

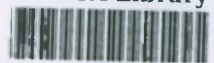
ICA 01448

Asia-Pacific Consumer Co-op News

Special Agenda for the Year 2000



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ICA 01448



Asia-Pacific Consumer Co-op News

In-house News Bulletin of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia & the Pacific

(FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY)

VOL. 3, NO. 3, SEPT-DEC. 1996

New Consumer Agenda for the Year 2000

The consumer cooperatives in the Asia Pacific Region could no longer function in a closed market in a changing and a complex global environment. On one hand, threatened by the over consumption and depletion of the natural resources and the consequent threat to the very existence of the living beings, the global forums affiliated to UN systems are tightening the legal arrangements to set ecological standards to the global market place. On the other hand, the globalization of the market systems has resulted in a competitive environment created by the MNCs and TNCs to conquer new territories for economic dominance. A political agenda of the Northern powers are entangled in a new economic cold war.

The Consumer Committee of the Asia Pacific Region has set a new agenda for its member organizations to deal with the turbulent economic environment to undertake economic activities with a human face for the next few years, at a meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Deviating from the routine business training and consultancy services, it has set to evolve a new corporate philosophy for consumer cooperatives in keeping with the new cooperative identity and also to provide guidance to deal with the new global consumer market.

The approved four year plan up to year 2000 will undertake new activities as a contribution to the sustainability of cooperatives as well as civil society:

* Introduction of green

consumerism as a sustainable human development practice for consumer cooperatives.

- * Propagation of fair trading practices in order that the producers get better benefit from the market, while the consumers get a better deal in terms of product quality and the reasonable prices.

The new plan would also support newly emerging service cooperatives such as health-care cooperatives. The cooperative among youth will be expanded in terms of consolidation and vertical integration, and also expansion from institutional youth cooperatives such as university cooperatives to the youth activities in the communities will also be promoted.

Strategic planning in a changing environment is another focus during the four year period. The absence of long term strategic plans in many consumer cooperatives has affected the relevance and the viability of cooperative business in the future.

Gender equality in the consumer cooperative operations will be another agenda for the future. The Committee will undertake few studies of the successful stories of gender equality in consumer cooperatives and



ICA-JCCU team studying a consumer coop. store in Thailand publish them for the benefit of the members.

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Emergence of Healthcare Coop Sector with an Identity



A section of the participants of the Medical Coop. Meeting

The health care coops will be a new sector which will have its identity in the ICA family in the near future. A meeting of 30 representatives from health cooperatives from Japan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and South Korea held in Mumbai, India recently, decided to organize a Asia Pacific Health Organization in the near future. They also decided on a mutual exchange of experiences to start immediately on a bi lateral basis. Sponsored by

the ICA Consumer Committee for Asia and The Pacific, the health care cooperative consolidation will be a concrete reality, when the interim working committee finalises the constitution and obtain ratification from the ICA Regional Assembly. The working committee had one meeting in Colombo in December 1996 already and is scheduled to have final meeting in Chiangmai, Thailand in March 1997.

Intercoop Meeting on Green Issues and Ethics

A communique from The International Consumer Cooperatives Organization provides references to the Intercoop meeting on Green Issues and Ethics in which several experiences from Tradeka of Finland, NKL from Norway, KF from Sweden, and CWS from U.K. have been presented and discussed. The working documents relate to the environmental policies,

Ethics in Retailing, and green actions of Euro and Scandinavian cooperatives. Those who would like to follow the developments and adopt the experiences could contact Antonella Belfiori, International Consumer Cooperative Organization, Via Panaro, 14-00199 Roma, Italy for working papers.

Vietnam to Introduce University Cooperatives

As a result of the participation of Vietnam delegates at the last Consumer Committee meeting and the University Coops. Subcommittee Meeting, Vietnam Cooperative Union has promoted the idea of introducing University cooperatives to Vietnam.

The ICAROAP Consumer Advisor and the Manager, International Relations of National Federation of University Cooperative Associations in Japan (NFUCA) visited Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City and met the Presidents, Rectors and staff of several universities for discussions on the possibility of introducing cooperatives in the campuses.

It has been found that since the closure of many student cooperatives of earlier socialist style, the campus communities are facing difficulties in obtaining essential consumer services. The Rectors were much in favour of the idea of cooperatives in the campuses.

On the recommendations of the team, the VCU has appointed a working group at the central level to decide on the model by-laws and liaison with the university authorities as well as the Ministry of Education.

It is expected that the first university cooperative will be registered by May 1997.

The ICAROAP and the NFUCA will conduct an orientation seminar for the leaders and the staff of the prospective university cooperatives in October 1997.

UN Review on the Implementation of Guidelines for Consumer Protection

UN Secretariat is currently engaged in the review of the implementation of Guidelines on Consumer Protection through the governments and non-governmental organizations.

The ICAROAP has prepared a report on the contribution of Asian consumer cooperatives on the implementation of guidelines on Consumer Protection and sustainable Consumption Pattern, which has already been dispatched.

Exchange Programme for Women Leaders in Consumer Coops

On behalf of the Consumer Committee, Japanese Consumers Cooperative Union organized an exchange programme for Indonesian Women leaders in consumer cooperatives in Japan.

Four women leaders visited cooperatives in Tokyo and Kobe and learnt about the womens involvement of consumer cooperatives. Specially, they studied the concept of 'Women symbol 146 YF Times New Roman'. They have studied joint buying activities and also the cooking food for sale.

*We Wish You A
Successful Cooperative
Year of 1997*

A Vision for Year 2000 from Campus/ Youth Cooperative Seminar

The ICA Consumer Sub Committee on University/College Subcommittee organized a Youth Seminar in Singapore from 21 to 23 November, 1996 to review the progress of the campus/youth cooperatives in the Region in collaboration with the SNCF,

Singapore. A large gathering of 185 representatives from 10 countries who participated at the Seminar came out with a vision for Campus Youth cooperatives for year 2000 and several recommendations on the strategy leading to realise the vision.

VISION 2000 FOR CAMPUS YOUTH CO-OPERATIVES

By the turn of the 21st Century, the Campus Youth Co-operatives will :

- Improve the quality of services to their members by developing retailing industry with technological applications in computer network, electronic data analysis, vending machines and tele-cards and introducing career development plans for members,
- Ensure the increase of membership by 50% from the current level by becoming more member-oriented and introducing awareness building programmes among student population.
- Expand the focus on wider services to the community by formulating long-term strategic planning for the development of youth co-operatives and the increased participation of youth in co-operatives, introducing co-operatives at the secondary schools, and promoting concerns such as environment, handicapped persons' welfare and services for the disadvantaged in campus youth co-operatives.
- Promote inter-co-operative and inter-country alliances through setting up of joint purchase systems and business alliances, youth exchange programmes, horizontal and vertical integration and networking.

Training of FairPrice Store Managers at Kobe, Japan

Every year, the the Consumer Cooperative committee sponsors training of coop store managers from developing countries in Singapore and makes arrangement to receive new ideas from Japanese supermarket operations for Singaporean coop store managers.

Four store managers from NTUC Fairprice coop in Singapore

received training in new concepts of store management including merchandise policies and display procedures during the month of July 1996.

The trainees have submitted recommendations to improve store operations on inventory controls, packing techniques, price labelling and member and community relations.

Consumer Committee Support to Thai Cooperatives



Study team discussion with Krungdeb Coop chairperson, Anan Chamanakit

The Consumer Committee recently sponsored several activities in Thailand. It supported financially a National Seminar on University Cooperatives organized by the Federation of University Cooperatives in Thailand and another National Seminar on Cooperative Leadership Training organized by the Cooperative League of Thailand.

Thailand has been selected as a case study for the preparation for a Regional Seminar on Strategic Planning for Consumer Cooperatives to be held during 1997. A team from the ICAROAP, JCCU and NFUCA has already visited Thailand in December 1996 and undertaken a preliminary study. A detailed study will be conducted during the early part of 1997.

Yves Regis Passes Away

With a great sorrow, we announce the death of Mr. Yves Regis, the President of CICOPA, the global ICA Committee on Artisans and Workers Cooperatives, on 9th September 1996. He was 72 years old and active in The French Cooperative Movement until his death. We specially mention the link he had with the International Health Cooperative Organization, where he tried to bring workers cooperatives closer, if not integrated, with the IHCO in the medical field.

Asia-Pacific Consumer Co-op News is published by the ICAROAP on behalf of the ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia & the Pacific.

