

JCA 02539



9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers Conference



The Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and ICA President at the opening of the Conference

The 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference held 27-29 February 2012 at UNCC in Bangkok, convened by A-AP and hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand was attended by 14 Co-operative Ministers and about 300 delegates including government representatives, international delegates and ICA members from the Asia Pacific Region.

The conference was inaugurated by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency Mr. Chumpol Silpa-Archa who delivered the inaugural address. The Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the significance of co-operatives in the national economy and social stability and therefore, the government is committed to support and promote growth of co-operatives.

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9th Co-operative Ministers Conference

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From the Editor



This is a special issue covering the 9th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers Conference.

The conference witnessed historic participation of largest number of ministers, govt. representatives and co-operators. Some significant issues emerged and some new concerns voiced by the speakers which gives birth to need of diversification and changes in the way co-operatives use to think and work. The usual concerns of relationship with government, competition in the market etc taken over with recommendations for creating conducive environment, special fund, introducing sectoral law, new charter of cooperatives, strong concern for environment and conservation of natural resources, larger and durable space in the national economy and synergy with other civil societies. The co-operatives have proved their mettle during the economic and natural calamities in several nations and forced the governments to sit back and think of providing co-operatives their logical space.

Readers are invited to share news & views to make this newsletter more interactive.

Savitri Singh

Upcoming Events

- Capacity Building on Marketing for Agricultural Co-operatives, China, April-2012
- RWC Office Bearers Meeting-Philippines, April 2012

Mr. Theera Wongsamut, Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives extended warm welcome to the delegates and also delivered the Key note address on the conference theme: "Sufficiency economy and co-operatives." The concept of sufficiency economy developed by His Majesty the King of

Thailand was taken up as the conference theme addressed by the Minister of Thailand who gave an ethical definition of sufficiency implying moderation in consumption and behaviour and capacity to create within the individual and social system, a degree of immunity from shortages and deficiencies by proactive action with the use of knowledge and perseverance as the moral foundation of the people.



His Excellency Mr. Chumpol Silpa-Archa delivering the opening address



Mr. Theera Wongsamut, Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Thailand delivering Key Note Speech

Exuding happiness at the excellent arrangements made and positive response of the governments and the ICA members, Dame Pauline Green, President ICA informed that this conference had about the largest ever participation of the ministers and ICA delegates. Mr. Li Chunsheng, President ICA-Asia Pacific expressed deep appreciation for the support of the Royal Government of Thailand for hosting the conference and the warm hospitality extended to delegates.



The Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand arriving to Conference with ICA President



Overview of the conference

Dame Pauline Green, in her special address, highlighted facts to establish the unstated yet significant role of co-operatives in global economy as co-operatives have one billion members as compared to just 327 million share holders of companies listed in the stock markets and the net worth of 300 globally successful co-operatives published every year is about US \$ 1.6 trillion. She however regretted that the present role of cooperatives in environment and conservation and its future potential in this field were not noted in the Rio Conference and ICA has been trying to include Co-operatives as an item in the forthcoming Rio+20 conclave.

The Conference Honoured Mr. Shill Kwan Lee for successfully organising three Co-operative Ministers' Conferences during his tenure as the Regional Director of ICA-AP from the year 2002-2009.

There were 36 speakers from 21 countries including 14 Cooperative Ministers, 3 international organisations; FAO, ILO and ACCU besides 4 Government representatives and cooperative success stories presentation by the ICA-AP members. Honourable Co-operative Ministers as listed below attended the conference and made statement:

1. Honourable Vice Minister Mr. Shuji Yamada, Ministry of agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan
2. Mr. Enkhbold Nyamaa, Deputy Speaker of the Mongolian Parliament and President of National Association of Mongolian Cooperatives
3. Honourable Mr. Harish Rawat, Minister of State for Agriculture, India
4. Honourable Minister Reza Sheykholeslam, Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, Islamic Republic of Iran

5. Mr. Yang Berhmat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya Bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Hon'ble Minister of Industry & Primary Resources, Brunei
6. Honourable Minister Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Bin Yaakob, Minister of Domestic Trade, Co-operative and Consumerism, Government of Malaysia
7. Honourable Minister Theera Wongsamut, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kingdom of Thailand
8. H.E. Dr. Phouangparisak Pravongviengkham Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, MAF, Government of Laos
9. Honourable Minister Syarifuddin Hasan, SE, MM, MBA, Ministry of Cooperatives & SMEs, Indonesia



ICA President honouring Mr. Shil Kwan Lee



Mr. Nattawoot Saikuar, Ms. Pauline Green, Mr. Li Chunsheng and Dr. Chan Ho Choi

10. Honourable Syed Asrafur Islam, Minister for local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Bangladesh
11. Honourable Minister Mr. Johnston Fernando, Ministry of Co-operatives and Internal Trade Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka
12. Honourable Mr. Seyed Nezamaldin Sajadi, Deputy of Jihad-e- Agriculture Minister, Islamic Republic of Iran
13. Honourable Deputy Minister Mr. Nguyen Dang Khoa Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Government of Vietnam
14. Honourable Minister Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Royal Government of Bhutan

The important highlights of the statements made by the Honourable Ministers are as follows:

1. Concerns about the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources for profits only and that commodification of public goods, rising prices, privatization of public services have been causing massive hardships for the common people and the co-operatives must step in to institutionally counter these adversities.
2. To expand the base of the co-operatives it is imperative that the activities of the SHGs, Micro Credit and Micro Finance Institutions, NGOs and Civil Society groups with shared values and methods of organisation are brought within the ambit of co-operatives.
3. Empowerment of women could be achieved by innovative programmes such as tree plantation in Mongolia and forming women led Dairy co-operatives as achieved in India, Bangladesh and elsewhere.
4. The Governments of Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Bhutan Iran Mongolia, Nepal and Sri Lanka reported policy, law and institutional changes

made to create an environment conducive to co-operative development, while Philippines and Laos emphasised measures to make farms increasingly use organic methods through the co-operative mechanism with support from the Government to bring about balanced agriculture development.

5. The Islamic Republic of Iran projected the present share of co-operatives in the GDP at 9% and a target of 25% to be achieved in five years due to the concerted efforts of the Government to strengthen and expand the co-operatives and suggested formation of a consortium of Governments to support co-

operatives and a common chamber of co-operatives and regional and international unions for all co-operatives.

6. Japan, Korea and Vietnam informed the conference about new mechanism to promote ethical consumerism and co-operatives becoming an integral part of economic transformation programmes with emphasis on upgrading the capacities of co-operatives to take up larger business activities. Mr. Shuji Yamada informed the exemplary work of Agricultural Co-operatives in providing relief to the victims of last year's devastating earthquake and highlighted their role in food security, sustainable development and diversified activities leading to diffusion of democracy. Considering the positive role of co-operatives, the National Planning Committee is engaged in the preparation of a comprehensive plan for co-operatives in Japan.
7. The Minister from India informed that the co-operatives are taking up a wide range of diverse activities and also informed about the legal and policy reforms undertaken by the government to reform the sector and in particular the credit sector.



Meeting with the Press



The Conference in progress

8. The Minister of Bhutan stated that Bhutan has taken up a plan to promote co-operatives to achieve holistic human development in line with its development philosophy of Gross National Happiness which goes beyond GDP based on only material factors. The co-operative law 2009 has been enacted to provide the framework under which 170 co-operatives have been functioning. Bhutan supports the ICA Principles at this stage and is keen to actively participate in the UN and ICA work relating to co-operatives.
9. The President of the Co-operative League of Thailand urged upon creation of a strong capital base needed by co-operatives of the region. Hence special funding arrangements are to be created by the Governments to facilitate the growth of co-operatives.
10. The representative from Nepal stated that the co-operatives are to be the foundation of Nepal's economy based on multipurpose co-operatives, micro enterprises, and diary co-operatives with emphasis on participation of women and disadvantaged sections. A new Co-operative Law in conformity with ICA Principles is under preparation. Reforms in co-operative Policy are being considered under a mission mode approach to

achieve professionalization and efficiency to raise share of co-operatives in the GDP from the current 1 level of about 3.2%.

11. The representative from Kuwait stated that the concept of co-operation is rooted in Kuwaiti tradition of community help which the Government has harnessed to develop co-operatives in different spheres.

At the end of each session, the conference provided an open forum for the delegates to participate in the proceedings.

Several governments argued for special funding mechanisms for the development of co-operatives by initiating a Special Co-operative Fund and submitted their presentation materials.

In order to make the conference more effective, the ICA-AP is commissioning critical study of cooperative law and policy of countries in the region before every conference which is being presented and discussed in the conference. This study gives an insight of prevalent practices and 'what is working what is not' which is meant to help the ministers and stake holder in creating a road map for future progress. This time also the 4th Critical Study was completed by Mr.Rangan Dutta, Sr. Consultant of ICA-AP and was presented by him at the conference.

The proceedings of the conference were concluded with the

adoption of the Joint Declaration, consideration of the conference report and the concluding address by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Co-operation of The Kingdom of Thailand, Mr. Nattawoot Saikuar. Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director of ICA-AP expressed his deep appreciation and gratitude for the warm hospitality and

all round support provided by the Government of Thailand and also acknowledged with gratitude the support of the Honourable Ministers and delegates by attending and actively participating in the conference.

The conference report and all the speeches and presentations are placed on the ICA-AP website.

Governance

Regional Board Meeting



Board members and observers

The meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held in Bangkok on Sunday, 26th February 2012. 30 persons including Board members, officials and observers were present.

Mr. Li Chunsheng, President, ICA-AP welcomed the board members and extended warm welcome to all and especially to Dame Pauline Green, President of ICA who was also present. Dame Pauline Green came to Thailand to attend the meeting of the ICA Domus Trust and the 9th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers Conference which was to be opened next day. He also welcomed the youth representative - Ms. Tahmineh Kashani of CURACI, Iran – for attending the board meeting for the first time.

Dame Pauline Green thanked Mr. Li Chunsheng for making excellent arrangements for the meeting. She said that 2012 is an important year for international cooperative movement and we have a key job to do. International economy is still in a

chaotic situation. In this context, she thinks the message we have given to the UN that we need more diversified economy is a critical one.

She underlined the importance of cooperatives that has over 10 billion members across the globe compared to shareholders of companies listed in the stock market that is just 327 million. The list of Global 300 successful cooperatives published each year alone is worth 1.6 trillion US dollars from 25 countries including Asia. She extended an invitation to all members to the closing of the international year of cooperatives on 31st October 2012 in Manchester. She also informed that there would be a special General Assembly of ICA where key issues would be discussed and the invitation will be sent soon. Ms. Green also appreciated the region for the good work being done.

She informed the meeting about the ICA Domus Trust meeting held in the morning of 26th February at the same venue

wherein trustees/members have finally reached to an agreement on the appointment of trustees which has been pending for a long time. She specially thanked Dr. Chandra Pal Singh for taking the right way forward. She informed the meeting that there were two different kinds of advices from the lawyers and hence a practical way had to be found.

The meeting conducted usual business of approval of the current agenda and minutes of the last meeting, report of the activities, financial report and ratification of the substitute Board member from Vietnam etc.

Dr. Choi also informed about 3,000 books received from ICA, Geneva to Delhi office library and plan is to digitalize the library so that the member organizations would be able to retrieve these documents through ICA-AP home page.

Talking about membership situation of the region, Dr. Choi informed that Pishgaman Kavir Yazd Cooperative Company (PKYCC) of Iran has applied for membership of ICA and National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Limited (NAFCUB) of India ceased to be a member of ICA due to non-payment of membership. The current total membership of ICA-AP is 77 organizations from 25 countries. Constitutions of ICA-AP Sectoral/ Thematic Committees were also discussed. There is need to review the constitutions of the committees and there should be a model Constitution to increase the participation of members in a democratic way and achieve the objectives.

Mr. Phanuwat Wanraway, Chief of International Department, Cooperative League of Thailand made a presentation on Thailand's Flood Disaster in 2011 and Rehabilitation Plan of CLT for the benefit of the members. The CLT thanked the members for their generous financial support.

Dr. Choi informed the meeting that the 10th Meeting of ICA-AP Regional Assembly and Related Events would be held in Kobe (Japan) from 26th to 30th November 2012. The venue of the meeting would be Kobe International Conference Centre.

Agenda on Celebrations of IYC-2012 also came up for discussion. Dr. Choi requested the board members to send information about their activities to be posted on the ICA-AP website to be shared with others.

The members informed that the following activities would be hosted by their respective countries:

Singapore:

- (a) The International Year of Cooperatives 2012 celebration comprises 3 events; a 1-day conference on 3rd October that focuses on "How social capital drives profits, growth and sustainability".
- (b) Auto venture with 150 vehicles from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur.
- (c) Coop Hot Shots – a photography competition with the 5 competition themes: cooperation, self-help, equality, mutual help, care for others during 1st March to 30th April.

India:

National Co-operative Congress will be held in April. The President of India would be inaugurating. It is going to be a big event.

Indonesia:

- (a) International cooperative day celebrations in July.
- (b) International seminar on role of cooperatives.
- (c) IYC will also be celebrated at provincial level.

Malaysia:

- (a) Auto venture.
- (b) Setting up of a factory for clean drinking water.

China:

- (a) Organize series of events at national, provincial and primary level including exhibition, fair, workshops etc.
- (b) Trade networking.
- (c) Cultural activities.
- (d) The 2012 International Year of Cooperatives Symposium, Beijing, 11-13 June.

From the Region:

NZ's Official IYC 2012 Launch

Minister of Commerce Hon Craig Foss MP will be launching the UN International Year of Cooperatives on 27 March 2012 in the Grand Hall, Parliament Buildings. Blue Read, Cooperatives Association Chair; Piet Moerland, Rabobank Netherlands Executive Board Chair and Dame Pauline Green, International Co-operatives Alliance President will be the main speakers of the occasion.

For more information visit: <http://nz.coop/iyc/>

Australia

Australia is the first country to have postage stamps and a coin issued in celebration of UN International year of Co-operatives in 2012. Dame Pauline Green, President of the International Co-operative Alliance, spoke on the occasion about the important role of co-operatives in bringing about a new era in socially responsible businesses.

iCoop Korea launches The IYC

The IYC-2012 was launched on 12 January-2012 in Seoul and about 100 co-operators joined the celebration.

Member Services

The Sahakar Bharati, an Indian cooperative which is member of NCUI has organised an international conference on the eve of International Year of Cooperatives-2012 on February, 2012 in Bhopal. They invited Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director

of ICA as special guest and speaker. Ms Savitri Singh, Advisor-Gender Programme and Communication represented ICA and made presentation on the topic “

Reaching Out

Dr.Chan Ho CHOI along with Mr.Rangan Dutta, Sr.Consultant of ICA-AP visited Japan in January-2012. He met with government officials and cooperative members in Tokyo in connection with the forthcoming 9th Cooperative Ministers Conference and research for the 4th Critical Study

on Co-operative Law and Policies.

Dr. CHOI also visited Kobe to see the venue and discuss arrangements for the Regional Assembly-2012 which will be held in Kobe in November-2012.

Glimpses of the Conference

The conference provided a very significant opportunity of conducting Bilateral Meetings. The cooperative ministers and leaders met to one another according to their interest. A special room was arranged for such meetings to take place.

A good number of media was present at the conference which gave wide coverage to the conference. They interviewed the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and other Ministers and delegates. A separate press meet room was arranged for media interaction.

Besides, there were quite a few side events were also organised to popularise the event and promote the local cooperatives to the conference delegates such as The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Cooperative Promotion Department and Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) has

put up big hoardings displaying information and photographs: A small exhibition and sale of cooperative products was also organised to promote sale and trade.

