

ICA-00891

AGENDA NOTES

ICA REGIONAL COUNCIL
FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

29th Meeting

New Delhi (India)

8-9 September 1987



International Cooperative Alliance
Regional Office & Education Centre
for South-East Asia, New Delhi

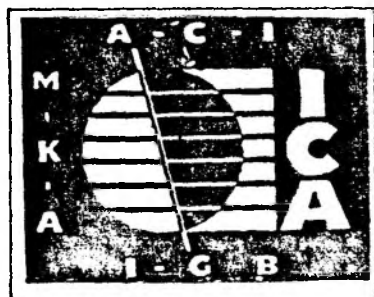
AGENDA NOTES

ICA REGIONAL COUNCIL
FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

29th Meeting

New Delhi(India)

8-9 September 1987



International Cooperative Alliance
Regional Office & Education Centre
for South-East Asia, New Delhi

INAUGURATION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

1. Welcome by host organisations

2. Introductory Remarks by :

- a) Chairman
- b) Associate Director, ICA
- c) Director, SCC
- d) Regional Director

3. Address by Chief Guest

4. Vote of thanks

Tea

Agenda Item No. 1 : Election of Chairman

As Mr. R. Mathimugan, Chairman, Regional Council, has joined the ICA as Special Adviser on Development & Training on 1st July, 1987 with headquarter in Australia, the members of the Council therefore are requested to elect a new Chairman from among the members under Article 34 of the Rules and Standing Orders which is reproduced below :

"Each Council shall elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and not more than four members who shall constitute an Executive organ to assist and advise the Regional Director between meetings of the Council. They shall hold office for a Congress period."

The term of new Chairman shall be for the remaining Congress period.

Agenda Item No. 2 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 28th Meeting

The Minutes of the 28th Meeting were circulated to all the members by RO vide its letter dated 20th October 1986 (copy enclosed - page 54).

The Minutes may be confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 3 : Matters arising out of the MinutesMinutesAction takenAgenda Item No.4, page 6, para 3Restructuring of the Regional Office

In the new reorganised set-up, presently the Regional Office consists of a Regional Director and seven core staff. In addition, there are four Project Officers. Further, the Cooptrade Project office continues to be in KL as usual and a Special Adviser for Cooperative Development & Training has been posted in Australia to look after the Pacific. Mr. Mathimugan has joined this office in the above post.

Agenda Item No.12 - Plan of Activities 1986-87 - RO/IDACAPara 12.07 - 2

It was suggested that the proposed Workshop on Prawn Breeding and Fish Farming could be organised on a self-financing basis.

The RO had written to all the member organisations seeking their support. However, there has been no response to support this activity.

Para 12.08

It was suggested that the usual annual ICA/IDACA Seminar being held in Japan be continued.

The ICA RO has included this activity in its programme for the year 1987-88. The Seminar on the theme of "Member Participation of Agricultural Coops & its Methods with special reference to Japanese Experience" will be held from 3rd to 22nd Nov.1987.

The SCC has agreed to support this activity by way of one way airfare. Another half of the airfare will be paid by the sponsoring organisations and all local costs will be taken care of by IDACA.

Agenda Item No.15 - Relations with International Organisations

Para 4

It was suggested that contact should be taken with the International Organisation of Consumers Union (IOCU) with regard to holding a Consumer Protection Guidelines Policy Workshop.

Contact was taken with the IOCU. However, they have not reacted to the proposal in any way.

Agenda Item No. 17

Para 17.02

A suggestion was made to adjust the timing of the Regional Council Meeting so as to keep a gap between the meetings of the RC and the Central Committee since the closeness of the two meetings were causing problems in regard to finance and being out of the country twice.

The Executive Sub-Committee at its meeting held in Manila on 18-19 June 1987 decided that the next RC meeting be held from 7th to 11th September 1987. However, this matter may be given further consideration at this meeting. From the secretariat point of view March-April would be suitable. However, it would be necessary to ensure that all the Specialised Sub-Committees meetings are held prior to the RC Meeting so that the views on programming etc. expressed at the Sub-Committee Meetings could be presented to the RC Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 4 : Letters and Reports from non-attending members

The Secretary will table letters and reports, if any, received from Councillors who are unable to attend the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 5 : Report by Regional Councillors on "Recent Changes, Trends and Developments in their Cooperative Movements"

Each Regional Councillor will table written report on the recent changes, trends and developments in their cooperative movements.

It is suggested that Councillors bring with them to the meeting 40 copies of the written statement for circulation.

**Agenda Item No. 6 : Reports on the activities of the
Specialised Sub-Committees**

The Regional Council has approved the various Sub-Committees which are functioning under different sectors. At present, the following Sub-Committees are in existence :

- i. ICA Sub-Committee for Agriculture for South-East Asia
- ii. ICA Sub-Committee on Consumer Cooperation for South-East Asia
- iii. ICA Sub-Committee for Fisheries for South-East Asia
- iv. ICA Sub-Committee for Cooperative Credit & Banking for South-East Asia
- v. ICA Sub-Committee for Trade & Industry

The activities undertaken by these Sub-Committees are attached.

ICA SUB-COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE FOR S-E ASIA.

1. The 22nd Meeting of the ICA Sub-committee for Agriculture for South-East Asia was held in Quezon City, Philippines on 30th and 31st March 1987. Brigadier General A.L. Lozada (Retd), Chairman of the Sub-committee presided. The members of the Sub-committee and a large number of invitees representing various government agencies and apex cooperative organisations attended the inaugural function. The following persons were the guests of honour. Mr. S.S. Puri, FAO Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, delivered a key-note address. Other speakers at the inaugural session included Brigadier General A.S. Lozada, Messrs. Carlos Tolentino, Benedicto A. Allanigue, R. Mathimugan and Bruce Thordarson. Mr. J.M. Rana, Secretary to the Sub-committee presented a brief report.

2. General Lozada expressed great satisfaction at the achievements of the Sub-committee. He stated that since 1984, the Sub-committee has set its goals and directions and it has identified the priority needs of various cooperative movements. Thus, it has discharged its responsibility in the decision-making process within the framework of the ICA Regional Council

3. Mr. R. Mathimugan, Chairman of the Regional Council, outlined the role of the Sub-committees in the work of the ICA in the Region and complimented the Agricultural Sub-committee for its very useful work.

4. Mr. Bruce Thordarson in his address outlined the role and strategy of the ICA in promoting cooperative movements in the developing countries.

5. Members from Japan, Rep. of Korea and Thailand attended the Sub-committee meeting. In addition, special invitees from India and Indonesia who are members of the Sub-committee for Cooperative Credit and Banking also attended. A list of the attending persons is annexed hereto.

Needs of cooperative movements in the Region and suggestions for programme of activities for the years 1988-89.

6. The needs of the movement as mentioned by the last meeting was reiterated by the Sub-committee. It was suggested that the problems and needs identified by the Perspective Planning Missions should also be taken into account in formulating the work programmes for the next two years 1988-89 and 1989-90.

7. On a regional level, the following areas were identified for both regional and national action. They are not listed in order of priority.

- i. Strengthening national cooperative organisations.
- ii. Enhancing member involvement and member participation.
- iii. Participation of women and youth in cooperatives.
- iv. Organising effective cooperative financing system with a national Cooperative Bank at the top and with emphasis on internal resource mobilisation.
- v. Developing systematic planning, monitoring and evaluation functions by agricultural movements.
- vi. Organisation of research and information system and establishing cooperative data banks.
- vii. Development of cooperative processing and marketing of farm produce (post-harvest technology).
- viii. Developing an integrated and efficient Agricultural Cooperative System on the lines of Japanese Model.
- ix. Enhancing cooperatives role in food security.
- x. Improving management performance through effective personnel policies and training programmes.
- xi. Policy dialogues with governments through Ministers Conference and other appropriate methods.

8. The Sub-committee suggested that the following activities be continued/ planned.

- Perspective Planning for Agricultural Cooperative Sector and follow-up work.

- Projects Planning.
- Six months' Agricultural Training Programme.
- ICA/CUAC/IDACA Seminars in Agricultural Cooperation.
- Regional Meeting on Performance and Development Indicators as a step to establishing Cooperative Data Banks.
- In-depth study of agricultural cooperative movement of Korea with a view to bringing out a publication to disseminate Korean experience.

9. The Sub-committee suggested that the ICA/CUAC/IDACA seminars should be resumed in view of their great usefulness to agricultural cooperative movements in the Region.

10. As regards the in-depth study of Agricultural Cooperative Movement of Korea, it was suggested that this Project be taken up in 1988-89, in consultation with the NACF.

ICA SUB-COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER COOPERATION FOR SE ASIA

1. The Sub-Committee fully endorsed and supported the existing objectives, strategy and work programmes of the Consumer Cooperatives Development Project.
2. The Sub-Committee identified the following activities to be included in the work plan of the Project for the year 1987-88 :
 - i. Consultancy assistance to the Consumer Cooperative Federation of Thailand to develop efficiency norms and guidelines for retail societies.
 - ii. Technical and financial assistance to the CUP for conducting a model Training Course in Cooperative Retail Management for the Trainers.
 - iii. Study Mission on Consumer Cooperation to Indonesia to identify areas which call for external assistance and to assist in preparing their perspective plan.
 - iv. Technical Assistance to Consumer Cooperative Movement in India - Training Programmes, Conference, Technical Meetings, Follow-up - regional warehousing.
 - v. Technical Assistance to ANGKASA for Model Workshop in Retail Management.
 - vi. Regional Seminar on Members' Participation and Housewives Involvement in Consumer Cooperatives.
 - vii. Technical Meeting of ICA Sub-Committee on Consumer Cooperation for SE Asia.
3. The annual congress of the Consumer Cooperative Movement in Japan in June 1987 had adopted a resolution asking for more active collaboration by JCCU with the ICA for the promotion and development of consumers cooperative movements in SE Asian countries.

4. The Sub-Committee reviewed the objectives of consumer cooperative movements in Asia and the need for greater emphasis on consumer protection and livelihood. It also considered the ways and means for enhancing involvement of students and teachers for the promotion of consumer cooperative movement in Asia.

5. The Sub-Committee was informed of the resignation of Mr. K. Katsube from his position of Vice President, JCCU, and that he also wishes to tender his resignation from the office of the Chairman of the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee requested Mr. Katsube to continue to hold the office of the Chairman of the Sub-Committee till the new Chairman is elected. The Sub-Committee decided that the election of the Chairman may be conducted through mail.

6. The Sub-Committee "appreciated the spirit of dedication and hardwork of Mr. Puri and they resolved to place on record their great appreciation for hard work and long dedicated service of Mr. M.K. Puri for development of consumer cooperative movements in the region and strongly recommended to and urged upon the International Cooperative Alliance to extend the term of contract of Mr. Puri for at least one more year, upto 31st December 1988."

ICA SUB-COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES FOR S-E ASIA.

1. The meeting was attended by members from Bangladesh, India, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines and Sri Lanka. Dato Haji Aziz Ibrahim, Chairman of the Sub-committee presided over the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Mr. J. Saito, Chairman of the ICA main Fisheries Committee. In his address Mr. Saito briefed the Sub-committee about the activities and the programmes of the ICA main Fisheries Committee.
2. Mr. Saito presented information on the Project entitled Japanese Government Official Development Aid and Direct Contribution to the Special Programme of the ICA Fisheries Committee. Mr. Saito informed that the Japanese Governemnt will be supporting the Project entitled "ICA Fisheries Committee Lecture Course Project for Leaders of Fisheries Cooperatives". The Project would be implemented by the ICA Fisheries Committee. The Lecture Course Project will be carried out by the lecturers deputed by the ICA Fisheries Committee to a host country to give training in local language to fishery leaders. The programme of the course will be worked out in close collaboration with the fisheries cooperative organisations in the host country.
3. The duration of the course will be 5 days in each country. The ICA Fisheries Committee will bear the return air travel costs, subsistence costs etc. of the lecturers, rent for the training premises, teaching material and expenses involved in preparatory work at the secretariat level. The host country organisation will bear transportation and board and lodging costs of the participants.
4. It was decided that the Lecture Course Project will be held in Malaysia and the Philippines during the year 1987-88. India and Sri Lanka requested for the Project during the year 1988-89.

Regional Seminar on Fishermen Cooperatives
for S-E Asia organised by Zengyoren.

5. The Sub-committee appreciated the assistance by Zengyoren through the above seminar. In this regard Mr. Saito pointed out that in some cases unqualified participants were selected.

6. It was agreed that if any movements wanted to nominate additional candidates, Zengyoren would be prepared to accept them, provided the sponsoring movements paid the travel costs of the participants. Zengyoren would be prepared to meet the board and lodging and local costs in Japan.

7. It was suggested that efforts should be made to see that Pakistan also send participants to the seminar.

8. With regard to the suggestion that ICA RO should make an estimate of travel expenses for additional participants and find funds for the purpose, it was decided that keeping in view the difficulties of finding donor support from other advanced movements for an activity sponsored by Japan, the ICA RO need not carry out this exercise. The sponsoring organisations will themselves make efforts to find support for their additional candidates for whom Zengyoren does not have a budget.

9. The Sub-committee agreed that the member movements should try to send qualified participants. They should also brief their participants adequately.

10. It was agreed that participants selected should be proficient in English. It was agreed that when two participants are nominated, at least one should possess good command over the English language so that he can interpret for the other.

11. Participants should be leaders and managerial personnel of fishery cooperatives. They should not be government personnel.

Work Programme for the Fisheries Sub-Committee
for the next three years : 1987-90.

12. The following suggestions were made :

- i. Annual seminars for training of fishery coop leaders and managerial personnel of the fishery cooperatives in S-E Asia being conducted by Zengyoren in Japan to be continued.
- ii. Lecture Course Project for Leaders of Fisheries Cooperatives contemplated under the auspices of the ICA Fisheries Committee and with the support of Zengyoren and the Government of Japan to be initiated and started.
- iii. Perspective Planning for Fishery Cooperative Sector should be carried out in various countries of the region.
- iv. The members for the Philippines and Bangladesh suggested that their countries be taken up for these exercise by the ICA RO.
- v. The ICA should assist member organisations in the region in developing fishery projects and assist them in finding external donor assistance where necessary. The ICA RO should also assist member movements in training their personnel in project identification and project planning.
- vi. Education of fishermen and training of coop leaders and managerial personnel of fisheries cooperatives was a very vital need for fishery coop development. In view of this it was suggested that the ICA RO should find ways and means of developing programmes in this particular field especially keeping in view the fishermen constitute the poorest segment of the community.
- vii. ICA RO should organise policy planning workshops on a country basis at the request of member countries in the region for the purpose of fostering fishery coop development.
- viii. ICA RO should build up documentation and basic data on fishery cooperatives in the region.
- ix. A Quarterly Bulletin on Fishery Cooperatives should be started by the Sub-committee. The member for India offered assistance of his organisation in this regard.
- x. The meeting of the Sub-committee should be held on a bi-annual basis.
- xi. The Sub-committee noted that Hungary has established efficient inland fishery coops and Japan has also a very strong fishery coop movement. Both these countries should provide technical assistance to developing countries in the region. In this connection it was noted that the next ICA Fisheries Committee meeting will be held in Budapest, Hungary, in October 1987 and that inland water fisheries seminar was to be held in 1988. Member organisations should participate in both these activities.

- xii. The Sub-committee should explore the possibilities of finding assistance from UNDP and other donor organisations.
- xiii. The Sub-committee suggested that a portion of the sale proceeds of the Bonow House should be placed at the disposal of the Fisheries Committee and its fishery cooperative development fund for financing fishery development activities in the region.
- xiv. Information Exchange

Mr. S. Chandra indicated that there were significant developments in some movements which were of great value of others. He gave examples of such developments of Japan, Rep. of Korea and India.

- (a) In the discussion it was felt that a Quarterly Coop Bulletin should be brought out to promote information exchange.
- (b) Member organisations should supply regular information and data on fishery cooperatives to the ICA RO which would then be disseminated to member organisations.
- (c) Basic data on fishery cooperatives in the region should be collected by the ICA RO as part of its Data Bank Project. Necessary statistical tables and development indicators may be worked out for the purpose.

xv. **Transfer of technology.**

xvi. **International trade.**

Fisheries Sub-committee to function as the
Sub-committee of the main Fisheries Committee

13. Mr. Saito stated that this Sub-committee should function as the Sub-committee of the ICA main Fisheries Committee. The Secretary indicated that this Sub-committee so far has been functioning as the Sub-committee of the Regional Council.

14. The suggestion of Mr. Saito was endorsed. The Secretary mentioned that he would bring this matter to the notice of the Regional Council and its Executive through the Regional Director who functions as the Secretary of the Regional Council and the Executive.

Constitution of the ICA Sub-committee for Fisheries for S-E Asia

15. It was decided that the members would study the proposed draft Constitution. A final decision on the Constitution would be taken at the next meeting of the Sub-committee.

As regards the suggestion of the Sub-Committee that it should reconstitute itself as a Sub-Committee of the ICA Fisheries Committee, the views of the Executive Sub-Committee are placed below :

"The ESC was of the view that the Specialised Sub-Committee constituted in Asia were the Specialised Sub-Committees of the Regional Council and consequently they would have to remain Specialised Sub-Committees of the RC. However, the ESC was of the view that methodologies for close linkages between the Sub-Committees of the RC and the ICA Specialised Committees should be worked out so that there could be constant contact and collaboration between the main committees at the ICA HO level and the Specialised Sub-Committees at the regional level. It was decided that this matter too should be placed before the RC for its decision in this regard."

ICA SUB-COMMITTEE FOR COOP CREDIT & BANKING FOR S-E ASIA.

1. The meeting was attended by members from India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Philippines and Thailand, guests of honour, special invitees and observers as per attached list.

2. Mr. M.M. Vyas was confirmed as Chairman of the Sub-committee.

3. Considering the scope of the Sub-committee, it was decided that the name of the Sub-committee should be the **Sub-committee for Asia in Co-operative Finance**. It was pointed out by the Secretary that the name of the Region covered by the RO was South-East Asia. The Sub-committee felt that the term South-East Asia did not correctly describe the Region to be covered by it and hence its title should be Sub-committee for Asia. The Chairman of the Regional Council and the ICA Associate and Development Director had no objection to the Sub-committee having its name as stated above.

4. Countrypapers outlining recent trends in India, Indonesia and the Philippines were presented in written form and orally. Brief oral reports on Korea and Thailand were also presented.

5. Mr. Somchit Supabanpot, General Manager, ACCU, delivered the opening address.

6.1 The problems and needs of development for the cooperative finance movement for each country were listed as follows :-

India

- Problem of loan delinquency and its management.
- Programmes and strategies of serving the weaker sections/under privileged and the rural poor.
- Developing savings mechanisms at the grass-roots level especially through women's participation.

Indonesia

- Increase frequency of information regarding linkages between input and output.
- Technology transfer re computerisation hardware and software and feasibility studies.
- Access to world financial institutions to meet the needs of finance of Indonesian cooperatives.

Philippines

- Rationalisation and integration of the cooperative system including development of SNs into full-fledged multipurpose cooperatives.
- Development of a Cooperative Finance and Banking System including :
 - (a) capital and resource mobilisation both from domestic and international sources.
 - (b) loan programmes.
- Rationalisation of the statutory laws to implement the provisions of the New Constitution relating to cooperatives covering the following :
 - (a) Formulating coop code as a general cooperative law with specific chapters for each type of cooperatives, such as credit and banking, producers, etc.
 - (b) to take care of the needs and peculiarities of each type of cooperatives.
- Tax treatment of cooperatives.
- Rationalisation of the government agencies involved in the implementation of cooperative laws and government support programmes for cooperative development, including :
 - (a) Cooperative Development Authority preferably composed of majority of members from cooperative sectors, minority from government policy-makers under the highest political authority, viz. the President, to handle broad policies and programmes.
 - (b) farming out the responsibilities of implementing government support programmes for cooperative development to various ministries and agencies on the basis of comparative advantage.
- - (a) Management development and training.
 - (b) Education and training of members, officers and the public.
 - (c) Delinquency control systems.