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ICAROAP CONSUMER CALENDAR FOR 1997

MARCH

- 14-15 Meeting of the ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University/College Coops., Bangkok, Thailand.
- 18 ICAROAP Regional Executive Council Meeting, Chiangmai Thailand.
- 19-22 Cooperative Ministers Conference, Chiangmai, Thailand.
- 22 Meeting of the Interim Working Committee of the Health Care Cooperatives.
- 23 Meeting of The ICA Committee for Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific, Chiangmai, Thailand.

APRIL

- 07-08 Meeting of Specialised Bodies, Geneva, Switzerland.

MAY

- Feasibility Study on the establishment of University Cooperatives in Vietnam.

OCTOBER

- Orientation Seminar for University Cooperatives, Vietnam.

NOVEMBER

- National Seminar on University Cooperatives in India.
- Environment Seminar, Tokyo, Japan.
- Meeting of The ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific.



Asia-Pacific Consumer Co-op News

In-house News Bulletin of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia & the Pacific

(For Private Circulation only)

Vol. 3, No. 2, July-August 1996

Masao Ohya Retires from the JCCU



Masao Ohya speaking at the meeting of the Consumer Committee in Malaysia.

Mr. Masao Ohya, who is well known in international co-operative circles as "Consumer Man" retired from the active service of Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union as the Executive Director recently. Due to this reason, he also stepped down as the Chairperson of the ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific.

Born in 1931 in Japan, Mr. Ohya graduated from the prestigious Tokyo University and started with Tokyo Consumers' Cooperative Union. He managed several ventures of the JCCU after joining in Coop. Trade, Textiles and Executive Officer. He became the Executive Director of the JCCU in 1977 and was active in international cooperation since then.

He was elected as the Chairperson of the ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific in 1986 and continued upto June, 1996.

During his tenure, Mr. Ohya brought North South Consumer Cooperations closer when he served as the Vice Chairperson of the Global Consumer Committee (later ICCO). He developed many exchange programmes and networking in consumer cooperatives in the region. He supported the ICA ROAP in many respects, firstly by providing a soft loan by the JCCU to save the "Bonow House" - the present Regional Office and secondly by providing the Gender Integration Project.

Mr. Ohya is a person with many curiosities. He developed an indepth understanding of

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cultural traditions of many countries in the Region, which helped to bring them closer. His knowledge and guidance was helpful for the ICA. One example was his highly appreciated proposal to set up an advisory group for the ICA ROAP. He has an independent mind and reflective approach to cooperatives either in Japan or elsewhere. One of his key projects to analyse the failure of Berkely Cooperative was such a learning experience for anyone connected to cooperatives. He kept changing himself to make himself existential to the current situations. Therefore, he would not become old. When asked about his plans for future, he indicated that he would be a voluntary worker for the Third World countries.

We who associated with him many years, appreciate his closeness to international cooperative community and the helping hand extended all the time. We wish him success during his next career as a free volunteer

Hiroshi Tanaka - New Chairperson of the Asia-Pacific Consumer Committee

The ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific, at its 28th meeting held on 11 June, 1996, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, unanimously elected Mr. Hiroshi Tanaka from Japan, as its new Chairperson.

Mr. Tanaka has a distinguished career in Japanese Consumers Cooperatives. Born in 1935, he graduated from the Tokyo University in Geological Sciences and joined the National Federation of University Cooperative Associations (NFUCA) as Managing Director in 1959. He was elected as Executive Director of JCCU in

1960 which he retained until 1978. Then he worked as the Managing Director of Coop. Tokyo, one of the biggest in Japan. He became a Board Member of the JCCU in 1989 and re-elected as Vice President of the JCCU. After joining as the Executive Vice President of JCCU in 1995, Mr. Tanaka serves in that capacity up to date.

Mr. Tanaka intends to expand the activities of the Consumer Committee and promote a bilateral and multilateral cooperation among consumer cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific region



Hiroshi Tanaka

We congratulate Mr. Tanaka for his election as the Chairperson of the Committee and wish him success in his activities.

Consumer Committee Adopts a New Constitution

The ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific, adopted a new Constitution at its 28th meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 11 June, 1996. The decision was made in keeping with the proposal made by the Executive Regional Council for Asia and the Pacific to rationalise the Constitution of various specialized committees in the region.

The special feature of the Constitution is the provisions made to admit non-member cooperative organizations to the committee with a recommendation by the National organization. However, these organizations are required to adhere to cooperative principles and practices. The term of the office bearers has been restricted to two years.

The meeting was attended by 20 delegates from 7 countries endorsed to a 4-year development plan for consumer cooperatives of Asia and the Pacific.

Collaboration with other committees, such as Agriculture and Human Resource Development, is another feature of the Constitution and the 4-year development plan.

NFUCA Shifts to a New Building

National Federation of University Cooperative Associations of Japan has constructed its own building and shifted its office. New address & telephone numbers after June 24, 1996 are as follows:

Address : 3 - 30 - 22, Wada,
Suginami-ku,
Tokyo 166, Japan.

Phone : (81-3) 5307 - 1122

Facsimile : (81-3) 5307 - 1179

Training of Singapore Managers in Japan

The ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific through the ICA ROAP sponsored a Training Programme for a group of Singapore FAIRPRICE Store Managers in Kobe in July, 1996. They spent 10 days attached to Cooperative Stores in Kobe studying retailing, store layout, labeling, re-ordering and self-service systems. The group consisted of Mr. Ng Eng Hann, Ms. Helen Tan Gim Cheo, Mr. Jackie Teo Hong How, and Mr. Chew Henry, who are supermarket Managers of NTUC Fairprice Cooperative Chain in Singapore.

Gian Luca , New President of National Association of Consumer Cooperatives, Italy

Following the appointment of Mr. Ivano Barberini as the President of the National League of Italian Co-operatives, on July 17, 1996, the National Association of Consumer Cooperatives, Italy, has appointed Mr. Gian Luca Cerrina Feroni as its new President.

Mr. Cerrina Feroni, who was born in Rome in 1939, has worked within the co-operative movement since 1987 where he has been the President of the Tuscany Regional League while from 1976 to 1987 he has been Member of Parliament.

Exchange Programme of Women Consumer Cooperators

Under the Exchange Programme of the ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific, 4 women leaders of Consumer Cooperatives from Indonesia were invited to visit Japanese Consumer Cooperatives in Tokyo, Kobe and Hyogo prefecture. The JCCU hosted the group. The group spent one week from 1st July 1996 in Japan. Indonesian women leaders observed the functioning of HAN group and workers collection as well as studied store operations. They were able to participate at the International Cooperative Day celebrations organized by the joint committee of cooperatives in Hyogo Prefecture. Exchange of experience and ideas took place in many joint discussions.

Mrs. Sri Sayekti Haruno, Mrs. Yatni, Mrs. Dra. H. Siti Rahayu B. Sunadji, and Mrs. Tati Rachman Tolleng were the members of the group.

Medical/Health Care Cooperatives

- An Emerging Sector

Since the adoption of 7th principle of co-operation, "Concern for Community", there has been a growing interest shown by many countries in the Region to organize Health Care Cooperatives. Tonga, Bangladesh, Singapore and Vietnam are few examples.

A survey conducted by the Consumer Committee has found that Medical/Health Care Cooperatives already exist in 12 countries, namely Australia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Philippines, India, Israel, Myanmar, South Korea, Jordan.

Unlike in other regions, medical/health care co-operatives, are less dominant in Asia-Pacific Region. □

Youth Cooperators - Leaders of Tomorrow

The ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University/College Cooperatives for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with Singapore National Cooperative Federation (SNCF) will organize a Regional Seminar on "Youth Cooperators - Leaders of Tomorrow" to be attended by 200 delegates and observers. The Seminar will be held from 21 to 23 November, 1996 in Singapore.

The Seminar will discuss the emerging issues of member participation, leadership, new cooperative identity and vision for 2000. An agenda will be created to search for new role for campus

based student cooperatives to work more closely with the communities and undertake more social responsibilities.

An announcement has already been made inviting nominations from Youth Cooperatives in the region. More details can be obtained from the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, New Delhi, National Federation of University Cooperative Associations, Tokyo, or Singapore National Cooperative Federation, Singapore. The Seminar will be held on self-financing basis while SNCF meeting the cost of board and lodging for delegates.

