-General, Mr. Guy Ryder. He sincerely regrets that he is unable to be with us today but asked me to re-affirm the ILO's strong commitment to promote the value of the cooperative model as a vehicle for decent lives, decent work and sustainable development."

He further talked about long standing association of ILO and Co-operatives and said that, "the ILO and ICA have enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship, both at the global and the regional level. Let me take a moment to highlight our historical partnership with the co-operative movement. This can be traced right back to 1920 when the ILO's Co-operative Branch was founded – in clear recognition of the central importance of the co-operative movement in fulfilling the ILO's mandate.

The first Director-General of the ILO, Albert Thomas, was a French co-operator and a member of the Central Committee of the International Co-operative Alliance which was established in 1895. Article 12 of the ILO Constitution specifically refers to consultation with the international

organizations of co-operators, and since then the International Co-operative Alliance has had a general consultative status with the ILO.

More than 90 years on, this relationship is just as relevant as ever and the ILO remains the only UN agency with an explicit mandate on co-operatives. The partnership with the ICA remains solid and firmly based on the shared vision of implementing a "Common Co-operative Agenda" as clearly indicated in the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two organizations almost a decade ago."

He also talked about challenges in Asia-Pacific, role of co-operatives, Article 193 of ILO and role of Registrars etc. Mr. Bussi concluded by saying that, "the co-operative movement has always represented an alternative way of doing business which puts human and social interests at the forefront and has long been at the forefront of promoting the ILO's core labour standards.

Co-operatives are and will continue to be an important channel for bridging market values and human values. Set within an agreed framework for inclusive growth, co-operative ideals and cooperative organization are effective vehicles in meeting their people-centred objectives.

The ILO stands ready to support you in making sure that this continues to be the case, and that the co-operative movement can act as a beacon for corporate social responsibility, improved labour standards in supply chains across the Asia-Pacific region. We remain closely engaged in supporting your work as you advance with the implementation of the ICA Asia-Pacific strategic objectives agreed in Kobe last year."

## RESEARCH

### ICA-Asia Pacific Research Conference



Dr. JNL Srivastava and Mr. Akira Kurimoto at the opening ceremony

The 8th ICA-AP Research Conference was held on 29-30 November, 2013 in Mysore hosted by the Department of Studies in Economics and Co-operation and the Third Sector Research Resource Centre, University of Mysore. The theme of the Conference was "Mainstreaming Co-operatives in Global Economy". Dr. J.N.L. Srivastava, Managing Trustee, IFFCO Foundation, Gurgaon, in his inaugural speech, gave an account of the historical background of the function of ICA. He also spoke about the changing economic scenario, the emergence of confederation of the public, private and co-operative sectors through joint venture alliances and agreements. He quoted the example of Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Co-operative Ltd. which has created an alliance with a



Participants with Mr. Akira Kurimoto (first row center)

Japanese company for providing insurance services. According to him, main-streaming co-operatives is one of the most important challenges. He referred to the entry of co-operatives into the service sector. In his opinion, co-operative philosophy which professes that human life is precious and all human beings are equal, is a real role model for economic and social development in the long run. He concluded his speech by stressing the need for innovations in the co-operative organizations and suggested for starting of an "Innovations and Research Unit" which should capture, synthesize and disseminate examples of innovations and best practices.

Mr. Akira Kurimoto, Director, Japan Consumer Co-operative Institute, Tokyo, Japan delivered the keynote address with a focus on "Main-streaming the Asian Co-operative Studies". He made observation that though Asian region ranks high in terms of co-operative membership, it lags behind in terms of co-operative studies compared to the Europe and North America. He raised the question: How the Asian co-operative studies can be mainstreamed?". He said that since 1980s several socio-economic changes are taking place rapidly in the Asian region and these changes have an impact on the development of co-operative sector in this region.

He opined that there are distinctive Asian co-operative models which are relevant to other regions and there is a need to analyse these models in detail and lessons must be drawn for the benefit of the co-operatives across the world.