Rep. of Korea

- Staff training to produce professional development bankers.
- Studies for reducing costs in order to be competitive with other financial institutions and for giving better service to members.

6.2 The following were listed as common areas of need and concern for the entire Region :

- i. Need to upgrade the quality of services of credit cooperatives.
- ii. Need to promote informal groups and enhance member participation (developing effective member education programmes).
- iii. Need to reduce operational costs.
- iv. Need to serve the poor and weaker sections of the community.
- v. Planning cooperative development projects and financing them. Cooperative financing bodies to play a role in development process of other cooperatives e.g. agro-processing, cooperative industries, income-generating projects for small farmers, women and youth.
- vi. Developing effective credit system.
- vii. Assessing training needs and developing of training programmes.
- viii. Developing research and Data Bank.
- ix. Regional Office to build country profiles.
- x. Regional Office to carry out perspective and project planning in cooperative finance sector through country Missions.

6.3 The Sub-committee then identified the following areas as of high priority deserving action during the next 2-3 years :-

- i. Problem of loan linqancy and its management.
- ii. Resource mobilisation, both demostic and international.
A study on Regional Cooperative Interlending and Investment System to be carried out.

- iii. Perspective and Project Planning for Cooperative Finance Sector through country Missions.
- iv. Establishment of Cooperative Data Bank at the national and regional level.

As regards the suggestion made by the Credit & Banking Sub-Committee that its name should be changed to ICA Specialised Sub-Committee for Asia in Cooperative Finance, the views of the Executive Sub-Committee are as follows :

"In this regard, the Chairman was of the view that it was best to keep the title as it was as there is already a similar specialised committee at the ICA HO level and that the new name suggested by the Sub-Committee might make it difficult for the Specialised Sub-Committee to have the support of the specialised committee at the ICA HO. However, it was agreed that the suggestion would be placed before the RC at its next meeting."

Sub-Committee for Trade & Industry (SCTI)

{Summary of matters discussed at the meetings held in Bali, Indonesia, on 23rd October 1986 and Penang, Malaysia, 6-7 April 1987) :

1. The meetings had stressed the importance for a focal point for cooperative business development at the national level in each country and also the importance of the continuity of members attending the meetings of SCTI.
2. The meetings had discussed the possibility of developing a cess on an agreed basis to assist further inter-cooperative trade.
3. In Indonesia, the Indonesia Cooperative Business Promotion Board has been set up after the SCTI meeting held in April with the objective of assisting the development of Indonesian business cooperatives in the domestic and international market. This board has already identified about 35 different products which could be marketed/exported through Indonesian cooperatives.
4. COOPTRADE Japan has taken a keen interest in the activities of the SCTI and has made available a representative to attend the meetings of the SCTI and also furnish the SCTI with details about Cooptrade Japan.
5. COOPTRADE Evaluation has been done through Mr. G.K. Sharma and Mr. Hemphill and the Evaluation Report has been made available to all members.

The Evaluation Report was positive. A decision has been taken by the ICA to extend the duration of the Cooptrade Project. The SCC has agreed to continue its financial support to the project.

Agenda Item No. 7 : Report on Regional Office Activities 1986-87

The ICA RO covers the Cooperative Movement of 14 countries in the region consisting of Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. These 14 countries have an individual membership of 249,211,635. Thirty-nine organisations of these countries are collaborators of ICA RO.

From China, it was for the first time in 1986 that two persons participated in the ICA Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in South-East Asia. The only country with whom we have not been able to have active association is North Korea.

As per the ICA Cooperative Development Programme approved by the ICA Authorities, the ICA is expected to play a catalytic and facilitator role in cooperative development. Ordinarily, it should not be an implementor of programmes. This implies that the ICA RO would engaged itself in policy dialogues with member organisations and governments to create favourable environment for cooperative development, assist the member organisations in identifying their needs and priorities of development, assist in drawing up perspective plans, help in strengthening national cooperative organisations to play their role as promoters of cooperative development through contributions

towards developing their research and planning capabilities and in formulating cooperative development projects. The ICA RO would also help member organisations in designing their education and training programmes in trainers training, in developing pilot and model training programmes in internal resource mobilisation and finding financial and technical resources for development projects.

Keeping the above approach in view, the ICA has established a Development Coordination Unit (DCU) within the RO which would receive the needed back up support from the Regional Director and the ICA Development Director. The main functions of the DCU are as follows :

- (a) Assist members in project planning and preparation and in submission of project proposals to donor agencies.
- (b) provide planning and research training to staff of member cooperatives.
- (c) carry out surveys and planning assignments in coop. activity areas,
- (d) to identify, design and monitor development activities which promote regional cooperation.
- (e) in the case of external consultants being used, prepare terms of reference, participate in selection of consultants, monitor progress, and ensure that follow-up action is taken.
- (f) implement a work planning and reporting system for monitoring of the performance of RO activities; carry out internal evaluations; and prepare consolidated activity plans and progress reports.
- (g) operate a documentation system for monitoring of cooperative development trends in member countries.

The report of activities carried out by the DCU and the various projects during the year 1986-87 are given below

Development Coordination Unit (DCU)

1. Improvement of the Capability of the National Cooperative Organisations in Project Identification & Planning

Training activities of one month duration each were carried out in Indonesia and Thailand. The participants to this training activities included research and planning officers in the national and regional cooperative organisations and trainers. The training was carried out through one week theory and three weeks of field work. Participants formulated cooperative development projects.

In the case of Indonesia, the FAO and ILO collaborated with the ICA and the member organisations. In the case of Thailand, Fredrich-Ebert-Stiftung collaborated.

2. Information & Documentation for Monitoring Coop Development

A note on Cooperative Data Bank was prepared and submitted to the Regional Council Meeting held in Tokyo in September 1986. A separate Agenda Item on the subject is also placed before this meeting. Basic agricultural cooperative development indicators have been worked out by the DCU which could form the basis for further work towards the establishment of the Data Bank.

A booklet entitled "Brief Notes on Developing Agricultural Cooperative Movements in the Region" has been prepared. This booklet will be circulated to member organisations.

Reports of the Perspective Planning Missions carried out by the DCU and Project Officers have also added substantial information and documentation with the RO. This information is being shared with the member movements.

3. Cooperative Development Projects

The DCU assisted the FISHCOPFED, India, in formulating a Fish Net Production Project.

The DCU also assisted the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) in formulating a giant Fresh Water Prawn Breeding Project to be carried out by an agricultural cooperative in Southern Thailand.

The Cooperative Union of Canada has agreed to support both the projects as follows :

India : C\$ 40,113

Thailand C\$ 185,300

The DCU is screening other projects received from the member organisations.

4. The Cooperative Development Adviser assisted the ILO as a Consultant to ILO/MATCOM and conducted a Seminar on ILO-MATCOM Manual on Rural Credit & Savings in Jakarta from 3-23 February 1987. Seventeen trainers and 17 credit managers of cooperatives participated.

5. Servicing Sub-Committees

Mr J.M. Rana currently functions as Secretary to each of the Specialised Sub-Committees on Agriculture, Credit & Banking and Fisheries.

Mr. M.K. Puri functions as Secretary to Consumer Sub-Committee.

Mr. Ulf Bergstrom/Mr. Bruce Gunn functions as Secretary to Trade & Industry Sub-Committee.

Agricultural Cooperative Development Project

1. Perspective and Project Planning Missions were carried out in Indonesia and the Philippines.

An action plan in regard to the Perspective Planning Report - Malaysia, was formulated by the DCU together with the Agricultural Sub-Committee of ANGKASA.

2. The preparatory work for the following two courses were initiated :

i) Regional Training Course on Cooperative Dairy Development to be held at Anand, Gujarat State, India, from 7th to 18th December, 1987.

ii) ICA/CUAC/IDACA Regional Seminar on Member Participation of Agricultural Cooperatives and its Methods with special reference to Japanese Experience to be held in Tokyo from 3rd to 22nd November, 1987.

3. Training Course on Strengthening Agricultural Cooperative Management supported by Government of Japan :

A detailed report is given below :

**ICA/Japan Training Project for Strengthening
Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia : 1986-87**

As reported to the last Council Meeting held in Tokyo, the ICA Headquarters entered into an agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Government of Japan for implementing the Japanese Government funded project for strengthening agricultural cooperatives in the Asian Region. The first year's project for 1986-87 was implemented through the ICA Regional Office. The main activity of the Project was the 6 months duration training course for strengthening management of agricultural cooperatives in S.E. Asia held from November 1, 1986 to May 3, 1987. The training programme was arranged in two parts. The first part was conducted in the ICA Regional Office in New Delhi for two months and the second part in IDACA Japan for 2 months. In addition, field study visits were organised for two weeks each in Thailand and the Republic of Korea.

As a part of the training programme, participants were required to undertake a home country assignment which was aimed at providing them with opportunities for project identification and formulation of viable project in order to strengthen agricultural cooperative management and performance. The projects prepared by the 15 participants were subjected to careful scrutiny and were revised by the participants during their stay in IDACA. Later, a sum of USD 1,000 per project was made available to the

nominating organisations of the participants to assist in further refining the project and/or implementing the project in its finalised form. It is hoped that this exercise will help in focussing attention of the concerned agricultural cooperatives in the country of the possibility of project implementation aimed at better agricultural cooperative management.

Experts from several management institutes were recruited for working as resource persons in the training course. Considerable emphasis was given to case studies and documentation specially prepared for the project. The ICA RO commissioned two teams of professors from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (India) to undertake indepth Studies/Case Studies vis-a-vis agricultural cooperatives in India, Thailand, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Japan and Korea. These Case Studies are in the process of preparation and it is hoped that these Case Studies will help the concerned cooperative movements in the various countries and also the ICA RO in making the next Japanese Government sponsored Training Programme more effective and relevant to needs of the regional countries.

A new agreement has recently been signed between ICA and the Japanese Government for the second year of the Project. Action has already been taken to inform the various countries concerned about the next Training Programme which is scheduled to commence on 26th of October 1987 and end by May 8, 1988. As in the case of first training programme, 15 participants will be selected for this course.

Consumer Cooperative Development Project

1. Workshop on Supermarket Operations in Japan

A three-week Workshop on Supermarket Operations was organised in Japan by the JCCU from 20th August to 30th September, 1987. The training programme consisted of three parts :

- a) Theory
- b) Study visits to private and cooperative supermarkets
- c) Practical attachment with cooperative supermarkets in Japan

The training activity has been widely appreciated by the participants and sponsoring institutions.

2. Technical Assistance to the Philippines for Training Programmes in Retail Management - Workshops at Baguio (Luzon) and at Cebu City (Visayas)

The Project Adviser assisted both the above Workshops.

3. Technical Assistance to Indian Movement

Workshop on Features of Self-Service at Madras

The Project Adviser and two Japanese Resource Persons assisted the workshop.

Workshop at Bombay on Retail Management for the Managers & Supervisors of Cooperative Department Stores & Supermarkets

The Project Adviser assisted the Workshop as a Resource Person.

4. Consultancy Assistance to the Cooperative Union of the Philippines for Development of Consumers Coops in the Philippines

At the request of the Cooperative Union of the Philippines, the Project Adviser carried out a Study of the present position of consumers coops in the Philippines and made recommendations for their development.

5. Technical Assistance to Cooperative Movement in Thailand

Workshop on Retail Management at Bangkok

The Project Adviser and two Management Consultants from the Japanese Consumers Cooperative Movement assisted the Workshop.

Workshop on Cooperative Retail Management at Chiangmai

The Project Adviser assisted the workshop as a Resource Person.

6. Promotion & Development of Regional Warehousing in India

Necessary preparations were made in collaboration with the SCC to the Indian Consumer Cooperative Movement in the above area. However, the project could not be implemented due to a major reorganisation in the NCCF.

Cooperative Education Materials Advisory Service (CEMAS)

Only limited work under CEMAS could be carried out due to the resignation of the CEMAS Officer, Dr.D.Vir due to ill health.

1. Conduct of a Workshop to train cooperative educators and field personnel in the use of CEMAS Material

A short-term consultant, Dr. D. Vir's services were provided to ANGKASA. The workshop was conducted for two weeks in March 1987. Subsequently the RD carried out follow-up discussions and assisted ANGKASA for working out a strategy for initiating FED activities in selected societies. A three year project for member education work based on CEMAS Approach may also be formulated by ANGKASA and the Cooperative College.

2. Introductory Meeting at CLT, Thailand

The RD carried out an Introductory Meeting to introduce CEMAS/FED Approach and Material in Thailand.

A new CEMAS Officer, Mr. W. Upali Herath has been recruited. He is expected to take up his position soon.

Cooperative Trade Development Programme

A brief summary of activities conducted by the Trade Development Programme is given below :

Philippines

Activities in the Philippines have been concentrated on further development of the two rattan co-operatives in Bacolod and Zamboanga.

K-Cube Woodworkers Co-op in Bacolod have so far received orders for approximately USD 50,000. The products have been technically and designwise upgraded and the program expanded to cater for a wider market orientation through COOPTRADE consultancy inputs.

Zamboanga Wood and Rattan Co-op, which is at an initial stage of operation has likewise been assisted in production technique and product design. The two co-ops complement each other by specializing in production programs based on their respective capacities and capabilities. Products involving much manual operations, such as weaving are consequently made by K-Cube and products based on more machine operations are made by Zambowood.

The planned co-operative trade fair "Co-Expo" in San Francisco was unfortunately cancelled in the last minute. Samples prepared for "Co-Expo" by Zambowood and K-Cube will now have to be used for other promotional activities. Formulation of such a program is presently our immediate priority.

Indonesia

A break-through in Indonesia was visible after contacts between CBI-INKUD and COOPTRADE were established. A close collaboration between the two organisations were further strengthened when Dekopin nominated the CBI-INKUD manager as Indonesia's representative on the SCTI. Several potential projects have since been identified : Textiles and readymade garments, frozen beef, vanilla, coffee and seaweed, feasibility studies for which are in progress.

Indonesia has offered to host the next SCTI meeting, scheduled for October '86.

Singapore

Activities in Singapore have been focused on promoting imports of food items from India and Thailand to NTUC Fair-price. As a result, NTUC have imported 1250 MT of rice from ACFT, Thailand.

Malaysia

MCCS' trading activities have not progressed as expected. Imports are presently still mainly jams from the West German co-operative Forum. Other items in the pipe-line include food items from India, Australia and Philippines as well as furniture from the Philippines.

Furniture and table-top items for domestic marketing as well as export has been defined as a potential area with the MCCS taking over furniture from the Co-operative Housing Federation. This project is now in process in collaboration with Prai Malaysia, Penang.

A feasibility study on processing of rubber-wood for NLFCS was commenced in early June and will be finalised in July.

The most interesting project proposal of the year is a possible joint-venture between a major Malaysian co-operative and a private manufacturer of furniture and related products, primarily for export marketing. If successful, this would constitute a break-through in co-operative industrial development in Malaysia in a resource based and labour intensive sector recognised as a priority area.

Thailand

Three consultancies were carried out for ACFT. As a result, ACFT has re-organised and established a business division. The business volume has reached a turn-over of USD 864,500 as per June '86. COOPTRADE'S continuous assistance to ACFT will primarily consist of establishment of new trade contacts as well as follow-up of contacts already established.

India

Efforts to assist Tanfed, Madras in developing business opportunities for processed spices to Asean countries (Singapore, Malaysia) have not been successful. Tanfed is a very serious organisation with a competent staff.

We have, however, found spices to be a very complex product group to handle almost totally controlled by the multinational corporations.

The same thing applies to a great extent to tea, in which commodity COOP-TRADE has been involved almost since the project start. Other problems, mainly organisational, have however constituted the main obstacle in promotion of a co-operative tea project. Efforts to revitalise "old contacts" after a reorganisation of the Incoserve Tea Co-op, In January '86, have so far not been successful.

Sri Lanka

The COOPTRADE Projects with Coconion progressed above expectations, despite internal management problems within the union. Export revenues amounted to USD 864,000 in the following products : desiccated coconut, copra, fresh nuts, coir yarn.

The present order stock, however, is not satisfactory, which can be attributed to mainly two factors : the depressed world market situation for commodities and internal management problems within the union. There are positive indications, however, that the latter problem will be solved within shortly, when a new GM and financial manager have been appointed.

Following our recommendations, coconion have commenced a domestic marketing program, which looks very promising.

The ICA has recruited a new Trade Adviser who has taken over from Mr. Ulf Bergstrom on 1st July 1987. He is Mr. Bruce Gunn from the Canadian Cooperatives.

Information in regard to other matters of importance :**Sale of Building**

Many of the clearances to be obtained for the Sale of Bonow House have now been obtained but as yet there are one or two more clearances to be had before a sale transaction can be entered into with the NCDC. Meanwhile, NCDEC is at the moment drawing up a draft Conveyance Deed which would be necessary for ICA Domus to get income-tax clearance for sale. Clearances under the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have already been obtained, but clearance have yet to be obtained from another section of the DDA and the income-tax authorities.

Compensation to redundant staff

The ICA RO has been able to negotiate with the NCDC for an advance on payment due from them for the purchase of the building and on the basis of this advance ICA RO has made payments to the redundant staff to cover their compensation and gratuity.

New Location of RO

The ICA RO is expected to move to the Cooperative Complex of the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI).

Staff Changes at RO

Regional Director

Mr. R.B. Rajaguru, the former RD, left the services of the ICA on 30th June 1987. The ICA has appointed **Mr. G.K. Sharma**, presently Managing Director of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) as his successor and he has taken over in July 1987.

CEMAS Officer

Dr. D. Vir resigned from the services of the ICA with effect from 31st December, 1986. The vacancy was advertised throughout Asia among the member organisations of the ICA and IC Hqs. offered the post to Mr. Guy Balloguing from the Philippines. As Mr. Guy Balloguing did not respond, **Mr.W. Upali Herath** has been appointed.

Trade Adviser

Mr. Ulf Bergstrom, the present Trade Adviser, working in the ICA Office in Kuala Lumpur, will be terminating his services with the ICA around September 1987. **Mr. Bruce Gunn** of the Canadian Cooperative Union has been appointed as the Trade Adviser of the ICA and has taken up duties in Kuala Lumpur on the 1st of July, 1987.

Agenda Item No. 8Report on IDACA Activities

IDACA has sent a report on its activities betw
1986 and May 1987 as under :

1. Training Programme

1) General Course on Agricultural Cooperatives

Period :	May 12 - July 3, 1986
No. of persons attended	14
Countries participated	13 (Brazil, Burma, Colombia, Egypt, Fiji, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Paraguay, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tanzania.)
Place of study visit	Gunma and Miyazaki Prefectures

2) Training Course for Thai Counter-parts on the Agricultural Cooperative Development Project

This Thai Counterparts Course is a project training commissioned by JICA aiming at assisting the Thai Government in fostering and promoting agricultural cooperative movement in Thailand.

Period	October 5 - November 10, 1986
No. of persons attended	5
Place of study visit	Yamaguchi and Kanagawa Prefectures

3) Training Course for Cooperators from selected countries

Period	October 5 - November 8, 1986
No. of persons attended	13 (Philippines 8, India 5)
Place of Study visit	Yamaguchi and Chiba Prefectures

4) ICA Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in South East Asia

This is the Training Course commissioned by ICA Regional Office in Delhi as a part of ICA Training Project for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in South-East Asia supported by the Japanese Government.