The Conference conclude on 29th February and on first March the participants went on study trip to Petchabury Province to see the cooperatives. The Director General of CPD, Mr.Somchai Charnnarongkul, other senior officers and Dr.Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director of ICA-AP along with his staff accompanied the Ministers and other delegates to the cooperatives. The Participants visited to following co-operatives:

- Tayang Agricultural Cooperative Ltd.
- Co-operative Demonstration Center, Hubkrapong Royal Project





ICA-Asia and Pacific

newsletter



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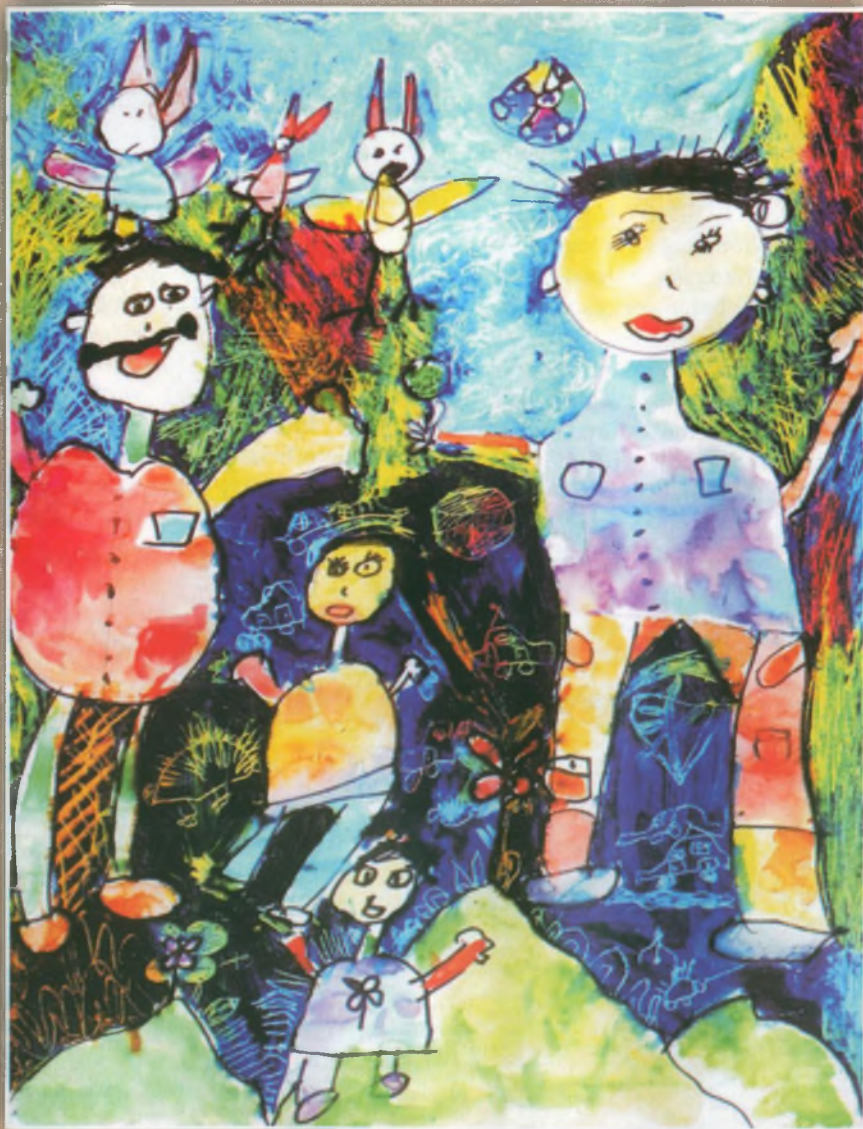
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Coop Story: ICC-Iran

Urmia Economy Consumption Cooperation



Japan contest Gold Prize winner painting by 7 year old Ali Fegghi from FARDA Coop, Iran

The Urmia Economy Consumption Co-operation was established in Shahrivar 1363 (September 1985). The primary capital was 26 dollars divided to 260 shares. The main task is meeting members need and providing them with public goods. All the activities of the co-operative led to loss of money. Even dissolution of the co-operative was planned.

The main activity of the co-operative was on home appliances. The place of the co-operative from inside the organization was changed to outside where you can have close contact with the clients. The afore-mentioned measures as well as building trust amongst the members of the board of directors, devising other's opinions, and the like brought boom to the co-operative.

Under the current management the number of staff has risen from 2 to 20 people. The capital grew from 6000 dollars to 4000000 dollars. Its sale grew from 100000 dollars to 650000 dollars. The co-operative has signed contracts with over 40 company and stores to use their services. This is a leading Co-operative in selling home appliances in instalment plan during a period of 12-36 months. Over 15000 members buy products from the co-operative stores. Establishing more sales centres for members and governmental employees and planning to have direct import from other countries are the future plans of the Co-operative.

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From the Editor



The IYC 2012 celebration is getting momentum as many of members in the region are organising events to launch and commemorate the year.

The Year has infused new energy and generally low profile and quiet cooperative movement has been energised and rejuvenated. We could see implementation of programmes, commissioning of research, release of books, announcements of new schemes, initiation of legal reforms and so on.

Several good stories, exhibiting myriad features of the particular environment, were written and collected to be shared.

Celebration is to remind and reaffirm the continuity, what about achievements on the count of progress, effect and outreach? Commitments of leadership? Many developing countries are still facing problems due to lack of good governance in cooperative sector and in the name of "autonomy and independence" the resources are being misused by a selected few.

The good news is that several countries in the region have made amendments in the law to create enabling legal environment and many more are in the process. The Government of India has taken a historic step in 2011 and amended the constitution of the country and declared "formation of cooperative" as fundamental right of the citizens of the country.

We wait to see more such promises turning into reality.

Upcoming Events

- ICA-AP Regional board meeting china, June 2012.
- The 10th Regional Assembly of the ICA Asia-Pacific, Coop Forum and related events will be held in Kobe, Japan from 26-30 November, 2012.

Around the Region

Isreal: NISPED

HeW Co-op Japan and Israel Coop movement and Isra Aid are operating joint workshops for nurses in the Northern Japan Tohoku region.

MullyDor, from Israel, Chairperson of NISPED and Board member of the Central Union for Co-operative Initiative and IsraAid in Israel, met last week in Tokyo Japan with Keiso Fujitani managing director, Hiroki Tokubo Executive director and Miwako Takato chief of nurses in Japanese Health and Welfare Co-operative Federation (HeW Co-op Japan). Since the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami IsraAID and HeW co-op Japan are operating together PTSD (Post traumatic stress disorder) Workshops for nurses in Koriyama, Fukushima Prefecture in the Northern Japan Tohoku region. In the meeting they discussed the ways to continue the successful PTSD workshops in 2012 and 2013 and ways to launch new programs to support the efforts of the people of Tohoku to recover, rebuild, and mobilize for a better future.

Since it began its activities in the town of Watari, IsraAID's (Israeli NPO that was founded by NISPED, Israel coop movement and Israeli NGO humanitarian organizations) work has expanded from one



Iwanuma-shi Miyagi workshop

small group to 30 different groups spread across 8 towns of the Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures of Northern Japan's Tohoku region. IsraAID works with temporary housing residents, local government officials, teachers, children, nurses, community representatives, counselors, social workers and parents from these communities, and helps to alleviate the stress and tension these individuals are experiencing in the aftermath of the disaster. In the coming



Mullydor and Celia Dunkelman with women participants at the workshop in Iwanuma-shi

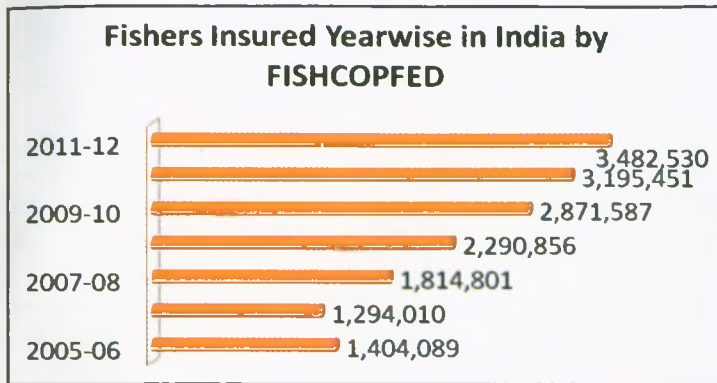
year, IsraAID will aim to provide tools and training that can be implemented by professionals (nurses, teachers, counselors) in their work in the future, therefore creating a sustainable model that will last for years to come.

Mully Dor Keiso Fujitani and Hiroki Tokubo who agreed to continue the cooperation in disaster relief projects in the future, said that this

joint project is a good way to express the solidarity among the Japanese and Israeli coop movement in The International Year of Co-operatives. This joint program provides an opportunity to captivate the attention of national governments, the business community and the general public on the advantages provided by the co-operative model and cooperation among coop movements.

India:

FISHCOPFED insures 3.48 million fishers in India



FISHCOPFED, India offers a Group Accident Insurance Scheme for the fishers focusing to have a system that compensate members in times of misfortune and thereby guaranteeing their personal and financial security. In the year 2011-2012, FISHCOPFED has covered 3.48 million fishers of the country under the Centrally

Sponsored Group Accident Insurance Scheme, with a cover of Rs.1,00,000/- (around 1886 USD) against death and permanent (total) disability and Rs.50,000/- (around 943USD) against permanent (partial) disability, as a result of accident against an annual premium of Rs.28/-, out of which 50% is paid by the State Government and 50% is paid by the Central Government. For the north-eastern states, the premium ratio is 25:75 whereas for the UTs entire premium is borne by the central govt. It is a 24 hours insurance scheme covering 19 states and 4 union territories of the country.

Besides the above insurance, FISHCOPFED is also planning some more insurance schemes in India like Hut Insurance, Health Insurance, Fish-Pond Insurance and Pond-Fish Insurance for the welfare of the poor fishers. FISHCOPFED also stresses the need to save the lives of these fishers from various accidents as someone has well said precaution is always better than cure. FISHCOPFED conducted a survey on the causes of fatalities with the fishers in the five states of India to find out the precautionary measures to protect their lives specifically in sea accidents.

Korea:

50th Anniversary of Korea National Federation of Fisheries Co-operatives



The Celebration

Korea National Federation of Fisheries Co-operatives (KNFC) held its 50th anniversary on 2nd April, 2012 with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, Minister of Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and many cooperators from home and abroad.

President Lee Myung-bak said that KNFC has played a major role in fisheries in Korea and requested its continuous efforts to make the fisheries into a new growth engine in the future. He also pledged that he would support the fisheries co-operatives to become the protectors of fishermen and to be the best co-operatives in the world.

President of KNFC Lee Jong-koo promised that he will do his best to make a new leap toward the best co-operatives based on the experiences of the last 50 years. He also received the Golden Tower Order of Industrial Service Merit which is the best honor.

KNFC introduced a new vision - "One value, one united force, and the best co-operatives at the event. After the event, ICFO delegates had a chance to look around the Korean fisheries facilities in Pusan. They visited Pusan Fisheries Cooperative, Pusan Cooperative Fish Market and Pukyong National University which has turned out best fisheries related manpower with the best college of fisheries sciences facilities, fisheries and marine Sciences laboratory center, etc.

Iran: ICC: IYC -2012

Islamic Republic of Iran Central Chamber of Co-operatives (ICC) as the apex organization of the Co-operative Sector in Iran has a plan to hold a series of International Conferences on different areas in the International year of Co-operatives (IYC). The first of a series of International Conferences was held in March 13th 2012 with the presence of many Secretaries of different provincial chambers of co-operatives and Unions. The conference had lectures through which managers tried to share the experience on obstacles in the way of coops and tried to put forth practical solutions. Deputy of the Minister of Co-operative, Labour, and social welfare gave his speech and declared his preparedness to support the coops development in all sectors all across the country.

The second conference was held on 17th April 2012. The week is named as the week of health throughout the nation for the betterment of the health system for the citizens. The conference was entitled as "Co-operatives and Health System". Many of the scholars in this specialty were invited to give speech on the health systems and the related problems. Many of the lecturers expressed hope that with the help of Co-operatives our health problems will be solved. They hold that if the health coops contribute increasingly in this sector, the trend will be reversed. Also, ambassador of Uganda to Tehran gave his speech on the topic. He went on to say: "Uganda is eager to pave the way for further collaboration in near future not only between the

two nations but also among Iran and all African countries, East Africa in particular".

The train of the conferences will be continued in the International year of Co-operatives to address the vicissitudes of the coops in Iran.

Farda Co-op

1. In 19th international children painting contest that held by Japan international agricultural co-operatives, 334 paintings from Iran participated. 6 children from Iran were successful in winning the competition and won prizes; 1 gold prize, 3 silver prizes, 1 IYC prize and 1 memorable mention prize. Iran oilseeds & Vegetable Oil processing factories Co-operative (Farda Co-op) is going to award these 6 children in a gathering to honour International Year of Co-operatives.
2. The extra ordinary general assembly of Iran oil seed and vegetable oil processing factories co-operative will be held in May, 16, 2012 for the board election. All of board members and chief of the board, Mr. Abolhassan Khalili, will take part in this assembly.
3. The 3rd International co-operative gathering under the title of "Co-operative and Women" will be held on May, 14, 2012. The Farda Co-op as one of the women cooperative supporter will take part in this gathering.

Member Services

Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives



Mr. Hiraoka Keiji ED of IDACA Presenting Certificate to Participants

2nd Training course on "Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives-2011" was organized by ICA-AP, in India and Japan between 17th February and 12th April 2012. The overall objective of the training program was to assist fostering of the core leaders, who are expected to play the leading roles in agricultural co-operatives and farmers' groups that will contribute to improvement of agricultural production and income of the farmers in the LDCs of Mekong River countries, ASEAN and the South Asian Countries. The training program was implemented by the ICA-AP with the collaboration of Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), (Gujarat), India, Institute for the Development of Agriculture

Cooperation in Asia (IDACA), Tokyo (Japan) and ICA's member-organizations in India and Japan. The Training Course was funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan.

The Training course was formally inaugurated by Mrs. Madhavi Mehta, MDP Coordinator, IRMA on 20th February 2012 at the Conference Hall of IRMA in the presence of concerned Faculty Members. Mr. A.K. Taneja, Project Coordinator, ICA-AP, also addressed the participants on behalf of the Regional Director, ICA-AP.

Prof. S.R. Asokan, Coordinator from IRMA side, welcomed the participants and proposed a vote of thanks at the inaugural ceremony.

There were 16 participants from 11 countries – Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. After completing the IRMA Module in India, the participants moved to the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) Japan on 18th March 2012. They remained in Japan till 11th April.

At the concluding session at IDACA on 11th April 2012, Mr. Shimane Kazuhiro, Deputy Director of International Cooperation Division, MAFF, Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, ICA-AP, Mr. Hiraoka Keiji, E.D. IDACA & Mr. A.K. Taneja, Project Coordinator, ICA-AP, addressed the participants. Mr. Surendra Sehgal, participant from India, presented a vote of thanks on behalf of all the participants.

The Certificates of Participation from the ICA as well as from the IDACA were awarded to the participants at the end of the concluding session. Mr. Charles Gould, Director-General, ICA and Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, the Regional Director, ICA-AP, signed the ICA Certificates of Participation and Mr Hiraoka Keiji, Executive

Director of IDACA, signed the IDACA Certificates.

After completing the IDACA part of the training programme, the participants left Japan on 12th April 2012 for their respective home countries.

Capacity Building on Marketing for Agricultural Co-operatives



A group photo at the opening

As part of the series of Training Courses on the Chinese model of co-operative development, ACFSMC organised and successfully concluded the ICA-China Training Course on “Capacity Building on Marketing for Agricultural Co-operatives” covering six extensive lectures and country reports from 20 participants representing ten countries. The course was held from April 12 – 21, 2012 at Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai. The Opening Ceremony was graced by the presence of the ICA-AP Regional Director, Dr. Chan HO CHOI, Mr. Yang Qian, Director of the International Co-operative Exchange of ACFSMC and Mr. Zhang Wangshu, Deputy Director, International Co-operative Department of ACFSMC. The lecturers for the course and their corresponding topics of lecture were as follows:

1. Mr. Yuan Meisheng, “Introduction of the New Network Project of ACFSMC”
2. Mr. Rong Jun, “An Overview of China and China Coop”
3. Dr. Hu Dinghuan, “Farm Produce Supply Chain Management and Direct Supply between Supermarkets and farmers”
4. Dr. Zhang Xiaodong, “Farm Produce Distribution and Logistics Management”
5. Mr. Tadafumi Kigasaw, “Value Chain System and Value addition Activities based on the Japanese Experience”
6. Dr. Daman Prakash, “International Co-operative Movement: History and Experience”

Participants were nominated by their parent organisation and Mr. P.

Santosh Kumar, Program Officer; ICA-AP facilitated the lectures of the course. The participants were invited by various holdings of the ACFSMC as a part of the course’s field visit. They visited to :

1. China Co-op Group Co. Ltd, Beijing.
2. Zhongguancun Hailong Electronic Market, Beijing.
3. Suguo Supermarket, Nanjing.
4. Jiangsu Tiandun Agricultural Industrial Development Group Co. Ltd.
5. Jiangsu Tiandun Agricultural Industrial Development Group Co. Ltd and its exhibition Centre and Franchise
6. Suguo Logistic Center

ACFSMC launched the new Rural Commodity Circulation and Service Network Project, or simply The New Network Project in May 2005 to upgrade its services to members.