Supported by relevant data, he gave several examples from the literature on co-operatives and spoke about the low

visibility of the co-operatives in Asia, the potential of the Asian co-operatives, relative share of the Asian co-operatives etc. explaining further about the changes in the socio-economic and political environment in the Asian region and its impact on co-operative sector. He also mentioned about the breakthrough in co-operative legislation in South Korea and India and urged participants to investigate on the creation of Asian Models based on the Amul Dairy Co-operative in India, Consumer, University and Medical Co-operatives in Japan, Credit Unions and Women's Co-operatives in many other countries. He suggested for strengthening the liaison between institutions and sub-sectors at the National and Regional levels.

Prof. K.S. Rangappa, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore presided over the inaugural function and gave presidential remarks about the importance of co-operative institutions in the globalized scenario.

Other prominent speakers were Prof. D.S. Leelavathi, Chairman, Department of Studies in Economics and Co-operation, Prof. Yashavantha Dongre, Professor of Commerce, University of Mysore who introduced the ICA and ICA-AP Research Conference and Prof. M. Indira, Coordinator, Third Sector Research Resource Centre, University of Mysore.

The Conference was attended by invitees from the State Co-operative Department, Karnataka, faculty from various departments of the University of Mysore, research scholars, students and paper presenters from various parts of India and South Asian countries Japan and Malaysia.

During the two days Conference, three technical sessions with three parallel streams were held and the Conference ended with a Closing Plenary.

Out of 52 abstracts received at the conference, 37 were selected based on the blind reviews. 32 Scholars attended and presented their papers in the parallel sessions. The papers were well-received and there was lively discussion.

Nearly 250 participants attended the parallel sessions. This includes apart from paper presenters, members from the Co-operative Department, faculty from the affiliated colleges of the University of Mysore, Ph.D. Scholars and students who are studying Cooperative Management in Post-graduate Course.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

### Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives

The 2nd ICA-Japan Training Course on "Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives" for the year-2013 has begun in February, 2014 at the Institute of Rural Management (IRMA), situated in Anand city of western India. 11 participants nominated by ICA members/Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries from 10 Asian countries are attending the program coordinated by Mr. AK Taneja, Manager of ICA-AP.

The participants will attend training on "Agri-Coop Business Management, Leadership & Planning" "guided by expert faculty of the Institute.

The program was inaugurated by Prof. Jeemol Unni, the Director of IRMA and she welcomed the participants to IRMA and highlighted the importance of the role, the Agricultural Co-operatives are playing in the developing countries during the current turbulent economic and global environment. She complimented ICA for choosing a very apt theme "Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives" as the need of the day is effective leadership at the helm of these co-operatives. She also explained how important it is to develop



*The participants with Prof. Jeemol Unni*

and strengthen the leadership in order to make cooperatives more beneficial to members who were increasingly subjected to the vagaries of the market forces.

### ICA-Japan Training Project Follow up

The ICA-JAPAN Training Project Follow up was held in Bhutan and Nepal in February 2014. The purpose and objective of this program is to get a feedback, through consultation with the ex-participants, on usefulness of the training at the field level and whether it is practical to be used by the trainees in their work situations. This feedback helps in evaluation of the project for further improvement and continuation.

A team of training coordinators of ICA-AP and IDACA, Japan visited the participants, in these two countries, who have attended various training programs during the project period of 2011-2013. The team held exclusive one to one meeting with the participants to discuss that how the "learning" from training is being used and implemented by them in the field

for the benefit of farmers and rural community. And also the problems faced by them in the course of implementation. The participants discussed their action plans which they prepared during the training and status of implementation of these plans.

The ICA-AP and IDACA team also held meetings with the head of sponsoring organisations for a briefing about the objectives of the follow up program and their opinion on usefulness.

The member organisations appreciated ICA-Japan initiative for capacity building of the co-operators as well as the cooperatives and observed that the training is very useful and should be continued.

### Induction Training of ICA-AP MBO staff



Regional Office and MBO staff with Dr. CHOI

Three staff, one each from JCCU, Japan, NACF, Korea and ACFSMC, China who have joined the ICA-AP Malaysian Business Office have been invited to the Regional Office in New Delhi on 20-22 January, 2014 to attend induction training.

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director, during a two days briefing session, thoroughly explained to them about the organisation including Vision and Mission, rules and regulations and projects of ICA-AP. The new staff also met and interacted with the other regional office staff.