Period	February 18 - April 19, 1987
No. of persons attended	15
Countries participated	9 (Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand)
Place of study visit	Saga and Nagano Prefectures

5) Training Course for Cooperative Agricola De Cotia Cooperativa Central (CACCC) in Brazil

Period	April 2 - 30, 1987
No. of persons attended	5
Place of study visit	Kochi Prefecture

2. Other Activities

1) Reunion and Follow-up Seminar

Reunion and Follow-up Seminar was held in Malaysia from 12 to 23 January 1987. Meetings which were organised at various places in Malaysia were attended by 48 ex-participants in total.

2) Official Opening Function of IDACA's New Facility

The function was organised on 9 September 1986 with participation of Regional Council Members and guests. Mr. Lars Marcus, ICA President, made a speech at the function.

3) 3) Publication of IDACA News

No. 41 and 42 of IDACA News were published.

II. Activities between June 1987 and May 1988

1. Training Programmes

1) General Course on Agricultural Cooperatives

This is one of the Government Training Courses and IDACA is commissioned by JICA to conduct the course.

Period	May 18 - July 11, 1987
No. of persons attended	17
Countries participated	13 (Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, St. Christopher Nevis)
Place of study visit	Hokkaido and Gifu Prefectures

2) Training Programme for National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of Korea (NACF)

This is one of the Training Programmes according to the agreement between NACF and CUAC. The subject of the course is 'Educational Activities of Agricultural Cooperatives'.

Period	July 26 - August 7, 1987
No. of participants	9
Place of study visit	Aichi Prefecture

3) 14th RECA Seminar

The 14th RECA Seminar will be held according to the agreement between Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO) and CUAC. The subject is 'Rural Agricultural Development and Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan'.

Period	August 23 - September 13, 1987
No. of participants	20
Countries invited	Member countries of AARRO in Asia and Africa
Place of study visit	Nagano Prefecture

4) Training Course for the Cooperators from Selected Countries

Period	September 27 - October 31, 1987
No. of participants	13 (Philippines 8, India 5)
Place of study visit	Yamagata Prefecture

5) Training Course for Thai on Agricultural Development Project (Not finalised yet by the Japanese Government)

Period	September 27 - October 31, 1987
No. of participants	5
Place of study visit	Yamagata Prefecture

6) ICA/CUAC/IDACA Regional Seminar

Subject	Member Participation in Agricultural Cooperatives
Period	November 3-22, 1987
No. of participants	20
Place of study visit	Shiga Prefecture

7) ICA Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in South East Asia

Period	February 22 - April 22, 1988
No. of participants	15
Place of study visit	Not finalised yet

8) Training Course for Cooperativa Agricola De Cotia Cooperativa Central (CACCC) Brazil

Period	April 1988
--------	------------

Other details are yet to be decided.

9) General Course on Agricultural Cooperatives

Period	May - July 1988
--------	-----------------

Other details are yet to be decided.

2. Other Activities

1) Reunion and Follow-up Programme

This programme is planned to be held in the Philippines in January 1988. Details are yet to be consulted with the Cooperative Union of the Philippines.

2) Publication of IDACA News No. 43 and 44.

Agenda Item No. 9 : Regional Development Fund and Members Contributions

A Regional Mutual Assistance Revolving Fund was established at the initiative of Mr. R. Mathimugan, former Chairman of the RC. The Malaysian Movement had made a contribution of M\$ 7500 (USD 2895). The balance at the moment stands at USD 2,000. This fund was used to cover the travel expenses of delegates to important meetings/seminars in cases where the member movements were unable to cover their costs.

The RC may like to suggest ways in which this fund could be strengthened.

The Sub-Committee provides for membership contributions for each of the Sub-Committees. The contribution suggested by the Executive Sub-Committee is USD 100 for each member movement.

The Consumer Sub-Committee has decided that the member movements would pay annual contribution to the Sub-Committee on Consumer Cooperation at the following rates :

	Amt (USD)
JCCU, Japan	1,000
India	750
Malaysia	500
Singapore	500
NFUCA, Japan	150
Indonesia	150
Bangladesh	150
Philippines	150
Sri Lanka	150
Thailand	150

Total	3,650
-------	-------

During the year 1986-87, a total of Rs.31,956 have been received.

In the Regional Council Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan, in October 1973 the member countries had agreed to make annual contributions to the RO as follows :

Australia	INR 18,000
Bangladesh	6,500
India	25,000
Indonesia	9,000
Japan	29,000
Korea	10,000
Malaysia	10,000
Pakistan	6,500
Philippines	8,500
Singapore	6,500
Sri Lanka	6,500
Thailand	8,000
	<hr/>
Total	INR 143,500
	<hr/>

On an average the contributions from the member countries have amounted to Indian Rupees 80,000 to 120,000 a year.

During the year 1986-87, the following amounts were received :

	INR
Bangladesh - BJSU	9,750
Japan - JJC	74,897
Korea - NACF	14,296
	<hr/>
Total	98,943
	<hr/>

The Fisheries Sub-Committee has taken the view that it should be the Sub-Committee of the main Fisheries Committee and therefore there should be no separate membership contributions to the Sub-Committee.

The Regional Council may suggest whether separate funds as indicated above should be continued or there should be only one fund to which all contributions could be received.

The views of the Executive Sub-Committee in this regard are placed below :

"The ESC was of the view that the aspect of funding the RO by the member organisations of the ICA should be carefully reviewed once again and possibly the sums determined some time back in the 1970s should be reviewed taking into consideration the needs of the RO and also the various changes that have taken place in the various member movements. A suggestion was made that instead of following the practice as at present which was funding on a country base, perhaps it would be more advantageous if funding was done on the basis of affiliates to the ICA from the respective countries. It was decided that this aspect should be discussed further and placed before the RC at its next meeting for a decision in this regard."

The Regional Council may consider this matter.

Agenda Item No. 10 : Cooperative Data Bank

A note prepared by the DCU on the subject was considered by the RC Meeting held in Tokyo in September 1986 (note annexed for ready reference). The views of the Regional Council are given below :

"The overall general situation was that in most countries Data relating to cooperatives were collected and collated by the respective Government Departments, but there were very few cooperative organisations themselves collecting data. It was also found that very often the data available was at least 2 or 3 years old. While admitting the need for ICA, both at HO and RO levels to be the best source of information about cooperatives, it was recognised that the ICA would have to depend on the information base, set up and maintained at the level of the member affiliates, and unless this information base and the attendant infrastructure to support such information base were available, the setting up of a Data Bank at ICA HO or RO level would not be meaningful. It was also mentioned that the ROO now through their perspective planning exercises were updating their information base in respect of member countries. However, if the idea of a Data Bank was accepted, then the RO should approach it on a Project Basis, with adequate funding from various sources, and building up the national base in 3 or 4 selected countries in the first instance. The RC having considered the proposal in detail was of the view that each member country should focus more attention on Data collection and collation and tht the idea of setting up a Data Bank at the RO level be postponed for the present."

The subject was further discussed at the Executive Sub-Committee Meeting held at Manila in June 1987. The views of the Executive Sub-Committee are given below :

"The Sub-Committee reviewed the activities of the RO as contained in the documents provided for the meeting and was of the view that the RC and the RO should keep a continuing focus and stress on the building up of a Data Bank. It was agreed that

the main initiatives for the organisation, for collection of data etc. should be taken up by the NCOs in each country and that this is something on which some guidelines would have to be provided to the NCOs to enable them to start collecting appropriate data."

In pursuance of the above, an experimental project in establishing a National Cooperative Data Bank will be initiated for the Indian Movement in collaboration with the National Cooperative Union of India.

It is also felt that a Regional Consultation of Users and Experts in the field should be held to identify the basic statistics as well as performance and development indicators required for planning and monitoring purposes. Such a Consultation would give guidelines for establishing Cooperative Data Banks at the national level which in turn would help the establishment of a similar facility at the ICA RO level.

In regard to the information systems, a communication from the ICA Associate & Development Director has been received (communication annexed). The Development Director has made the following points :

1. One of the major needs of the ICA both in ICA and the ROs is for accurate and upto date information on the Cooperative Movement.
2. The Development Director has prepared a questionnaire and has asked the ICA member organisations to supply data as per the questionnaire.
3. The ideal situation would be to have mini computers in each of the ROs which are compatible to the system already used in ICA Geneva. It may be mentioned that the IBM PC has already been installed in the ICA RO, New Delhi.

Information can then be shared with ILO Data Bank and other resource centres. The ICA has started negotiations with the ILO for obtaining access to its information system.

4. Perhaps most fundamental of all questions is how practical is it for ICA to develop a data base in the absence of strong data banks in most of our national movements. In each of the regions what kind of support would ICA need to give to national movements in order to enable them to provide the kind of information that ICA would need for such a system.
5. A coordinated system and approach should be developed between the Headquarters and the ROs in regard to the Cooperative Data Bank.

The advice of the Regional Council is requested on the various points raised in this note.

Agenda Item No. 11 : Change of Nomenclature of the Regional Office

The ICA Sub-Committee on Credit & Banking suggested the change in the nomenclature of the RO. It has suggested that the ICA RO should be termed "ICA Regional Office for Asia" instead of "ICA Regional Office for South-East Asia".

This matter was discussed at the Executive Sub-Committee Meeting held in Manila in June 1987 and the Sub-Committee endorsed the above change.

Since the above discussions, an ICA Special Adviser on Development & Training has been appointed based in Australia to cover the Pacific countries. The Region of the FAO and the ILO also cover both Asia and Pacific. Keeping these in view, it is suggested that the Council may change the nomenclature of the ICA RO for SE Asia to ICA RO for Asia and Pacific.

The Regional Council's approval is requested for the change in the nomenclature of the RO.

Agenda Item No. 12 : "Hall of Honour"

The Agenda Note will follow.

Agenda Item No. 13: Relations with International Organisations

Cordial and fruitful relations continued to exist between the ICA RO, the UN Specialised Agencies as well as the non-governmental international organisations functioning in the Region. More specifically, the following instances of collaboration may be mentioned :

1. UN Seminar on the Role of Government in Promoting the Cooperative Movement, Moscow

The Associate & Development Director, Mr. Bruce Thordarson, and the Regional Development Officer, Mr. J.M. Rana, functioned as Consultants to the UN Seminar on the Role of Government in Promoting the Cooperative Movement, Moscow. They prepared the following papers for the Seminar :

Mr. Bruce Thordarson	Global Review of the Role of Coops in Social and Economic Development
Mr. J.M. Rana	Role of Government in Promoting the Cooperative Movement in Asia

Both the above officers initiated discussion on a couple of subjects and also assisted the Seminar in the discussions and report preparation. The Development Director assisted the UN Seminar in formulating the Seminar objectives and seminar design.

2. ICA-FAO Study Mission on Perspective and Project Planning for Agricultural Cooperatives, Philippines

A Study Mission constituted by the ICA in collaboration with the FAO of the UN carried out the Perspective Planning Study in the Philippines from 2nd to 20th March 1987. The

Study Mission comprised the following members :

1. Mr. J.M. Rana
ICA RO
Head of the Mission
2. Mr. Sten Dahl
ICA RO
Member
3. Mr. M. Matsuhira
Central Coop Bank for Agriculture
Forestry & Fisheries of Japan
Member
4. Mr. Olcott Gunasekera
Consultant, Credit & Coops
FAO Regional Office, Bangkok
Member

Agenda Item No. 14 : Venue and Date of the next Meeting

The Council may decide as to the venue and date of the next meeting. It may be mentioned that at the last meeting, an invitation to host the Council Meeting was extended by a member from Singapore.

Agenda Item No. 15 : Any other matter with the permission of the Chair

Agenda Item No. 16 : Vote of thanks to the Chair

MINUTES OF THE 28TH MEETING OF THE ICA COUNCIL FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA HELD AT IDACA, TOKYO (JAPAN) ON 8TH SEPTEMBER 1986

The 28th Meeting of the ICA Regional Council for South-East Asia was held at the new premises of the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA), Tokyo, on 8th September, 1986 under the Chairmanship of Mr. R. Mathimugan, Regional Councillor from Malaysia and Chairman of the Regional Council.

The following were present :

Members

1. Mr. R. Mathimugan, Chairman & Member for Malaysia
2. Mr. Eddiwan, Vice-Chairman & Member for Indonesia
3. Mr. V.P. Singh, Member for India
4. Mr. Kamaluddin Ahmed, Member for India
5. Mr. Mohd Yahya Suryanagara, Member for Indonesia
6. Mr. Iwao Yamaguchi, Member for Japan
7. Mr. S. Fukuda, Member for Japan
8. Dr. Jung-Joo Kim, Alternate Member for Korea
9. Mrs. Armi Zainuddin, Member for Malaysia
10. Mr. Riazuddin Ahmed, Member for Pakistan
11. Gen A.S. Lozada, Member for Philippines
12. Mrs. Leonila V. Chavez, Member for Philippines
13. Mr. Aloysius Teo, Member for Singapore
14. Mr. Kasim Abdullah, Member for Singapore
15. Mr. Chern Bamrungwong, Member for Thailand

Secretary : Mr. R.B. Rajaquru
Regional Director, ICA RO

ICA Hq. : 1. Mr. Lars Marcus
president
2. Mr. Bruce Thordarson
Associate Director & Director Development

Special Invitee : Mr. K. Fujimoto
Managing Director, IDACA

Observers : 1. Mr. K. Katsube, Japan
2. Mr. Y. Tomosada, Japan
3. Mr. H. Nishido, Japan

In attendance: Mr. Pram Kumar, Personal Assistant to Regional Director,
ICA RO, New Delhi.

01. Agenda Item No. 1 : Welcomes by

01.01 Mr. Iwao Yamaguchi, Executive Vice President of the CUAC Japan and Regional Councillor extended a warm welcome to all the Regional Councillors on behalf of the host cooperatives in Japan.

In his address of welcome Mr. Yamaguchi referred to the First Asian Cooperative Conference held in 1962, at which a decision was taken to set up an institute to help development of agricultural cooperatives. IDACA came into being as a result of this decision and since then IDACA has had a long and fruitful relationship with the Regional Office in New Delhi and the Regional Council. The facilities available at the old IDACA became a little outdated and so a new facility was developed near the Central Cooperative College and he was happy that the Japanese Movement was able to host the 26th RC Meeting in these new facilities. He expressed his happiness that Mr. Lars Marcus, President, ICA, and Mr. Thordarson, Associate Director, were also able to join in the discussions. The meeting was an important one as many issues had to be discussed and he was hopeful that the meeting would be able to come to useful decisions. He also referred to the assistance provided by the Japanese Government to the ICA, initially in a sum of USD 400,000 for the first year, to develop a Training Programme to strengthen Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and he was hopeful that with the assistance of all present, the ICA could make the project a success.

He wished the Councillors a pleasant stay in Japan and also wished meeting every success.

02. Agenda Item No. 2 : Introductory Remarks - Chairman, President, ICA, Associate Director, ICA, Regional Director

02.01 The Chairman, Mr. R. Mathimugan, in his opening address thanked the CUAC, JJCC and IDACA for hosting the ExSubCo and RC Meeting. He congratulated the Japanese Agricultural Cooperatives on their new facility and was sure the premises would provide the necessary atmosphere for the RC to have a good meeting.

He welcomed also the Regional Councillors, the President ICA and the Associate Director, ICA.

The Chairman then referred to the untimely death of Mr. Ellie Anangisya, Regional Director, ICA RO for East, Central and Southern Africa, who passed away in April and also to the very recent passing away of Mr. George Chua, Chairman of Singapore National Cooperative Federation, and expressed the condolences of the RC to the members of the bereaved families.

The Councillors observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Ellie Anangisya and Mr. George Chua.

The Chairman then once again expressed his happiness that Mr. Marcus, the president, ICA, was able to participate in the meeting. He mentioned that the RC Meeting would be discussing very important issues pertaining to the restructuring and reorganising of ICA and the Regional Offices, the aspect of the development programme, the financial constraints of the ICA etc. and therefore the president's presence, backed by Mr. Thordarson, the Associate Director of the ICA, would be most helpful. He also made special reference to Mr. Thordarson, who was attending his first RC Meeting in Asia and was confident that his contributions will be most helpful.

While once again welcoming the Regional Councillors, the Chairman also referred to the absence of Regional Councillors from Australia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, China and North Korea, who were not able to attend the Council Meeting. The Chairman then referred to the meeting itself and said that in his view this was a very important meeting as very vital decisions had to be made in regard to the RO structures and in regard to the organisation, methods and directions of the Specialised Sub-Committees that had been formed. He mentioned that the Specialised Committees which had been set up since 1984 had given a new thrust and dimension to the development programmes in the region, and that the Sub-Committees had provided opportunities for greater participation and more decentralised planning and programming. He referred in particular to three Sub-Committees, namely, Trade & Industry Committee, Consumer Sub-Committee and the Agricultural Sub-Committee, which had been quite active in the last two years. He was hopeful that the others too would begin their work in earnest very soon. He said that, as the agenda provided for about 16 or 18 items, he would suggest that the Meeting consider the aspects of restructuring and reorganising of ROO as priority issues along with the Japanese Government supported Agricultural Training Programme referred to by Mr. Yamaguchi. As regards the other items, he was hopeful that some could be attended to quite speedily, but where in depth discussion was necessary, the Meeting should apply itself to those matters. He also added that many of the issues coming up had been already discussed in the ExSubCO Meeting on the previous day and that these would be referred to at an appropriate stage.

02.02 Mr. Lars Marcus, President ICA, in his opening remarks thanked the Chairman and Mr. Yamaguchi for their words of welcome and added that he was attending the meeting on the personal invitation of Mr. Iwamochi, President of the CUAC, and that he was happy to have this opportunity to meet for the second time with the Asian cooperators, so that he could better understand the situation and problems in Asia. He said that in his view, the best position one can hope for is a position in a local cooperative society where one knows all the members and understands the problems. When one comes to the international situations, it was not always easy to understand problems, perceptions and attitudes - but that

meetings of this nature would go a long way to help him understand the Asian cooperative situation. He referred to the problems of cooperatives, that every movement had its problems, the UAC had theirs and so did others. He mentioned a useful discussion with Mr. Riazuddin Ahmed, Regional Councillor for Pakistan, which gave him new insights into the situation about cooperatives in that country, and in the Islam world.

The president then referred to the ICA, the problems faced and the work programme that had been outlined at the Central Committee Meeting in Washington. Progress made in regard to this programme would be discussed in Basel Central Committee Meeting, and then the ICA would during the period 1986-87 work towards getting closer to the Specialised Committees and assist them in their areas of activity and thus help decentralised decision making and action. At the 1988 Congress to be held in Stockholm, the ICA would be taking a closer look at how to work closer with the U.N. organisations. He said that he would be quite busy with the preparations and contacts, that they had already had three Executive Committee Meetings, and that there would be one more in Basel. However, he was happy of the opportunity he was provided to meet the Regional Councillors from Asia once again and he thanked the Chairman for his words of welcome, and the CUAC for persuading him to attend the meeting.

02.03 Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Associate Director, in his opening remarks expressed his happiness for the opportunity to attend his first Regional Council Meeting in Asia. He then briefly referred to ICA's efforts in development over the last 25 years in Asia and was happy to state that the ICA would continue its commitment to development. He referred in this context to his own appointment as Development Director and the steps taken to set up a Development Division at ICA Hq, which were all indicative of the commitment of the ICA to development. He added that while much had been achieved in the past, there were new compulsions which necessitated changes both in priorities and approaches, and he was hopeful that within the next three years the Secretariat would be able to fulfil the mandate set by the President and by the Executive Committee to have a development programme that looks quite different from the one that existed at present, which was better, which builds upon the desires and commitments of the movements in the different regions. He expressed his confidence that these could be achieved with the assistance of the Regional Council and its Specialised Committees.