There are four business scopes defined under the New network Project:

- The Supply and Serving Network for Agricultural Means of Production
- The Marketing network for farm produces;
- The supply network for consumer goods,
- The network for recycling renewable resources

ACFSMC has earlier organised three training courses during 2010 and 2011 on the network for Recycling Renewable Sources and the impact of Circular Economy.

Meeting of the office bearers of the women committee



Mr. Chris Paez (3rd from the right) Congress man of NATCCO network with the women committee

The meeting of the office bearer of the RWC was held on 24th April, 2012 hosted by NATCCO in Manila, Philippines.

Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, Chairperson, two vice chairpersons, Ms. Emma Neiva and Ms. Kruewan Boonrin and Ms. Savitri Singh Advisor Gender Programme and Communication of ICA-AP were present. Ms. Salome Ganibe, former Executive Director of AWCF was also present as observer.

The meeting was held to discuss the usual business of the committee and to plan the implementation of the activities in 2012 especially the meeting of the Regional Women's Committee, elections of the office bearers, strategy to increase number of members, organising of the regional women forum etc. These activities will be held in Kobe, Japan in conjunction with ICA-AP Regional Assembly and related events in November 2012.

Besides the meeting of the Office Bearers of the RWC, the meeting of the Manual Review Committee was also held. The members discussed with the writer about terms and conditions of the writing of the advance version of the existing training manual for leadership development of women.

After detailed discussion with the writer and the committee members, it was agreed upon that An advanced resource guide is needed for training alongside the existing manual. The name of the document will be "Resource Guide for Advanced Training of

Cooperatives on Entrepreneurship Development of Women and Gender Equality".

It is planned that the final draft of the guide will be ready by September-2012 and pilot testing will be done in December 2012.



The Meeting in progress

Reaching out

Dr. Chan Ho Choi visited Japan, Korea and China in the month of April to reach out to members for discussions and also to participate in the collaborative events.

China:



Dr. Choi interacting with the participants of the training in China

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI visited China to attend the opening of the ICA-China training Programme for capacity building on marketing for agricultural co-operatives. Dr. Choi interacted with the participants of the training programme and talked to them about their co-operatives and also about their interest and expectation from the course. He also held meetings with the officials of All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC).

Japan:



Dr. Choi with officials of JCCU

Dr. Chan Ho Choi visited Japan and held meeting on 10th April, 2012 with Mr. Haruyoshi Amano and Koichi Sato at JCCU Head Office in Tokyo. He discussed with them the detail programme and preparation for the forthcoming Regional Assembly in Kobe in November. He also participated in the closing ceremony of ICA-Japan training course on fostering core leaders of agricultural Co-operating in IDACA. Dr. Choi also visited JA-Zenchu and paid a courtesy call to JA-Zenchu President Mr. Akira Banzai who is the Chairperson of the Japanese Joint Committee on co-operative (JJC) to host the Kobe regional Assembly.



Dr. Choi delivering closing address of the ICA-Japan Training at IDACA

Korea:

1. Dr. Choi visited the 'iCoop Dream Valley' in Gurae, Jeonrabuk-do, Korea on 17th April, and another larger project site in Goesan in Chungbuk-do on his organizational visits in Korea. This iCoop's ambitious projects have invited producers and industries to join in the project investment and produce organic foods with environment-friendly practices at these eco-friendly park, started in 2007 and be completed in 2015. "It is highly experimental but will be benefiting for all of us. We thanks to iCoop members, farming partners, food processing companies and local governments who have joined in this project", Ms. Oh Mi-Yae, President of iCoop (www.icoop.or.kr) said. The Gurae Argo-industry Park is now completing the Ramen Factory that will use the traditional wheat of Korea and produce organic ramen for their members, starting in May. The Goesan Dream valley is preparing its land reclamation in the total area of 1,6



Blue print of the iCoop Dream Valley in Goesan, Korea

million square meters on that food industries, logistics, research institutes for the production; farms, orchards and eco-livestock farming for farming, and eco-villages, schools, hospital and cultural facilities for living for more than 4,000 peoples as works and dwellers in this Dream Valley. The total amount of project finance, USD 178 million was already raised by 3,120 members.

2. Dr. CHOI visited members and have held meeting with the organising committee of the IYC-2012.

A group of civil organizations numbered 18 including the iCoop and Korean Association of Social Economy Enterprises (KASEE) held their 5th meeting for the preparation of UN International Year of Cooperative in Korea on 6th~8th July. The meeting was held on 19th April, 2012 and called as 'Preparation Committee for the UN IYC in Korea' gathered many concerned organizations from consumer coops, health coops, social enterprises, university-campus coop, research institute and the likes. Taking the UN-IYC slogan as its theme, 3 days activity will include academia forums, photo and video presentations, cultural performances, exhibitions, art contest in cooperation with Seoul Metro City Government. Dr Choi expressed his hopes and wishes of supporting for this emerging opportunity in Korea, especially where the Parliament members unanimously passed the General Cooperative Law December last year, and the law shall be enacted in this year of UN IYC.



Dr. Choi at the construction site of the iCoop Dream Park in Gurae

million square meters on that food industries, logistics, research institutes for the production; farms, orchards and eco-livestock farming for farming, and eco-villages, schools, hospital and cultural facilities for living for more than 4,000 peoples as works and dwellers in this Dream Valley. The total amount of project finance,



UN-IYC Celebration meeting of Korean cooperative civil organizations



Mr. Siva Dangi , a co-operator from Nepal on Mt. Everest with the ICA Flag.

Co-ops at the Top of the World

Flags of co-operation were flown at the highest point of the world, as a group of co-operators from Nepal reached the summit of Mount Everest. In celebration of the International Year of Co-operatives ten members from the Nepal Information and Communication Central Co-operative Union (NICCU) took the IYC logo and the flag of the International Co-operative Alliance to the top of the world. The expedition, which was led by Sivakumar Dangi, the General Secretary of NICCU, climbed 29,029 feet to reach the top of the mountain on May 27, 2012 at 6.00am. "NICCU would like to extend warm and sincere thanks to all the members of the team who successfully attempted this extraordinary event," said Bishnuhari Dhakal, Chair of NICCU. To commemorate the journey, the flag and logo were handed over on behalf of the IYC National Committee by Tourism Minister Hon'ble Lokendra Bist Magar and Chair of National Co-operative Federation, Kesav Badal during a special ceremony. Mr Badal praised the co-operative movement of nepal for performing such a remarkable event during the IYC program. When the team arrived back in Kathmandu, a special welcome ceremony was organised for them. Source:

<http://www.thenews.coop/node/8459>

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From the Editor



Nothing is impossible if there is a WILL. The Co-operatives are on the top of the world virtually as some coop enthusiasts came up with the idea of

climbing the Everest and hoisting the ICA and IYC-2012 flag on the highest point of the world and became successful too! We wish that the co-operative model is also embraced by people and the governments as way of life and bring the model at the top of any other business model!

Half of the IYC-2012 has gone by and the members are in celebration spree to maximize the benefit of the opportunity. A number of members' activities have been covered which shows that the Year has actually stirred up the co-operative movement as well the governments and stakeholders and provided them with opportunity to have commitment of "Political Will" by involving Head of the nations and other important Ministers. As almost all the co-operatives are involved into some celebration or the other, it has been able to generate substantial awareness among the citizens outside the co-operative fold.

However, concern remains that what is after 2012? Let's not exhaust our energy and resources in one year and let's continue steadily and vigorously as there is a long way ahead before we pause.

Upcoming Events

- ICA Asia-Pacific Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on July 1-5, 2012
- Training Course on "Activating Regional Community for Rural Women" July-August-2012

Co-op story

"UR JIMS" co-operative



The members at work in the field

The story of the "Ur jims" co-operative was presented by Ms. D.Tsendsuren, Director of the co-operative at the 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers Conference held in February 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. The "Ur jims" co-operative is a women led co-operative and is member of the National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Co-operatives.

The co-operative was established in 1999 with 10 members, who are single mums. It started with 2,5 million tugrugs (MNT) and in 2010 this fund increased to 85 million MNT. Now as on 2011 it has 35 members out of which 32 are women.

The main activities of the co-operative are:

- Forestation
- Fruit tree plantation
- Fruit processing
- Seedling nursery

The "Ur jims" co-operative produces:

- 7.5 tones sea buckthorn
- 1.5 tones gooseberry
- 15000 sea buckthorn seedlings
- other green house plants every year

Advantages of the co-operative

- Permanent activities
- Regular increase of members' income

- Members' active participation
- Market recognized high quality product
- Good leadership – member's mutual solidarity and
- Trust in their leaders and their ability and willingness to make the co-operative business successful
- Empowers women economically and socially

Eco-friendly activities

- One of the co-operative's main goals is to afforest the region. It started with 56000 tree saplings in 1 hectare. In past 12 years, the co-op has regenerated 360 hectares of wasteland and have planted over 2.1 million trees
- New varieties of trees were introduced in the region in 92 hectares and called their place "Green wall"
- Co-operative by this activities fights against desertification, helps to balance the eco-system and protects the environment
- 90% of Mongolian territory can be regarded as vulnerable to desertification
- These areas are almost exclusively used rangelands, supporting about 40 million heads of livestock and numerous populations of wild animals

The example of the land developed by the coop:

Before



After



Concern for the community

The coop supports local poor families by distributing free berry tree seedlings and also provides technical assistance to handle growth

and take care of them. 20 families of the community today grow berry trees, with the help of the co-operative members, as a source of some income to them.

Governance

Regional Board Meeting



The ICA-AP Regional Board members with Dame Pauline Green, Mr. Li Chunsheng and Mr. Charles Gould

The ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting was held in Beijing (China) on 12th June 2012 which was hosted by the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC). The meeting was

chaired by Mr. Li Chunsheng, Chairman of the Regional Board. 24 persons including members, observers, ICA President and Director General attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed the following major items: Report on the 9th Co-operative Ministers' Conference and Follow-up; Membership Development Strategy in the Asia-Pacific region; Moving of Singapore Business Office to Malaysia; Model Constitution for ICA-AP sectoral/thematic Committees; 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly and Related Events in Kobe (Japan) from 26th to 30th

November, 2012; IYC-2012 celebration activities of member countries; and Nomination of one Trustee to ICA Domus Trust from ICA-AP Regional Board. It was decided to hold the next meeting in Kobe (Japan) in conjunction with the 10th Regional Assembly on 26th November 2012.

Around the Region

SNCF, Singapore



President Tony Tan launched Singapore's first-ever legal tender stamps

President Tony Tan Keng Yam launched Co-opaliciouz on 9th June, 2012 an event that witnessed the largest gathering of co-operative members, staff and families in the history of Singapore. The event was organized by the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) to raise awareness for Singapore's co-operative social enterprises. It attracted more than 15,000 people who came together at the Marina Barrage to celebrate the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives (UN IYC), and learnt about the co-operative movement's social impact on a country where 1 in 3 Singapore Residents are members. By coming together as one movement, Co-opaliciouz became a platform that demonstrated

strength in solidarity through the largest number of:

- Co-operative members, staff and families coming together at a single venue over one day
- Co-operative members, staff and families coming to chorus read together, led by the Minister of State for Community Development Youth and Sports (MOS MCYS), Mdm Halimah Yacob
- People coming together to break light-sticks in a synchronized manner and dance to the tune of the Co-opaliciouz song in one location

Report of the Committee on Youth Employment - 101st International Labour Conference

(Contributed by Maria Elena Chavez Hertig)

The 101ST International Labour Conference held in May-June-2012 discussed and passed resolutions on youth employment which was adopted.

The resolution in particular includes a number of references to co-operatives including:

- *guiding principles on youth employment - Promoting youth entrepreneurship with the aim of encouraging the growth of sustainable enterprises, including co-operatives and social enterprises, in rural and urban areas.*
- *youth entrepreneurship and self-employment through co-operatives (para 35)*

- *enabling environment for businesses owned and run by youth - including for co-operatives (para 37 and recommendation for governments para 40 b)*
- *inclusion of co-operatives in entrepreneurship programmes (para 38)*
- *improving access to finance for co-operatives (para 40 d)*
- *co-operatives in curricula (para 40 g)*
- *technical assistance for co-operatives (para 53).*

The draft report is available in English, French and Spanish - see http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/101stSession/reports/committee-reports/WCMS_182840/lang--en/index.htm

- Fathers and children coming together, and co-operating to read to each other to break the Singapore Book of Records in celebration of the UNIYC

“We are proud that Co-opaliciouz served as a platform for the largest gathering of co-operative members, staff and their families in Singapore’s history. This demonstrated the strength of our movement where 1 in 3 Singapore Residents are members. Through this milestone celebration of the International Year of Co-operatives, we hope to raise public awareness of the spirit and value of co-operative social enterprises, as a regulated model of self-help and a viable layer in Singapore’s multi-layered social safety net,” said Ms Dolly Goh, SNCF Chief Executive Officer.

At Co-opaliciouz, President Tony Tan launched Singapore’s first-ever legal tender stamps and First Day Covers on milestones of the co-operative movement, which tell a compelling story of how co-operative social enterprises were formed to address social issues that had arisen in periods of Singapore’s history for over 86 years.

ACFSMC, China

The All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives celebrated IYC-2012 and IYC-2012 Conference and Symposium were organized to mark the occasion on 11th and 12th June 2012 respectively.

VICTO, Philippines

The VICTO National Co-operative Federation and Development Center (VICTO National) is inviting coops to the IYC’s class (7th Batch) of:

Philippine Development Education

PhDE. 2012

The event will be held on June 15-21, 2012 in Cebu City.

PhDE is inspired by the month-long courses offered by VICTO National in the 100+ whose graduates have become pillars of the co-op movement today. Graduates will join the international network of 1,000+ Development Educators (DE) communicating through a list-serve. Contact: PhDE Coordinators: Jaci A. Tilbe - mobile: 09052518938 and Mario Encabo - mobile: 9232465834 ; telefax: (032) 253-1317; email: jat.cooplover@gmail.com; putsch123@yahoo.com

Highlights

1. Theme of the Co-operative Day-2012 (www.2012.coop)

The ICA wants to make the International Day in 2012 something that we will all remember – one in which one billion co-operators can get involved in order to raise public awareness about the co-operative business model. The theme for the International Day 2012 is **THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CO-OPERATIVES!**

2. New Chairperson /officials /contact

Philippines: MS. AMNERIS GOZUN GABRIEL has been elected the new Chairperson of the National Confederation of Co-operatives (NATCCO) in the Philippines.

She has been with the co-operatives for more than 20 years and is presently the Chairperson of the Philippine Air traffic Controllers' Multi-Purpose Co-operative (PATCOMC) from where she is elected Chairperson of NATCCO.

China: Mr. Zhang Gaoling is the new secretary general of ICCIC, China.

Iran: Mr. Dariush Pakbin is elected as the General Secretary of the Iran Central chamber of co-operatives (ICC).

Kuwait : Mr. Abdul Aziz Mohammed Al-Samhan is elected new chairman of Union Consumer Co-operative Societies of KUWAIT in a election held on 11th June 2012.

Nepal: The new e-mail address of National Co-operative Development Board (NCDB) of Nepal is: coopdesk@gmail.com

3. New member

We welcome Pishgaman Kavir Co-operative Company (PKYCC) as new member from Iran to the International Co-operative Alliance family. PKYCC is a primary co-operative whose membership is IT companies. It is the only IT co-operative in Iran. They have local offices in all provinces of Iran and they also have companies outside of Iran. They are one of three companies in Iran with the license for international calling services. The services they provide to members include helping them get grants and loans and ensuring member participation.

Contact: Mr. Hosseinali Karimi Yazdi, Deputy of R and D training Centre.

Email: info@pishgaman.com; karimi@pishgaman.com

4. Co-op Story

The ICA-AP Communication team has covered the story of the unique "Iruka Snake Catchers' Industrial Co-operative Society", Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu, India which featured in our earlier issue.

A short film was also produced by the team, as an initiative towards the ongoing IYC2012. Find the film online : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dup3Pj-mZXY>. For further information, contact: Mr. P. Santosh Kumar at santosh@icaroap.coop.