ICA Consumer Calendar

1996

- Oct. 07-12 - Consumer Cooperative Study Mission to Thailand.
- Oct. 26-27 - ICA Board Meeting at Budapest, Hungary.
- Nov. 01-02 - Regional Medical/Health Care Cooperative Meeting at Bombay, India.
- Nov. 21-23 - Regional Seminar on University/College Cooperatives at Singapore.
- Dec. 02-06 - Regional Consultation on Cooperative Ministers' Conference in Myanmar.

1997

- March 17-18 - Regional Executive Council meeting at Chiangmai, Thailand.
- March 19-22 - 4th Cooperative Ministers' Conference at Chiangmai, Thailand.
- Oct. 28-30 - ICA General Assembly Meeting at Tel Aviv, Israel.

Statement on the Co-operative Identity

Definition

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

Values

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

Principles

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

FIRST PRINCIPLE : VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

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

SECOND PRINCIPLE : DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

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

THIRD PRINCIPLE : MEMBER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

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

FOURTH PRINCIPLE : AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into

agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-operative autonomy.

FIFTH PRINCIPLE : EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

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

SIXTH PRINCIPLE : CO-OPERATION AMONG CO-OPERATIVES

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

SEVENTH PRINCIPLE: CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

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

Consumer Committee to Study Thai Co-operatives

Once a growing consumer co-operative movement, Thai consumers co-operatives have faced uneven competition from multi-national consumer conglomerates, supported by an oligopoly of wholesale companies. Several consumer co-operatives have collapsed and former giant co-operative supermarket chains face liquidity problems at present.

The Committee has decided to assess the situation through a JCCU-ICA ROAP joint mission in October, 1996 and launch continuing support programme in the future on bi-lateral and multi-lateral basis. The Committee would also bring the element of strategic planning as a regional workshop exercise to be located in Thailand in 1997.

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Asia-Pacific CONSUMER CO-OP NEWS

A News Bulletin of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific

(For Private Circulation only)

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New Focus on Sustainable Human Development in the 4-year Development Plan

The ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific will finalise the new development plan for the next 4 years from 1997, at its next meeting to be held on 11th June, 1996 in Malaysia.

The plan has been drafted after consultation with member organisations of the Committee who provided their needs, concerns and interests for the future. Accordingly, the committee will have additional focus on the new principle of 'Concern for Community' through its activities dealing with sustainable human development. More specifically, future activities would include introduction of fair trading, ecologically friendly products through green shops, establishment of a Regional Standing Group on medical/health co-operatives and incorporation of youth in consumer co-operatives.

Extending current activities on university/college co-operatives to other youth groups in

the community and the schools is another activity that will be undertaken.

The committee is expected to take initiatives to organize joint events with the Agricultural Committee on fair trading and with the Human Resource Development Committee on youth issues.

Encouraging bi-lateral relations among member organizations is on focus during the next few years.

The committee will also undertake publication of case studies and regional overviews on consumer co-operatives on a two-yearly basis.

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Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

The Asia-Pacific Consumers Co-op News will have a new focus on the Committee's activities in future as per the new communication policy of the ICA ROAP. Broader consumer co-operative news so far included here will be incorporated with the **Asia-Pacific Co-op News**, which has a more wider circulation. This would benefit more readers and other sectoral co-operatives.

The Asia-Pacific Consumer Co-op News will continue as an exclusive in-house information bulletin of the Asia-Pacific Consumer Committee. It will carry information on the events, meetings, seminars and other announcements which are closely linked to the Committee. By this arrangement, we will be more cost effective.

The readers of Asia-Pacific Consumer Co-op News are understood to be on the mailing list of the Asia-Pacific Co-op News too. Therefore, you will not miss any news to your interest in the future.

-Editor

1996 Consumer Day Message

On March 15, the Consumer Co-operatives are going to celebrate the Consumer Day which this year focuses on fair and solidarity trade with the countries in the southern part of the world. Thus, straightforward commercial transactions assume a precise moral significance which is ever more meaningful when the relationships between developed and developing countries are involved.

One of the reasons why large parts of the world are underdeveloped is that rich countries pay little for the raw material and food products supplied by developing countries. Instead, developing nations pay high prices for means of production - from machines to fertilisers and consumer goods. This vicious circle creates situations of great injustice which lead to mass migrations of desperate citizens who move from the South to seek survival in the North.

The small producers in the southern part of the world, victims of ruthless intermediaries, are often obliged to sell their products at prices which don't even cover production costs. Such injustice must be eliminated and trade should go back to its ethical values in order not to penalise one of the contracting parties.

This is why Consumer Co-ops, which put into practice the principles of solidarity and brotherhood in the system of values they have always supported, intend to give back dignity and pride to the men and women in depressed areas by producing and selling the product of their work at fair prices.

With the purpose of finding a solution to the unfair exchanges which currently characterise the market, some international organisations have created a programme which includes the compilation of a list of producers who undertake to apply fair prices; in other words minimum prices which not only cover production costs, but which leave a margin to small producers for social and productive investments; an incentive bonus for

biological cultivation; pre-financing or credit to prevent producers from having to face difficult situations before having sold their products; incentives to promote long term commercial relationships so that producers may plan their activities without having to face too great a risk.

These initiatives enable consumers, who have now become strong elements, to influence development conditions in depressed areas through their behaviour.

In fact, consumers often wonder what lies behind the goods they buy; they want to have the possibility to purchase products deriving from fair trade at their usual sales outlet. Through their activities of solidarity with developing regions, consumer co-ops intend to favour the self-development of these countries and to identify the necessary conditions for economic and social growth.

We, therefore, ask all Consumer Co-ops to behave coherently in order to support developing countries and to contribute in putting an end to the commercial submission which currently characterises North-South Exchanges.

(Published by the International Consumer Co-operative Organisation from Rome, 14 Mar. '96)

ICA adopts New Logo



The logo which has been used during the ICA Centennial Year will continue to be used by the ICA as its Permanent Logo. The logo, which depicts doves of peace emerging from the rainbow colours, universally recognised as the ICA and

Co-operative Colours and adopted by the Executive in 1925, represents the unity of ICA's diverse membership.

28th Meeting of the ICA ROAP Consumer Committee

The ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific will meet at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 11 June, 1996.

The Committee will discuss the following important items during the meeting:

- Draft constitution of the specialized committees;
- New Statement on Co-operative Identity and its implications on consumer co-operatives;
- 4-Year Development Plan of the Consumer Co-operative Development Project;
- Election of office bearers of the committee. They are: chairperson and the vice-chairperson.

ICCO and EUROCOOP sign co-operation agreement

With the emergence of EUROCOOP as a strong body representing European Consumer Co-operatives, a discussion between International Consumer Co-operative Organisation (ICCO) and EUROCOOP led to an agreement for future collaboration from January, 1996. The form of co-operation between the two organisa-

tions include:

- regular exchange of information; and
- any other collaborative efforts in the future.

Meanwhile, EUROCOOP has fully endorsed the policy of ICCO on environment, co-operation in development, training and the defence of consumer interests.

ICA ROAP Development Partners meet in Kuala Lumpur

The Development Partners - SCC, JCCU, CCA, DID, Zengyoren and JA-ZENCHU will meet the ICA authorities for a discussion on future collaboration from 16-17 June, 1996 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. They will discuss the 4-year Development Plan of the ICA ROAP for a long-term commitment.

The JCCU has already indicated its support for at least 2 development projects of the ICA

ROAP, viz. Consumer Co-operative Development Project and Gender Integration Project.

Publications

Management of Consumer Co-operatives for South and South-East Asia - A Workshop Report, pp. 227, February, 1996.

Order your copy from ICA Domus Trust, 43 Friends Colony (East), New Delhi 110 065, India
Fax: (91)11-683-5568

In preparation for the Regional Medical/Health Seminar in Nov. '96

Sushrusha - Citizens' Co-op Hospital Limited- will host, along with JCCU and ICA ROAP, the second regional meeting of the medical/health care co-operatives in November, 1996 at Bombay, India.

Preliminary discussions on the organization of the meeting has been undertaken among the ICA ROAP, Sushrusha, JCCU and the Medical Co-operative Forum in Japan.

As in the case of the first meeting held in Sri Lanka, the main obstacle is to have more representation from a number of countries. The information on healthcare co-operatives is simply unavailable, except in the case of Japan and Sri Lanka due to the fact that the sector is still in the formative stage. Therefore, the ICA ROAP has sent out a questionnaire to all possible known sources for obtaining information with the idea of inviting them to the next meeting.