02.04 The Regional Director in his opening remarks thanked the CUAC and IDACA for the kind invitation extended to the RC to hold its 28th Meeting in the new premises of IDACA and for the excellent facilities and hospitality provided by the CUAC/IDACA. He then thanked the President, ICA, and the Associate Director, ICA, for taking time out to attend this very important meeting of the RC. He extended a warm welcome to all Regional Councillors and a special welcome to the second lady Councillor, Mrs. Nelia Chavez from the Philippines. He expressed his happiness that women were now participating more in cooperative activity

and were taking on leadership positions. He was hopeful that this trend would get more reflected also at the Regional Council level. He also extended a warm welcome to the new Regional Councillors, namely the Councillors from Singapore, Mr. Aloysius Tio and Mr. Kasim Abdullah, Dr. Jung-Joo Kim from Korea and Mr. Riazuddin Ahmed, Councillor for Pakistan.

The RD then referred to the new Training Programme initiated by the ICA with assistance from the Government of Japan and thanked the CUAC/IDACA for the initiatives taken and the Japanese Government for the assistance provided.

In conclusion he expressed his happiness that the forum for discussions had been strengthened with the presence of the president, ICA, and the Associate Director, and was hopeful that the meeting would come to constructive conclusions which will guide the Secretariat in its work for the future.

03. Agenda Item No. 3 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 27th Meeting

The minutes of the 27th Meeting of the ICA Regional Council held in New Delhi on 21-22 August 1985, which had been circulated earlier, were confirmed.

04. Agenda Item No. 4 : Matters arising out of the Minutes

04.01 Under this item, the Chairman emphasized that the matter that had to be given priority consideration by the RC would be that of ICA's Restructuring and Reorganisation vis-a-vis Regional Offices and the Development programme. These were matters which the EXSubCo had devoted considerable attention. He therefore requested Mr. Thordarson, Associate Director, ICA, to brief the RC in this regard.

04.02 Mr. Bruce Thordarson : "I know from reading the minutes of the last year's RC Meeting that a great deal of attention was given at that meeting to the structuring of the RD in this region. It is very important from ICA's point of view that we look at this issue in the context of the entire development programme of the ICA rather than to see it in isolation. As I indicated in my introductory remarks we at the secretariat have been asked by our Executive Committee to very critically review what ICA has been doing in development in the past many years and in consultation with our members see what we can do better for the future. There are, I would say, four major areas in which we see substantive changes required in the ICA Development Programme.

(i) The first change that we see necessary is to make our development programme more result-oriented and to make greater impact. There have been criticisms in the past about our programmes in that they have not led to the desired impact at the levels of need in the developing countries. There seems therefore to be a need to develop

a new strategy to focus our activities more specifically perhaps in a smaller number of areas and to concentrate on those areas in which ICA has the unique capacity to carry out that role.

(ii) We have to increase the involvement of other donors in our programme. SCC has been the only major organisation which has been prepared to provide substantial development support to the ICA. That is not a healthy development either for ICA or for SCC and we very much want to change this.

(iii) We want to make our development programme more cost effective. Lot of money has been spent on development programmes in the past. I would not say it has been badly spent, perhaps we have not received the greatest value for that money.

(iv) We would like to make development programmes more international if the ICA is the representative of some 76 countries around the world. We need to be representing cooperative movements in different parts of the world to a greater extent than we have in the past.

How can we carry out this major restructuring of our development programme without disturbing or causing problems to the successful activities that are being presently carried out.

In terms of the content of the programme, we essentially think that the ICA should not regard itself as an implementing agency of programmes of activities but should concentrate on coordinating and assisting the efforts of the member organisations. This does not mean that the ICA should not deliver any programmes because there may well be instances where we are asked by a specific organisation to carry out a particular activity. Examples of these are the Comas Member Education Programme as well as the Agricultural Training Programme which the Japanese Movement has asked the ICA to implement. We feel however that in addition to these kinds of specific activities we should be focussing our efforts more on such matters as policy dialogue with governments, since attitudes of governments in developing countries is often a severe obstacle to the growth of and promotion of cooperative movements. We think the ICA should be working more closely with its members in perspective planning. This has been introduced in the RO work plan this year for the first time and essentially it consists of assisting our member organisations to identify their priority needs and in some cases assisting them in undertaking national planning exercises. I am convinced from all that I have seen around the world that we often fail to achieve our potential because we do not know what our needs are and what assistance we need and therefore cooperatives often become dependent on the priorities of the external organisation, but the result all too often is that the assistance given to cooperative movements does not respond to their priority needs. We think that the ICA overriding objective should be to help our member organisations identify their priorities in the best way they can and to assist them in achieving necessary resources to bring

these programmes into effect.

Secondly, we should get more donors. The Executive Committee has approved the establishment of an ICA Working Party on Cooperative Development for the first time. We will meet prior to our Central Committee Meeting in Basel. This year we will be bringing together the heads of 20 major cooperative organisations involved in international development. These will be cooperative organisations from North America, from Europe and from Japan, who over the years have made considerable efforts and spent a great deal of money, both their own and their governments, on cooperative development. We would like to provide a forum whereby these organisations can come together and learn from each other's experience and also work more closely with the ICA and possibly to get to the point where ICA is recognised as a forum to come together for their own benefit.

The major success of course within the last year in terms of diversification of donors is the entry of the Japanese Government into this field, thanks to the CUAC and its efforts. The extent of this support is very large. In 1986-87 the SCC support through New Delhi office amounts to some 5.8 million rupees. If you translate the equivalent of Japanese support it comes to 6.48 million rupees, so we have a second major donor of similar size to the huge support which has already been provided by the SCC. In addition we have now programmes or commitments to support from cooperative organisations in Canada, Denmark, Italy to work with the ICA in supporting activities with other ROs and we hope also to bring in new donor organisations in this region."

"How to make the programmes more cost effective?"

Mr. Thordarson then referred to the earlier decisions in regard to having small and flexible RO's in the future and outlined the steps taken in New Delhi to achieve this end. He informed the meeting that during the course of 1985, 12 redundancies had been declared and that the present proposal was for a further 8 redundancies to be declared by 31.12.1986. This would leave a core staff of 6 persons plus the project advisers whose number would depend on donor support. He added: "In very specific terms the proposed restructuring of the New Delhi office, if it is accepted by the RC and the Executive Committee, means that in January 1987 the New Delhi office would have the RD, an accountant, two secretaries and two support staff as core staff and then in addition there will be project activities supported by donors which will consist of Regional Development Officer, Regional Development Adviser, the Comas project Adviser, the Consumer project Adviser, the Agricultural Cooperative Training Adviser, (the Programme Manager for the Japanese sponsored programme) and in KL the Cooperative Trade Adviser. In other words, there will be 5 project staff based in New Delhi and one in KL."

In terms of making the programme international, Mr. Thordarson added that there were several requests for ICA presence in several parts of the world, that the president had travelled to South America and to Africa and that it was hoped that within the next

3 years, the ICA could establish a small presence in Latin America, and in Africa. He added: "A great deal of attention was devoted by the RC to the question of KL. What has happened now is an agreement by our Executive Committee that we do not want to propose any changes to the present RC structure, that there will be one RC and we would also like to have the RO remain in New Delhi. We would, however, like to formally designate the KL Cooperative Trade Project Office as an ICA office so that the trade activity could continue and grow in the years ahead."

04.03 Mr. Mathimugan, Chairman, said: "The ExSubCo considered the question of how effective development can take place in this region, whether the structure of one RC and one office in Asia was manageable, was it rather too huge and unwieldy to conduct itself in an effective and proper manner to enhance cooperative development and direction in the Asian region, taking into consideration diverse activities and diverse kinds of situation that existed in the region. It was from there that the first discussion on having sub-offices took place. Then the decision that arose was to have an office in New Delhi to cover South Asia and an office in KL to cover the South East Asian Region. Now this idea got acceptance from a number of people and it was also sort of accepted by the Development Committee of the ICA. Subsequent to that further discussions were held and it was decided that this be referred to the RC for a final decision. That is how the matter came up to the RC in New Delhi. The President and Director attended that meeting. We had an ExSubCo Meeting earlier, and a five point plan was presented by the President which covered also this area of two separate offices, one in New Delhi and one in KL and that was accepted by the ExSubCo. The Five point Plan was placed before the RC Meeting the next day and the views of those who were not in the ExSubCo were invited. During that meeting one of the non tangible aspects of the Asian region was brought up as a matter of importance and that was 'solidarity'. It would be useful to have solidarity and it was on the basis of solidarity that some of the issues were discussed. But basically the majority of the members accepted the concept of having two separate offices. However they said one Council and Asian solidarity should be maintained.

Subsequently finance became a major issue and the question was how RO could finance the activities of the ROs. It was in that context that the idea of ICA having ROs as requested and funded by those sponsoring came up. The suggestion was that the members finance the RO and the RC should have complete control of the RO. The questions that arose was about the accountability of such offices, to whom would they be accountable, and for whom such an office would be run.

We have come to this situation now where the RO in New Delhi has got a building, that building is to be sold and that money is to be retained and from an economic point of view that office in New Delhi could have the support of the monies that would be retained in New Delhi which cannot be transmitted outside. So in that context it would be practical and sensible to have an office in New Delhi in the manner, in the form which has been described. Notwithstanding those

Facts, what you have now to decide and discuss is, object of a Regional Council, what has this RC done and what does it achieve, is it an effective council or is it just a get together or a good forum for exchange of experiences and that is that. Beyond that the policies of the RC, the directions of the RO and all matters pertaining to administration and others would be under the purview of the HO, the directions, the appointments, and the reporting and accountability will be to the HO. So we should not feel ourselves. We have a council which has got an RO and that RO is not under its control. That is only hallucination. But the other point is if you want an office and you want to control then you must contribute to that office. The proposed new rules on composition and the functions of a RC, its role and responsibility, was circulated to you earlier. That has to be submitted to the HO for any amendments to the rules of the ICA.

So your discussion now should be to decide on the RC and its functions and its acceptance as it is/as proposed. You also have to realise that Asia has 51 per cent of the members representing the ICA. Now 51 per cent means out of half a billion members 260 million come from Asia and this council presides over that at least in name. Also would our programmes be effective as they are and run on the present basis? When we meet as a RC we meet for regional development but the concept and context of some members is that it is a forum for them to talk of their own individual problems. Now that is an aspect which also you may decide, whether it should decide in that form because you have your needs and you want your needs to be satisfied. We can discuss common problems at the RC level."

04.04 Mr. Riazuddin Ahmed, Pakistan : "I have one or two points which need clarification : (i) Whether in the new structure proposed the KL office will be independent of the RO in New Delhi. That is to say will the RO of the RO in New Delhi have jurisdiction over the KL office. In other words, will it be a sub-office or an independent office, (ii) it might have different financing implications and also a degree of responsibility and accountability. Therefore the relationship between the RO in New Delhi and the office in KL has to be more clearly explained or decided. Otherwise, to me it appears that the proposal is acceptable in principle. The expenditure involved in the case of the KL office being independent or subordinate to the RO will need to be discussed."

04.05 Chairman : "As it stands the KL office is going to be part of this region's activities and the KL office as proposed by Mr. Bruce Thordarson is in regard to the Cooperative Trade Project that is located in KL and it is not going to serve a particular group. It is going to serve the Asian region as a whole and therefore it will be considered a part of this whole region. It is financially independent because it is supported by the SCC wholly and to some extent by various little assistance from the Cooperative Movement in Malaysia.

Accountability - I think every office will be accountable to the HO, whether they will be accountable to the Regional Council is another matter and I think that would be of interest to us. We are not going to discuss this matter on a legal basis. So the discussion yesterday at the EXSubCo was centered around what should be the role and responsibility of the Council over these offices. Should the RC be responsible for their budget, planning, for their accountability? If so, amendments to the rules of the ICA will take place."

04.06 Dr. Jung-Joo Kim, Korea : "Is your plan to have an RO at KL fixed? Are there any suggestions from countries like Japan or any other countries? I am not sure about the place - is it to be restricted only to KL?"

04.07 Chairman : "ICA has no firm policy where an office should be. Offices can be opened and set up in areas of need. That is the basic policy of the ICA - in one or two places you need some permanent structure for coordination and for continuity of action and support. So there was a suggestion at one time to have the Consumer Office and Agriculture Office in Japan itself or even Korea. I think both Japan and Korea declined to accept that responsibility.

One other aspect that you all must be aware of i.e. ACO (Asean Cooperative Organisation). It is functioning and meeting regularly and it is an effective body that takes into account interests of six countries in the Asean group, namely, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia and there are others who wanted to become members of this group. There is nothing to stop the Asean region from asking ICA HO for an office to carry out their functions because they have very common interest. So it does not mean that the Regional Council for Asia need to be split into two. The solidarity that the members talk can still be continued and maintained. You can have the RO as a RO, but again let me make it clear that over the last 2-3 years the things that have happened do not give me confidence that whatever we discuss will fructify in the manner we discuss. That has been one of the frustrations that I have felt and for which reason I was not really prepared to discuss this matter. Nothing seems to move.

One other thing that we require in this region and every country requires is leadership, visionaries like Hasumi who has created this IDACA, Dr. Kanagawa who has created the consumer movement - that kind of leadership is required if you want to achieve the kind of development that you need. Do you want things to go on as they are. It is your choice. It is a very big region, very hard to get our minds to meet together on many things except on solidarity. But in the area of development and other things, we are unable to really foster the kind of support that each one can give for regional development, identifying countries that need development as a priority and when we discuss about contributing to RO there is a blank. We come to a wall. So this is where we are not prepared to commit. May be we are not prepared to commit as some of us have no authority to take a decision.

So we have donors for the RO in New Delhi and that office can continue and you must decide on what kind of council you want to have, what effective manner of supervising the RO you would like to propose."

04.08 Gen Lozada : "I recall in 1983 the CUP sent to RO and also to HO in Geneva our concept of restructuring the international movement i.e. the ICA. We felt at that time that the RC was an outsider of the international movement in the sense that we are not a part, while we are a part of the discussion forum; we are not part of decision making structure. You will notice that the Philippines have been very strong because we have to develop a strong political will of the council if we want to make the council responsive to the global movement. Therefore it must be a part of decision making structure. So in 1984 the so-called organisation of Specialised Sub-Committees have been resorted to and that the RC had become almost autonomous and this is a very good direction in the sense that you must direct your effort towards the needs of the constituency and so in that context there has been discussion in New Delhi RC Meeting as to the efficacy of having several Regional Councils in South-East Asia. It seems that we were not very unanimous about dividing the South-East Asian Council, objections coming primarily from Korea and Japan. Since we have two additional members from China and North Korea, I think that these two new affiliates should be consulted on the matter. I am glad that there has been a strong direction coming from the secretariat from Geneva to prune down the structure of the RO in New Delhi. Now with this structure - so called project development direction - we are most happy. This is a new avenue for which we should give a chance to work out - the core group in New Delhi headed by the RO could be ably supported and supplemented and perhaps given lot of impetus by the project group - the project groups should be most effective because they are experts and professionals dealing with our needs in the various organisations in the Far East or South-East Asia. This may be given a chance to work out. We maintain the RO in New Delhi, come up with a semi office whenever possible in KL, but I pose the same question as posed by the representative from Pakistan - we need to define linkages and relationship between the RO and the sub-office with the RC, with the EXSubCo and also with the central secretariat in Geneva. So my personal view is that we should give this a chance. The solidarity must be maintained at all cost...when forwarding the paper to the Executive Committee for their perusal, they should take into consideration the feelings and the views that have been expressed by the EXSubCo and also the RC."

04.09 Mr. V.P. Singh : "Two important issues have been raised. They were discussed in the EXSubCo yesterday also. One question which you have very pertinently raised is about the functions and powers of the RC....we find that when ICA was constituted, as pointed out by Japan yesterday, we all became members of the ICA, and the RO - concept was not

there. But the concept of RC was introduced in Hamburg and immediately thereafter RCs were formed. The formation of RC therefore is only about two years old by now - otherwise RCs had been meeting earlier in the present shape and powers, and with amendments to the ICA Rules more powers were given to the RC. The Chairman has informed you that this RC should become more effective. There could be no two notions on this when such a representative gathering of cooperative leaders from the region meet it must have power to decide its own course of action. When I look at the paper which has been circulated I find that there are powers for which we are looking for, also powers of the EXSubCo. We find it has a power to appoint a RD and other senior staff in consultation with ICA HO, it has power to draw up the budget for confirmation of the RC, it has the power to establish policy and development programme of the RD, etc. However, I think we have to have the linkage with the ICA, the fact of belonging to the ICA HO. We have to work within the framework of ICA HO. That is the whole purpose of our being here and the RC has to work within the framework of ICA HO keeping the needs and aspirations of the region. Some amendments to the paper are necessary, but I think basically, it says what we want to say.

One aspect which is important is the amount of money which members should pay to the region. The question is where the money is going to come from. Now regional members pay their subscription to the ICA HO at Geneva. Would it be possible for member organisations here to increase their subscription by saying that a part of it will go to the RC or paid to the Regional Development Fund?

Another question is about finding donors within the region. The major donors at the moment are Japan, Korea and to some extent Malaysia and it may be possible to have more donors giving more and more money for regional development activities which will of course be formulated by this Council. I had proposed yesterday that you as Chairman should shoulder this responsibility with the approval of this Council to tour this region and meet leaders of the government with the help of respective cooperative movements and try and develop a Regional Development Fund. If we are able to put some money in this regional development fund, then we can talk of regional autonomy and managing our affairs...Once we are able to form a development fund, then we can talk in terms of more effective and regionally balanced council. We find that it is a good paper. I am in favour of this paper. We can review the situation after one year."

04.10 Chairman : "This is a paper that was circulated one year ago, and would have to go to the Central Committee of the ICA which is meeting in Basel in October. There would be a resolution to propose that the rules of the ICA be amended at the next Congress and then if the Executive Committee has to accept this - they may have their own considerations over what should be the involvement of the centre in RDs

and setting up of RCs. So we have to submit this to the centre and let them take a decision in the matter.

The other aspect that Gen Lozada has brought about is solidarity. I think we must be quite clear in our minds and Mr. V.P. Singh also mentioned - we all are members of the ICA - the world cooperative movement is a brotherhood, there is no such thing as an Asian Cooperative Solidarity or an African Cooperative Solidarity. We are all brothers. So really I do not like the word Asian Solidarity - for what? All we are talking of is that we have some common problems to solve, so we talk in those terms. Let us delete the word "Asian Solidarity" and substitute "Solidarity of the International Cooperative Movement."

04.11 Mr. I. Yamaguchi : "I would like to talk on this particular issue. The same opinion was raised at the ExSubCo and there may be some overlapping in my comments. We are now discussing the reorganisation of the RO in South-East Asia. I believe one of the major aspects in the reorganisation would be rationalising the activities of the RO here. However another major factor which comes into this is the financial stress that the ICA is presently facing and it appears that due to the impact of the financial difficulties of the ICA HO, the ICA RO in South-East Asia is being pressed to simplify and rationalise its organisation. Japan currently pays to the ICA HO a total sum of 70 million yen plus 500,000 yen per year to its development fund. We pay an additional amount of 900,000 yen to South-East Asia office for development activities in this region. So that means that the major portion of the money that Japan pays for the development goes to the ICA HO. ICA's activities is first of all to represent the will of the international cooperative movement as a spokesman in its negotiation with UN and other international organisations. However it is reasonable that that some amount of the 70 million yen that we pay to the ICA HO should and must flow back to the South-East Asian region. I do not think that the South-East Asian RO should face the blame, the consequences of the ICA financial difficulties. That is for ICA HO to clear.

Therefore, in short, we believe that having the RO in South-East Asia independent of the ICA HO would be tantamount to writing off the financial rights that we as members pay to the ICA. I believe that the RO in South-East Asia should be a part and parcel of the ICA organisation. In that regard, I believe that a portion of the money that we pay to ICA currently should flow back to the RO as administration cost for the South-East Asian RO.