NCF, Nepal

On the occasion of IYC-2012, the National Co-operative Federation of Nepal in collaboration with Department of Co-operatives, National Co-operative Development Board and Youth and Small Business Self Employment Fund, Nepal has successfully organized a National Seminar on Co-operative Strengthening and Business Promotion of Co-operative Unions from 3-4 June, 2012 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Members Service

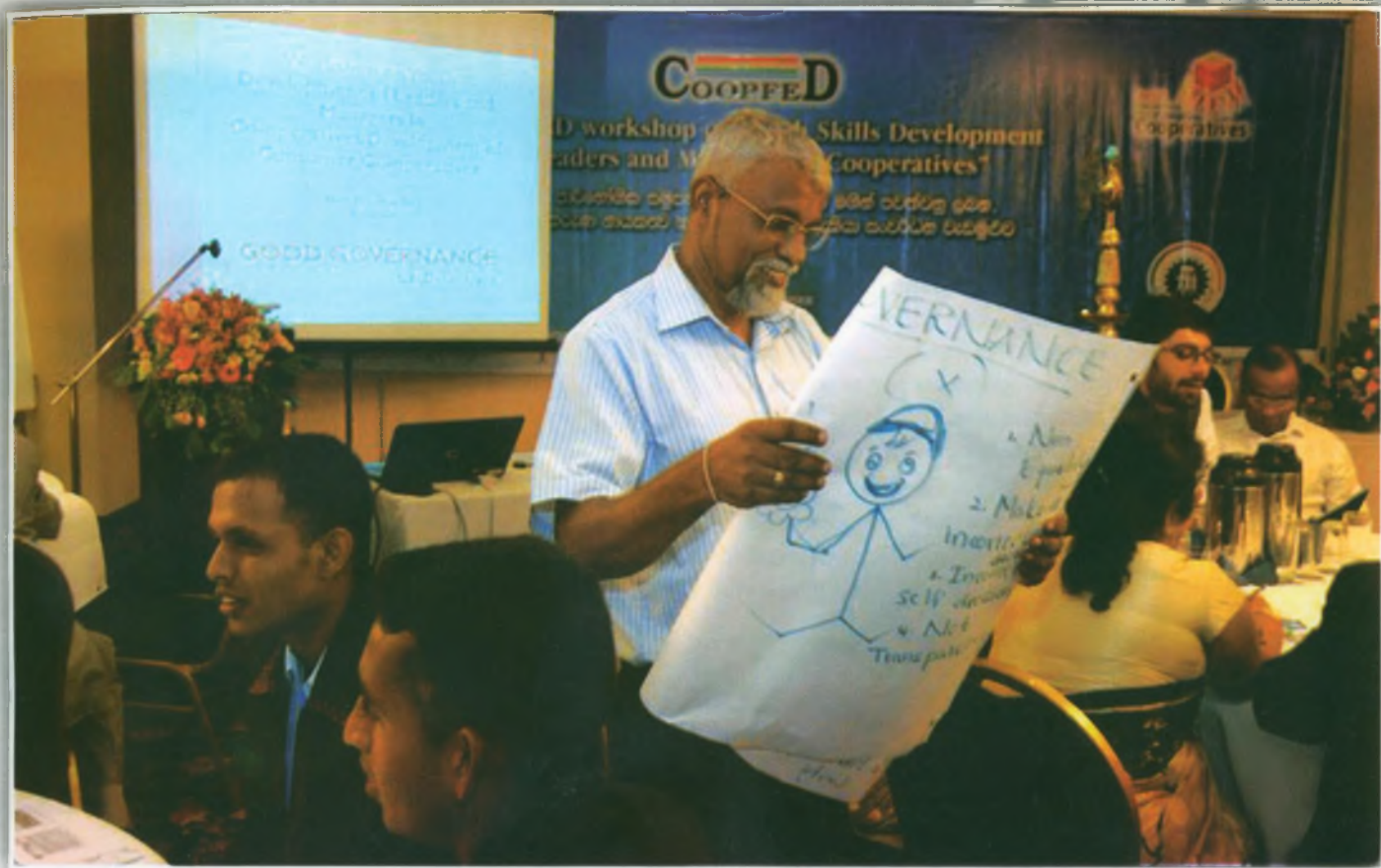
Development of Consumer Sector

ICA/COOPFED Workshop on Development of Consumer Co-operatives was held on 24th May 2012 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific initiated a Sub-Regional Workshop on Development of Consumer Co-operatives in 2009. This was the first time for the Sub-regional Workshop to be held in Sri Lanka.

The objectives of the workshop are to

- 1) Promote understanding of co-operative principles
- 2) Strengthen management of consumer co-operative societies
- 3) Understand the present status and problem areas of consumer co-operatives
- 4) Strengthen relationship with local government

The committee wishes to influence the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries – Consumer movement, focusing on the development of consumer co-operatives in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The inauguration ceremony started with the traditional dance of Sri Lanka performed by young artists. 86 persons attended the ceremony. During the inauguration ceremony, representatives from host country, i.e. COOPFED and Ministry of Co-operative & Internal Trade of Sri Lanka delivered welcome and inaugural speeches. Presentations were made by Dr. Bhagwati Prasad, Former Chief Executive of National Co-operative Union of India, Mr. Ranjith Hettiarachchi, Chief Executive officer of Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU) and Mr. Takashi Yoshijima, Executive Officer of Miyagi Co-op. More than 50 persons participated in the Workshop. After the Workshop, the participants enjoyed visiting Co-op Wennappuwa.. Co-op Wennappuwa is a multi purpose co-operative society that is located about 2



Workshop in Progress

hours by road from Colombo and runs insurance, banking, canteen, retail, and gasoline station businesses. The community residents

can become a co-op member by paying Rs. 100 as share capital and can receive services from the co-op.

Message of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)

90th ICA International Co-operative Day 18th UN International Day of Co-operatives 7th July 2012

The 2012 International Day of Co-operatives is a day of unusual significance, as 2012 marks the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives. In keeping with that special occasion, the theme for the International Year is also the theme for this International Day: 'Co-operative enterprises build a better world'.

The International Year of Co-operatives is the time to tell the co-operative story to a wider audience. It is not only a story of past success, of individuals coming together during difficult economic times to leverage their resources, access markets, and restore balance to price negotiations. The resiliency and stability of the co-operative enterprise model is also a message for today.

Co-operatives are a key part of the way forward for the 21st Century economy. In recent years, the world has demonstrated an urgent need for a more diversified global economy.

Co-operatives have the scale to contribute in a much greater way to that diversification. Even today, the Global300 Report produced by the ICA shows that the 300 largest co-operatives in the world have a combined annual turnover of USD 1.6 trillion, equivalent to the GDP of many large countries. They provide over 100 million jobs worldwide. In Brazil, Russia, India and Africa, some 15% of the population is a member-owner of a co-operative, compared to less than 4% who are shareholders. In Kenya, co-operatives contribute 45% of GDP, while in New Zealand, they contribute 22%. In the United States, 30,000 co-operatives employ two million people, with the largest regularly appearing on Fortune's '100 best places to work' list.

Co-operatives are values-based enterprises. The co-operative has the greatest degree of participatory governance of any of the major

enterprise models. Because of this member engagement, co-operatives reflect the values of the community. Since their earliest days, they have been concerned with how their goods have been produced and their services delivered. A commitment to sustainability is one of the seven Principles that ICA's members in 100 countries have agreed define a co-operative.

These Principles—equity, participation, sustainability—come together to make co-operatives vibrant and successful places for decent work. In every sector, from agriculture, fisheries, and forestry to co-operative banking and credit unions, from housing and healthcare to mutual and co-operative insurance, and especially in worker formed co-operatives, co-operatives create decent jobs, enjoy greater trust among consumers and last longer than other forms of enterprise. They are building a better world.

The ICA was established in 1895 to advance the co-operative model. It works with inter-governmental and nongovernmental organisations to promote co-operative development; with countries to advocate for a legal and regulatory framework that recognises the

unique and specific needs for co-operatives to flourish; and with its members to encourage inter-co-operation.

The ICA calls on all co-operators throughout the world to take the occasion of this special year's International Day of Co-operatives to tell their co-operative story. These stories can be found at www.stories.coop.

To celebrate International Co-operative Day, the ICA has launched a series of eBooks in collaboration with the Global News Hub to show how 'co-operative enterprises build a better world'. The eBooks will be released in the run-up to the virtual event of Co-operatives United, which is the global culmination event for the International Year of Co-operatives to be held in Manchester in October 2012. Sign up to receive further information on the virtual event or to book your place in Manchester visit www.manchester2012.coop. In the meantime, download the IYC eBooks www.thenews.coop/virtual to find out the difference co-operatives make – available from 5 July 2012.

Join Together in Manchester-2012

CO-OPERATIVES UNITED / WORLD FESTIVAL AND ICAEXPO

29 OCT—2 NOV 2012
MANCHESTER CENTRAL, UK



www.manchester2012.coop

Coop United-Logo

Co-operatives United is the culmination event for the International Year of Co-operatives, and will be held in Manchester, UK from 29th October – 2nd November 2012.

The Co-operators are invited to attend the event.

There is a page on ICA website describing the event: <http://www.2012.coop/en/ga>. The readers can link their website to the official event website: www.manchester2012.coop where bookings are now live.



IYC update

Singapore: SNCF "Catch them Young"



Pre-school children to pen and post their thoughts on Co-operative activities

More than 1,700 pre-school children will pen their thoughts on postcards on what they have experienced from co-operative activities – and they will revitalise the diminishing practice of using stamps by mailing these postcards using the recently launched Co-operative stamps to the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF), the apex body of Singapore’s co-operative movement. The children from My First Skool [MFS] are doing this to mark Singapore’s celebration of the International Day of Co-operatives 2012 on July 7 –

as well as the International Year of Co-operatives 2012 (IYC). The postcards will each be mailed using specially-commissioned commemorative stamps on co-operatives issued to celebrate the IYC. Commissioned by SNCF, SingPost issued five limited edition stamps, depicting the major milestones of the co-operative movement in Singapore.

The general public will get to view the more than 1,700 postcards – and the children’s first thoughts and drawings.

IN THIS ISSUE

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From the Editor



IYC-2012 indeed has infused new energy to the co-operative movement as we see the co-operatives are coming up with innovative ideas to

celebrate the event by focusing on less treaded areas such as reaching out to children and teenagers and general populace. The co-operatives have also underlined the significance of Political Will as the political leadership and government representatives participated and supported the IYC events. Some countries have seen historic gatherings by the population outside the co-operative fold. Thus, these events have succeeded in generating interest among masses.

We continued with collecting and sharing coop stories and this issue includes coop story from Vietnam.

The regional Director reached out to the members and contributed in their celebration by presenting papers and sharing information. Capacity building programs continued and preparation for the very important Regional Assembly-2012 is gaining momentum. The monsoon issue is before you and your news and views are highly desirable.

Upcoming Events

- 2nd Training Course on "Quality and Safety Management of Farm Products" 9th September to 3rd October, 2012
- ICA- Japan Training Course on Fostering Core Leaders of Agriculture Co-operatives will be held in September-October, 2012.

Thailand: CLT



The participants with the Honourable Minister

The Co-operative League of Thailand (CLT) launched the celebration of IYC-2012 along with 90th International Co-operative Day Celebration at the premises of CLT on 6th July which was inaugurated by the Honourable Minister for Agriculture and Co-operatives, Government of

Thailand. A regional conference on "Co-operative Transformation into the Era of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)" was held to commemorate the events wherein a large number of co-operators participated.

Korea: Co-operatives come together



Video message from ICA President Pauline Green at the Seoul City Plaza

On 6th ~8th July at Seoul Plaza, a grand 'Korean Co-operative Festival' was held in commemorating the UN-IYC and the 90th International Cooperative Day. This country's first and largest co-operative festival was co-organized by the Korean Cooperative Council ([NACE](#), [NFFC](#), [NFCF](#), [NACUFOK](#), [KFCC](#), [iCOOP Korea](#)), IYC Event Committee (www.korea2012.coop) and Seoul Metropolitan Government. More than 500 co-operatives, social enterprises and self-

help groups participated in the festival which featured a great variety of displays, concerts, performances, lectures, and forums. In the Inauguration of 7th morning, a video [message](#) of ICA President Dame Pauline Green was presented. Congratulating new enactment of the 'General Co-operative Law' in December and knowing that many successful co-operatives are already existing in Korea, she encouraged Korean society to take this new wave opportunity, particularly for new

generation and youth. Video [message](#) from the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon also congratulated and encouraged all stakeholders to continue building awareness and pursuing policies to strengthen co-operatives in Korea. At the presence of the Strategy and Finance Minister Bahk Jae-Wan, NCAF President Choi Won-Byung, iCoop President Oh Mi-Yae, NFFC President Lee Jong-Koo and IYC Committee-Chair Jeong Jae-Don, Seoul Major, Park Won Soon declared his vision named 'Building a Cooperative City' aiming that "co-operative form of public services enterprises create new jobs, new services, new communities and better life for Seoul citizens."

In the streets of Cheonggye Plaza and along Mugyo road, citizens could enjoy to visit co-operative exhibits and buy their products at more than 110 booths. In the night time, with many youth groups, festival continued to play cultural performances at the Seoul Plaza.

Alongside the Plaza event, a series of academic forums were held for the days of 4th-7th July at the auditoriums of Seoul YMCA and of the Korea Chamber of Commerce & Industry for researchers and cooperators. Especially for the youth on 6th July, the Sungkonghoe University held 'Co-operative Youth Forum' that actively attended with more than 300 youths. In the Forum, cooperative field experts from university coop, health-care coop, worker's coop, consumer and culture coop discussed their experiences with youth participants excitedly. In the opening, Dr. Chan Ho Choi presented his topic on 'Co-operative Stories and Meaning of IYC to Youth' to the participants.

India: IFFCO

The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative (IFFCO) India has organised an International Co-operative Conference on "Co-operative Enterprises Build a Better World" from 4-5 July 2012 at New Delhi in co-celebrating the UN International Year of Co-operatives and 90th ICA International Co-operative Day. Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, Honourable President of India delivered inaugural speech and also inaugurated <http://www.iffco.coop>. The Honourable Agriculture Minister of India Shri Sharad Pawar delivered the keynote speech. Shri Harish Rawat, Minister of State for Agriculture was also present.

The Conference was attended by ICA Board members and a large number of national including [NCUI](#), [NCBA](#) and International delegates. Dr. Chan Ho CHOI was invited to speak on the session on "New Initiatives in Co-operatives – Asia-Pacific" and he made presentation on the topic "Co-operative Initiatives in Challenging Insecurities to Human Society" along with other speakers.

MAFCOCS -Buldana Urban Credit Society

Maharashtra State Federation of Co-operative Credit Societies (MAFCOCS) in collaboration with the Department of State for Cooperation, Government of Maharashtra and Buldana Urban Credit Society organised a two day international seminar in conjunction with MAFCOCS' IYC Celebration that saw an audience of more than 14000 co-operative members across the state of Maharashtra.

The international seminar was held in Shirdi town from August 6 to 8, 2012. The event was graced by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra State Mr. Prithviraj Chavan and Mr. Harshwardhan



The Chief Minister Mr. Chavan addressing the Conference

Patil, Minister of Co-operatives along with Mr. Dewra, Secretary, Co-operation in Maharashtra.

Delegates from over six countries including Korea, Bangladesh, Nepal, Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand participated and shared their ideas and knowledge on the co-operative movement. Asian Confederation of Credit Co-operatives facilitated the program and was represented by its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. ICA Asia Pacific was represented by Mr. P. Santosh Kumar who spoke about ICA and its role in the co-operative movement especially in IYC-2012.

UK: Co-operatives United

Co-operatives United, an inspiring global festival of events and exhibitions set in Manchester, UK, to mark the close of the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives. With 1 world premiere, 3 exhibitions, 10 conferences, 45 countries, 150 workshops, 200 exhibitors and 10,000 people, Co-operatives United will inform and inspire everyone building an ethical economy and a better world.

Co-op Story

Rach Gam Co-op

Members are the Key for success



Road construction by Co-op

The formation of Rach Gam co-operative in Vietnam was encouraged by the open door policies of the government as there were many weaknesses in the centrally-planned economic system. When this co-operative was set up in 1979 at My Tho city, Tien

Giang province, few would have imagined that it would turn out to be a huge success story in the transportation sector of Vietnam. The main activities of this co-operative are; goods transportation, passengers transportation in land and rivers, building new ships and repairing ships, constructing the roads and undertaking civil works, etc. The members are the focal point of this co-operative. They take initiatives to innovate and find out ways to increase income and have a better life. The motto of the co-operative is 'Rich members, powerful and sustainable co-operative.' The co-operative creates jobs for labourers to work on shops, patrol stations and construction sites.

The co-operative follows sustainable development and its business and production activities are in line with environment protection. This co-operative now has 280 household members; 350 billion VND of share capital (17,5 million USD); total working capital of 690,5 billion VND (34,6 million USD); total asset value of 685 billion VND (34,25 million USD), while the total number of labourers is 1,254. The total asset value of this cooperative comprises of 288 ships and ferries; 12 trucks and 2 tourist buses; 12 specific industrial heavy machines; 1 ship building site of 10,200m² with fully modern technical equipment and with capacity of building the container ship with the capacity of 1,750 tonnes; one



A Co-op ship yard

petrol store with capacity of 600,000 litres and 9 retail petrol stations. The members contribute 90% of the total asset values and the remaining amount is accumulated from the operational profits of the cooperative.