## REACHING OUT

# NCCT National Colloquium on Co-operative Training

Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director- ICA Asia and Pacific attended the National Colloquium on 31st January, 2014 organised by National Council for Co-operative Training (NCCT), a training organisation of the NCUI. As the Guest of Honour at the event, he congratulated NCCT/NCUI for organising such a significant event and expressed gratitude to the Indian cooperative movement for their initiatives in the field of education and training of the coop members. He

reiterated the 5th Co-operative Principle of Education, Training and Information and asserted its importance in co-operative development. Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, President of NCUI welcomed the participants and emphasised upon significance of the member education and training in co-operatives. The Colloquium was attended by about 200 participants, majority of them were trainers and educators.

## FROM THE REGION

### India

#### 1. 50 Years of NAFSCOB, India

National Federation of State Co-operative Banks (NAFSCOB) an ICA member, was established on May 19, 1964 with an aim to facilitate the operations of State Co-operative Banks (SCBs) and District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) in particular and development of co-operative credit and banking in general. NAFSCOB is well poised to celebrate Golden Jubilee during the year 2013-14. In order to celebrate the performance and achievements of the last 50 years, several events have been held such as

- (i) Two separate Regional Seminar on 'Recent Trends in Co-operative Banking' were held on 24 January, 2014 and 8th February 2014; and
- (ii) National Seminar on 'Recent Trends in C-operative Banking' will be held on May 19, 2014.

Further, as a part of celebration of Golden Jubilee, NAFSCOB contemplates to present Annual Performance Awards to SCBs, DCCBs and Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) for the year 2012-13. NAFSCOB published around 400 documents to commemorate the year including articles, papers, research reports/studies etc. The NAFSCOB has also organised around 164 seminars/workshops/conferences so far.

The following publications have been brought out by NAFSCOB during Golden Jubilee year for circulation among the members;

1. Aims, Activities and Achievements.
2. Performance Indicators of Short Term Co-operative Credit Institutions – 2002 to 2012.
3. Operational Manual for Co-operative Banks (Revised – 2013)- Contents at a Glance.
4. Rural Co-operative Credit Institutions and Union

Budgets- An Analysis - 1993-94 to 2013-14.

5. NAFSCOB Journal – Editorials: A compendium- 1990-91 to 2013-14.
6. NAFSCOB Best Performance Awards at a Glance – 1982-83 to 2011-12.
7. Executive Summary of Selected Publications of NAFSCOB – 1964- 2014.

#### 2. NCUI: Celebration of the Co-operative week

The National Co-operative Union of India has celebrated 60th All India Co-operative Week from 14- 20 November 2013. The Co-operative Week is the annual mega event of NCUI and is being observed throughout week addressing different themes. This is the occasion to highlight the achievements of the co-operative movement in the country, deliberate on important issues of concerns, and building consensus on future course of action to address the issues through adopting recommendations and resolutions. Today the co-operatives in India have made remarkable progress with more than 60,00,000 co-operatives having individual membership of 25 crores making it the largest cooperative movement in the world. Co-operatives have a huge network and outreach. The co-operatives play a pivotal role in the mainstream of Indian economy more particularly in the fields of rural credit, distribution of agricultural inputs, storage, fertiliser, marketing, labour and housing etc.

The theme of the 60th All India Co-operative Week celebrations was "Cooperatives for Socio-Economic Resurgence in Changing Times".

Each day of the week has a theme to deliberate as following:

- Co-operative Governance, Leadership and Reforms

- Co-operative for Inclusive and Sustainable Development
- Co-operative Marketing, Processing and Consumer
- Panchayati Raj Institutions and Co-operative Interface and Food Security
- Co-operative vis -a -vis Taxation and Law
- Promoting Co-operative Culture and Values

## ACCU

16th Asian Credit Union Development Education Workshop will be held on 15-21 June, 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand. For further details, please contact [ranjith@aaccu.coop](mailto:ranjith@aaccu.coop) and [www.aaccu.coop](http://www.aaccu.coop)

## Nepal: NCF

The National Co-operative Federation of Nepal will be holding the 1st National Co-operative Congress of Nepal on 25-27 March 2014 in Kathmandu on the theme "Sustainable

Economic Development and Social Justice through Co-operatives". The venue of the Congress is Hotel Soaltee Crowne Plaza, Kathmandu, Nepal from 25-27 March 2014. Dame Pauline Green, ICA President and Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director are invited to participate.