However, agricultural development in the South-East Asian region will require a larger amount of funds. We are aware of the need to procure funds from the local cooperative organisations in South-East Asia. Now Japan has been paying its dues to the ICA on the basis of the formula. In addition to that, we now have an agreement with the ICA and the Japanese Government for a Training Programme on

Agricultural Cooperatives. The funds for this will be made available to the ICA, but these must flow back to New Delhi to implement the programme. In a sense therefore these are tied funds to support South-East Asian Agricultural Cooperatives. I would like to conclude by saying that the ICA RO should continue as part and parcel of the ICA organisation.

As far the setting up of specialised committees is concerned, there has been a proposal to set up the office of the Trade Sub-Committee for South-East Asia in KL. Now our understanding is the following ; that the KL office will be set up under the Regional Office in South-East Asia - to take care of the technical procedures or processes involved...So we are giving our agreement to the setting up of this office in KL only on the kind of structure that I just outlined. So please do understand that this is the way we are regarding this decision."

04.12 Mr. S. Fukuda : "I have a few questions : (i) Mr. Bruce Thordarson earlier explained the budget and I believe the budget pertains to the fundamental essence of this problem. Therefore I would like to hear further elucidation on the budget, (ii) I believe one year ago when we were discussing this issue of reorganisation of the RO we were talking about two possible offices, one in New Delhi and another somewhere else. So how have the discussion on the division of the offices developed to this day? (iii) Are there any specific proposals of the ExSubCo to the RC? Please let us know."

04.13 President, ICA, Mr. Lars Marcus, in his intervention said : "I would repeat some of the things I said yesterday, but also elaborate a bit on them....we are mainly talking about development and development of cooperatives is a very costly business. It can never be covered by dues income. Now for many years some movements have been the mainstay and support for the ICA. That resulted in ROs. Now there is a lot of money in the world for development. It is sometimes a problem to find a right use for it....we have to help the people in the countries who are in a poor situation. Most of this money does not go to cooperative development. It goes to support programmes of many kinds. It passes from government to government. Cooperatives are a part of or a tool for such a development and there is an increasing effort made to introduce cooperative ideas for development. We believe that ICA should try to get all government money channelled from movement to movement and some of which should be channelled through the ICA because ICA can do a few things that many movements cannot do. ICA is a non-governmental organisation and comprises different kinds of movements and countries with different political backgrounds. ICA could have a say but it should not be an implementer but one organising, finding projects, attracting money etc. You have to prove that you are very good, that you do the job better than

any other organisation. Now you can go to government and say we want to pay for RO, we want you to pay for a core staff, we want you to assure that all projects will be located in New Delhi or Malaysia in future. If you try to become more efficient you have to be a bit pragmatic about your approach. It is always a risk when you try to support structures from the beginning. If you start from the thinking of now we have an RC, now we should have a RO because of that, that may be difficult. We have to prove that the way we work is most efficient. Now the decision to have a Trade Project located, where is that decision taken, how is it taken, what influence has the donor when it comes to deciding where it should be located? This is a part of the problems and I think you have to realise that your power comes from the skill, the good advice you can give. Your power comes from finding out from the region, its needs and for the RC to define what we ought to do and how to attract donors. The donors will have to go to their governments. So where the decision is made is often difficult to know for sure, because there are many links in the chain of decision making. It is not easy when you have huge development tasks, where you can discuss how to make money and where to use it. I think it is good to discuss about a development fund being created here. It is not an easy job. It is necessary to understand these matters when you discuss your power here, and where it comes from. I believe that you should be strong, try to be as firm as possible and I do not want to take away any self confidence in your attempt to organise this structure of financing development in Asia."

C4.14 Mrs. Amri Zainuddin said : "The issue that we are discussing today is a very delicate one and therefore there is a need for considerable serious thought and considerable time to discuss this matter in detail because there are still questions which need to be answered, there are still clarifications which need to be made especially on the status of the sub-office, the so-called sub-offices in the region. In addition to that I would like to note the comments given by Mr. Yamaguchi which is very important for us to think about seriously, and whatever decisions we are able to make on this restructuring of offices, we should not forget that the RO and its sub-offices should be part and parcel of the whole organisational structure. Now I have a question to ask regarding the Cooperative Trade Office in KL. There are some Councillors who are not aware about this and therefore there is some confusion to that effect. There is the same confusion regarding the financing of the office. It was said that the local cooperatives in the country where this office is to be located would have to finance the operational costs of the office. If this is so, I think, this has to be clarified to the Councillors. We have to decide on our role, on our effectiveness as RCs vis-a-vis the office and the development in the region. If we are really effective we could influence the development of the movements in the region and therefore the question of the amendment of the constitution may not be necessary at all. I may be wrong, but we have to analyse ourselves here whether we have done our role in accordance to what we are supposed to and if we have not how shall we improve on it, how can we be more effective, so that our contribution can

influence the development in the region. I agree, for all purposes and intents, with Mr. Yamaguchi that the RO and its sub offices should be part and parcel of the whole ICA organisational structure because the establishment of the branches comes from the Headquarters and we should maintain that, and the aspect of our solidarity should not be questioned, as solidarity there must be in the cooperative movement as a whole.

04.15 Mr. Yahya Suryanegara : "I was little bit confused and surprised because suddenly in the meeting there was a kind of impression that ideas were arising in our midst to separate the RO from the HO. This has never been discussed before, not in KL, not in Bangkok, not in New Delhi. What we are talking about is the effectiveness of RO - based on common interests and common problems. In that context we were thinking whether it is more effective to have more and more ROO. At that stage, KL was mentioned, so that that office will be more effective. It would focus on common problems and common interests where several Asian countries will be sitting there and discussing these common interests and problems. The idea is to help the effectiveness of the organisation - the ICA organisation as a whole - to be more effective internationally. Secondly, we were thinking about communication. We were thinking that communication also may be one of the problems as to why the RI was felt as not too effective and all these discussions was raised in our best intentions after the evaluation on the existence of the ICA RO for 25 years. There was no idea of separating RO from the HO. The second problem that has been raised is about funding. I think this is quite a separate problem from the first one. The first one was how to make a RO more effective. Separation was never on the cards. This is not very healthy and nobody wants to separate this. There is a what is called the solidarity of the organisation, we are speaking of the ICA as one organisation. I hope that this issue of separation will not spread. It is not healthy. The second question, the question of effectiveness and efficiency is of more importance compared to the funding problems. Then I think we can decide to have one office. The idea is not to have two offices. We do not want to separate the activities from the ICA central office. I was surprised to hear our host today from Japan telling that they have contributed so much to the central office, and that they want the bigger part of the money to go back to Asia. Why this kind of issue was raised in this meeting? To my understanding it should be raised at the Central Committee Meeting in Europe because Japan is also a member of the Executive Committee. So it should be decided there."

04.16 The Chairman said : "We are probably still discussing from different premises, still not coming to a meeting point simply because we are not still very thorough on the issue involved. We have mixed it up with many other issues and so a bit of confusion exists. For the time being I think let us come down to certain conclusions arising from what Bruce Thurdarson has already stated and then in the meantime let me reply to some of the queries that have been raised before. I pass on to Bruce and also to the president if he wants to make further elaborations.

I follow what my friend Fukuda and Yamaguchi raised, and Yahya has raised a question on this. We have to be careful with these kind of things. When we become a member of an organisation, we accept the objects of the organisation. To attain the objectives we may have to make certain contributions. We do not make any condition on the subscription that is made. How the funds are to be used and whether we must have a greater say in the management and the running of the ICA itself...I think to say that funds should come back to us is an issue that we have to consider and discuss at a different level. It will not seem reasonable to say that the subscription should go back to a particular region. The responsibility would be to maintain an ICA office, as effective and efficient as possible. In this whole issue we cannot take a very narrow approach and temper the sentiments of various kinds as we are all interested in development. The main reason for a RO is right from the first day it was meant for development. The ICA is a body for solidarity of the international cooperative movement.

Now Mr. Fukuda raised three questions, one on budget, two possible offices and was there any specific proposal from the EXSubCo yesterday. I will answer the last two. The EXSubCo has agreed with the proposal made by Mr. Thordarson that we have a RO in New Delhi, and the Cooptrade Office in KL and this we have for about a year and see how things develop before any discussion or decisions about expanding or elaborating on various other activities in other parts of the region. That was basically what was said and this is the consensus because if we go on discussing this we are not going to come to any conclusion and we would like to see something happening and best thing is to accept this as it was said.

As regards two possible Regional Offices - after decisions were taken in New Delhi there was confusion over the terms solidarity - the term solidarity meant one office, one council and one Asian region. There was some confusion. What happened in ICA Executive and at the Secretariat level was not followed through in the decision that was taken in New Delhi.

As regards the Cooptrade Office issue which was raised by Armi - this project is wholly funded by the SCC, Malaysia's support for it is in various forms to facilitate and assist wherever and whenever possible and give whatever it can and it has worked well in that manner.

May I now come to the point that we accept the structure of a RO in New Delhi with a core staff of six and project managers and an ICA office involved in Cooptrade in KL subject to further developments as things happen. We accept this for submission to the Executive and the Central Committee and we defer any further consideration on any other matter including the Regional Development Fund until the next Council Meeting.

04.17

The President, ICA, Mr. Lars Marcus, then added : "The question was raised about the status of the office in KL. The decision

on the nomenclature is not taken by the Executive. My opinion is that we should call offices as ICA offices. For you it means that since you are Councillors representing the region this office will be under your Council, but the question of how it should cooperate with the RO in New Delhi is a question more of a practical nature. We would have to have a pragmatic approach. I do not think we should call it a "sub office".

04.18 Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Associate Director, ICA, said : "I think it is important to point out that during the last 10 years 1975-85, the ICA HQ contributed the equivalent in Sw.Fr. of 977,000 which is roughly USD 500,000. In 1985 this amount has increased drastically. The HQ contributed 243,000 Sw.Fr. or over USD 100,000 and when you add up the contribution that ICA Geneva made to the 3 ROs it was approaching 40 per cent of the ICA's total subscription income. It has rapidly become clear that this is no longer sustainable for ICA and that the ICA contribution coming from HQ's subscription income which is the only source of income ICA Geneva has must be reduced, if ICA is to survive. The President told the EXSubCo yesterday the hard financial facts facing the ICA.

In 1984, the ICA central deficit was 250,000 Sw.Fr., approximately Sw.Fr. 500,000 in 1985 and in 1986 the deficit may be as high as Sw.Fr. 900,000. If that trend were to continue there is no doubt that by the end of next year the ICA would be a bankrupt organisation and these are the hard financial facts with which the Executive Committee has to deal during the course of the year.

This led to a decision by the ICA Executive Committee that in 1987 the deficit must end and the budget in Geneva must be balanced. In other words, we must cut the deficit of almost 1 million Sw.Fr. to zero. This has led to substantial cost reductions in Geneva. When Mr. Beasley became Director of ICA in 1984 the staff was approximately 24 people. As of January 1, 1987, the staff in Geneva will be only 11 people. This is very much in line with the comments made by Mr. Yamaguchi yesterday that ICA must get its own house in order. At the same time however it is clear that ICA cannot in the future be regarded as a donor for development purposes as has been the case in the past.

The budget which has been given to the development programme of ICA for 1987 is as follows : It would be the amount to cover my salaries and that is all in Geneva - no secretary, no travel, nothing else. In addition there will be Sw.Fr. 10,000 available for each of the 3 ROs and that is the extent of the contribution which ICA is able to make to its development programme in 1987 if the budget has to be balanced. I think we have to be realistic and to say that in the future there is no likelihood of substantial changes from this situation. The era is over when ICA could from its subscription income be a donor.

04.19 Gen Luzada, Regional Councillor for the Philippines, then intervened. "I have a couple of practical points/questions to ask Mr. Thordarson. You said that ICA should become generator of resources instead of just a donor. Have you considered the possible assistance coming from Italy, Denmark and Canada? How about USA? Do we have some investments there? ICA should engage in business investment to generate some funds."

04.20 Mr. Bruce Thordarson replied : "As far as other donors are concerned, we are already in contact with the Canadian Government about the possibility of a major programme of support to Asia through RD to strengthen the apex organisations here. We will continue these discussions with Canada. With other organisations including U.S there will be a meeting of the donors prior to the Central Committee Meeting in Basel in the hope of generating additional support. Again we know it takes time for a new organisation to come in. Already this year we see some new organisations on the horizon and we will be pursuing them actively."

04.21 The President, ICA, said : "No, we have no income generating business activities and I do not think we should engage in such. That is a very complicated area for the ICA. We are selling some posters for peace and I think these are very good posters. However that will not change the general financial situation of the ICA."

04.22 Mr. Mohd Yahya Suryanagara : "How to make ICA a catalyst? Also, what is really expected from donor countries, from us, from the cooperative movement in Asia?"

04.23 The President replied : "I expect every member organisation in each of the OECD countries to take contact with their cooperative colleagues and members in the ICA from the same country and to find out how they can support cooperative development. Such a process is already on its way. The Swedish Cooperatives have been providing development support for over 25 years. The Royal Society of Norway has been supporting the Abidjan office for 5 years. Denmark this year has started the Danish Cooperative Centre. I have met with the Foreign Minister of Italy together with cooperatives both Catholic and left wing and they have formed a joint group to take on responsibility for development in the Mediterranean area. Now we hope that this example will spread. The Japanese example is well known. The US has its own programme - USAID has direct contact with the developing countries. If we can make a good effort I think we can channel much more money to ICA activities. Sweden is only using 10 per cent of its budget for development aid through ICA and that gives ICA a very good help, but it does not solve all the problems. I expect that within the next year we could have may be one or two more, may be Finland, France. These countries have invited all the cooperative leaders to come with proposals for cooperative projects through ICA, but there was no action in France. This is the way we are trying to work from the ICA."

04.24 Open Asian Conference : The Chairman informed the meeting that there was poor response to the Open Asian Conference that had been planned. The Council decided to postpone this conference to a better time when there would be a better response.

05. Agenda Item No. 5 : Letters and Reports from non-attending members

The Secretary read out letters/telex received from non-attending members from Australia, Bangladesh, China and Sri Lanka. This was noted by the Council.

06. Agenda Item No. 6 : Confirmation of cooptation to the ExSubCo - Mr. Iwao Yamaguchi, Japan

The Council confirmed the cooptation to the ExSubCo of Mr. Iwao Yamaguchi from Japan in place of Mr. Roland Jay of Singapore.

07. Agenda Item No. 7 : Report by Regional Councillors on "Recent Changes, Trends and Developments in their Cooperative Movements"

07.01 Each Regional Councillor circulated a statement regarding recent changes, trends and developments of the cooperative movement in his country on the basis of the new proforma provided. The following countries highlighted some of the more important developments:

07.02 Mrs. Armi Zainuddin, Regional Councillor for Malaysia, highlighted the following aspects of cooperative development in Malaysia:

- i. The increasing focus on youth and in particular the school cooperative sector. There was encouraging progress in this field.
- ii. New initiatives had been made also in assisting rural community based cooperatives especially handicrafts.
- iii. There was increasing emphasis on enhancing women's involvement in cooperatives - two project proposals had been drawn up in the sector of women and small holders cooperatives - assistance was sought through ICA to support these efforts.
- iv. The Cooperative College of Malaysia had expanded and diversified their training programmes, which included also several courses for training of trainers.

07.03 Mrs. Nelia Chavez, Regional Councillor for Philippines, drew attention to the following developments :

- i. In view of the not very satisfactory experience of the cooperatives in regard to credit supply and management, a Research Study had been undertaken with a view to developing an integrated Cooperative Financing Programme. The approaches include emphasis on training for cooperative staff, extension work among members for generating savings and better credit utilisation and management.

At present 29 Rural Banks are functioning very well, in spite of many obstacles. They are now working with the Bureau of Cooperative Development.

- ii. The Cooperative Union of the Philippines (CUP) had taken the necessary initiatives to get tax exemption for the cooperatives and have been able to restore this privilege.
- iii. The CUP had set up a Task Force on Cooperative Legislation with a view to rationalising the Cooperative Legal System.

The main recommendations of the Task Force were :

- to include a clause/paragraph about cooperation in the constitution of the country.
 - consolidation of all cooperatives under one cooperative law, and
 - the establishment of a Cooperative Authority to cover all types of cooperatives.
- iv. The CUP had been able to hold the first Cooperative Congress in the Philippines and this had been quite a success.
 - v. The CUP had also completed a Multi-Sectoral Conference between the private and government sector cooperatives.
 - vi. The Philippines also endorsed the need expressed by Malaysia for ICA support for women's activities.

07.04 The President, ICA, in an intervention expressed his appreciation about the matters reported on and the progress made, but was of the view, that at a forum like the Regional Council, there should be frank and an open reporting which should include also the problems, mistakes and failures as these would serve as valuable experiences from which all could learn.

He referred to the European situation where there were many fora for discussion on cooperatives - but one suddenly find the French Cooperatives failing with many not knowing the reasons for such failure.

He emphasized that cooperatives are cooperatives in business, and one has to operate in a very highly competitive market situation and hence arises the need to take stock based on realistic assessments, facts and figures.

08. Agenda Item No. 8 : Chairman's Report to the RC

The Chairman said that the last ExSubCo Meeting in Jakarta decided to recommend the cooptation of Mr. V.P. Singh into the Executive Committee of the ICA. This had been done. He offered his congratulations and best wishes to Mr. V.P. Singh. He also said that another member from China had been coopted into the Executive. There were now four members in the Executive Committee from Asia. So representation is quite strong at this point of time. The Central Committee of the ICA would be meeting in Basel and that is where most of the discussions and policy decisions can be taken. We find that during the Central Committee Meetings very poor representation takes place from the developing countries and that is where we lose out in voicing our needs and our feelings.

09. Agenda Item No. 9 : Reports on the activities of the Specialised Committees

09.01 The Secretary informed the meeting that a document which consists of all the reports of the Specialised Committees which have been functioning for the last year had been already circulated.

09.02 On behalf of the Consumer Sub-Committee, Mr. K. Katsubo, Chairman, briefly highlighted the activities of the Sub-Committee.

The Chairman mentioned that in KL new ideas of a training centre for staff of supermarket has been established and at the base if that training centre is a small mini store which would also be used for in the job training.

09.03 On behalf of the Agricultural Sub-Committee, Gen Lozada briefly mentioned about the activities carried out by the Agricultural Committee. He was happy that the Training Programme with Japanese Government assistance was well in hand and thanked CUAC/IDACA for the initiatives they had taken in this regard.

09.04 The Secretary informed the RC that all other Committees, other than the Trade Committee, had not met, because of financial constraints. The Trade Committee was one of the more active Committees of the RC, and that they would meet once again in October in 1986. The details of that sector activity were provided in the detailed report

submitted. He informed also that an evaluation of the Trade Project was scheduled for October/November 1986 and that the general expectation was that SCC would further support this project.

He also mentioned that tentatively the Fisheries Sub-Committee was scheduled to meet in Penang, Malaysia, on 26-27 November 1986, and the Credit and Banking Committee was also planning to meet possibly in Thailand and that the secretariat was working on these aspects.

10. Agenda Item No. 10 : Report on Regional Office Activities

The activities undertaken by the RO as reported in the documents during the year was noted by the Council.

11. Agenda Item No. 11 : Report on IDACA Activities

11.01 The information given in the agenda notes was noted by the Council.

11.02 Gon Lazeda : expressed his deep appreciation and gratitude to the CUAC/IDACA for arranging for a Special Course for Strengthening of Agricultural Cooperatives Management under the collaboration between Japan and the Philippines which was scheduled to take place during October 5 to November 4. Eight out of the 13 participants were coming from the Philippines, and he was deeply grateful to CUAC/IDACA for this opportunity.