In transportation and infrastructure development, this example of best practice from Vietnam merits attention. The co-operative has been able to succeed due to the strength of the members. This best practice shows that co-operatives can succeed as compared to big construction, or infrastructure development companies if they utilize the full potentialities of their members.

Member Services

“Revitalization of Local Community by Rural Women”



The group at IDACA

The 2nd Training Course on “Revitalization of Local Community by Rural Women” was held in Thailand and Japan from 3rd July to 4th August 2012. The Training Course is funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan and implemented by ICA.

Fourteen women participants from 10 countries, namely, Cambodia, India, Laos, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam attended the Training Course.

The main objective of the Training Course was to assist fostering women coordinators who play important roles to activate women in agricultural sector and rural community which will contribute in income-generation and poverty reduction in the Least Developed Countries of Mekong River countries and the South-Asian countries.

The part-I of the program – field study visits with a focus on observation of the activities of cooperatives and social institutions – was held in Thailand from 3- 9 July in collaboration with the Co-operative League of Thailand [CLT], a member organization of ICA. The participants also joined the IYC-2012 and 90th International Cooperative Day Celebration at the premises of CLT on 6th July which was inaugurated by the Honourable Minister for Agriculture and Co-operatives, Government of Thailand and the regional conference on “Cooperative Transformation into the Era of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

The part-II of the program held at IDACA from 10th July to 4th August 2012 included extensive classroom work and study visits to agricultural co-operatives in Fukushima Prefecture of Japan. Lecture-cum-practical field study visits assignments were combined to impart necessary knowledge to the participants on the working of women’s associations and the general activities of agricultural cooperatives in Japan.

In view of the experience gained by the participants through classroom lectures, field study visits in Thailand and Japan, the participants were able to finalize/improve their Action Plans which they would be recommending to their respective organizations on return to their home countries.

An end-of-the Course Evaluation was conducted at the conclusion of the Training Course. The participants felt that the training course was very relevant for the women leaders of agricultural co-operatives in Asia and hence it should be continued. They also



The participants on a farm visit

expressed their greatest appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan for providing financial support for this Training Course. They hoped that the MAFF would continue to support this training program in the future also for the development of rural women in the developing countries.

A Certificate of Participation was awarded to each participant at the concluding session held at IDACA in Tokyo on 3rd August. The concluding session was attended by Mr. Masahito Iwahana, Deputy Director of International Cooperation Division, International Affairs Department of MAFF; Mr. Keiji Hiraoka, Executive Director of IDACA; Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Manager-Planning & Membership, ICA-Asia and Pacific; and other senior officers of IDACA.

Management of Consumer Co-operatives

The 12th Regional Workshop for Managers on “Management of Consumer Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific” was held from the 11 – 13 July 2012 at the NTUC Fairprice Training Institute (FPTI) in Singapore. The 3-days workshop was organized by the ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific in collaboration with the NTUC Fairprice Cooperative Ltd. 18 participants, 2 observers and 5 speakers from 12 organizations coming from 8 countries, i.e. India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Vietnam attended the workshop. Previously, the target audience were managers who engaged in the business operation of the Committee member organizations. Since Year 2012 is the International Year of Co-operatives (IYC), this year, higher or senior executives were also invited.

The objectives of the Workshop were to:

- Raise the awareness of participants on socio-economic role of consumer co-operatives in the community through learning from the contributions of Singapore, Korean and Japanese consumer co-operatives.
- Understand the successful cases of international business collaboration between consumer cooperatives, so that the participants’ coops can become cooperatively competitive and promote their growth.
- Study successful business models and policies from Singapore and Korean speakers so that the participants will be able to design appropriate coop business strategies.
- Establish an international network of senior managers of the consumer co-operatives.



Participants with Mr. Poh Leong Sim, Director of Fairprice

The workshop opened with a Welcome Address by Mr Poh Leong Sim, Director of Fairprice. The Fairprice corporate video was shown to give the participants an overview of NTUC Fairprice. It was supplemented by more detailed explanations on the "Socio and Economic activities" of the co-operative.

From the region

Nepal: Formation of Separate Ministry of Co-operatives

On May 5, 2012 the government of Nepal has formed a separate Ministry of Co-operatives and Poverty Alleviation (MoCPA) by breaking up the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives. The National Co-operative Federation of Nepal welcomed the government's decision by issuing a press release on May 6, 2012.

Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, Chairman, the National Co-operative Federation of Nepal said that the government has finally addressed the long standing issue of demand of the Nepalese Cooperative Movement for a separate ministry to look after the cooperative affairs exclusively. During the International Year, 2012, the establishment of separate ministry is break through and one of the great achievement in Nepal.

Japan: Road to Recovery- post Earthquake Recovery Update by JWCU



A former public gym in a disaster area

This is reported by the Japan Workers' Co-operative Union (JWCU) as on August-2012.

17 months have passed since the disaster, and media rarely covers it any more. But we still have a long way to go.

We are still struggling with the old problems, such as cleaning up of debris, radioactive contamination and delayed reconstruction. The picture on the top (a former public gym in a disaster area) was taken in July 2012, NOT 2011. Over 340,000 people, including some of our members, are still living as evacuees.

Now we are also facing new challenges. A number of people in the



Group of students at training

disaster areas are losing concentration and energy without clear future prospect. Many of them have lost unemployment benefits without hope of finding a job.

Yes, we do have a lot of challenges, BUT we are moving forward, slowly but surely.

JWCU launched Tohoku Reconstruction Head Office on July 15th 2011. The first anniversary event was held on July 14th 2012 in Sendai City (Miyagi Prefecture), where about 100 people shared the experiences in the last 12 months and encouraged each other for the further reconstruction efforts.

In Otsuchi Town, almost 10% of the residents were killed or are still missing due to the disaster last year. The mayor requested JWCU members to propose whatever the ideas we had to develop industries and human resources for the future. In response, our members proposed 2 vocational training programs, one in forestry and the other in care and farming. Both of these projects were approved and started in early June.

Students in both programs were unemployed and became members of the co-operative when the program started. They receive about 160,000 yen per month plus various social insurances while taking the training. After 1 year of training (lecture and field work), graduates are expected to create jobs to reconstruct the community while leveraging the local resources.

India : Empowerment of Fisherwomen

FISHCOPFED organized a two days national workshop on 'Empowerment of Fisherwomen' on 29-30 June, 2012 in Bhubaneswar wherein about 30 fisherwomen and officers from the relevant ministries and departments across the state participated. The venue was the conference Hall of Institute on Management of Agricultural Extension (IMAGE). The workshop was inaugurated by Sj. Prafulla Samal, Hon'ble Minister of Co-operation, Tourism & Culture, Government of Odisha. The Honourable Minister said that co-operative is the only important means to uplift the socio economic condition of the poor fishermen and fisherwomen of the country. The Govt. is ready to provide any kind of support for the empowerment of fisherwomen. He appreciated the Group Accident Insurance Scheme of FISHCOPFED and said it is a very important



The Co-operative Minister at the opening

instrument for the welfare of the poor fishermen and women of the country. Shri B.K. Mishra, M.D. of FISHCOPFED, in his welcome address said that this year is being celebrated as International Year of Cooperatives as declared by the United Nations. FISHCOPFED has planned to organize a series of events during this year. The workshop is one such initiative. Shri Mishra also talked about various activities of FISHCOPFED including the Group Accident Insurance Scheme for fishermen and women. He informed that out of 12 lakh fishermen, 10 lakh fishermen have been insured under the scheme which is highest in India. Shri T. Prasad Rao Dora, Vice Chairman of FISHCOPFED also addressed the workshop and proposed vote of thanks.

There were speakers invited from the concerned organization to share information and exchange of technology with the participants namely Shri Mohan Mishra, Director, National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI), Shri Nirmal Kumar, Joint General Manager, IFFCO, Smt. Savitri Singh, Advisor-Gender Programme and Communication, International Co-operative Alliance- Asia and Pacific office (ICA-AP), Shri P. Krishna Mohan, Director of Fisheries, Government of Odisha, Shri T. Prasad Rao Dora, Vice Chairman, FISHCOPFED, Shri Dhananjay Hembram, Joint Secretary, Fisheries & ARD, Government of Odisha and Shri Subrat Kumar Nanda, Asst. General Manager, NABARD, Bhubaneswar.

At this occasion, five of insurance claim cheques were also distributed to the nominees of the insured person.

On the second day, women participant were invited to voice their concern, share problems and experience. Almost all women talked about problem of credit and lack of employment during off season. Certificate of participation were distributed to the participants.

New Zealand: Education seminar

Each year New Zealand Cooperatives Association runs a two-day education seminar for co-operative and mutual directors and senior executives. Last year, fifty people from New Zealand, Australia, Canada and Thailand were involved.

This year's seminar will be in Wellington on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 September.

Info on this event can be found at <http://nz.coop/education-seminar-why-a-co-op/> with registration for the seminar online.

Singapore: SNCF

ICY-2012 Conference

The International Year of Co-operatives 2012 Conference is a 1-day regional conference to be held on 3rd October, 2012 that focuses on 'How Social Capital drives Profits, Growth and Sustainability. The theme of the conference is "How Social Capital drives Profits, Growth & Sustainability".

The venue is Rock Auditorium, Suntec City and the Guest of Honour will be Acting Minister for Community Development Youth and Sports, Mr Chan Chun Sing.

Learn from well-known leaders and fellow co-operators how leading sustainable co-operatives to serve their members, delivering social good, succeed commercially.

This is a great opportunity to network with more than 800 leaders of co-operatives, charities and social enterprises from across the region.

Reaching Out

Visit to KFCC, Korea



Dr. Choi with Managing Director of KFCC

Regional Director visited to the Korean Federation of Community Credit Co-operatives (KFCC) on 16th July, and exchanged views with Managing Director Song Ho-Sun about the cooperation among credit co-operatives in the region, especially in the area of computerization and IT networking. Dr. Choi also explained the need of activating the ICA-AP Committees. Founded in 1973, KFCC is the largest Co-operative Bank federated by 1,448 community-based credit co-operatives in Korea. With about 16 million members, total asset reached 25,509,265 million KRW (22.4 Billion USD) at the end of 2011.

Co-op Trade Workshop in Urumqi, China



The workshop in progress

All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC) organized workshop on "International Trade Practice and Capacity Building" on 15th-16th August, 2012 in Urumqi, the capital city of the Xinjiang Province of China. The workshop invited

Dr. Chan Ho Choi and experts from NACF (Korea), JA-ZENNOH (Japan), Canadian Wheat Pool as international speakers. Participated with 90 participants from different provincial ACFSMC in China, the objective of this workshop was to build needed organizational capacity in promoting international trade of ACFSMC. The workshop provided participants with such vital knowledge and current information on trade practices of other co-operative enterprises of abroad in the region. Dr. Choi gave a lecture on 'Potentials and Practices of Cooperative Trade in Asia-Pacific'. He introduced the 2012 ICA-EXPO (Manchester) and the list of potential cooperative The workshop in progress enterprises of ICA-AP Members by showing their business websites. In the workshop, such topics as approaches to materializing comparative advantage of the local region, competitive advantage of co-operative enterprises, and e-commerce practices were discussed alongside other speakers. As a follow up, some commodity-specific workshops shall be designed desirably in the near future with ICA-AP office.

Your attention, please !

The 10th ICA-Asia Pacific Regional Assembly will be held on 29th November, 2012 in Kobe City of Japan. The Regional Assembly will be preceded by 7th Regional Co-operative Forum and several meetings and events which will be held from 26-28 November.

The event is being organized by the ICA-Asia and Pacific in collaboration with member organizations. The Japan Joint Committee of Co-operatives (JJC) has kindly agreed to host the 10th Regional Assembly, 7th Co-operative forum and other events.

The website is: <http://www.icaapra-kobe2012.com/>

It also gives all the relevant information on registration and booking of the hotels:

Registration: The ICA-AP members can register directly at following link of the website:

<http://www.icaapra-kobe2012.com/registration.html>

E-mail address of ICA-AP Regional Assembly at JJC secretariat is : ica-ap.ra2012@jccu.coop

Visitors



Ms. Armi Zainudin and Mr. Mamoru Moteki with Dr. Choi

Ms. Armi Zainudin, ICA Board Member from Malaysia, Mr. Mamoru Moteki, Director of ICA from JA-Zenchi, Japan along with Mr. Matsuda Masahiro, Expert on International Co-operation of JA-Zenchi visited the ICA-AP office on 5th July, 2012. A short briefing meeting was organized wherein Dr. Chan Ho CHOI talked about ICA-Asia Pacific region, programmes and upcoming important event, the ICA-AP Regional Assembly-2012. The visitors asked questions about general functioning of the office and also took a guided tour to see the office building and library where 5000 books have been received from the central office of ICA. At the end of the meeting, Dr. CHOI presented them the book on 50 Years of ICA in Asia and Pacific Region.



Co-operative Towards Gross National Happiness



View of the opening of the seminar in Thimphu

stated that “Bhutan has taken up a plan to promote co-operatives to achieve holistic human development in line with its development philosophy of Gross National Happiness which goes beyond GDP based on only material factors.”

Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director for ICA-AP was invited as speaker and presented his topic on “Co-operatives and Social Economic Empowerment: Links between Individuals, Private Sector and State Actors”. Dr. Choi hoped to hold a consultation workshop next year in Bhutan on co-operative development at village level in collaboration with the Association of Asian Confederations of Credit Unions (ACCU). The co-operative law 2009 has been enacted in the country to provide the framework under which 170 co-operatives have been functioning.

This international seminar in the capital city of Bhutan gathered a good number of participants and international speakers. Ms. Claire Vander Vaeren, Resident Representative and Resident Co-ordinator, UNDP, Bhutan; Mr. Somchai Channarongkul, DG of the CPD in the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Thailand; Ms. Elenita V. San Roque from ACCU; Dr. Bhagwati Prasad from India; Dr. Dinesh, Chief Executive of NCUI, India; Mr. Xu Defan, Director of Supervisory Board Office, All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC), China; Mr. Hideya Suzuki from the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA), Japan; Mr. Jalan Kumar Sharma, CEO, Small Farmer Development Bank, Nepal were among the distinguished co-operators present.

The International Seminar on “Co-operatives: Empowering Communities Towards Gross National Happiness” was held on 8th -10th, October 2012 in Thimphu, Bhutan. This is the first ever International seminar organised on co-operatives.

It was organized by the Royal Government of Bhutan with sponsorship of UNDP in Bhutan. In the opening, the Hon'ble Lyonpo (Dr) Pema Gyamtsho, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests

Influence

ICAO Statement for World Food Day - 2012

The International Co-operative Alliance Agricultural Organization (ICAO), a sectoral organisation of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) is pleased to support the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) World Food Day by issuing a statement.

Excerpts from the statement is given below:

World Food Day, celebrated in more than 150 countries today, reminds us of the importance of feeding every member of society-regardless of where he or she lives.

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From the Editor



Our sincere condolence to the co-operators of India and the family of Dr. Verghese Kurien. A great and illustrious chapter of Indian Co-operative Dairy Development has been closed. But show must go on! This will be the true homage to the Father of the White Revolution in India.

The official closing of the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives (IYC), "Promoting Co-operatives Beyond 2012" will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 19-20 November 2012.

The ICA is committed to promote the co-operatives beyond 2012 and always and a 'ICA Blueprint on Co-operative Decade' is on its way. The ICA President, Dame Pauline Green talked about it at the Extra Ordinary General Assembly of ICA held on 31st October, 2012 in Manchester.

The IYC-2012 is a once in a life time opportunity and co-operatives have been seen in action maximise the benefit of the opportunity. There were several events held. There is one cooperatively emerging country; Bhutan who has organised the first international seminar on co-operatives and is showing potential. Other member countries have also shown remarkable action including the New Zealand Coop have been very active in spreading awareness through programs and NCF, Nepal talked about co-operative trends. The members initiatives have been fully supported by the presence of the ICA President and Regional Director. The ICAO statement on World's Food Day-2012 is reiterating the influence of co-operatives in food production.

Hope you enjoy reading and sending your stories and comments. Savitri Singh

It is particularly fitting that this year's theme for World Food Day focuses on agricultural co-operatives both because we are about to conclude the UN's International Year of Co-operatives (IYC) and because it is those agricultural co-operatives that can mean the difference between success and failure of the world's farmers to earn a decent living and meet global food needs.