The Committee members are kindly requested to take special interest in this matter and supply information on the medical/health co-ops of their respective countries (name, address, contact person, services provided, turnover, etc.) to the following address:

Mr. W U Herath
Consumer Advisor
ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
43 Friends Colony (East)
New Delhi 110 065, India
Tel: (91)11-683-5123;
Fax: (91)11-683-5568;
E-mail: ica@icaroap.unv.ernet.in

74th International Co-operative Day

(Saturday, 6 July 1996)

Message from the International Co-operative Alliance

CO-OPERATIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The potential of co-operative enterprises to contribute to the alleviation of poverty through the creation of employment and to satisfy certain of society's needs more effectively than either public or private profit-making enterprises have been widely recognised by the United Nations.

One of the ways in which the UN demonstrated this recognition was by declaring, in 1995, that the International Day of Co-operatives should be celebrated every year by Governments in collaboration with their national co-operative movements.

In 1996, as the International Community celebrates the Year for the Eradication of Poverty, the UN will again draw the attention of Governments to the significant contribution of co-operatives to reducing poverty and to the need to form partnerships with the Movement.

Co-operatives have always had an impact in the communities in which they operate. Working at the grassroots level they help to bring about sustainable development in the community by empowering their members. The member movements of the International Co-operative Alliance also act globally through their apex organisation and have thus won increased recognition at the international level for their valuable contribution to the achievement of the economic, social and environmental goals of the United Nations.

Concern for Community, a new Co-operative Principle reflecting the impact co-operatives have in contributing to sustainable development within communities, was added to the guiding principles of the International Co-operative Movement in the new Statement of the Co-operative Identity adopted at the Centennial Congress and General Assembly of the International Co-operative Alliance in September, 1995.

Some of the Co-operative Principles have changed little since the movement began over 150 years ago. The first three Principles: Voluntary and Open Membership, Democratic Member Control, and Member Economic Participation are the foundations on which the modern movement was built. Principle four, Autonomy and Independence, has been proven as a necessary ingredient in societies where governments have formerly used co-operatives to enforce their own development programmes and economic plans often to the detriment of the co-operative values of self-help and responsibility. Principle five, Education, Training and Information, has been acknowledged as being of primordial importance, not only for the co-operative members and elected representatives, managers and employees, but also for society at large, especially for those who govern societies, for opinion leaders and for the young people who will become the co-operators of tomorrow.

Co-operative Solidarity, or as stated in the sixth Principle of the Statement of Co-operative Identity, Co-operation between Co-operatives, is the potential strength of the international co-operative movement. It is a principle which is becoming increasingly important in the face of the contemporary

global economic, social and political trends which societies everywhere are facing.

The International Co-operative Alliance calls upon its more than 760,000,000 members at grassroots level, and also upon co-operative enterprises and organisations at local, regional and national level, to consider not only how to improve their own situation, but also to devote significant energy to promoting new co-operative enterprises in their own and related fields.

The ICA moreover calls upon its member organisations and specialised organisations in the fields of agriculture, banking, consumer co-operation, energy, fisheries, health, housing, insurance, trade, tourism and industrial and artisanal production, as well as its committees working in the fields of communications, human resource development, co-operative research and the promotion of equal opportunities for women in co-operatives, to work together to build a strong, united movement which can help make tomorrow's world a better place for future generations.

Consumer Committee Activities

June-December, 1996

June

- Consumer Committee Meeting (28th) at Petaling Jaya, Malaysia - 11 June, 1996
- Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (JCCU)

July

- Exchange programme for consumer leaders of consumer co-operatives of Indonesia with Japan.
- Training of store managers of NTUC FairPrice, Singapore in Japan.
- International Co-operative Day (06 July)

August

- Follow-up study on consumer co-operatives in Myanmar (ICA ROAP-JCCU).

October

- Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (JCCU)

November

- Regional Seminar on Youth in Consumer Co-operative Development, Singapore.
- Codex Committee on General Principles (JCCU)

December

- Study on current status of Consumer Co-operatives in Thailand (ICA ROAP-JCCU)

Asia-Pacific Consumer Co-op News is published by the ICA ROAP on behalf of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific Edited by W U Herath, Consumer Advisor. Layout and typesetting by P.Nai at the ICA ROAP and printed at Document Press, New Delhi.



ASIA-PACIFIC CONSUMER CO-OP NEWS



A Newsletter of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific

Vol.2, Issue No.2

For Private Circulation only

October, 1995

Consumer Co-operatives in North-East India

Mr. Pradit Machima, consumer advisor, made a visit to the four North-Eastern states of India viz. West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya and Manipur, from 12-18 January, 1995.

The object of his visit was to meet local leaders and assess the situation of consumer co-operatives in

this area. He also wanted prepare programmes for training and co-operative development.

He was able to prepare five projects, four seminars and training activities and one seminar in Bangladesh (across the boarder) were finalised.

Northern Thailand holds workshop on consumer co-operatives.

Nan province in Northern Thailand is rich economically but the consumer co-operatives in this area are not developed. Absence of proper leadership training and technology are the reasons for this state of affairs.

The ICA Consumer Co-operative Development Project, in collaboration with the Consumer Co-operative Federation of Thailand, the Co-operative League of Thailand and the Co-operative Promotion Department, organized a regional workshop.

Some 164 participants from agricultural and consumer co-operatives, government co-operatives officials from northern Thailand, participated at the workshop.

The participants were very happy to have this opportunity and wished that the ICA will organise more such activities in this region, as this way they could get training and technology for further developing their consumer co-operatives.

Sub-Regional Workshop on Self Service System

The ICA, in collaboration with the National Consumers Co-operative Federation, organized a Sub-Regional workshop on Self-Service Systems in consumer co-operatives at Calcutta, West Bengal, India, from 20-25 March, 1995.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Saral Deb, Minister in-charge of co-operation in the Government of West Bengal.

The workshop hoped to train consumer co-operative leaders, managers and key staff to organize and run consumer co-operatives on a 'self-service system' and to build up better relationships among the co-operative leaders in the Region.

22 leaders, managers and key staff from north and north-eastern India, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated at the workshop.

The workshop recommended that more training programmes of this type should be held for north and north-east India in the future.

Citizen consumer and university co-operatives in Indonesia

During 12-20 February, the consumer advisor visited Java, Indonesia and made assessments on citizen consumer co-operatives and university co-operatives.

Rough plans for organizing education and training were discussed and prepared in collaboration with DEKOPIN and KOPINDO.

27th 29th Meeting of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific

27th
The 29th Meeting of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and Pacific will be held at Sabah, Malaysia from 30 November to 02 December, 1995.

ANGKASA, the national apex organisation of co-operatives in Malaysia has agreed to host this meeting.

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Manipur too holds a consumer co-operative workshop

A self-financed workshop on consumer co-operative development was held at Imphal, Manipur from 27-28 March, 1995, which was jointly organized by the ICA, the State Co-operative Union, the State Consumer and Marketing Federation and the Institute of Co-operative Management, Manipur.

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Manipur was deeply involved in this activity.

The workshop intended to create awareness among co-operative leaders and senior staff on consumer co-operatives in a free market situation and improve the performance of these co-operatives.

Forty-five participants from Manipur and Mizoram attended the workshop. The workshop would enable to create awareness and improve the performance of the consumer co-operatives in this region.

Chandigarh is not far behind

Another self-financed workshop on consumer co-operative development was organized in Chandigarh from 6-7 April, 1995.

This workshop was held at the Institute of Co-operative Management, jointly by the ICA, the State Consumer Federation and the Institute of Co-operative Management, Chandigarh.

The inauguration was done by

the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Punjab and the workshop was closed by Mr. S. Jakhar, Minister of Co-operation, Government of Punjab.

43 co-operative leaders and managers of co-operatives participated.

Though the arrangements were not very good, the workshop could create awareness and hope on consumer co-operative activities.

Second Sub-Regional Workshop on Consumer Co-operative Development for South Asian countries

Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay was the venue for the second Sub-Regional Workshop on Consumer Co-operative Development in India for the benefit of South Asian countries. The workshop was organized by ICA, NCCF and Apna Bazar Co-operative Department Store, Bombay.

33 participants from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India attended the workshop.

The programme included lectures, presentations of country and background papers, field visits and class room discussions including group discussions, guided by able resource persons. The participants were taken on study visits to major

co-operative supermarkets and consumer stores in Bombay and other parts of Maharashtra.