12. Agenda Item No. 12 : Plan of Activities 1986-87 - RO/IDACA

12.01 The Secretary mentioned that ICA RO activities were being programmed on the basis of needs identified and on the basis of available donor support. There are four areas in which we have donor support from the SCC for our activities. These are Agriculture, Consumer, Member Education (CEMAS/FED) and for Trade.

12.02 Re ICA/CUAC/IDACA Regional Seminar for 1986, that programme was now substituted by the Japanese Government supported Training Programme for Strengthening Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia for which invitations for nominations had already been sent out and the course would commence in November in New Delhi.

12.03 He informed the meeting that the RO was working on the proposal to hold a Regional Seminar on Cooperative Dairy Development. Discussions had already been held with the NCUI in India, who would contact the NDOB soon, and the activity will take place around February/March 1987.

12.04 The RO informed the meeting that the activity provided for under the heading 'Study on Development of Rural Poor through Cooperatives' would be carried out during early 1987 and that the countries selected were the Philippines and Bangladesh.

12.05 In regard to Consumer Activities, the RD referred to the matters mentioned by Gen Luzada in regard to the Retail Management Training Courses. He emphasized that in keeping with ICA's new policy on activities, the RD would come in where the request is for resource input in situations of Pilot Programs like Training of Trainers and that it was not the intention to get involved in training programmes for salesman etc at different levels, regional or district or village level. However, the ICA would assist in the two activities planned in the Philippines.

12.06 The RD informed the meeting that the work planned under CEMAS Activities were being carried out but that there was some set back as a result of Dr. Vir being ill. However, the planned activities would be carried out.

As regards the Development Coordination Unit, perspective planning in collaboration with the member countries would be a priority area, while some training programmes on project identification and formulation would be undertaken during the year.

12.07 He also mentioned that the proposed workshop on Prawn Breeding and Fish Farming, suggested by Thailand and Malaysia, could not be carried out for lack of funds. The activity could cost around Rupees 300,000 inclusive of airfare and board and lodging costs. If a host organisation bore a part of the board and lodging costs, then the activity cost could be reduced, but the airfare costs for around 15 participants would be around Rs.180,000/-.

The Chairman then suggested that an attempt should be made to carry out this activity on the basis of self help and mutual help and suggested that the RD should write to all members seeking their support.

12.08 Mr. K. Fujimoto, Managing Director of IDACA, in his intervention regretted that he was not able to place before the RC, the plan of activities as was customary. He said that these would be made available as soon as they were ready. He also referred to a regular annual regional programme which IDACA used to arrange for 25 Asian cooperators in collaboration with ICA and with ICA bearing part of the airfare costs. He enquired whether this could should be continued and whether ICA would be able to support part of the airfare costs. The RC was of the view that the course should be continued and that ICA should explore the possibility of getting funding from SCC to support this activity. It was also decided that each member organisation would examine their own possibilities to bear part of this cost. This programme would be in addition to the already mentioned Japanese Government supported Training Programme. Mr. Fujimoto informed the RC that the Japanese sponsored Thailand Agricultural Cooperative programme was well on its way. He informed the meeting also that the next IDACA Reunion would be in Malaysia in early 1987. Gen Luzada expressed the hope that an IDACA Reunion Programme would be held in the Philippines very early

13. Agenda Item No. 13 : New Proposals (i) Regional Mutual Assistance Revolving Fund, (ii) Data Bank at ICA RO, (iii) Study Mission on NCOs, (iv) Working Group on Tourism, (v) "Hall of Honour", (vi) Role of RC and EXSUBCO.

13.01 Regional Mutual Assistance Revolving Fund

The Secretary briefly outlined the ideas behind the setting up of this fund which had developed over about two or three years. The main idea was that this fund would be a continuing fund in the ICA RO, with which member organisations which had difficulties in supporting the travel of their delegates to important meetings/seminars etc. would be supported. He informed the meeting that the RO had got the consent of the HQ to keep this fund on a continuing basis, thus obviating the need to close the books in this regard as at 30th June or 31st December, but that now it could be carried over into the next year. The fund was initiated with the generous contribution made by the Malaysian Cooperatives in a sum of M\$ 7500/- and the balance now stood around USD 2,000/-.

The RC after a brief discussion agreed that the fund was very useful and all members should come forward to support the fund. It was agreed that where necessary discussions would be held in the home situation with concerned persons and that all member organisations would do their best to support the fund.

13.02 Data Bank at ICA RO

The Secretary gave some detail about the proposal to set up a Data Bank at RO. The idea emerged from the discussions held at the recently held Agricultural Committee meeting in Bangkok. Since then the RO had written to all member organisations to ascertain the present situation in each country about Data collection and collation. However, the response had been poor.

The overall general situation was that in most countries Data relating to cooperatives were collected and collated by the respective Government Departments, but there were very few cooperative organisations themselves collecting data. It was also found that very often the data available was at least 2 or 3 years old. While admitting the need for ICA, both at HQ and RO levels to be the best source of information about cooperatives, it was recognised that the ICA would have to depend on the information base, set up and maintained at the level of the member affiliates, and unless this information base and the attendant infrastructure to support such information base were available, the setting up of a Data Bank at ICA HQ or RO level would not be meaningful. It was also mentioned that the ROD now through their perspective planning exercises were updating their information base in respect of member countries. However, if the idea of a Data Bank was accepted, then the RO should approach it on a Project Basis, with

adequate funding from various sources, and building up the national base in 3 or 4 selected countries in the first instance. The RC having considered the proposal in detail was of the view that each member country should focus more attention on data collection and collation and that the idea of setting up a Data Bank at the RC level be postponed for the present.

13.03 Study Mission on NCOs

The Secretary drew attention of the RC to Annex 7 of the Agenda Notes which contained the proposal made by Gen. Mojada of the Philippines. The study as proposed would be of use to all member countries. The RC agreed that the study would be useful. The Associate Director undertook to discuss the possibility of support to this project from the Canadian Cooperatives.

13.04 Working Group on Tourism

The RC approved the integration of the Working Group on Tourism of the RC with the Specialised Committee on Trade & Industry as an interim measure.

13.05 "Hall of Honour"

The Chairman introduced the idea to the RC and explained that there was a need to have some form of recognising the outstanding services rendered by individuals to Cooperative Development efforts in the Region. He mentioned that the Regional Council would be the best constituted body to make such awards. The RC was in agreement with the proposal and suggested that suitable guidelines be framed and be submitted to the next ExSubCo meeting.

13.06 Role of RC and ExSubCo

This item had already been discussed in detail by the RC.

In discussing the above matters under Agenda Item 13 Mr. Fukuda was of the view that more detailed information about the proposals should be submitted to the Councillors to enable them to come prepared for discussion. This observation was noted with appreciation.

14. Agenda Item No. 14 : Relations with Member Organisations in the Region

The information given in the agenda notes was noted.

15. Agenda Item No. 15 : Relations with International Organisations

The information given in the agenda notes was noted.

The Chairman asked as to what happened to the seminar to be held in collaboration with the FAO.

The Secretary informed that there was a communication from APRACA saying that they have had some problems of funding and they have suggested that the whole idea of the joint meeting that was discussed be put off till they are able to discuss with their bureaucracy, little indefinite at the moment.

Chairman : I have been approached by the International Organisation of Consumers Unions (IOCU) and they would like to have a Consumer Protection Guidelines Policy Workshop in conjunction with cooperative organisations/consumer cooperatives in particular. So in my discussions I have said that we would be prepared to consider and work together with this Union subject to further details to be arrived at. They would like to organise a regional seminar on this subject and they believe and accept that cooperative organisations should be supported and guided also in some manner by the consumer unions. I would refer this to RO and further correspondence would take with the RO.

16. Agenda Item No. 16 : Venue and Date of the next meeting

Two venues were proposed at the meeting namely Pakistan and Singapore. As Pakistan would not be able to host the next meeting, Singapore was approached. The representative from Singapore, Mr. Aloysius Teo, mentioned that Singapore would give the matter due consideration if further details could be given.

17. Agenda Item No. 17 : Any other matter with the permission of the Chair

17.01 Mr. Fukuda : We have been expanding our scope of activities in the consumer cooperative sector. However, the private retail shops and the oil companies have opposed the consumer cooperatives from over 10 years ago and the Labour Democratic Party applied brakes on our expansion. Consumer Cooperatives in Japan are widely supported by the entire community and we are expanding. We are engaged in a wide scope of activities to improve our services further. We held a rally of 14,000 people on April 8. At that time we were privileged to have a message of support from the ICA Central Committee and from others. I believe it is irrational to oppose the expansion of consumer cooperatives. Therefore I would like to ask for the kind support of the RC in this regard. The President, Mr. Marcus, has already voiced his kind support to us through a message and continues to do whatever he can to help as ICA President. I would ask every one here in the RC also to give us their support as well.

Chairman : We pass a resolution supporting the JCCU and that the resolution be drafted by the Secretary and forwarded

to the relevant authorities on behalf of this RC that represents the Asian Cooperative Movement.

17.02 Mr. Riazuddin Ahmed, Councillor from Pakistan, wanted to know whether the timing of the RC could be adjusted. The need arose because, a few weeks after the RC Meeting, the Central Committee Meeting came up and this sometimes caused problems, both in regard to being cut once again, and also in regard to finances. If the time gap was larger, then it would be more advantageous. The Chairman agreed to look into this and do what was best.

17.03 The Chairman then mentioned that it had been brought to his notice that the Regional Director, Mr. Rajaguru, would be leaving the services of the ICA around June 1987 and that he would like to use this opportunity to express his thanks and the thanks of the Regional Council for the services rendered by Mr. Rajaguru.

He said : "I think he has become a very well known personality and sometimes when you talk of the New Delhi office you talk of Rajaguru. He has become a symbol of the RC for Asia. Much has been said about him, much will be said about him. He has a wealth of experience that we would still like to tap though he may not continue with us in this direct manner. One of the things that we did discuss was how to get all that information, knowledge and experience that Mr. Rajaguru possesses. He is like a walking cooperative encyclopedia in this region. So we must extract that from him. One of the suggestions was that we should ask him to write a book or commission him to write a book on all the various experiences particularly of the various regions that many of us have not had access to. I think each of you share this view about him. He is one person who knows every other leader in this region."

He expressed the hope that Mr. Rajaguru would continue to be in contact with the cooperators in the region and assist in cooperative development. He added : "I think this Council should pass a resolution and record that a scroll be presented to him for his services and may be he should be the first to be considered for the hall of honour. Let me on my own behalf and on behalf of this Council express our very deep and sincere appreciation to you and wish you the best in the future and that you have a long and happy future."

Mr. Rajaguru in his response thanked the Chairman, RC and the Regional Councillors for the very kind sentiments expressed and for their appreciation of his work. He said that he was happy that the ICA gave him an opportunity to get to know better the cooperatives in Asia and also elsewhere. It had been a challenging and a soul satisfying experience for him. He was very grateful for all the courtesies shown and the tremendous support he had from the Regional Councillors, various cooperative leaders, both non-governmental and governmental, and above all, the fact that he could count them as

: 30 :

friends worldwide. While thanking the Chairman and the Regional Councillors for their appreciation of his work, he wished the RC all success for the future.

He took the opportunity also to thank the CUAC/IDACA and the Japanese Cooperatives for hosting the Regional Council and for the excellent arrangements made and the facilities and hospitality extended.

The meeting then concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



New Delhi
17 October, 1986

R.B. Rajaguru
Secretary - ICA Regional Council

pk/

VOTE OF CONDOLENCE

The Regional Council for South-East Asia at its 28th Meeting held in IDACA, Tokyo, Japan, on the 8th of September 1986 expressed its deep shock and sorrow at the sad and sudden demise of Mr. Ellie Anangisye, ICA's Regional Director for East, Central and Southern Africa, who was a very dear friend, a committed cooperator and a dynamic leader, who was able in his short time as Regional Director to win the confidence and trust of all those whom he came into contact with.

The meeting deplored this irreparable loss and resolved that the heartfelt condolences of the Councillors and the cooperators in Asia be conveyed to members of the bereaved family and also took the opportunity to wish them all courage and strength in this hour of need and stress.

May he attain eternal peace.

VOTE OF CONDOLENCE

The Regional Council at its 28th Meeting in IDACA, Tokyo, Japan, on the 8th September expressed its deep sorrow at the sudden demise of Mr. George Chua, Chairman of the Singapore National Cooperative Federation. The Council noted that Mr. George Chua was a dynamic leader who had committed his whole life for the betterment of the living standards of people with limited means. The Council also had looked forward with great interest to meet Mr. Chua at this particular Regional Council Meeting but unfortunately fate decided otherwise.

While deeply lamenting the sad loss the Council sought that the heartfelt condolences of the Councillors and all the cooperators in Asia be conveyed to the members of the bereaved family and also wished them courage and strength in their hour of need and stress.

May he attain eternal peace.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT TO JAPANESE CONSUMER COOPERATIVES
BY ICA'S SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGIONAL COUNCIL

The International Cooperative Alliance's Regional Council for South-East Asia at its 28th Meeting held at IDACA, Machida-shi, Tokyo, Japan, on the 8th September 1986 :

1. Congratulated the Japanese Consumers Cooperative Union (JCCU) and its affiliates for the long and dedicated service rendered by them to their membership and to the general community, through a large network of primary consumer cooperatives, supermarkets and departmental stores, by providing them with a large range of quality consumer goods and services at competitive prices and by acting as a market leader and countervailing force in the highly competitive consumer retail trading sector,

2. Deeply appreciated the international role played by the JCCU and its affiliates in assisting consumer cooperatives in Asia to diversify and strengthen their efforts and services and in assisting them to work towards developing a consumer cooperative movement in their respective countries,

3. Was deeply perturbed and shocked by the news about the problems faced by the consumer cooperatives in Japan and the obstacles placed before them by institutional and other sources which sought to prevent their efforts to expand their outlets and to

: 2 :

increase the range of services rendered through their various shops, to their membership and the general community,

4. Unanimously resolved that the continuing efforts made by the JCCU and its affiliates to improve and expand their services, and to increase their membership and clientele, should be given the fullest support by all cooperators and all others concerned with community development and community welfare and consequently urged the government and other concerned authorities in Japan to fully support and encourage the efforts of the JCCU and its affiliates in their attempts to better serve the interests of the Japanese consumer, and

5. Pledged their whole hearted solidarity and support to the JCCU and its affiliates in their continuing struggle in the field of consumer cooperative activity.

R.B. Rajaguru
Secretary - Regional Council/
Regional Director, ICA RO

pk/

NOTE ON SETTING UP A COOPERATIVE DATA BANK AT ICA RO

Objectives of a Regional Cooperative Data Bank

1. It was suggested by the Agricultural Sub-committee and the Executive Sub-committee of the Regional Council at their last meetings that the ICA RO should set up a Cooperative Data Bank.
2. The objectives of the Regional Cooperative Data Bank (RCDB) may be as follows :-
 - (a) to assist the Regional Council and the Regional Office (RO) to monitor cooperative development trends which would enable them to know the overall regional performance as also the performance of individual cooperative movements;
 - (b) to formulate cooperative policies for promoting cooperative development in the region; and
 - (c) to make suggestions to individual cooperative movements in regard to cooperative development.

Need for National Data Banks

3. In order that the Cooperative Data Bank at the ICA RO level becomes an effective instrument for planning of cooperative development and monitoring and assessing cooperative performance, such data banks should also be established in each of the member movements of the region for two reasons. Firstly, unless the cooperative data banks are established by a few member movements, a Regional Cooperative Data Bank cannot be properly established; it is the data banks at the national levels which have to feed the data to the Regional Data Bank. Secondly, cooperative development planning basically has to be done at the national level.

International Cooperative Alliance.

4. The above would show that the Cooperative Data Bank (CDB) is to be established not for academic purposes but for assisting the concerned bodies in performing the following tasks effectively :-

- (a) Planning for cooperative development;
- (b) Formulating policies;
- (c) Monitoring progress of a cooperative development programme/project;
- (d) Taking corrective actions for problems and constraints that may be identified through monitoring of data; and
- (e) Assessing the effects/impacts of a cooperative development programme/project for the members.

Thus Cooperative Data Bank is a valuable tool for management.

Main Elements of CDB

5. There are three principal components of a Cooperative Data Bank :
- i. Collecting, classifying and storing data into the data bank. Such data to be collected both from primary and secondary sources,
 - ii. Analysis of collected data and presentation of such analysis to management at relevant levels, and
 - iii. Retrieval of data from the data bank and making it available in response to specific enquiries or as periodic publication in the form of statistical bulletin.

Users

6. The users of the Data Bank will be as follows :-
- (a) Cooperative institutions at the national, provincial, district and primary levels,
 - (b) Top management of institutions responsible for planning for cooperative development and formulation of policies,
 - (c) Cooperative executives responsible for implementation of a programme/project,
 - (d) Cooperative personnel primarily engaged in carrying out various activities in a programme/project,

National Cooperative Alliance

- (e) Government personnel at national and other levels responsible for planning, supervision and guidance of cooperative institutions,
- (f) Development planners and research institutions, and
- (g) Voluntary organisations engaged in assisting cooperative development as well as research institutions.

Nature of Data

7. The type of data to be collected would depend on the users. It is important that users, namely, member organisations of the ICA in the region decide, in collaboration with the ICA RO, on the type of data needed both at the national and at the ICA RO level. It has been mentioned earlier that the data would be needed as an aid to planning cooperative development, monitoring cooperative programmes and taking timely corrective actions for problems and constraints that may be identified. Thus data required would be both quantitative and qualitative. Performance indicators should be decided upon jointly by the MOs and the ICA RO in order to ensure uniformity, relevance and usefulness of the data to be collected. The data to be collected should be kept to the minimum in order that the data bank does not become a very costly exercise. In order that the set up of the cooperative data bank does not become an academic exercise, it would be necessary to periodically review the relevance and the usefulness of the performance indicators.

8. Reliability of data collected is of utmost importance.

9. Keeping in view the interest of the member organisations and the work of the ICA RO during the last few years, the proposed Data Banks at the ICA RO and national levels should collect data for the following types of cooperatives and cooperative aspects :-

- (a) Agricultural credit cooperatives,
- (b) Urban credit cooperatives,
- (c) Multipurpose cooperatives,

International Cooperative Alliance

- (d) Agricultural general purpose marketing cooperatives,
- (e) Specialised agricultural marketing cooperatives such as Pineapple Marketing Cooperative,
- (f) Dairy cooperatives,
- (g) Consumers cooperatives,
- (h) Fishery cooperatives,
- (i) Industrial cooperatives,
- (j) Women's cooperatives,
- (k) Housing cooperatives,
- (l) Export/import trade of cooperatives,
- (m) Cooperative education and training,
- (n) Cooperatives and the poor, and
- (o) Women's participation in cooperatives.

10. Data would have to be collected for cooperatives at the primary, secondary/tertiary and national levels.

11. At present the data available from the Government Cooperative Departments are in several cases 2-3 years old. The speediness in data collection and dissemination of collected data is of great importance, if the data is to be used for planning, development and management purposes.

Mechanism for Data Collection and Utilisation

12. In order that data is properly collected and utilised, monitoring and evaluation units or management information units should be established at the national, provincial and district levels. Such units should also be established in large primary cooperative organisations. It would be the task of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Units to supply data to the national coop data banks which in turn would feed the data to the ICA RO Data Bank.

13. Further, the establishment of the M&E Units will enable the management of cooperative organisations at all levels to utilise the data generated for planning, monitoring progress and taking corrective steps in deviations vis-a-vis plans.

ational Cooperative Alliance

14. Computers are an invaluable aid for setting up a Cooperative Data Bank. A coordinated policy in regard to acquisition of compatible computer system would have to be pursued by the ICA MOs and the ICA RO.