We believe that food production is not some distant operation but one that challenges us in our own countries, in our own fields. Farmers in our own communities are working every day on our behalf. And it is through agricultural co-operatives that small farmers - so critical to meeting our food needs - are able to develop the safeguards and receive the education and support that helps individuals, their families and their local agricultural communities. The smallholder farmers are the bedrock of good quality food production underscoring that communities can in many areas of the world provide adequate food for their own populations.

Co-operatives from around the world—including those in Argentina, Australia, Canada, Korea, Japan, Norway, Sweden, the UK, and the US—are working to combat food insecurity and fight poverty.

Co-operatives strengthen the bargaining power and livelihoods of small farmers who are less vulnerable to price fluctuations, through working together.

Agricultural co-operatives are values-based businesses that are the essence of both "can do" and "must do."

"Can do" in the sense that farmers who alone could not compete with their limited crop yields or limited capital together can help build a better and more secure world.

"Must do" because it is agricultural co-operatives which reflect co-operative values including giving back to the community—helping not just the individual to earn a living but supporting the communities in which those co-operatives reside. Time and again the "can do" and the "must do" signal the best of what World Food Day wants from all of us: respecting the individuals and the groups that toil around the globe to provide our food. They also underscore that working in harmony with a sense of greater purpose enriches all of us.

On this World Food Day it is fitting to pay tribute to what this values-based business model offers. It is a key element in moving closer to food security for all citizens of the world.

Capacity Building

Training of Consumer Co-op Managers

2012 ICA/JCCU (Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union) Training Program for Managers of Consumer Co-operatives (Miyagi Coop/Coop Net course) was held from 20th July to 5th August 2012. 3 trainees from India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka attended this year.

The main objective of this training program is to expose the participants to the professional management systems and practices of Japanese consumer co-operatives.

Both Miyagi Co-op and Co-op Net have had a long experience of operating both store and home delivery businesses. Miyagi Co-op was ranked as the 6th Top retail consumer co-operative in Japan by its 2010 business results. It is also a pillar organization of the Tohoku Sunnet Federation. Co-op Net is the biggest business federation of consumer co-operatives in Japan.

The course began with introductory lecture about business operations, member activities and social contributions of JCCU and its member societies. After that the trainees moved to Miyagi prefecture and had an on-the-spot training of the store operation at the Miyagi Co-op. In the last part of the training, the trainees visited Coop Net and studied about their environmental and social activities.



Participants at the training

Quality and Safety of Farm Products

ICA/Japan Training on "Quality & Safety Management of Farm Products" was held from September 09 to 3rd October-2012 in Japan which was attended by 13 male and female co-operators/officials from 8 Asian countries.

The objective of the training course is to assist fostering of experts in distribution field who play the roles in the quality and safety management of farm products at an agricultural co-operative or farmers' group in order to increase income and agricultural production in the LDCs of Mekong River Countries and the South Asian Countries. A formal inaugural function was held to open the program at IDACA and Mr. Executive Director of IDACA and Ms. Savitri Singh, Advisor of ICA-AP made speeches and welcomed the participants. The course concluded with a formal closing ceremony attended by Mr. Deputy Director of MAFF, Mr. Hiraoka Keiji ED of IDACA and Savitri Singh, Advisor of ICA-AP. Mr. from MAFF welcomed the participants and said that the participants will get to learn many useful and good practices from Japan.

A certificate of participation was also awarded to the participants.

The training course was held in IDACA, Japan with a brief home country assignment prior to commencement in IDACA.

The selected participants were expected to undertake their Home Country Assignment in their respective countries for a period of one week prior to the actual commencement of the training course.

The training was conducted in IDACA, Tokyo with classroom lectures and a week long study visit to Nara Prefecture. Following are the key subjects covered during the course:

- Introduction to Japan, Japanese society, culture and agriculture
- Outline of JA organisations
- Marketing business of JA and distribution of agro products
- Presentation of country report and draft action plan by the participants
- Food safety implemented by local governments
- Operational System of JA to study
- Participatory Rural Development Project Method
- Agro Processing and Quality Control
- Anzen/ Anshin System at the Agricultural R& D Center
- Evaluation and country action plan



Photo of participants with ICA, MAFF and IDACA officials

University/Campus Co-operatives Workshop

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives for Asia and the Pacific had its Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on July 1-5, 2012. The Workshop was organized in co-operation with Federation of University Co-operatives Malaysia (GAKUB), ANGKASA and NFUCA Japan. The workshop provided an opportunity to the representatives of university/campus co-operatives as well as other stakeholders in educational institutions to work together for the promotion of cooperatives in the region and to work towards organizing and strengthening co-operatives in educational institutions. Around 65 participants from 7 countries i.e. Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia, Philippines, India, Thailand and Singapore were attended. The inauguration ceremony started with the inaugural speech of Executive Director of Co-operative Commission of Malaysia. During the inauguration ceremony, representatives from host country, i.e. GAKUB, ANGKASA and Co-operative Commission of Malaysia, extended welcome speeches.

The ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives also had its 4th meeting on July 1st, 2012, Committee members shared their university/campus co-operatives activities. During the annual meeting they exchanged information about their celebrations of the UN International Year of Co-operatives in 2012. They also had a special discussion on the development of university/campus co-operatives in the region.



Participants of the workshop

Youth meet online

2nd Electronic Meeting of the ICA Committee on Youth Co-operation in Asia Pacific was chaired by Mr. Ilham Nasai from the ICA AP Business office in Singapore at the Singapore National Co-operative Federation office on 4 October 2012 along with Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, Secretary. The meeting was further attended by Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur from Karachi Co-operative Housing Society Union, Pakistan and Ms. Noor Azlinn from ANGKASA, Malaysia and Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director ICA AP who was chosen as the Honorary Member of the Youth Cooperation Committee unanimously by interim voting, a motion that will be formally

assented by the Members at the 5th Meeting of the ICA Committee on Youth Co-operation in Asia Pacific (IC-YCAP) in Kobe, Japan during the Regional Assembly. Ms. Dolly Goh, Chief Executive, SNCF agreed to meet the Committee and issues such as

collaboration in terms of new media and youth participation were discussed. The Youth Co-operation Committee will conduct the election to its board at the Meeting during the Regional Assembly in Kobe on 26 November 2012.

Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives



Mr. Hiraoka Keiji, E.D. of IDACA addressing the participants

Training course on “Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives-2012” was organized by ICA-AP, in India and Japan between 8th September and 3rd November 2012. The overall objective of the training program was to assist fostering of the core leaders, who are expected to play the leading roles in agricultural co-operatives and farmers’ groups that will contribute to improvement of agricultural production and income of the farmers in the LDCs of Mekong River countries and South Asian Countries. The training program was implemented by the ICA-AP with the collaboration of Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), (Gujarat), India, Institute for the Development of Agriculture

Cooperation in Asia (IDACA), Tokyo (Japan) and ICA’s member-organizations in India and Japan with financial assistance from MAFF, Japan.

The Training course was inaugurated by Mrs. Jeemol Unni, Director of IRMA in Anand. Mr. A.K. Taneja, Project Coordinator, ICA-AP addressed the participants on behalf of the Regional Director, ICA-AP. Prof. Madhavi Mehta, Coordinator from IRMA welcomed the participants and proposed a vote of thanks.

11 participants from 07 countries – Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam along with concerned Faculty Members were present. After completing the IRMA Module in India, the participants moved to the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) for a further 25 days training in Japan. The completed on 2nd November 2012 and at the concluding session, Mr. Ishizaki Yoshio, Deputy Director of International Cooperation Division, MAFF, Mr. Hiraoka Keiji, E.D. IDACA & Mr. A.K. Taneja, Project Coordinator, ICA-AP, addressed the participants. Mr. Mahinda Gunaratna, a participant from Sri Lanka, presented a vote of thanks on behalf of all the participants. The Certificates of Participation were awarded to the participants at the concluding session.

From The Region

IYC Regional Conference in Singapore



The speakers and participants at the conference

Commemorating the now widely celebrated International Year of Co-operatives 2012, a Regional Conference was organised by the SNCF in association with the largest co-operatives in Singapore such as NTUC Fair Price, Government Staff Co-operative, TCC Credit Coop and the likes along with specialised co-operatives such

as Ngee Ann Polytechnic Consumer Co-operative and Employment of Persons with Intellectual Disability Co-operative.

The conference saw an attendance of over five hundred co-operators from Singapore and other neighbouring countries. Participants were welcomed by SNCF-Chairman, Mr. Chan Tee

Seng and Key note address was delivered by Prof. Rosabeth Moss Kanter Canter who occupies the position of the Ernest L. Arbuckle Professor of Business Administration at the Harvard Business School and the. The welcome was followed by the inaugural speech by Mr.Chan Chun Sing , the Minister in charge of Co-operatives (Community Development, Youth and Sports) who reiterated the diversity in co-operative success around the world while giving the

example of the cooperative structure of the Barcelona Football Club. The theme of the conference was 'How Social Capital drives Profits, growth and Sustainability' and was taken up by the Key note speaker in her discourse on 'Super-Coop' based on her book on super corporations. Dr. Chan Ho Choi , Regional Director attended this conference along with Mr. P. Santosh Kumar and Ms. Kanako Miyazawa from the ICA-AP.

Telling the Co-operative Story



Ramsey Margolis, Executive Director

New Zealand Co-operatives Association Executive Director, Ramsey Margolis was asked to speak at a talk jointly hosted by the two organisations on 'How the Development of Co-operatives can help Reduce Economic Inequality' along with Professor Morris Altman, the Head of the School of Economics & Finance at Victoria University of Wellington. Professor Altman is also the President of the New Zealand Association for the Study of Co-operatives and Mutuals.

Professor Altman spoke on how the economic incentives for members and businesses are different under a member-owned business model, and how co-operatives like Fonterra have vastly improved the bargaining power dairy farmers would otherwise find themselves in.

The UN International Year of Co-operatives 2012 has been a cause for celebration for co-operatives around the world, and rightfully so. It is a recognition by the international community of the positive impact the business model has on the communities they operate in. Not only has this been vindicating for those involved in member-owned businesses, it has also provided a fantastic opportunity to educate the wider public about how the member-owned business model works, and more importantly how it impacts the communities they operate in.

Closing the Gap (www.closingthegap.org.nz) and Closer Together (www.closetogether.co.nz) are two New Zealand based organisations that seek to raise public awareness about the benefits of a more equal society, and aim to address systemic causes of economic inequality.



Professor Morris Altman, President

Visit of Director General



DG with Dr.CHOI



DG with Dr. Yadav and other guests in NCUI

Mr. Charles Gould, the Director General of ICA visited office on 18th November, 2012 and met with the staff. He also took a tour of the office premises including library.

He also visited to NOIDA to see the progress of construction of the ICA Domus Trust building. Mr. Gould also made a curtsy call to

Highlights

1. The National Co-operative Organisation of Malaysia has changed its name to Malaysian National Co-operative Movement (ANGKASA) according to the new by-law.
2. The new Managing Director of National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) of India is - Mr. Chandra Bhushan Paliwal (e-mail: mdncdc@ncdc.in).

Upcoming Events in Kobe, Japan from 26-30th November, 2012

- ICA Regional Assembly and Co-operative Forum-2012
- Meeting of Regional Board
- Meeting of thematic and sectoral committees of ICA-AP

members such as IFFCO and NCUI. The NCUI organised a meeting of all the local ICA members to have an interaction with the DG. Mr. Gould gave an overview of ICA vision for future and shared plans and policy of the organisation in years to come.

Visitors

Delegation from ACFSMC



A group photo of ACFSMC visitors and ICA-AP staff

Mr. Zhang Wangshu and Mr. Li Shun, officers of International Department of the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives visited the ICA AP office in New Delhi on 17 November, 2012 as part of their business visit to India. The officers of the ACFSMC had a meeting with the Regional Director and also had brief interactions with the ICA staff before leaving to meet with other co-operatives in the city.

Students from Gandhi Gram University



The students with ICA-AP staff

Around thirty students pursuing their Masters in Commerce at the Gandhigram University visited the ICA AP office on 15 October, 2012 as part of an educational training program along with their coordinator Mr. C. Pitchai, that is conducted by the National Centre for Co-operative Training which is an ICA member. The students were given a tour of the library by Ms. Sabitha Venkateshan, Librarian and an introduction to the history of ICA by Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, Programme Officer.

Reaching out

International Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal



A group photo of delegates with Dr. Choi

International Conference on "Co-operative Trends and Development in Asia and Pacific Region" was held in Kathmandu, 3rd – 4th September. It was jointly organized by the Ministry of Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation and the National Co-operative Federation (NCF) of Nepal. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, in his opening remarks, reiterated the importance of public statement of Honourable Prime Minister of Nepal made on May - "Co-operative sector shall be developed as the backbone of socio-economic development, opening that co-operative will be placed as a bridge between private and public sectors." As Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, NCF Chairman expressed, it was a great break through and

achievement for the cooperative movement of Nepal. The cooperative sector in Nepal, having 23 thousand co-operatives and 3 million members, has been covering vast areas of cooperation from agriculture to consumer, credit, banking, insurance and social services. Mr. Keshav Bhattari, Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives and Poverty Alleviation (MoCPA) provided his welcome speech in the inauguration. Mr. Parmanand Jha, Vice President of Nepal Government, Mr. Eknath Dhakal, Minister of MoCPA and Mr. Deependra Bahadur Chhetri, Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission were the special guests.



Conferece in Progress

Health Co-operative Sector in Nepal



Dr. Choi at the construction site of the MMIMS

The health indicators of Nepal are embarrassing. Poverty, malnutrition, ignorance, deep rooted traditional beliefs, unmanaged urbanization and deteriorating environmental conditions are the major factors affecting health of the Nepalese people. Struggling on these, Nepal Health Care Co-operative Limited (NEHCO) was founded and registered under co-operative act on 17 March, 2006. In line with national and international thinking of Center of Excellence with purpose of providing quality medical education, health service delivery and health research, Manamohan Memorial Institute of Medical Sciences (MMIMS) was established under NEHCO. The MMIMS has been established by a group of academicians, researchers, industrialists and prominent professionals with extensive exposure to a wide range of innovative knowledge, experience and teaching/learning practices. Apart from this, MMIMS aims at providing high-end health services facilitating with modern medical technologies within the reach of all Nepalese citizens. Dr. Chan Choi visited the NEHCO and MMIMS on 4th September, and hoped that the Asia-Pacific Health Coop Organization (APHCO) could be an ICA-AP Committee together with NEHCO. Dr. Choi suggested an international seminar with NEHCO in this regard.

Asian Credit Union Forum 2012



ICA President at the Forum

The Association of Asian Confederations of Credit Unions (ACCU) held the Asian Credit Union Forum on 7th ~8th September 2012 in Manila Philippines at the Crowne Plaza Galeria Hotel. In the

opening of the Forum, Dame Pauline Green, the ICA President provided her special speech to the participants of more than 250 co-operators.

The ACCU has been an 'Associate Member' of ICA since 1992. According to the ACCU's statistics, the number of individual members has reached to 41,987,000 persons in 22,325 credit unions in the 23 countries in Asia (www.aaccu.coop).

Homage to the Father of the White Revolution in India



On behalf of the one billion members of the global co-operative movement, I would like to express my condolences and deepest sympathy following the sad loss of Dr Verghese Kurien who sadly passed away earlier this week. We held the late Dr. Kurien with the utmost respect and recognise his extraordinary life-long contribution to the co-operative movement.

Dr Kurien, Father of India's White Revolution, showed how a small co-operative can grow to dominate a business sector. The Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation, or Amul as it is well known and which he led for 30 years, helped make India the world's largest producer of milk.

More importantly, Dr Kurien found a way to bring a decent and fair livelihood to thousands of India's dairy farmers, who would otherwise have been unable to compete against the big, commercial dairy machine. The co-operative model has done the same for workers and customers in sectors from banking to retail around the world.

I am pleased that the co-operative movement had the opportunity to recognise Dr Kurien's contribution in 2001 when it bestowed upon him the first ICA Rochdale Pioneers Award.

Yours co-operatively

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Pauline Green".

Dame Pauline Green

President - International Co-operative Alliance



"Special Issue" ICA-AP Regional Assembly and Co-operative forum - 2012



Mr. Li Chunsheng speaking at the opening ceremony

The 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly, 7th Regional Co-operative Forum and related events took place from 25-29th November, 2012 at Kobe International Conference Center (KICC), Kobe City, Japan. The joint opening ceremony of the 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly and 7th Co-operative Forum was held on 28th November 2012 which was attended by more than 600 cooperators. Mr. Toshizo Ido, Governor of Hyogo Prefecture delivered opening address and Dame Pauline Green, ICA President; Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of ICA-AP; and Mr. Akira Banzai, Chairman of JJC and

President of JA-ZENCHU delivered their special addresses. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-AP proposed a vote of thanks. 7th Regional Co-operative Forum commenced after the formal opening.