The workshop felt that this is the kind of training which is needed for consumer co-operative leaders and staff in all parts of South and South-East Asia like, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Burma, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines and even for the Pacific.

Such workshops give insight and precise knowledge to participants in organizing and developing consumer co-operatives in their respective community and country and build confidence. □

Consumer Advisor visits South and Central Philippines

Pradit Machima, the consumer advisor visited Cebu and Cagayan de Oro in Central and South Philippines to assess the consumer co-operative operations in these parts of Philippines and to give consultancy assistance and help to primary consumer co-operatives. He was also able to assist in the preparation of education programmes for consumer co-operatives in 14 provinces in the Region.

Co-operative Union of Philippines, Co-operative Union of Region X and the ICA joined hands in organising a two-day seminar at Cagayan de Oro, where 62 co-operative leaders, managers and staff participated. Mr. Filomeno Bautista, Chairman of CUP promised to organize this type of seminars in all regions of the country in future.

Seminar of Women co-operative leaders in Mangalore, Southern India

A two-day seminar for women co-operative leaders on leadership development was jointly organized by the ICA, the University of Mangalore and the District Co-operative Union.

The seminar aimed to create awareness on the roles of women in organizing and operating consumer co-operatives and their involvement in community development.

The seminar covered education and training, adult education, communication strategy, leadership development, business organisation and financial management.

A total of 28 women co-operative leaders from Daksina Karnataka attended the seminar. Apart from the women leaders, a number of graduate students, both males and females, attended the training.

Co-operative Development in Educational Institutions

A three-day seminar on co-operative development in educational institutions was organized at Panji, Goa, from 3-5 March, 1995. The Goa university actively supported the ICA in this activity.

30 co-operators from various colleges and the university of Goa attended the seminar.

Modern Management of Consumer Co-operatives for North-East India

A self-financed workshop on Modern Management of Consumer Co-operatives was held from 16-17 October, 1995 by the ICA with the co-operation and collaboration of the State Co-operative Union of Assam and the Institute of Co-operative Management, Guwahati.

The workshop discussed on problems of consumer co-operatives and ways and means of overcoming them.

The workshop was also able to pave way for building better co-operation and coordination among government, co-operative and training institutions in the region.

It also created awareness on modern management techniques for consumer co-operatives.

27 delegates from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura participated the workshop. The workshop proved to be quite effective.

All members of the Regional Consumer Committee and consumer co-operatives in member countries are requested to provide information on consumer-related activities in their countries. They are also requested to provide success stories and other information to make this newsletter better.

-Editor

26th Meeting of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific

Mongolia was the venue for the 26th meeting of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific. The meeting held at the Conference Hall of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, on 27 June, 1995, was inaugurated by the Mongolian Minister of Trade and Industry. 15 delegates from Japan, Korea, Singapore, Vietnam and Mongolia participated.

The meeting discussed the general situation of consumer co-operatives and their achievements in member countries. Presentation of facts on the co-operative movement in Mongolia was presented.

This opportunity was also utilised to gather information on the consumer co-operatives in Mongolia. The Consumer Advisor visited primary co-operatives, consumer co-operative unions in 3 provinces of Hovsgol, Dzuun Mod and Ovon Hangay, apart from the capital Ulaan Baator.

Most of the co-operatives are producers co-operatives doing some consumer activities like distribution

of goods like wheat, rice, cooking oil, sugar, salt, garments and drinks.

Mongolia has one national consumer organization (Mongolia Consumer Co-operative Union and 18 provincial consumer unions with 350 primary co-operatives.

A national workshop on consumer co-operatives in Mongolia was organized from 28-29 June, where 36 co-operative leaders from 18 provincial unions and the Central Council of Mongolian Consumer Co-operatives participated. It was the first ever workshop organized by the ICA in Mongolia.

In the past, we were not able to invite more experienced co-operative leaders from different countries. But this time, more experts from countries with various levels of development like Vietnam, South Korea, Singapore and Japan were present.

Mongolian consumer co-operatives need technical and financial assistance from international organisations, especially on education and training.

A Consultative Conference for Youth on Consumer Management in Manila

A Co-operative Youth-cum-Consumer Management Consultative Conference was held from 22-24 August in Manila.

This was jointly organized by the ICA, NFUCA and the Metro Manila Federation of Consumer Co-operatives.

The objective of the Conference was to redefine and reorganize university co-operatives, to meet the needs of their members as well as to prepare a long term plan for future development.

Sixty-three delegates including consumer leaders, management student directors from 6 regions participated.

A delegation of 11 participants from NFUCA, led by Mr. K. Okayasu, Managing Director of NFUCA and Mr. H. Amano of JCCU also participated. They also provided vital technical resources.

An integrated plan of action for a 5-year period was drafted. This draft plan will be submitted to the ICA Regional office later.

Southern Thailand organizes a Regional workshop on Modern Management of Consumer Co-operatives

A regional workshop on Modern Management of Consumer Co-operatives was jointly organised by the ICA, the Co-operative League of Thailand and the Consumer Co-operative Federation of Thailand. The workshop was at Nakhon Si Thammarat from 21-23 October, 1995.

Forty-five participants from 14 provinces of southern Thailand assessed the present situation of con-

sumer co-operatives in the region. Co-operative leaders and key staff of consumer co-operatives were able to get ideas on modern management techniques and training in practical evaluation, planning and implementation.

The participants appreciated the workshop due to its new approach and expressed their desire to have more such activities, even on self-financing basis.

ICA Centennial Congress, Manchester

The Consumer Advisor attended the ICA Centennial Congress held at Manchester from 18-25 September, 1995.

He has participated at the Executive Committee meeting of the ICA Global Consumer Committee.

He could also visit some agricultural and dairy co-operatives in Chestshire, the Central Co-operative Hyper Market at Wedgwood.

He also visited the Co-operative Department Store in Rochdale.

The visit to Rochdale Pioneers museum was memorable,

He was able to have discussions and meetings with delegates from various countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Fiji and Japan on consumer co-operative activities

Calendar of activities of Consumer Project during November/December, 1995

1. Training of selected Managers of Consumer Co-operatives on Supermarket Operations in Singapore, 1-10 November, 1995
2. ICA/NCCF/Raigad Bazar Regional Workshop on Modern Management of Consumer Co-operatives for South and South-East Asia, Alibagh, Maharashtra, India 12-20 November, 1995.
3. Second Meeting of the ICA Regional Executive Council, Bangalore, 22-25 November, 1995.
4. 29th Meeting of ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific, Sabah, Malaysia - 30 Nov-02 December, 1995
5. Seminar on Consumer Co-operatives in South Pacific, Suva, Fiji from 04-07 December, 1995.
6. Seminar on Consumer Co-operative Development, Bangladesh, 16-18 December, 1995.

PUBLICATIONS

The Consumer Project has been able to bring out the following publications recently:

1. A newsletter of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operative for Asia and the Pacific (Vol.2, Issue 1)
2. Report of the National Seminar on Consumer Co-operative Development in Nepal
3. Report of ICA/NCCF Sub-Regional Seminar on Consumer Co-operative Development in India for the benefit of the Indian sub-continent.
4. Report on the follow-up workshop on University Co-operatives of Asia and the Pacific.
5. A Simple Manual on Management of Consumer Co-operatives.
6. Operating Guidelines for Operating a Successful Self-service shop.
7. Report on the National Seminar on Consumer Co-operative Development in Myanmar.
8. Consumer Co-operatives in South Pacific : A report on the field study conducted by the ICA ROAP team.

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ASIA-PACIFIC CONSUMER COOP NEWS



A Newsletter of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia & the Pacific : Issued every 4 months

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For Private Circulation only

Jan-Apr, 1995

Editor's Note

Last issue of the Asia-Pacific Consumer Co-op News was published in March, 1994.

Due to some restructuring of the publications of the ICA Regional Office, this bulletin was discontinued and the ICA Regional Office only published one bulletin, 'Asia-Pacific Coop News' and a journal 'Co-op Dialogue'. This arrangement was found to be inadequate and the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation has decided to publish a Newsletter in order to give information on the consumer co-operative development activities in the Region to the movements and its leaders. In line with this decision, we are trying to resume publication of the new bulletin with this issue.