Coordination with Other Agencies

15. At present Government Cooperative Departments are collecting, maintaining and issuing data in regard to cooperatives. The data banks envisaged above should coordinate their activities with the Government Cooperative Departments so as not to duplicate the work already being done by them. Secondary data issued by other organisations such as Agricultural Department, etc. should be utilised by the cooperative data banks. This precaution is necessary in order to minimise costs.

16. As regards the ICA RO level, it may be mentioned that Asian and Pacific Regional Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA) is instituting a monitoring and evaluation system in its member institutions in the various countries and also a modest data centre at its headquarters in Thailand. A Regional Seminar held by APRACA on the subject in December 1985 identified 45 performance indicators in six major areas of agricultural credit. It seems that the FAO is also currently engaged in identifying performance indicators for agricultural cooperatives. It would be essential for the ICA RO to coordinate its efforts with these and other similar institutions in order to avoid duplication.

Some Experience

17. It may be mentioned that at the suggestion of the member organisations, the ICA RO was collecting data on export/import carried out by the member organisations as well as potentialities in this particular field. A directory of cooperative trade was issued by the ICA RO for several years. ILO has also issued a cooperative trade directory. However, the experience in this regard has not been satisfactory and the efforts were discontinued for the following reasons :-

- (a) Data collection was becoming difficult if not impossible because of member organisations not feeding the Trade Section of the ICA RO.
- (b) The trade information issued once in every six months was rather delayed information and not really useful for trade purposes.

International Cooperative Alliance

Points for Consideration

1. Should the Regional Cooperative Data Bank be established at the RO level?.
2. Should data banks be also established at the national levels?.
If yes, should the national cooperative data bank be established at the National Cooperative Union or at one of the national cooperative business federations in a country?.
3. It appears that the various technical questions raised in this paper be studied in depth. Should they be discussed at a Regional Consultation or by a Special Technical Group to be constituted by the Regional Council?.
4. The Council may like to give guidelines with regard to :
 - (a) Cooperative sectors for which data should be collected;
 - (b) The mechanism for collection and use of data viz. setting up of M&E Units by MOs; and
 - (c) Unified policy to be followed by MOs and the ICA RO in regard to acquisition of the type of computers and other matters relating to setting up of Coop Data Banks.
5. Establishment of Data Banks at MOs and the ICA RO should be regarded as an integrated project. Special personnel and funds would have to be earmarked for operationalising the project. Would the MOs be able to raise funds on their own or would they need some external assistance for setting up data banks at the national levels?.

.....

M E M O R A N D U M

Annexe

TO: Regional Directors DATE: 12th December, 1986
FROM: Bruce Thordarson
SUBJECT: Information Systems

As we are all aware, one of the major needs of ICA both in Geneva and in the regional offices is for accurate and up-to-date information on the co-operative movement. This need will be particularly great for the Development Programme as it provides increasingly an advisory and co-ordinating support role for its member organisations in the regions.

Now that the immediate crisis of the last two years is largely behind us, we can all begin to give some serious attention to our needs in this area.

With respect to the collection of statistical information, we have prepared a questionnaire (copy attached) which has been sent to ICA member organisations as part of ICA's need to prepare a new publication on statistics prior to the 1988 Congress. This is by no means all of the information which our regional offices need for their work but it is at least a beginning. Since we have received no response from many member organisations in developing countries, I would ask that the regional directors send a copy of this questionnaire to each of your member organisations, emphasising that this information will be useful for a variety of purposes both in the regional offices and in Geneva.

I would also be grateful if you could review this questionnaire and give me your advice whether, in future years, we should make any changes in the format or kind of information collected.

This brings us to the idea of a co-operative "Data Bank", which we all agree is necessary and on which some preliminary work has already begun in the regional offices. I wanted to share with you our thinking at this stage so that you might provide your views and advice.

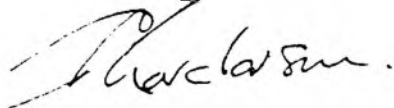
It seems to me that the ideal situation would be to have mini computers in each of our offices which are compatible to the system already used in ICA Geneva. This would enable us to share information and also to access other resource centres, such as the ILO Data Bank. The ILO has an excellent co-operative collection, including the best registry of co-operative legislation in the world, and we have entered into discussions with the ILO regarding mechanisms for obtaining access to this information next year.

It is of course obvious that we cannot at present finance such a computer network from our own resources, and we will need to convince a donor organisation of the utility of this approach. One idea which I am considering is to approach the World Bank with the idea of a research project designed to "privatise" co-operatives in developing countries. This would be another way of describing the process of "de-officialisation" which is already underway and on which our regional offices are already spending considerable effort. If we could convince such a donor that such a data bank would facilitate our efforts to strengthen national movements and enable them to move away from government control, funding support might be available.

One thing which we would need your advice on is whether it is practical to install, for example, an IBM PC in each of the regional offices given the different technical and even political constraints. Second, are you aware of any other existing data banks that would be useful for your work to which we might seek to obtain access? And, perhaps most fundamental of all, how practical is it for ICA to develop such a data base in the absence of strong data banks in most of our national movements? In each of your regions, what kind of support would ICA need to give to national movements in order to enable them to provide the kind of information that we would need for such a system?

I would be grateful for any general reaction that you might have to these ideas since I would hope that we will be able to discuss them in greater detail in 1987 and eventually put together a comprehensive project proposal. It seems to me that the need for such an information system is apparent, especially in light of the evolution of our Development Programme, and if done in the right way might be part of an attractive project for a donor. I also think it is important that we address this issue comprehensively before each of our offices begins to develop its own systems and approaches in response to local needs, although I know that during this period of reflection you will still need to build up your information systems as best you can.

Best regards.



Attach. 1

CC: Mr. Rana
Mr. Knutsson
Mr. Kibora

Minutes

29 th Regional Council Meeting

New Delhi (India)
September 8-9, 1987



International Cooperative Alliance
Regional Office for South -East Asia
Bonow House
43, Friends Colony
New Delhi, India

TWENTY NINTH MEETING OF THE ICA
COUNCIL FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA HELD
IN NEW DELHI (INDIA) ON 8TH &
9TH SEPTEMBER, 1987

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session of the 29th Meeting of the ICA Council for South-East Asia was held at the premises of the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) in New Delhi on 8th September, 1987. The ceremonial meeting was chaired by Shri D.S. Bhuria, M.P., President, NCUI. Besides the members of the Council, the Associate Director of ICA and the Director of Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC), there was a select gathering of cooperators from the Indian Cooperative Movement who attended the meeting. The Chief Guest was His Excellency Dr. G.S. Dhillon, Minister for Agriculture & Cooperatives.

Mr. Rai Singh in his welcome address said that the Indian Cooperatives, whether in the government or in the voluntary sector stand committed to the ICA. Under the leadership of Mr. Bhuria, the President of NCUI, who was a grass root worker, the Indian Cooperative Movement was making all concerted efforts to improve the managerial functioning of the cooperatives and this 29th Regional Council Meeting here would be a great asset to them. It was an excellent opportunity for all of them to exchange ideas and experience with each other.

Mr. V.P. Singh, Member, ICA Executive Committee, said that the ICA Regional Office should be renamed as ICA Regional Office for Asia. Under the new strategy for cooperative development of the ICA he felt that the impact of development oriented work was being felt by the movements. Member organisations specially the host country, India should support ICA RO in its hours of crisis. He was hopeful for a bright future under the dynamic leadership of Mr. G.K. Sharma, the new Regional Director.

Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director, ICA Regional Office, New Delhi, said : "India's contribution to the activities of the ICA was substantial...It is a matter of satisfaction that India is taking increasing interest in the ICA activities and within last three years this is the second time that India is playing host to the Regional Council....When we in the ICA Regional Office are at the cross roads, I would like to pay tribute to the Swedish Cooperative Movement and particularly their outstanding leader late Dr. M. Bonow. Right from the establishment of the Regional Office in 1960 the Swedish Cooperative Movement has provided

tremendous support to it..Another important source of steady support to our activities has been the Japanese Cooperative Movement. This support backed up by the Government of Japan has substantially increased since last year. The experience of the Japanese Movement is of special relevance to the Asian Movements and we do hope that the Japanese Movement will play a much bigger role in the years to come."(Annexure - 1).

Mr. Eddiwan, Vice Chairman, ICA Regional Council, said : "During its nearly 27 years of existence, the ICA RO has played a very important role in the promotion and development of cooperative movements in Asia. Thanks to the contribution made by the Regional Office, national cooperative organisations in a few countries which were not members of the ICA were established...The new orientation to ICA's policies and programmes has necessitated reorganisation and restructuring of the Regional Office. Reorganisation and restructuring is sometimes a painful process, but by now we have trimmed the RO and it has become fit enough instrument to carry out the new development programme." (Annexure-2).

Mr. Bjorn Genberg, Director, Swedish Cooperative Centre, Stockholm, addressing the meeting said : "Cooperative law is often not based on Cooperative Principles. Government policies for cooperative development have been changing very often. The government determines the policies and plans for cooperatives in development countries. There are a number of misunderstandings and misconceptions on cooperative development. Governments of the Asia region should help the development of cooperative movement by giving adequate physical and financial support but at the same time without unduly controlling the functioning of the cooperatives."(Annexure-3).

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Associate Director, ICA, lauded the support given by Sweden, India, Japan and Canada to the growth of the cooperative movement. He however, said that much remains to be done for the development of cooperatives and the Governments of the region should come out with more financial help.

Mr. D.S. Bhuria, M.P., President, NCUI, said that member organisations of the ICA would like to have equitable representation in the Regional Council and the Central Committee. In this context there was need for a review of the regulations of ICA and necessary amendments therein. In the establishment of the ICA too, the cooperative movements of developing countries should have adequate representations. He further added that the cooperative movement of the world should orient its policies towards establishing a society without exploitation. The ICA would have to redefine its role in changing situation where the poor had become poorer and the rich richer. Pointing out that the transfer of technology from developed countries had not been satisfactory, Mr. Bhuria said that the developing countries had

not received the desired help. (Annexure-4)

The Agriculture Minister, Dr. G.S. Dhillon, while inaugurating the Council said that the Government was considering remedial measures to accelerate the growth of the country's cooperative enterprises which were of "crucial importance in the larger interest of masses and the nation". The government was determined to give the cooperative movement the primacy which it deserved as it had become an essential tool in the government's programmes for poverty alleviation and accelerated agricultural growth. Referring to the development in the cooperative sector in India, the Minister said that the network of cooperative institutions comprised 315,000 cooperative societies of various types with a total membership of over 145 million. The cooperatives undertook activities like supply of production inputs, distribution of essential consumer goods, dairy development, fisheries, marketing of agricultural produce, housing, banking and production of sophisticated items like hi-technology, fertilisers and sugar.

He said that the cooperative movement in India grew from a small man's organisation doing small business into one doing big business.

Although the role of women in the cooperative movement was still rather insignificant, he said that in certain sectors like weavers' societies, urban cooperative credit and banking, as also in various types of activities in the hilly and tribal areas, women had come to play an increasing role.

At the same time, the Minister said, the movement faced a variety of problems relating to its organisation, operation and management, regional and sectoral imbalances and inadequacy of professionalism in their functioning. (Annexure-5)

Mr. Bansi Lal Mehta, Chairman, Krishak Bharati Cooperatives Ltd (KRIBHCO), proposed a vote of thanks.

.....

MINUTES OF THE 29TH MEETING OF
THE ICA COUNCIL FOR SOUTH-EAST
ASIA HELD IN NEW DELHI ON 8TH &
9TH SEPTEMBER, 1987.

The 29th Meeting of the ICA Regional Council for South-East Asia was held at the Board Room of the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) on 8th & 9th September, 1987 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Eddiwan, Regional Councillor for Indonesia.

The following were present :

1. Mr. Eddiwan, Chairman & Member for Indonesia
2. Mr. Quazi Abdus Salam, Member for Bangladesh
3. Mr. Md. Iqbal Hussain, Member for Bangladesh
4. Mr. D.S. Bhuria, Member for India
5. Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India
6. Mr. Yoshitada Nakaoka, Alternate Member for Japan
7. Mr. Masao Ohya, Member for Japan
8. Mr. Ki Won Suh, Member for Korea
9. Mr. Hj Sallehudin bin Abdul Ghani, Member for Malaysia
10. Mr. Riazudin Ahmed, Member for Pakistan
11. Gen. A.S. Lozada, Member for Philippines
12. Mr. Aloysius Teo, Member for Singapore
13. Mr. Kasim Abdullah, Member for Singapore
14. Mr. M.R.B. Daswatte, Member for Sri Lanka
15. Mr. Chern Bamrungwong, Alternate Member for Thailand
16. Mr. Teerawit Koonsap, Member for Thailand

Secretary : Mr. G.K. Sharma
Regional Director, ICA RO

ICA Hd. : Mr. Bruce Thordarson
Associate Director

SCC : Mr. Bjorn Genberg
Director

Special
Invitee : Mr. Shiro Futagami
Managing Director, IDACA

ICA RO : Mr. J.M. Rana, Regional Development Officer
Mr. M.K. Puri, Adviser, Consumer Coop Development
Project
Mr. Sten Dahl, Coop Development Adviser
Mr. M.V. Madane, Project Director
Mr. R. Mathimugan, Special Adviser on Coop
Development & Training

Observers: Mr. V.P. Singh, India
Mr. H.R. Verma, India
Mr. S. Ohta, JCCU, Japan

In attendance : Mr. Prem Kumar, P. Assistant to Regional
Director, ICA RO

Agenda Item No. 1 : Election of Chairman

Mr. Eddiwan, Member from Indonesia, was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Regional Council upto the next Congress. With the elevation of Mr. Eddiwan to the office of Chairmanship, the position of Vice Chairman became vacant. Election of Vice Chairman and vacant posts on the ESC were postponed for next day to enable the members to have internal consultations.

Election of Vice Chairman

On 9th September forenoon, Gen Lozada was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman till the next Congress. The following persons were elected members of ESC against the vacancies :

1. Mr. D.S. Bhuria, India
2. Mr. M. Sakurai, Japan
3. Mr. Ki Won Suh, Korea

Agenda Item No. 2 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 28th Meeting

The minutes of the 28th Meeting of the ICA Regional Council held at IDACA, Tokyo (Japan) on 8th September, 1986 which had been circulated earlier, were confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 3 : Matters arising out of the Minutes

The information given in the agenda note was noted.

Gen A.S. Lozada, Member for Philippines, raised a point of clarification on the relationship between Cooptrade Project and the Special Adviser on Cooperative Development & Training. Are they supposed to report to the Regional Director or Regional Council or report directly to the SCC or ICA Director in Geneva.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Associate Director, ICA said that the SCC/ICA Cooptrade Project which is based in Kuala Lumpur reports directly to the Regional Director. It is a project of the RO.

With respect to the new post of Special Adviser on Cooperative Development & Training, it was clarified by Mr. Thordarson that this was also a position which reported directly to the Regional

Director. Mr. Mathimugan's job description consists of providing support to the other projects of the Regional office such as the Agricultural Training Project, Cooptrade Project, and the Development Coordination Unit. His role is to assist the existing projects of the RO under the responsibility of the Regional Director.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson added that in Malaysia we have the Trade Project and we can describe it as an ICA Office. The same terminology may be used for Australia. Both these offices and any such future offices or projects that may be opened will be within the framework of the ICA Regional Office for Asia and they will report to the Regional Director.

Agenda Item No. 4 : Letters and reports from non-attending members

The Secretary read out the telex messages received from All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Cooperatives, Beijing, China, and the Australian Association of Cooperatives Limited expressing their inability to participate and good wishes for fruitful deliberations.

Agenda Item No. 5 : Report by Regional Councillors on Recent Changes, Trends and Developments in their Cooperative Movements

Each Regional Councillor circulated a statement regarding recent changes, trends and developments of the cooperative movement in his country. Following are some of the more important developments :

Bangladesh

- The government has amended the provision in the Ordinance (1984 - Cooperative Societies Rule 1987) in respect of appointment of Chairman in the cooperatives from amongst the members. The new provision has been for direct election of Chairman and all other office bearers. One-third of the Directors are to be nominated by the Government where government assistance has been provided. The significant features of the new Rules are : (a) Division of area for election of Directors, (b) Appointment of Election Committee by the Managing Committee for conducting election and declaration of results thereof.
- Government recently announced that a National Cooperative Council would be constituted with representation from all segments and factions of cooperatives to suggest national policies on cooperatives.

India

- In February 1977 the Government of India had issued a policy statement on involvement of cooperatives in the development process. There has been no change after that.
- In 1986 the Hon'ble Prime Minister in his restructured 20 Point Programme mentioned as a first point revitalisation of cooperatives for the first time. Government of India attached importance to the cooperatives as an instrument of economic development.
- NCUI organised for the first time a National Convention on Involvement of Women in Cooperatives. A most interesting development in this regard was that an attempt has been made to set up a new All India Women Cooperative Development Society.
- A national level cooperative society for involvement of youth also is being organised.
- The Government of India under the request and initiative of the NCUI has set up a national level committee known as Central Committee for Professionalisation and Democratisation of the Cooperative Movement.
- Another important development has been the setting up of the National Cooperative Council, i.e. highest body for initiating the process of the consolidation of the cooperatives.
- Setting up of a Intercooperative Trade Cell in the NCUI.
- State Milk Cooperative Federations have now become members of the NCUI.
- Family welfare programmes to be the regular programmes of the cooperatives.
- Cooperative Movement has taken the task of social transformation
- Efforts to create self-reliance within the movement without depending on government assistance are under way. The Multi-Unit Cooperative Societies Act provides for contributions to the NCUI out of the net profits of cooperative organisations.
- The National Cooperative Council has improved the relations and dialogue with the government.

Indonesia

- There is increase in number of cooperatives and cooperative members.
- There are tremendous developments in our banks for cooperatives during the last two years.
- Student coops, youth coops and civil servants coops are building low cost housing for their members on a long term credit of 10-15 years from the bank.
- Tremendous decrease of state revenues from oil export has pressed the government to encourage export of non-oil products covering also products produced by cooperatives such as handicrafts, rubber, tea, coffee, pepper, fishery products such as shrimp and sea weeds.
- In January 1987 Law No. 1 has been issued whereby cooperatives, state enterprises and private undertakings gestured to organise themselves into a Chamber of Commerce & Industry under the auspices of government.
- Fishermen cooperatives still facing the crucial problem of marketing and catch in deep waters by means of mechanised fishing boats.

Japan

Agriculture

- Due to election of officials of agricultural cooperatives from the primary cooperatives to the national cooperatives more than half of the officials of the CUAC has changed.
- CUAC accepted 5.95% cut for producer's Rice Price following the acceptance to hold price of 1985 last year.
- Japan is the biggest buyer of agricultural products from the U.S.A. - pressures from foreign countries to open the market.
- Promotion of the amalgamation of primary agricultural cooperatives - since 1961 the number of amalgamation of primary agricultural cooperatives has been rapidly increasing.

Consumer

- Japanese economy has changed rapidly - a steady growth of consumer cooperative movement.

- Stress on getting new members. The individual membership is estimated to reach 11,135,000, nearly one million increase by the end of fiscal year 1986. In terms of business, the annual turnover of JCCU and affiliated coops is up by 9.3%. The market share is about 3.4%
- Going to change the concept of merchandising - more emphasis on freshness and quality of products.
- JCCU is going to launch a fund raising campaign among members of primary consumers cooperatives to assist promotion and development of consumers cooperative movements in Asia.