Subsequent to the deliberations at the 7th ICA Regional Co-operative Forum, the 10th Meeting of ICA-AP Regional Assembly was held on 29th November. 204 participants from 16 countries and two international organizations attended the Regional Assembly.

Mr. Li Chunsheng, Chairman of ICA-AP Regional Assembly

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From the Editor



The concluding issue of the eventful year 2012 is ready for you. The IYC-2012 started with great energy and witnessed outburst of enthusiasm as many big and small events have been organised all over the world, many vows have been taken and promises have been made. The IYC -2012 was very very special and historic but 2013 onwards it is very very crucial as the future years have responsibility to carry forward the flame for the generations to come, have responsibility to take actions to achieve goals, to make co-operatives a robust business organisation with social and moral responsibility and keeping alive the spirit of "one for all, all for one".

The ICA has developed a "BLUE PRINT for a Co-operative Decade" as guide to move into the future and carry forward the flame. The ICA Asia and Pacific has been successful in bringing substance to the rhetoric as we have been able to conclude quite a few significant programs such as 9th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers Conference, 10th Regional Assembly and 7th Regional Co-operative Forum. All these events are significant instruments of lobbying and networking have adopted certain resolutions which, if implemented, may take co-operative movement to a new heights. The 4th Critical Study on co-operative legislation and policy reforms in the Asia and Pacific Region has been published and made available to all.

We are committed to keep alive the spirit of IYC-2012.

With best Wishes for 2013,
cooperatively yours-Savitri



Akira Banzai (L) Dame Pauline Green (C) Dr. Choi (R) Charles Gould (FR) at the forum

opened the meeting and welcomed all the members and special invitees and especially thanked Dame Pauline Green, ICA President and Mr. Charles Gould, ICA Director General for their presence.

He further said "2012 will be remembered as a great moment in the history of international co-operative movement. To recognize the long standing contribution of co-operatives towards social harmony and economic progress, the United Nations declared 2012 as the International Year of Co-operatives. In Asia-Pacific region, a range of significant celebratory events took place one after another, throughout the year.

All the events shared the same objectives, namely, to raise the public awareness of cooperative values and principles; to promote the value of influence of co-operative brands; to recognize the unique role of co-operatives in social development; and to create a favorable environment for cooperative development with stronger government support. Looking forward, we shall be more ambitious, to make the Year of Co-operatives into a decade of cooperation."

The usual business of the Regional Assembly followed after opening. A brief report is presented below:



Board Members and Delegates at the Regional Assembly

ICA-AP Financial Report for 2009-2012

Dr. Chan Ho Choi presented the financial report for the years 2009 to 2012. He informed the members that there was a small surplus during the years 2009 to 2011 and a small surplus is expected in the year

2012 as well. The reports were unanimously accepted by the RA.

Mr. Li Chunsheng and all members appreciated the outstanding performance and positive financial results of ICA-AP.

Re-constitution of ICA-AP Regional Board

The term of office of the current Regional Board is upto November 2012 and according to Rules of ICA-AP, elections to reconstitute the Board for the next four years should be held by the Regional Assembly. 14 nominations from member organizations were received.

The Regional Board appointed an Election Committee comprising of Mr. Simon Alfred Pereira, President of Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU); Mr. Charles Gould, Director General of International Co-operative Alliance (ICA); and Dr. Sisno Tanguyan Romulo, Board of Director, VICTO National Co-operative Federation and Development Center, Philippines to conduct the elections.

Mr. Pereira explained about the election procedure and after voting process, the new Board was announced.



Newly Elected Board Members

The New Board: w.e.f. 29th November, 2012

 <p>Mr. Li Chunsheng President of ICA-AP President of ACFSMC, China</p>	 <p>Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav Vice President of ICA-AP President of NCUI, India</p>	 <p>Mr. H.A.M. Nurdin Halid Vice President of ICA-AP President of DEKOPIN, Indonesia</p>	 <p>Mr. Akira Banzai Board Member of ICA-AP President of JA-ZENCHU, Japan</p>
 <p>Mr. Won-Byung Choi Board Member of ICA-AP Chairman of NACF, Korea</p>	 <p>Dr. Mohd Ali Baharum Board Member of ICA-AP President of ANGKASA, Malaysia</p>	 <p>Ms. Amneris G. Gabriel Board Member of ICA-AP Chairperson of NATCCO, Philippines</p>	 <p>Mr. Chan Tee Seng Board Member of ICA-AP Chairman of SNCF, Singapore</p>
 <p>Mr. Bandu Ranawake Board Member of ICA-AP President of NCC, Sri Lanka</p>	 <p>Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit Board Member of ICA-AP Chairman of CLT, Thailand</p>	 <p>Mr. Dao Xuan Can Board Member of ICA-AP President of VCA, Vietnam</p>	<p>The new Board led by Mr. Li Chunsheng thanked the Regional Assembly for electing them as President, Vice Presidents and Board Members respectively and pledged before the RA to work efficiently in collaboration with board members.</p>

Report on UN IYC-2012 and Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade

Mr. Charles Gould, Director General of International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), made a presentation on "UN International Year of Co-operatives and Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade" which was approved at the ICA Extraordinary General Assembly in Manchester on 31st October 2012.

Approval of Revised ICA-AP Rules

In view of shifting the ICA-AP Business Office from Singapore to

Malaysia, the following change was proposed in the Rules of ICA-AP.

Article 3: Structure

The ICA-AP is structured at the regional, sectoral and thematic levels and comprises the following:

- A regional office in New Delhi, India
- A sub-regional office in Malaysia.

The Regional Assembly approved the above change in the Rules of ICA-AP.

Formation of ICA-AP Committee on Forestry

Dr. CHOI placed before the assembly that looking at the importance of the forestry sector, it has been decided at the Secretariat that an ICA-AP Committee on Forestry should be constituted. ICA-AP has already received eleven nominations from seven countries to become members of the Committee. Formation of ICA-AP Committee on Forestry was approved.

ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting



Board Meeting in Progress

The meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held at KICC in Kobe on 26th November 2012. All the eleven board members attended the meeting.

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director presented the ICA-AP Activities Report for January to October and Financial Report for January to September 2012 and membership position for the information of the Board. Four new organizations joined during the year and the National Labour Co-operative Federation (NLCF) of India has ceased to be a member of ICA.

While presenting the Strategic Plan for the new Business Office in Malaysia he talked in detail about the background; Strategic Objectives; Office Structure; Mode of Activity; Mode of Financing; Four-Year Plan; Financing of Activities for One Year; and Expected Outcomes. Prof. Dr. Ali Baharum, President of ANGKASA agreed to the Strategic Plan of the ICA-AP Business Office in Malaysia. He said that ANGKASA Board has already discussed about the MBO and approved it. One coordinator and

Approval of Revised Constitutions of ICA-AP Committees

The Chairpersons of the respective Committees presented their Constitutions based on the model Constitution approved by the Regional Board and the discussions they had in their respective Committee meetings while presenting their report to the RA (Agenda Item 13) for approval. The RA approved the revised Constitutions of all the ICA-AP Sectoral/Thematic Committees.

one support staff would be provided by ANGKASA in addition to free office space. Computers and other equipments are to be bought by ICA-AP. Further discussions would be held with the Regional Director. Referring to the forthcoming election of the Board, Dr. CHOI informed that ICA-AP has received 14 nominations from member organizations. Out of this, the Regional Assembly shall elect eleven board members including the President and two Vice Chairpersons at its meeting in Kobe on 29th November. He also informed in detail about the three nominations received from Iran for the benefit of the members. Mr. Li Chunsheng said that it was a complicated case. Finally, he suggested that we put this issue for voting. Seven members objected to accepting its nomination while four members supported the ICC. The Regional Board approved the formation of ICA-AP Committee on Forestry. It was decided that the date and place of next board meeting should be decided by the new Board after its election on 29th November, 2012.

Reports From ICA-AP Sectoral/ Thematic Committees

Agriculture Committee:



Mr. Akira Banzai at the Meeting

The 39th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Agriculture was held on 26th November at KICC, Kobe, in conjunction with the 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly. 10 members from five countries namely India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam attended the meeting. In addition to the members, there were observers from the participating countries and Pakistan. Mr. Akira Banzai, President of JA-ZENCHU, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Japan Joint Committee of Co-operatives (JJC).

In addition to cover the routine agenda, the meeting discussed and adopted the revised Constitution of the Committee and a revised list of members of the Committee. Election of office bearers of the Committee also took place wherein Mr. Srinivasa Gowda, Senior Board Member of IFFCO, India and Mr. Hajme Yaguchi, Executive Director of JA-ZENCHU, were elected unanimously as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. Decision to hold the next meeting of the Committee was left to the Chairman and ICA-AP Secretariat.

Agriculture Seminar:

A seminar on Agricultural Co-operative Development in Asia and the Pacific region was held at the same venue. 24 participants from India, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Vietnam and ACCU attended the seminar. Mr. Srinivasa Gowda, Chairman of ICA-AP Committee on Agriculture, inaugurated the seminar. The objectives of the seminar were to provide opportunities to the participants to express their opinions about agricultural co-operative development in Asia and the Pacific, exchange information among them and establish mutual cooperation system in future.

The theme of the seminar was "Democratic Management System" and "Leading-edge Business Activities of Primary Agricultural Co-

operatives". Under these themes, following papers were presented:

- (a) JA's Democratic Management System – by Mr. Hiroshi Tsuchiya, former Executive Director of JA-ZENCHU and President of Japan Co-operative Institute;
- (b) Democratic Management System of Primary Agricultural Co-operatives in India – by Mr. Praveen Reddy, Director of IFFCO;
- (c) Promotion of Hamlet-based Agricultural Production Corporation – by Mr. Mitsuo Murakami, Vice-President of JA-ZENCHU.

Consumer Committee:

The 45th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Cooperation was held at Kobe KICC on 27th November, 2012. 18 members and 20 observers attended the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Haruyoshi Amano, Chairperson of the Committee. Mr. Katsumi Asada, President of JCCU conveyed his welcome greetings to the participants. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-AP also attended the opening session and gave his greetings. The members from eight countries (India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Sri Lanka) made brief presentations on the recent activities and business results and the report of the "Study on Consumer Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific" was presented. Activity plan for 2013 and revised Constitution of



The Group of Delegates with Dr. Choi

the Committee based on the Model Constitution of ICA-AP were approved with some modifications to Article-6 and Article-15, as suggested by the members.

Mr. Amano informed that due to shifting of ICA-AP Business Office from Singapore to Malaysia, the functions of the Consumer Committee will be transferred to the International Department of JCCU and Ms. Kanako Miyazawa will continue as Secretary to the Committee. Next meeting will be held in Singapore in collaboration with NTUC Fairprice.

Credit and Banking Committee:

The meeting of ICA-AP Committee on Credit and Banking (RCBA) was held on 26th November, 2012 at KICC, Kobe. Four members (India, Japan, Philippines and Vietnam) and five observers from Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka attended the meeting. In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Mr. Sivadasan Nair from India was appointed as interim Chairman to conduct the meeting. The meeting discussed about the revised Constitution based on the Model Constitution and approved it with some minor changes to Article-6, Article-12 and Article-13, as suggested by the members.



Meeting in progress

Mr. Sivadasan Nair from India and Ms. Divina Cabunoc Quemi from the Philippines were elected as Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee respectively for the next four years.

Mr. Kazuhiko Otake, Managing Director of NORINCHUKIN Bank, Japan made an impressive presentation on "Reconstruction Efforts - the Role Played by Co-operative Financial Institutions". In his presentation, he explained how NORINCHUKIN Bank provided emergency assistance followed by comprehensive reconstruction work and financial assistance to the community after disaster-2011 in Japan.

HRD Committee:

The 24th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) was held on 27th November, 2012 at Kobe KICC. 16 members and 12 observers from 10 countries, namely, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam attended the meeting.

The opening session was addressed by Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of NCUI and Vice Chairman of ICA Regional Board and Dr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chairman of the HRD Committee. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-Asia and Pacific also addressed the meeting at a later stage. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Bhagwati Prasad. He welcomed the members and stressed the importance of Global HRD Networking (www.hrd.coop) which is developed and maintained by National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI).



The Participants with Dr. Yadav (L) Dr. Prasad (C) Dr. Choi (R) seated

The meeting decided that the Co-operative Learning Center {CLC} project which was conceived, designed and launched by the Global HRD Committee should own and be responsible for the fate of this project. The ICA-AP Secretariat received 33 nominations for the HRD Committee from ICA member organizations in 13 countries. The meeting approved the membership of these nominees.

The Constitution of HRD Committee was revised according to the model constitution for ICA-AP and approved with some minor corrections to article-8 and article-14.

The following three presentations were made at the meeting:

- (a) HRD as a Tool for Good Governance in Cooperatives by Dr. Bhagwati Prasad.
- (b) How Human Resource Development Efforts Help Cooperatives Build Secured Society by Prof. Dr. Rosmimah Bt Mohd Roslin
- (c) Status Report of GHRD by Dr. Dinesh.

The committee discussed about the portal on training which was initially launched in February 2007 at VMNICM in Pune. Recently, the portal has been shifted to NCUI premises in Delhi. Dr. Dinesh informed that the portal will be operative again from early 2013 and the preparations are in advanced stage. The meeting also endorsed the following three points raised by Dr. Chan Ho Choi, ICA-AP Regional Director, in his remarks –

- (a) Networking of HRD training institutions to share experiences, best practices and matters on training;
- (b) Upholding of success stories in ICA-AP website;
- (c) Higher level training for cooperative leaders in the region. It was also decided that these issues will form the part of the strategic planning of HRD for the next four years.

It was decided that the theme of the next seminar to be held in 2013 will be "Success Stories as a Tool for Co-operative Education and Training".

Subsequently, Ms. Norwatim Abd Latif, Deputy Director General of Co-operative College of Malaysia elected as Vice Chair of the HRD Committee for the remaining two years.

Research Conference:

The ICA-AP Regional Research Conference/Meeting was held in KICC, Kobe on 26th November 2012. The conference was attended by 43 delegates from 10 countries namely; India Korea Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Nepal, Turkey, Canada and UK. At the outset, Mr. Akira Kurimoto, Vice Chair of the Research Committee welcomed the participants to the Conference and Dr. G.N. Saxena, Chairperson of the Committee gave the Opening Address.

There were two keynote speakers at the Opening Session - Prof. Johnston Birchall from the University of Sterling, UK and Prof. Lou Hammond Kettilson of Saskatoon University, Canada - who is currently the chairperson of the Global Research Committee of the ICA. Their keynote addresses looked at the Cooperative Potential for Socioeconomic Development and Measuring the Cooperative Difference so that the visibility of co-operatives can be increased.

The theme of the Conference was Bringing Cooperatives back to Centre Stage and the Research Committee had accordingly invited research papers on six sub themes:

- (a) How to Gauge Co-operative Socioeconomic Impact;
- (b) How to Enhance Coop's Visibility by Branding, Publicity and Education;
- (c) Emergence of new Coops for General Interests (health, social care, utilities);
- (d) Public Policies, Laws and Regulations Conducive for the Formation, Growth and Stability of Cooperatives;
- (e) Co-operative Resilience to Economic / Financial Crises;
- (f) Co-operative Response to Natural Disasters.



Dr. Saxena (R) seated with Researchers

Research presentations were made by Dr. Dongre, Dr. Shanta Raj Sharma Neupane, Ms. Ahlung Kim, Ms. Sumi Cho, Dr. Minoru Sugino, Mr., Sanjay Verma, Dr. T. Paranjothi, Dr. B. Ganesh, Dr. Basavaraja, Mr. Shinri Murakami, Ms. Yukiko Yamazaki and Mr. Humpei Hayashi on different sub-themes. The conference threw light on various research results, which are proposed to be documented for circulation shortly.

Research Committee Meeting:

After the Conference, the ICA-AP Committee on Research met to decide on the new Constitution of the Committee and also to elect new office bearers of the Committee. Dr. Chan-Ho Choi joined the Meeting and participated in the discussions on the new Constitution. It was impressed upon him to find more ways and means of attracting and engaging youth and researchers in the program of ICA. The new Constitution, as approved by the Committee and the researchers present was sent to ICA-AP for revision. Dr. G.N. Saxena and Mr. Akira Kurimoto have been re-elected as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee respectively for a second consecutive term of 4 years.