Due to the discontinuance of the bulletin, information inflow for the bulletin was disrupted and hence we could not include much information on the consumer co-operative movements in all our member countries in this issue. However, I am sure that the member organisations will start supplying news and views regularly and we will be able to bring out a better bulletin in future. Comments from all readers and member organisations are solicited for improving this bulletin.

-Editor

Operating Guidelines for Consumer Co-operatives in Asia and the Pacific

These guidelines were prepared by Mr. M. Ohya, Chairman and Mr. Lim Ho Seng, Vice Chairman of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific. The guidelines were discussed at the Committee meeting in Singapore in 1994 and were approved and published here for the benefit of Consumer Co-operatives in the Region.

-Editor

Consumer co-operatives are both social and commercial entities. They exist to provide their members with quality goods and services at reasonable prices. At the same time, they must also make profits to grow and give a reasonable return on funds invested by members. They practice honesty, openness and social responsibility in all their activities.

These operating guidelines are prepared to assist the consumer co-operatives reflect co-operative characteristics in their activities.

1. Economic Viability

The first and foremost aim of consumer co-operatives should be to achieve economic viability. Without profits, members would not enjoy any economic benefits and the co-operatives themselves would eventually have to close down. This implies that they should be run on sound management principles and must be fully competitive with private enterprise. They cannot expect privileged treatment by the Government as this

would result in loss of autonomy, weak structures and not robust growth.

2. Distribution of Surplus

When there is a profit, funds should be first set aside for developing the business. This is necessary to secure the long-term future of the co-operative. Next, members should receive a return, based on the extent to which they patronise the co-operative. At the same time, members who contribute capital could be paid a competitive rate of interest.

3. Meeting Members' Needs

Consumer co-operatives are member-driven organizations. As such they need to provide goods and services that cater to the changing lifestyle needs of members. Those needs should also be met effectively, which implies superior service, efficiency and competitive pricing.

4. Honesty and Openness

Consumer co-operatives traditionally have a special commitment to honesty which distinguished them in

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the market place. They should adopt good business practices. Goods sold should be fresh, wholesome and well within the expiry date. Items should not be short weight.

Co-operatives also have a bias towards openness, they should regularly reveal to their membership, information about their operations. They should also be prepared to provide all the information a customer needs to know in purchasing a product or service.

5. Ongoing Education

There is a necessity that elected leaders and managers are competent and honest. Ongoing education and training are provided to members, leaders, managers and employees so that they can carry out their respective roles effectively and also realise their full potential. Employees should be fairly compensated according to the standards of the market place so

that good people are attracted and retained.

6. Effective Management

A co-operative must have effective management. Elected leaders as representatives of the members have specific roles and responsibilities laying down policies and guidelines and general supervision of the affairs of the co-operative. Hired professional managers should be given considerable scope for the exercise of initiative, judgement and enterprise. Elected leaders should not interfere with the day to day running of the co-operative which should be left in the hands of hired professional managers. Members as owners should actively participate in electing competent leaders and influencing the basic policies of the co-operative.

7. Environmental Care

Consumer co-operatives are also concerned about the deterioration of

the environment in which we live in. Much can be done to resolving many of the problems. Mobilising public opinion is a task which co-operative with their large membership bases can do with remarkable effectiveness. Co-operatives should also adopt business practices which are respectful of the environment.

8. Community Responsibility

Consumer co-operatives should conduct themselves as socially responsible corporate citizens and be actively involved in local community causes. Participation in community welfare causes is highly encouraged.

9. Co-operative among Co-ops

Co-operatives can serve the interest of their members more effectively when they collaborate among themselves at all levels. When co-operatives actively co-operative with each other the whole can be much greater than the parts.

Members of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific

Chairman	: Mr. M. Ohya Executive Director Japanese Consumer Co-op. Union
Bangladesh	: Mr. Mohd. Shahidullah, BJSU
Fiji	: Mr. K.B. Matalau, Fiji Co-operative Union
India	: Mr. T.T. Adhikari, NCCF of India Ltd.
Indonesia	: Mr. M.C. Baridjambek, Dekopin
Japan	: Mr. M. Ohya, JCCU Mr. M. Okayasu, NFUCA
Rep. of Korea	: Dr. Kim, Yong-Jin, NACF
Malaysia	: Mr. Tuan Haji Sallehuddin bin Abdul Ghani Dato' Hamzah bin Haji Yatim, ANGKASA
Mongolia	: Mr. P. Yag, MCC
Philippines	: Mr. Felomino Bautista (Jr.), CUP Mrs. M. Climaco
Singapore	: Mr. Lim Ho Seng, Fairprice (<i>Vice Chairman</i>)
Sri Lanka	: Mr. P.D. Dissanayake, CCSF
Thailand	: Mr. Kajorn Atichart, CCFT Mr. Jankaew Muangjai, CLT
Vietnam	: Mr. Vu Luu, CCSMC
Secretary	: Mr. Pradit Machima, ICA ROAP

All Members of the Regional Consumer Committee and Consumer Co-operatives in Member countries are requested to provide information on consumer related activities in their countries. They are also requested to provide success stories and other information to make this newsletter better.

- Editor

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India holds a self-financed workshops on consumer co-operatives

The ICA in collaboration with the National Council of Co-operative Training (NCCT) of India had organised 3 self-financed workshops on Consumer Cooperative Development in three states - Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh between January and August, 1994.

The main objective of the workshops was to promote and develop consumer cooperatives in these States on self-help basis (self-financing, self-education, self-support and member participation).

Sixty (60) participants in Rajasthan, seventy-five (75) in Tamil Nadu and 65 in U.P. had attended the workshop at Jaipur, Madras and Lucknow respectively.

Student/University Co-op workshop in India

From April to October, 1994, five (5) self-financed workshops on student/university co-ops were organized in three States in India - one in Karnataka, three in Tamil Nadu and one in Kerala. Forty nine (49), ninety three (93) and ninety nine (99) participants attended the workshops in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala respectively.

The main objectives of the workshops were to promote, develop and improve student/university co-operatives within the region. The outcome were quite good. The participants were motivated, well equipped with real situations and ideas as to how to re-structure and improve student/university co-operatives within these areas. For example,

1) facts and information (data) on student/university co-operative operations must be collected, analyzed and used regularly,



Market Place in Manipur, North East India

- 2) joint purchase among student/university co-operatives must be made,
- 3) exchange information on student/university co-operative operations must be encouraged,
- 4) regular meetings among co-operative leaders must take place, and
- 5) formation of Student/University Co-operative Federation be encouraged.

Sub-Regional Seminar on Consumer Co-operative Development in India

A seminar was jointly organized by ICA, NCCT and Apna Bazar Co-operative Department Store, Bombay, at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, between 24 April and 3rd May, 1994.

Twenty one (21) participants from three countries - India (15), Myanmar (3), and Sri Lanka (3) attended the Seminar. The seminar's main objectives were to upgrade the management techniques and the performance of consumer co-operatives within the region as well as to build up better relationship among participants and member countries.

Training on Supermarket Operations in Japan

Two 10-day training programmes on Super Market operations in Japan for four managers (two each) of Consumer Co-operatives from Singapore were jointly organized by ICA and JCCU between 17 and 26 January and 12 and 21 October, 1994.

The main objective of the training was to enhance the knowledge of the participants on modern management techniques of supermarket operations.

The participants were trained on the above subject in different parts of Japan where consumer co-operatives are operating successfully.

Managers of Consumer Co-operatives from Korea and Malaysia trained in Japan

Between 21 and 30 August, 1994, ICA with the co-operation of JCCU had organized a 10-day training programme on Consumer Co-operative operations in Japan for 5 Managers of Consumer Co-operatives from the Rep. of Korea (2) and Malaysia (3).

The main objectives of the train-

ing were to apprise them with modern techniques of consumer co-operative operations in Japan and at the same time to encourage them to develop consumer coop. movements in their respective countries. The participants had visited various consumer co-operative societies/institutions in Japan under the support and guidance of JCCU.

Training in Sri Lanka

ICA with the co-operation of National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka (NCC), the Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Federation (COOPFED) and the Department of Co-operative Development, organized a training programme on Consumer Co-operative Management in Colombo for 3 days between 28 and 30 June, 1994.

The objectives of the training were (1) to introduce the system and techniques of modern management of consumer co-operatives to the participants and co-operative organizations, and (2) to up-grade the performance of consumer co-operatives in Sri Lanka.