## New ICA Member

**National Fisheries Federation (NFF)** from Sri Lanka has been admitted in the ICA family as an Associate Member in January 2014.

NFF is an association registered under the companies act and was set up by the Sri Lanka Government. The Minister of Fisheries is it's Chairperson.

Their vision is that Sri Lanka becomes a leader in the South Asian Region in sustainable utilization of fisheries and aquatic resources. Their mission is to direct the utilization of fisheries and aquatic resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

For more information: <http://www.fisheries.gov.lk>

Contact Email: [nffsrilanka15@gmail.com](mailto:nffsrilanka15@gmail.com);  
[drrajsenaratne@hotmail.com](mailto:drrajsenaratne@hotmail.com);  
[chmn@slbfe.lk](mailto:chmn@slbfe.lk)

## INTERNATIONAL

# The International Year of Family Farming

The International Year of Family Farming (IYFF)-2014 was officially launched on November 22, 2013 during an event at the United Nations' headquarters in New York. This official act highlighted the potential of Family Farming in the fight against Hunger and Poverty, and became a song of praise and recognition for more than 2,000 millions of women and men family farmers, smallholders, artisanal fishers, pastoralists, landless peasants and indigenous communities in the world.

The IYFF aims to raise the profile of family farming and smallholder farming by focusing world attention on its significant role in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development, in particular in rural areas.



The goal of the 2014 IYFF is to reposition family farming at the centre of agricultural, environmental and social policies in the national agendas by identifying gaps and opportunities to promote a shift towards a more equal and balanced development. The 2014 IYFF will promote broad discussion and cooperation at the national, regional and global levels to increase awareness and understanding of the challenges

faced by smallholders and help identify efficient ways to support family farmers.

(Source : FAO)

## Save the Date

Following events will be held on 15-20 September, 2014 in Bali, Indonesia.

- The 11th ICA-AP Regional Assembly
- ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting
- The 8th Co-operative Forum
- ICA-AP Committees' Meetings

## New Officials

Please change the contact information for Japanese Workers Co-operative Union (JWCU) to the following:

Name : Mr. Yasutoshi TASHIMA  
Title : Secretary General, JWCU  
E-mail : [rngukism@roukyou.gr.jp](mailto:rngukism@roukyou.gr.jp)



## Coop Story: Bhutan



*The group members at their office*

The Dompola Savings Group in village Limbugeog of Bhutan was established and registered in November 2010 with the motivation and support of agriculture extension department. Currently it has 15 members including 5 women and the main activity is savings and credit. The total current deposit with the group is Bhutan Ngultrum 800,000 which is about USD 13,000. The group aims to achieve the target of Ngultrum 10,00,000 or 1 million.

The village Limbugeog is located on a hill top in a remote area under the administration of Phunakha Dzongkhag. The villagers have limited access to transportation and it is difficult for them to commute to nearest city and only option is walking long hours.

Initially the farmers were grouped by the extension department to produce mushroom. The mushroom business did not do well due to climatic conditions and lack of market. The members started losing interest in the group and some of them left. Remaining members conducted a meeting and with consensus, took decision to start savings and credit business. Each member started saving small money with the group and gradually a comfortable sum was accumulated.

Then followed lending to members and demand for borrowing increased. Over a period of time the group became self sufficient and dependency on money lender decreased significantly. The group saved many villagers from the trap of money lenders and helped them getting freedom from the vicious cycle of loan and never ending payment of interest.

The Chairman, Mr. Saihgay Dorji and the Secretary, Mr. Wangdi of the group informed proudly that now even officials also borrow from them. The non-members are also allowed to borrow on the guarantee of a group member. Extending services to non-members helps increasing the fund.

The deposits are kept in a small 'safe' inside the village temple for security as the thieves may fear the GOD.

The Chairman and Secretary have many other plans to increase the borrowing so that other social benefits could be extended to members. The group organises picnic with members and their families and participate in the social/motivational activities by using small part of the surplus fund.

✕