Women's Committee:

The meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Women was held on 26th November, 2012 at the Kobe KICC. Eight members out of eleven and 22 observers from 11 countries attended the meeting.



Dr. Choi and Ms. Tanaka at the Meeting

The meeting was presided over by Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, Chairperson of the Women's Committee. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-AP also attended the opening of the meeting.

The meeting discussed about the revised Constitution of the Women's Committee based on the Model Constitution of ICA-AP and the revised Constitution was approved with some modifications to Article-6 and Article-12.

Ms. Hitomi Tanaka from JCCU (Japan) and Ms. Divina Cabunoc Quemi from NATCCO (Philippines) were re-elected as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee respectively. The Committee commissioned writing of "Resource Guide for Advanced Training of Co-operatives on Entrepreneurship Development of Women and Gender Equality". The Consultant, Ms. Salome Ganibe, presented the outline of the first draft. The members from Korea, Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines made presentation on current situation/updates about gender mainstreaming activities in their cooperatives. The meeting discussed and approved the work plan of the Women's Committee for 2013. The next meeting of the Committee will be held in Indonesia in conjunction with the ICA-AP Regional Assembly, 2014.

Regional Women Forum

The 7th ICA-AP Regional Women Forum was held on 26th November. The theme of the forum was: "Women in Co-operatives Build a Secured Society".

38 Women and men co-operators from 11 countries from the region were present.

5 papers were presented by expert resource persons and member of the committee. The forum discussed about positive action policy, work life balance, childcare, program for women on income generation, capacity building, policy and initiatives for women empowerment etc.



The Delegates at the forum

Recommendation of the Women Forum

We women and men from 11 countries from ICA Asia Pacific Region who participated in the regional women forum on this day 26th November, 2012 deliberated upon the theme “ Women in Co-operatives Build a Secured Society” recommend the following points to be implemented by ICA-AP as well as it’s member co-operatives for the empowerment of women and gender equality in co-operatives:

1. Assessment of the women empowerment and gender equality policy and strategy
2. Impact assessment of work done in last decade on gender issues and progress of status on participation of women at all levels in co-operatives.
3. Should re-affirm their commitment towards environment safety and food security to reduce burden on women as they carry the responsibility of food production and home care.
4. To implement our all time recommendations for reservation of 30% seats for women at all levels of the co-operatives.
5. Must allocate budget for carrying out the above recommendations.

Youth Committee:

The 5th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Youth was held on 26th November, 2012 at KICC, Kobe. The meeting was attended by members from India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Members from Iran and ACCU sent their messages through the internet.



Youth Members

In the absence of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur was appointed as the Interim Chair until the next meeting. The meeting was also attended by observers from Malaysia, Japan, India and Sri Lanka.

The members adopted the agenda and also confirmed the inclusion of Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director as the honorary member of the Committee. Opening remarks followed by Country Presentations by the members who gave a brief idea of the co-operative movement in their countries and the participation of youth in cooperatives and future plans.

A presentation was made by the secretary on ‘Co-operative Business Solutions’ and the need for effective results for the cooperative sector from efficient technology. A report on the Committee’s Face Book page with over 700 members was also shown. This was followed by a presentation on Youth Workshop on

‘Introduction to Co-operatives’ and related activities in Pakistan along with an account of the Floods in Pakistan in 2010 and its grave consequences. The Regional Director shared his views and opinions on the future of co-operatives.

The model Constitution was discussed and received several suggestions.

However, the agenda remained inconclusive and will be taken up again in the next meeting to be held in Buldana (India) in April 2013.

Forestry Committee:



Delegates at the forestry committee meeting

The preliminary meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Forestry was held at KICC, Kobe on 27th November, 2012. Out of 11 nominated members from seven countries, only four members from three countries – India, Indonesia and Japan - attended the meeting. In addition, some observers also attended the meeting from these countries.

Mr. Shieyoshi Satoh, President of National Federation of Forest Owners’ Coop Associations, Japan, was selected for the post of Interim Chair of the Committee and Dr. K.G. Wankhede, Chief Executive of Indian Farm Forestry Development Co-operative (IFFDC), India, was selected for the post of Interim Vice-Chair till the first formal meeting of the Committee.

The draft constitution of the Committee was approved with a slight change, and accepted the List of nominated members and wanted the Secretariat to place this constitution and List of nominated members to the 1st formal meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Forestry for ratification.

University/Campus Coops Committee:

The meeting of the Office Bearers of the ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Cooperatives was held on 25th November at the Coop Inn, Kyoto in Japan. The day-long meeting reviewed the activities of the Committee during the year 2012 and also planned the forthcoming activities. The meeting was presided over by Prof. Kokichi Shoji, Chairperson of the Committee. The Vice Chairpersons, Prof. Ali Hasan from Malaysia and Prof. Zenaida Diola from the Philippines and the Co-Secretaries Mr. Ohmoto from Japan and Dr. Dongre from India were present along with the observers. A team of representatives from the Korean University Co-operative Federation also participated in order to discuss about the preparations for the forthcoming regional workshop.



Group of committee members and participants

The meeting adopted new Constitution of the Committee and also the Budget proposals for the year 2013. The next ICA-AP Regional Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives will be held at Seoul (Korea) in 2013.

Seminar on Promotion of Co-operative Tourism



Participants at the Seminar

A seminar on Co-operative Tourism was organised on 27 November 2012 in conjunction with Regional Assembly events in Kobe. The seminar was attended by 23 persons including participants from ACCU, India, Iran, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

Mr. Yonemoto, Managing Director-Nokyo Tour delivered the key note address and highlighted the initiatives of N-Tour in Green tourism, data on inbound and outbound tourism and relief operations undertaken by them during the devastating earthquake of

7th ICA-Asia and Pacific Co-operative Forum

7th ICA-Asia and Pacific Co-operative Forum on the theme "Role of Co-operative in Times of Natural Disaster" was held on 28th November, 2012 in Kobe International Conference Centre, Japan. More than 200 persons including international and local Japanese cooperative delegates, leaders, resource persons and government officials from 20 countries attended the forum.

The theme of the forum was "Role of Co-operative in Times of

March 2011. The other presentation was by COOPFED, Sri Lanka which gave an account of COOPFED tourism business. It is the tourism business arm of the Consumer Coop Federation.

Other papers were from representatives of Philippines who mentioned the nascent cooperative tourism business in Philippines, Mr. Sanjay Verma of the National Co-operative Union of India who cited the case of Durina Tourism as suggested by Dr. CHOI. Durina is a strategy developed by a Scottish Tourism consultancy company in parts of India. There were frank and open discussions on the need and feasibility of a committee or committee like structure for the cooperative tourism sector.

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director led the discussions and identified the various facets of cooperative tourism.

Following recommendations were made at the Seminar:

The participants to the seminar confirm that

- Co-operative Tourism has potential at the primary as well as at apex organisation to realise their business capacities.
- Co-operative Tourism is distinct from commercial tourism and is participatory in nature.

The Participants further confirmed that

- Co-operative Tourism should be defined as strategic area of co-operative business
- Co-operative tourism should be included as business for local development and should be supported by government in terms of enabling legal and policy environment.

Suggestion from Board Members at the Regional Assembly

Ms. Amneris G. Gabriel, ICA-AP Board Member from Philippines suggested that Regional Board election guidelines should be brought out and published in advance.

Dr. Choi replied that the new rules of election which have been followed in this election (2012) will be included in the minutes of the Regional Assembly which will serve as guidelines for the future Regional Board elections.

Venue and date of next Regional Assembly

Mr. H.A.M. Nurdin Halid, President of Dewan Koperasi Indonesia (DEKOPIN) offered to host the next Regional Assembly and related events in Indonesia in 2014. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) offered to host the 2016 Regional Assembly in India.

The assembly accepted the offers of DEKOPIN and NCUI. The dates and venue would be decided in consultation with the DEKOPIN.

Natural Disaster".

The general objective of the forum is to bring together co-operatives and other stake holders such as United Nations agencies on a platform to deliberate upon role of cooperatives as partners of disaster management and strengthening their capacity for disaster preparedness, mitigation and management.



Delegates at the opening

Expected results:

1. To raise awareness about role of co-operatives during the disaster and to resolve and recommend that cooperatives be recognized as "Partner in disaster management" by respective governments and UN.
2. UN-ICA partnership for capacity building of cooperatives for disaster management.

Executive summary and result:

Following points emerged through presentations and discussions:

1. In all the countries Co-operatives play an important role in supporting the community at the time of disaster and at any crises.
2. The govt. Intervention in Japan during the 2011 disaster was slow whereas co-operatives provided more organised and faster services.
3. The ICA always mobilised the resources and helped members all over the world during disaster.
4. Emergency relief is important but post disaster rehabilitation is crucial
5. Disasters can not be prevented but preparedness lowers the risk
6. UN and Governments realise the importance of co-operatives in community mobilisation and coordination
7. Net working and coordination with government and other civil societies for in put and support is very important for co-operatives.
8. The man made disasters like Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant leakage is more dangerous and having longer impacts. The man made disasters should also be included in the draft resolution.
9. The ICA mobilises resources but a system should be put in place for quick response.
10. Establish procedure for disaster management and prepare the community through communication and education
11. The ICA and UN will take forward the discussion for partnership.

Brief Proceedings:

The forum was divided into 5 sessions besides opening ceremony and keynote speech. Following guests delivered speech at the opening:

- Mr. Akira Banzai, JJC Chairman & JA-Zenchu President
- Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of the ICA for Asia-Pacific
- Dame Pauline Green, President of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)
- Mr. José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Director of the ILO Employment Sector
- Mr. Tsuyoshi Shaito, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, Govt. Of Japan
- Mr. Toshizo Ido Governor of HYOGO Prefecture
- Mr. Tatsuo Yada, Mayor of Kobe City

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director, ICA-AP delivered words of appreciation to all the guests, hosts, partners and participants.

Keynote Speech on the theme " Role of Civil Society in Times of Natural Disaster" was delivered by Mr. Masaki Watabe, Head of United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs(UNOCHA) Kobe Office, Japan.

After that country report presentation started. In the first part,



Mr. Masaki Watabe from UNOCHA speaking at the Coop Forum

reports on Japan co-operatives experiences were presented. The title of papers and name of the presenters are listed as:

- Special Speech: Kaihara Toshitami, former Governor of Hyogo Prefecture
- Report: Hajime Yaguichi, JJC Senior Director & JA-Zenchu Ex Director – “Great East Japan Earthquake and Effort towards Recovery and Reconstruction by Japanese Co-operative Movements
- Report: Fukushima IYC Planning Committee – “Current Status and Issues of Great East Japan Earthquake and the Nuclear Accident.

This session was chaired by Mr. Katsumi Asada President of JCCU and Vice President of JJC.

In the second part of Country Reports presentation, other members of ICA-AP were invited to share their experiences as listed below:

- The Great Flood of Thailand by Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit, Chairman, CLT, Thailand
- The Tsunami Disaster case of Sri Lanka by Mr. Bandu Ranaweka, Chairman, NCC, Sri Lanka
- The Tsunami Disaster case of Indonesia by Mr. Nurdin Halid President, DEKOPIN, Indonesia
- The Flood Disaster case of Philippines by Ms. Amneris G. Gabriel, President, NATCCO, Philippines

This session was chaired by: Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of ICA-Asia Pacific.

After the segment of country experience sharing, a panel discussion and open forum was held on the topic: Co-operatives Build A Secured Society.

Chairperson of the session, Dame Pauline Green, ICA President invited following panellists to make statement on the topic of the discussion:

- Mr. Banzai Akira, JJC Chairman & JA-Zenchu President
- Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit, Chairman, CLT, Thailand
- Mr. Nurdin Halid President, DEKOPIN, Indonesia
- Ms. Amneris G. Gabriel, President NATCCO, Philippines
- Mr. Masaki Watabe, UNOCHA

A draft resolution was prepared and circulated to the participants prior to the panel discussion. All the panellists made short statement and then the chairperson opened the floor inviting questions, observations and suggestions from the participants.

The statements by the panelists are as following:

JAPAN:

Mr. Akira Benzai stated that Co-operatives provide better and faster relief owing to the coop principles that are engrained in the Co-operative DNA. A stable, secure society will be reached when people to people and mutual help will become the norm. However, for a greater role to be played by co-operatives, local citizens and local governments are important. The government should recognize the values that coops bring to sustained activity. The IYC was a landmark opportunity. Co-operatives are now venturing in renewable energy and we hope to diversify into new areas of co-operative development.

THAILAND:

The political insecurity and the flooding were disastrous last year. Fortunately we have the king who has encouraged sufficient economy. I myself believe in principles of co-operatives. The 7th principle of cooperatives has assumed greater importance.

INDONESIA:

It is very important to translate the principle and spirit of cooperation into practice. Solidarity- mutual help is how co-operatives can move forward, principally concern and care of co-operative. Natural disaster is a common problem. Cooperatives need to maintain a close relationship with the government to give the government an input and seek support and give support at times of disaster.

UNOCHA:

Mr. Watabe said that every organisation has its own comparative advantage. There is need to adopt standard procedure, mitigate the risks. One cannot prevent from natural disaster to happen but how come we are not prepared? Continuous education is needed. Co-operative play a key role and risk reduction-mitigation-preparedness – allows to respond effectively.

The cooperatives can handle disaster management very well and especially in Kobe it was proved. Community based activities are needed, communication ensures quality and transparent work.

Upcoming Events

- 2nd ICA-Japan Training Course on “Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives-2012” 02 February to 12 April 2013, India and Japan.
- Office Bearer Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on Women and one day TOT Workshop, Japan, 13 - 14 February, 2013.

HIGHLIGHTS: New Members

The following four organizations have been admitted as member of ICA during the year.

- Pishgaman Kavir Yazd Co-operative Company (PKYCC), Iran
- Kotikawatta Thrift and Credit Co-operative Society Limited (KTCCS), Sri Lanka.
- Central Union of Iran Animal Farmers (CUIAF), Iran.
- Nepal Agricultural Cooperative Central Federation Limited (NACCFL), Nepal.
- Current membership of ICA-AP is 80 member organizations from 25 countries.

Questions from the floor



Delegates from Pakistan asking the Quotation at the forum

Mrs. Errum Bhajji from Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union, Pakistan wanted to know who was the faster actor in disaster management: PUBLIC Sector /GOVERNMENT/NGO? Mr. Akira Banzai (JJC) replied that in case of recent disaster relief and management, the Government have been a slow actor. Funding is made possible there but money is not always well spent. At all times, the principles of co-operation have helped the Japanese case. Community based activities, confidence of the people blessed with the tremendous help from members has helped cooperative development in Japan after disaster.

Mr. Watabe (UNOCHA) added that every organization has its own comparative advantage.

The national level response should be to establish coordination across different actors.

The Co-operative Forum Resolutions

The Co-operative Forum adopted a resolution which is circulated to members and have been uploaded on the ICA-AP Website for wide outreach.



President ACCU (L) President ICA and DG ICA at the Regional Assembly - 2012

Prof. Dr. Mohd. Ali Baharum President, ANGKASA, Malay enquired where should the fund donations be collected for disaster help and he suggested that ICA-AP should create an International Fund. Dame Pauline Green, President- ICA responding to that, informed that there is a disaster management fund at ICA Central Office but mobilization is rather slow.

Japanese delegates suggested that only natural disaster is really damaging but manmade disasters like leakage of nuclear power plants in Fukushima have even longer lasting impact. Therefore manmade disaster like this should be included in the resolution.

After the panel discussion and open forum, a Special Speech was delivered by Mr. Uchihashi Katsuto, Japan IYC National Planning Committee Representative of Japan. On the topic "Creation of a Safe Society". Mr. Uchihashi gave a thorough view of Japanese society, culture and practices and also focused upon problems faced by the society in these rapidly changing times. He focused upon the disasters faced by the society due to various reasons. Mr. Uchihashi propagates the philosophy of FEC : Food, Energy and Care. He emphasized on self sufficiency in food production, renewable energy sources and care for the community, elderly, environment etc. The forum concluded after the special speech by Mr. Uchihashi.

At the concluding session, Dr. Chan Ho Choi presented the resolution of the forum. He requested participants to send their observations and suggestions on the draft resolution for inclusion. Mr. Katsumi Asada, Chairman of JCCU and Vice Chair of JJC made concluding remarks. He said that I am happy to see many co-operators participating in the forum and expressed his gratitude to all. He briefly mentioned about the speeches made during the day and further said that a bridge is built between co-operatives to face disasters and the co-operatives should not only come together to support each other during disaster but should also cooperate with each other always.