Training of Indian Consumer Co-op leaders in Japan

The programme was jointly organized by JCCU and local consumer co-operatives in Japan between 11 and 20 July 1994. Four consumer co-operative leaders from four leading consumer co-operative societies in Bombay, India, were selected for this training activity. All costs were borne by the sponsoring Japanese Consumers' Co-operatives Union through the good offices of Mr. M. Ohya.

The main objective of this training was to help Indian consumer co-operative leaders to observe and learn more about modern management techniques of consumer co-operative operations in Japan, so that they can improve their own work in India.

Training-cum-study visit of Vietnamese Consumer Co-operative leaders in Thailand

Between 3 and 10 July, 1994, 5 consumer co-operative leaders from North, Central and South Vietnam had visited Thailand for the above training programme. The programme was jointly organized by the ICA and the Co-operative League of Thailand.

The main objective of organizing this programme was to give an opportunity to Vietnamese co-operative leaders to see and learn more about coop. organization, administration and business operations in real practice in neighbouring country as well as to promote mutual help and better co-operation among ICA member countries.

Training of Store Managers from Asia & the Pacific in Singapore

Between 23 October and 2 November, 1994, ICA and NTUC FairPrice, Singapore, had organized a 10-day training programme on super-market operations for four consumer co-operative managers - one each from Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Kingdom of Tonga.

The outcome of the training was very good.

Asian Health Medical Co-operatives meets in Colombo

The first Asian Health Medical Co-operatives Meeting was held in Hotel Holiday Inn, Colombo on 19 and 20 April, 1994. Thirty five (35) participants from 4 countries and ICA ROAP attended the meeting as follows:

Sri Lanka	17
India	8
Japan	8
Malaysia	1
ICA ROAP	1

The objective of the meeting was to provide better facilities and services to co-operative members, (2) medical co-operative operations in Asian countries, (3) development of medical co-operatives in Asian countries and (4) future plans for the development of medical co-operatives in Asia and the Pacific.

The meeting agreed that the next seminar will be organized in India in 1996.

Study on the Consumer Co-operative Movement in Fiji and some Pacific countries

On the request of the Fiji Co-operative Union Ltd., to make a comprehensive study on consumer co-operative movement in Fiji, the ICA with financial support from JCCU, had deputed two senior officers (Mr. Upali Herath, HRD Advisor and Mr. Pradit Machima, Consumer Advisor), to visit Fiji and the Pacific between May 13 and June 17 this year.

The team had visited the Republic of Fiji, Kingdom of Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. The study was arranged to make assessment of consumer co-operative movements within the region and to find ways and means of improving them.

The team had made excellent contacts with local organizations and authorities to pave the way for mutual co-operation between ICA/JCCU and government institutions and co-operative organizations within the region.

The team also had the opportunity to meet Maj. Gen. Rabuka, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, who attended a co-operative meeting in Lautoka on 21 May, 1994.

The report of the mission is being published now.

Fact-Finding Mission to study the Co-operative Movement in Nepal

ICA ROAP had sent Mr. Pradit Machima, ICA Consumer Advisor and Mr. S.C. Misra, Senior Consultant of the National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India, to conduct a study on the Co-operative Movement in Nepal between 1 and 8 August, 1994. The objective of the study was to make an assessment of co-operative movement in Nepal, especially consumer co-operatives in order to pave the way for the development of consumer co-operatives within the country. The report was made and the plan for organizing a national seminar on consumer co-operatives was drawn up.

Regional Follow-up Workshop on University Co-operatives of Asia & the Pacific

A Regional Follow-up Workshop on University Co-operatives of Asia and the Pacific was held at Lanna Resort, Chiang Mai, Thailand, between 7 and 11 February, 1994. The workshop was jointly organized by ICA, CLT, NFUCA and Chiang Mai University. The workshop was attended by 62 participants from 8 countries, namely India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Korea and Thailand. Main objectives of the workshop were to promote and develop student/university co-operatives and to strengthen the role of the student/university in promoting and developing consumer co-operative movements within the region.

National Seminar on Consumer Co-ops in Thailand

Mr. Pradit Machima, Consumer Advisor, had attended the National Seminar on Consumer Co-operatives, held at Chiang Mai, Thailand, between 23 and 26 August '94.

The seminar was jointly organized by the Co-operative League of Thailand (CLT) and the Consumer Co-operative Federation of Thailand (CCFT). The seminar was attended by 65 consumer co-operative leaders from all over the country. The seminar discussed about general problems confronting consumer co-operatives and the measures to tackle the problems, especially the problems on value added tax, competition with private sector, co-operation among co-operatives and the declining sales of consumer co-operatives.

National Seminar on Consumer Co-operative Development in Nepal and Myanmar

Between 23 and 30 November, 1994, ICA ROAP and JCCU had helped Nepal and Myanmar to organize National Seminars on Consumer Co-operative Development in the two countries upon their request. The main objectives of both seminars were to discuss consumer co-operative situations, their strength and weaknesses, needs for changes and development, government policies towards consumer co-operative development, modern management techniques and strategic plans for long term development.

In Nepal, the seminar was jointly organized by the Department of Co-operatives and Consumer Co-operative Union at the Co-operative Training Centre (CTC), Kathmandu from 23 to 25 November, 1994. Thirty five (35) participants from Co-operative Department, co-operative societies at all levels and co-operative training centre. Out of this, 12 (twelve) came from outside Kathmandu. The seminar was inaugurated by Mr. Tiwari, acting Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture.

In Myanmar, the seminar was jointly organized by the Ministry of Co-operatives and Central Co-operative Society (CCS) at Ministry of Co-operatives' Conference Hall. Thirty (30) high ranking co-operative officers from both the Department of Co-operatives and Department of Cottage Industries, Ministry of Co-operatives, Co-operative leaders, managers and key staff of all levels (village tracts, township and state/division) plus a number of observers from concerned co-operative organisations attended the seminar from 28 to 30 December, 1994. The seminar was inaugurated by H.E. the Minister of Co-operatives Mr. Than Aung. The best of its kind ever organized during the past few years.



Mr. A. Kurimoto, Manager, Int'l Department, JCCU and Mr. Pradit Machima, Consumer Advisor, ICA ROAP at a meeting with students of co-operative college, Phauangi, Myanmar

Meetings of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific

in Singapore. 30 participants from 10 countries attended the meeting. □

ICA Sub-Committee on University Co-operatives established

At the meeting held in Singapore on 27 December, 1994, the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific had approved the establishment of a Sub-Committee on University Co-operatives for Asia and the Pacific.

Later on the first meeting of the said sub-committee was convened in Singapore on 28 December, 1994.

The meeting was found to be very useful and the Committee has decided to hold its meeting on an annual basis at convenient venues.



ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific had held two meetings in 1994.

The first meeting was held in Colombo in conjunction with the Third

Co-operative Ministers' Conference on 25 July, 1994, which was attended by 36 participants from 14 countries. The second one was held in Singapore between 27 and 28 December, 1994

Proposed Activities of the Consumer Co-operative Development Project

July, 1995 to December, 1996

The following activities are proposed to be undertaken by the Consumer Co-operative Development Project of the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for the 18 months period (July '95 to Dec.'96)

- Publication of Asia-Pacific Consumer Co-operative News, reports on activities, teaching and training material for consumer co-operatives, etc.
- Exchange programmes for women consumer co-operative leaders from Malaysia and Indonesia to Japan.
- University co-operative network meeting and follow-up workshop on university co-operatives in selected countries.
- Second meeting of the Asian Medical co-operatives in India.
- Fact finding mission and training for consumer co-operatives in Mongolia in conjunction with the ICA Consumer Committee meeting.
- Collection of data on medical co-operatives in 10 countries of the Region.
- Regional Perspective Planning for Consumer Co-operatives in Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Vietnam.
- Training of selected managers of consumer co-operatives from Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India on self-service shops in India.
- Two training programmes on super market operations for store managers from Singapore in Japan.
- Two training programmes for store managers from Malaysia, India, Thailand, and Philippines in Singapore.
- Follow-up seminar on consumer co-operatives in the Pacific at Fiji.
- Follow-up workshop on university co-operative operations in 5 selected countries.
- Consultancy assistance for Myanmar and Nepal.
- Debate on Strategic planning for consumer co-operatives in Thailand and the Philippines.
- National seminar on consumer co-operative development in India.

Consumer Co-operative Movement in Nepal

S. R. Joshi,

Acting Registrar

1. Historical Background

Although Nepal has a long tradition of Co-operation, Co-operative programme was launched on government initiative in 1953 after the setting up of Department of Co-operatives under Ministry of Agriculture. For the first time, credit co-operatives were organised in 1955 under a resettlement plan for the flood-stricken people in Rapti Valley of Chitawan district. In the absence of legal provisions for registration, those co-operatives were registered under an Executive Order of the government. As the popular government formed following the 1958 general election pursued the policy of encouraging co-operative development, multipurpose agriculture co-operatives, cottage industry cooperatives, consumer co-operatives, marketing cooperatives also began to be organised in addition to credit cooperatives. In the mean time, co-operative enactment was also made in 1959. Subsequent to the political change of 1960, efforts were made in vain till 1991 to develop the co-operative movement in a controlled situation without people's participation and contrary to co-operative values norms and principles. As a result, although co-operatives grew in number, their qualitative development could not take place.

The democratic government formed after the popular movement of 1990 has, in the process of establishing the necessary foundation for developing the co-operative movement in a voluntary, spontaneous and democratic manner, enacted the Co-operative Act, 1992 and the National Co-operative Development Board Act, 1992 and formed Co-operative Rules, 1993. As the new Co-operative Act has laid emphasis on the development of co-operation based on people's participation and according to co-operative values and principles, there has been a notable rise in the number of various types of single as well as multi-purpose co-operatives. A statement of the number and turnover of co-operatives is given in the Annexure. Although the number of single-purpose consumer co-operatives was very small before 1991. Many multi-purpose agricultural cooperatives were also dealing in consumer goods to some extent. In general however, it may be said that the development of consumer co-operative business has taken place after the enactment of the Co-operative Act, 1992. The number of consumer co-operatives has been found to have highly increased as a result of the conversion of many fair-price shops-operated by His Majesty's Government under its relief programme for supplying the people with the daily essentials in an easy manner at proper prices into co-operatives.

2. Present State

As of December 1993, the number of co-operative societies and unions in Nepal is 1678, of which 210 are consumer co-operatives. The latter include 206 primary-level consumer co-operative societies, 3 District Consumer Co-operative Unions (secondary unions) and one Central Consumer Co-op-

erative Union. Thus the consumer co-operative movement has its own organizational structure right from the primary to the central levels. The main business of consumer co-operatives is the buying and selling of daily essentials (rice, edible oil, salt, lintels, sugar, ghee, kerosene oil, cloth, etc.). These co-operatives sell goods bought from agencies, such as Nepal Food Corporation, Salt Trading Corporation, National Trading Corporation, Dairy Development Corporation, and other businessmen.

While evaluating the overall performance of consumer co-operative stores, most of the cooperatives are found to have played a positive role in making the necessary services and facilities available to the people but a large number of them are not found to be managed and operated in full compliance of co-operative norms, principles and Act and Rules. It has been found that the process of organising consumer co-operatives has been rapid owing to the simplified procedures for registration as well as the intention to take advantage of legal concessions and benefits provided in the name of co-operatives. Failures to hold regular meetings of the Board of Directors and Accounts Committees, to prepare and implement programme budget, hold general meeting, keep clear, systematic and updated records as prescribed by the Rules owing to the lack of the necessary trained personnel, get books of accounts audited timely are only a few such examples which clearly indicate the fact that many consumer co-operatives have not been able to operate in line with co-operative values and norms. Mostly a great many of urban-based consumer co-operatives have failed to carry out their activities in a transparent way according to co-operative principles and norms.

3. Government Policies

The Co-operative Act 1992 and Co-operative Rules 1993 promulgated in line with the competitive market system and transparent economic policies of the democratic government formed after the popular movement of 1990 have provided for the formation of different types of co-operative societies and unions. Accordingly, consumer co-operatives too, have considerably increased in number, particularly in urban areas. The general policy is to accord priority to co-operatives by other agencies also while distributing goods of daily necessity in the process of supporting the government programme. In this way, in general, the same services, concessions and facilities are provided for all types of co-operatives under the common government policies.

4. Problems

The main problems presently faced by the Nepalese consumer co-operative movement are as follows:

(a) *Lack of easy access to concessions and facilities :*

Although there is the policy to accord priority to co-operatives in the supply of commodities essential for the daily

life of the people, this policy is found to have implemented only in case of the shortage of such commodities in the country. Complaints are heard that consumer co-operatives have not been able to avail themselves of the necessary assistance, support and concessions in a simple and easy manner to a desired extent from various agencies.

(b) Failure to operate cooperatives in line with the co-op spirit

Some co-operatives organised in the name of consumer co-operatives are found to have engaged in different types of business and not in activities intended to serve their very purposes. There are instances where the existence of some of the registered consumer co-operatives as not found. Such types of consumer co-operatives, which are registered but are not doing business or are acting to the contrary of their objectives, are found in especially urban areas. As the members of many consumer co-operatives are inactive, they have a greater proportion of non-member trading.

(c) Lack of competitive strength :

Consumer co-operatives are lagging behind in the competitive market system emerging as a result of the open and liberal economic policies presently pursued by the country due to a lack of efficient management. The district, central and national level co-operatives union have also been unable to play effective roles in developing a co-operative trading network among consumer and other co-operatives and they have not been able to give emphasis to business expansion and diversification by establishing inter-co-operative business relations according to co-operative principles.

(d) Lack of capital :

Consumer co-operatives have been facing the difficulty in expanding and diversifying their business for want of capital caused by the absence of a separate financial agency providing capital for the co-operative sector.

(e) Inadequate support from the consumer agencies :

The suppliers of the main commodities dealt in by consumer co-operatives are different government, semi-government and non-governmental agencies. Co-operatives have been having many difficulties in getting goods and services in an easy manner with certainty from such agencies.

(f) Inadequate physical means and facilities :

Consumer co-operatives have not been able to carry on and diversify their business as they lack the necessary physical means and facilities, such as means of transport, godowns and cold-stores.

(g) Problem of record-keeping :

The way most of the consumer co-operatives have kept the record of their business has not been satisfactory. The activities of co-operatives cannot become transparent if there are no clear, systematic and up-to-date records. It has been found that consumer co-operatives have not been able to keep clear and updated records of the statistics and information necessary for the purpose of applying co-operative principles as well as the provisions of the Co-operative Act and Rules in practice.

(h) Lack of education and training :

As the general members and members of the Board of

Directors of consumer co-operatives do lack a sound knowledge of co-operation, they are not actively involved in the activities of their co-operatives. Likewise, co-operative employees have also been unable to achieve the level of business expertise and efficiency required in a competitive market system. The main reason for this may be ascribed to the lack of the necessary knowledge and skills related to co-operative business.

5. Future Needs and Strategies

It is necessary to give stress to the following in order to steer ahead the consumer co-operative movement of Nepal in a sound and effective manner in the future:

(a) The central and district consumer co-operative unions should be able to promote inter-relations among consumer co-operative societies and unions and bring about coordination among them of providing dynamic leadership for them, and should lay emphasis on developing a co-operative trading network;

(b) Emphasis should be given to member participation as well as to the establishment of primary and district-level consumer co-operative societies and unions for strengthening the structure of consumer co-operative movement;

(c) Consumer co-operatives should mainly centre on dealing in daily essentials according to their defined objectives and should give priority to their members while doing business;

(d) District and Central Consumer Co-operative Union should, to the extent possible, try to buy goods in bulk quantities from producers and to set up and operate produce processing plants under joint ventures with producer co-operatives;

(e) In order to have the internal capital necessary for consumer co-operative movement, the main emphasis should be given to the programmes for augmenting share capital and mobilising savings;

(f) Managerial and business efficiency should be promoted by emphasizing on the training as well as educational activities necessary for developing and expanding consumer co-operative businesses;

(g) The record of the activities of consumer co-operatives should be kept systematically and made up-to-date; and

(h) As National Co-operative Federation in the apex body of cooperative movement, it should, besides supporting the overall development of consumer co-operative movement, play an active role in establishing inter-relations between consumer and producer co-operatives and coordinate their activities for doing away with the possible exploitation of producers as well as consumers by the intermediaries in accordance with the objectives of co-operation.

This is an extract from a country paper presented by Mr. S.R. Joshi, Acting Registrar, at the National Seminar on Consumer Co-operative Development held at Kathmandu, Nepal, during Nov.23-25, 1994. Since information on Nepalese Consumer Co-operatives are not available to co-operators in the Region, we have decided to include this in this Newsletter. We hope this will be of some use to the readers.

-Editor