Korea

- In 1986, Korean economy achieved successful record in price stabilization, high economic growth and favourable balance of payments.
- The farm population in 1986 decreased to 8.18 million, lowered by 341,000 compared with that of 1985.
- The production in agricultural sector increased by 4.5% over 1985. However quite low compared with the whole economic growth of 12.5% in 1986-87.
- Increase in farm income by 3.4% over 1985. Agricultural income remained at same level as 1985, but non-agricultural income increased by 13.8% compared to previous year.
- Major focus of research activities carried out in 1986 were in the fields of (i) improvement of the marketing system and marketing business of member cooperatives, (ii) long term prospects of agricultural cooperative movement and of rural development projects, (iii) improvement of management of farm households - NACF hosted an International Seminar in 1986 on Farm Mechanisation under the co-sponsorship of FFTC/ASPAC.
- NACF constructed a new dormitory which belonged to Cooperative Junior College with provision of some VIP rooms. In November NACF will organise an international training course for foreign countries to share Korean Experience.

Malaysia

- Emphasis being given to the formation of following types of societies : (i) District Development Cooperatives. (ii) Cottage Industries Cooperatives, and (iii) Cooperatives among School Children.

- ANGKASA has embarked on a large scale members' education drive with a view to eradicating mismanagement in cooperatives.
- In November 1986 a White Paper on Deposit Taking Cooperatives was tabled in Parliament - all the 24 Deposit Taking Cooperatives ceased to take new deposits - changes made in Cooperative Law to limit cooperatives taking only deposits from their members for specific purposes but not fixed deposits.
- All cooperative banks are to be reorganised to effectively function with deposit taking powers under direct supervision of the Central Bank.

Pakistan

- Establishment of a new institution in 1976-77 - Federal Bank for Cooperatives - it is a Central Government Bank established to regulate cooperative banking and also to establish development projects. It is not a cooperative bank but a bank for cooperatives and established under a Special Law and the Governor of State Bank of Pakistan is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of this bank. Two major functions of this bank are : (i) to finance and regulate cooperative banking in Pakistan, and (ii) to promote cooperative development, to establish model projects to assist Federal Government and the Provincial Governments in the development and revitalisation of the cooperative movement.
- Introduction of interest free credit policy for small farmers since 1979-80.
 - Appointment of an Expert Committee at the instance of the Federal Bank for Cooperatives to examine the working of the agricultural cooperatives and to suggest measures for the revitalisation of the cooperative movement. The committee has greatly emphasized the need to develop proper cooperative structure.
 - The latest development is the proposal to review cooperative law with a view to amending and improving it. The legal framework for cooperatives is therefore under scrutiny with a view to making it more development-oriented.
 - Agricultural Development Bank of Pakistan and the Commercial Banks have been directed by the government to distribute agricultural credit, production loans to the farmers.

Philippines

- Task Force on Cooperative Policy Development was formed.
- Holding of the First National Cooperative Congress on June 6-7, 1986.
- Enshrinement of cooperatives in the new Constitution.

Non partisan stand of CUP in the May 11, 1987 Congressional Elections - it enjoined its affiliates to become more selective in their choice of congressional candidates who by their platforms, acts or pronouncements, categorically state their support for cooperatives.

- The CUP collaborated actively in the National Multi-Sectoral Committee on Legislation to ensure that the provisions on cooperatives in the New Constitution are brought to the attention of the Congress and are properly recognised and implemented.

A project has been approved for the establishment of a National Cooperative Directorate comprising all cooperatives.

CUP bylaws amended on 26 July 1987 by the CUP to broaden the base of representation to the CUP as recommended by the ICA FAO Study Mission in the Philippines in March 1987.

- Legislative amendment - inter-sectoral SCCP-CUP-BACOD for the dropping of the Cooperative Code in the CDA bill.
- Special Task Force on Coops (multi-sectoral) by Department of Cooperatives on Policy Development for Cooperative Data Bank survey of Coops starting on 19 September 1987.
- INCAS, in cooperation with CUP to publish a Material Cooperative Directory. It has increased from 19 to 143 CPAs accredited in 1986.
- Construction of the CUP's Philippine Centre for Cooperative Development (PCCP) building about to be completed. Inauguration is slated in October 1987.

Singapore

- Conduct of a feasibility study on the formation of League for Credit Cooperatives in order to assist societies in the investment of surplus funds in inter-lending between coops and help them further in computerising financial and other related data more effectively and efficiently.

- Organisation of a Seminar by SNCF on "Coops into the 1990's" from 8-10 May 1987 attended by 80 leaders representing 35 affiliates.

Sri Lanka

- Two Workshops held to review the present Policies and the Structure of the Cooperative Movement in Sri Lanka. One Workshop was organised by NCC in collaboration with the Department of Cooperative Development and the Norwegian Cooperative Movement on the subject of Training Policy and Strategies held in 1986. The other Workshop was held in 1987 on the subject of Cooperative Policy, Planning and Structure sponsored by SCC in collaboration with the NCC and the Department of Cooperative Development.
- Organisation of a Cooperative Trade Fair from 4-11 July 1987 in Colombo with the object of creating a better image and strengthening cooperative trade relations among cooperatives within the country and outside the country.

Thailand

- Increase in membership, financial situation and business activities of cooperatives has been going on at normal rate especially for the non-agricultural cooperatives the rate of increase stood in membership and equity of the business operations of the non-agricultural cooperatives at the decreasing rate.

New forms of cooperatives being organised in agricultural sector in support of the government policies in the Thailand's Sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan (1987-1991).

- Amendment of the present Cooperative Law (1986) in order to establish a Cooperative Development Council, a sort of government agency to function as a policy makers and coordination body among government authorities concerned.

Mini-bus Operators Coops for minibus owners serving the people between the districts and provinces throughout the country - operating quite satisfactorily.

- Establishment of Dairy Farmers Cooperatives at a increasing rate.
- Linkage of credit and marketing and also purchasing activities of agricultural cooperatives are stepped up in operations, although there are some obstacles in insufficiency of funds to support their activities.

- Establishment of a cooperative insurance company - it is under the final decision of the Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperatives.
- CLT responsible for the training of cooperative personnel of non-agricultural cooperatives, and for agricultural cooperative management, it is under the responsibility of the National Agricultural Cooperative Training Institute (NACTI), which is now under the process of merger so as to make agricultural management training more effective.

Exhibitions and fairs have been held from time to time.

Agenda Item No. 6 : Reports on the activities of the Specialised Sub-Committees

The Secretary informed the meeting that the following Specialised Sub-Committees had been functioning under the following sectors:

- a) Agriculture
- b) Consumer
- c) Fisheries
- d) Cooperative Credit & Banking
- e) Trade & Industry

The Chairman requested the Secretaries of the various Sub-Committees to briefly present their reports.

ICA Sub-Committee for Agriculture

On behalf of the Agriculture Sub-Committee, Gen Lozada, Chairman and Mr. J.M. Rana, Secretary, briefly highlighted the activities of the Sub-Committee. Mr. Rana stated that the priorities suggested by the Committee will help in formulating the next three year plan for the Agricultural Cooperative Project.

The Chairman mentioned that the Study Missions on Perspective Planning and Project Identification for Agricultural Cooperatives undertaken in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines had immensely improved the image of the Cooperative Movements in the Region as well as of the ICA. He recommended that ICA should undertake similar missions in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh as planned. He expressed high appreciation of the work done by ICA/FAO Mission in the Philippines and the Mission members viz. Mess's J.M. Rana, Sten Dahl, Olcott Gunasekara and M. Matsuhira.

He commended the ICA/Japan Training Project for Strengthening Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia supported by the Japanese Government. He thanked the Government of Japan, CUAC/IDACA, and the Movements of India, Thailand, Korea and Japan for their support to this project.

He also mentioned about the importance of the Cooperative Data Bank and said that this project will have to get out of the planning stage as early as possible. This will boost the image of the ICA and the SCC in particular.

The Council commended the work done by the Study Mission in the Philippines.

ICA Sub-Committee on Consumer Cooperative for SE Asia

On behalf of the Consumer Sub-Committee, Mr. M.K. Puri, the Secretary, briefly reported on the meeting of the Sub-Committee held in Manila on 17-18 June 1986 under the chairmanship of Mr. K. Katsube of Japan. He informed the meeting of the resignation of Mr. Katsube from his position of Vice President of JCCU and that he also wished to tender his resignation from the office of the Chairman of the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee requested Mr. Katsube to continue to hold the office till the new Chairman is elected. The Sub-Committee decided that the election of the Chairman may be conducted through mail.

Gen Lozada, Member for the Philippines, appreciated the Study Mission Report of Mr. M.K. Puri undertaken by him in the Philippines.

ICA Sub-Committee for Fisheries for SE Asia

The Secretary, Mr. J.M. Rana, briefly mentioned about the 15th meeting of the Sub-Committee held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 3-4 March, 1987. Mr. Rana mentioned the difficulties of some movements to finance their participation costs. The meeting could be held because of the assistance provided by the SCC to three movements. The Fisheries Sub-Committee was grateful to SCC for this most needed help.

As regards the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that it should function as the Sub-Committee of the ICA Main Fisheries Committee, the Council briefly discussed this question as well as the views expressed by the Executive Sub-Committee.

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India, was of the view that it should be given operational freedom to contact with other Sub-Committees, but that it must report to the Regional Council.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, ICA, said that the decision of the Executive Sub-Committee was a good one. However, the Rules of the ICA say that "the Regional Council shall set up such Sub-Committees as desirable with the intention that the Sub-Committees should operate under the general guidance of the Regional Council". However, they can have close linkages with the other Committees of the ICA.

Mr. Aloysius Teo, Member for Singapore, said that it should come under the ICA Regional Council.

The Regional Council endorsed the views of the Executive Sub-Committee that the Sub-Committee on Fisheries would be the specialised Sub-Committee of the Regional Council and that it should develop close working relationship with the ICA main Fisheries Committee.

ICA Sub-Committee for Cooperative Credit & Banking for SE Asia

Mr. J.M. Rana, the Secretary, gave the gist of the first meeting of the Sub-Committee held in the Philippines on 1-2 April, 1987 under the Chairmanship of Mr. M.M. Vyas of India.

The Council considered the decision of the Sub-Committee and the views expressed by the Executive Sub-Committee about change in the title of the Sub-Committee. In this regard, the Council did unanimously endorse the decision of the Sub-Committee to change the name of the Sub-Committee to "ICA Sub-Committee for Asia on Cooperative Finance".

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India, suggested that the Sub-Committee should study the deployment of surplus funds by cooperative banks.

ICA Sub-Committee for Trade & Industry

Mr. Rana presented the summary of matters discussed at the meetings of the Sub-Committee held in Bali, Indonesia, on 23rd October 1986 and in Penang, Malaysia, on 6-7 April, 1987.

Mr. Rana informed that there was a great deal of resistance of having trade on the part of advanced cooperative movements. They are reluctant to purchase goods which the cooperative movements from the region want to export. This is the problem which has been brought out in the Evaluation Report on the project. He felt that unless decisions at the level of Board of Directors of national wholesale organisations/purchasing organisations in the advanced cooperative movements are taken. We would not make much progress. He suggested that the ICA Hq would take up this matter with the Policy Makers in various advanced movements.

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India, mentioned about the establishment of an Intercooperative Trade Cell in the NCUI and said that NCUI should also be associated with this Sub-Committee.

Mr. Md. Iqbal Hussain, Member for Bangladesh, wanted to have a copy of the Evaluation Report on the Project.

It was decided that a copy of the Evaluation Report should be supplied to all member movements in the Region.

Agenda Item No. 7: Report on RO Activities 1986-87

The activities undertaken by the RO through its six projects as given in the Agenda Notes during the year was noted by the Council.

The Secretary mentioned about the retrenchment of the 8 staff of the RO last year and wished to place on record his appreciation of their services. He said that the core staff of RO now consists of 8 people. The rest are project staff. There have been some changes and additions in the project staff.

Mr. Mathimugan has joined the ICA as Special Adviser on Cooperative Development & Training based in Australia. In the Cooptrade Project, Mr. Ulf Bergstrom has been replaced by Mr. Bruce Gunn. Unfortunately he was not able to attend this meeting as he was to represent the ICA at the FAO Consultation in Bangkok.

Dr. D. Vir who had resigned from the services of the RO has been replaced by Mr. W.U. Herath of Sri Lanka. He will be joining shortly.

The Secretary informed the meeting that the library which was an important part of ICA has been saved temporarily. SCC had agreed to retain the services of the librarian on an adhoc basis.

Coming to the activities, the Secretary said that according to the ICA Cooperative Development Programme approved by the ICA authorities, the ICA was expected to play a catalytic and facilitator role and not the role of implementor of programmes. This implied that ICA RO would engage itself in policy dialogues with member organisations and governments to create favourable atmosphere, assist member organisations in identifying their needs and priorities and draw perspective planning programmes. He said that broadly the activities of RO could be classified under three categories : (a) Servicing of the Regional Council and various Specialised Sub-Committees, (b) identifying the needs and trends of the region and providing support and leadership with the help and guidance of the Regional Council and various Sub-Committees within the limited resources, and (c) Back-stopping the various project activities with a view to making them relevant to the needs of the movement.

He said the major activities of RO were carried through the six projects which are being implemented through RO.

Gen A.S. Lozada, Member for Philippines, said that setting up of the Development Coordination Unit had been the most pragmatic thing that has been done by the ICA and the movements in recent years.

He added that ICA's role should also be as a guide, as a teacher, as humaniser, and innovator. DCU should come out in evolving some sort of practical approach on linkages between the business and non-business component of the cooperative movement. We should adopt a most viable policy and approach by which we can balance the business and non-business components of the movement.

Mr. M.V. Madane, Project Director, ICA/Japan Training Project, informed the Council that the next Training Course would start from 26th October 1987 and end on 8th May 1988 and that it had already been approved by the Japanese Government. He said that the same pattern would be followed as in the first course with small modifications.

Last year RO's activities have been strengthened to a very great extent by the direct financial contribution from this project as well as indirect contribution in terms of material, office equipment which has been brought in by this project.

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India, said that local cooperative movement should be more actively involved in the organisation of this course. He suggested that the participants of this course should stay at the NCUI hostel and that NCUI would be willing to upgrade the facilities. He also added that as far as programmes undertaken in India by Consumer Cooperative Development Project that NCUI should be more actively involved.

Mr. Sten Dahl, the Cooperative Development Adviser (CDA), RO, described briefly the activities during the period since the last Regional Council Meeting in September 1986 and up-to-date. He pointed out that the CDA has developed a special 4-week training programme for "Improvement of the Capability of the National Cooperative Organisation in Project Identification and Planning". This training programme had already been carried out successfully in Indonesia and Thailand. Preparation for the same type of training is presently being done together with the Cooperative Union of the Philippines. Member organisations in Malaysia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have also requested the DCU for the same type of training in their respective countries.

FAO and ILO as well as a number of NGOs such as the Fredrich-Ebert-Stiftung have shown great interest in the programme. FAO and ILO provided support both in terms of funds and manpower, to the training in Indonesia and Thailand.

Another major task of the DCU has been to assist member organisations in identifying new development projects. Consequently, a number of project proposals have been finalised and some of them also funded. A number of other project proposals from various countries are being screened by the DCU. The findings of the ICA/FAO perspective planning mission in the Philippines were discussed with the study team from the U.S. who

in principle accepted the views of ICA and agreed to integrate them in their report.

In Thailand, the DCU together with the Cooperative League of Thailand have agreed that a study will be carried out on the specific Cooperative Savings Scheme which has been launched in Songkhla in Southern Thailand.

A consultancy study on the feasibility of establishing a Computerised Accounting Service under the Cooperative League of Thailand has been carried out.

The CDA assisted ILO/MATCOM as a consultant and conducted a three-week seminar on the ILO/MATCOM Manual on Rural Credit and Savings in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Mr. R. Mathimugan briefly described that his role had been to develop the activities of the ICA in the Pacific Region. There was a need for bringing the Australian and New Zealand Movements in the mainstream of the activities of RO as Australia and New Zealand are very close to the Asian Region. He said that his basic objective was to tap developmental potential of these two countries for the benefit of the developing countries in Asia and in the Pacific.

The Council suggested that experts in the field of Agricultural and Fishery Cooperatives be added to the RO in order to service the Sub-Committees in these fields and also further develop the Agriculture and Fishery Cooperative Projects.

Sale of Bonow House

The Secretary briefly gave an account on the sale of Bonow House. It was decided in the past to dispose of the building and most of the formalities in this regard had been completed. However, on second thought it was being examined if it would be possible to save this building. The building has been sold to NCDC at INR 20.1 million. The sale proceed is subject to capital gains tax at the rate of 65% after allowing certain permissible deductions. Further, as the income will be to ICA Domus in whose name the building stands it would be subject to a gift tax at the rate of 30% for passing on the sale proceed to ICA. Thus, ICA will finally be getting only around INR 7.6 million. As per the advice of the tax consultants if this amount can be invested in government security it will give an annual interest return of Rs.760,000 at 10% interest rate. The income will be income tax free. If this permission is not given by the Reserve Bank of India the income will be subject to a tax of 50% leaving a balance of INR.3.82 million only.

The Secretary explained that to reconsider the sale of Bonow House, the following points have to be kept in view:

1. We have already made sale agreement with the NCDC which is a government corporation and they will have to be persuaded not to insist for sale.

2. We will have to refund Rs. 2 million to NCDC which we have taken as an advance from NCDC against sale agreement and utilised for payment of compensation to redundant staff.

3. Will there be any difficulty in continuing in the premises - which are in a residential area?

4. Can the building be rented out if at some stage we do not need the space partially or fully?

As regards first point of persuading the NCDC, if we can convince the Government of India and the NCDC that retention of the Bonow House by ICA is in the interest of the Cooperative Movement in general and for the Indian Cooperative Movement in particular, they would be willing to reconsider the issue.

To find Rs. 2 million to pay NCDC, the possibilities are:

a) We may persuade some donor to provide us Rs.2 million as an assistance/medium term loan.

b) Alternatively, we may borrow INR 2 million from a cooperative or commercial bank/institution to be repaid in 5-7 years. This can be repaid from out of the provision we will have to make for payment of rent for the hired premises.

c) Member organisations and host movement be approached to contribute financially.

So far the renting of the building is concerned, it can be rented out to an Embassy/Foreign Mission who are greatly in need of such buildings and we can get fairly good rental return.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, ICA, said : "The problem was that last year we needed money for the survival of the office. About 2-4 million to pay to redundant staff and we still needed one million rupee a year for administrative costs to continue the office. Our administrative budget for the office is approximately Rs.1.6 million. We received from the SCC, from Japan and from ICA Hqs. approximately Rs.760,000 per year to cover administrative costs. Therefore we are left with the need to find Rs.800,000 each year. This is likely to increase because of inflation. Last year, there was no other source of money which led to the decision of the Executive Committee to sell the building. Since then the only change is the arrival of Mr. G.K. Sharma, the new Regional Director, and his determination that there should be another way of finding that money. It is the

Central committee which has the authority to save the building.

We would have to go back to the ICA Central Committee this year and ask them to change their decision. Therefore there is considerable time pressure upon us and Mr. Sharma would have to come up with an alternative and it has to be a firm proposition so that we can explain to the Executive Committee why we are asking them to change the decision. Basically, the situation is can he in some way find INR 2 million to cover the redundancies plus another one million rupee to cover additional administrative costs. If he can do that I would be in a comfortable position to go to our Executive Committee to say that we have a better proposal. It has to be a firm indication before we can do that."

Gen. A.S. Lozada, Member for Philippines, said : "The building can be rented out. We can have some return income. My personal view is that RD should come out with a very valid and solid suggestions in the light of the current changes. I agree with Mr. Thordarson that we must have an alternative position. I recall that in 1985 the Indian Movement came up with some solid support...The building has some historical significance to the Indian people. I would like to hold on to the property. This Council should pass a resolution requesting the Central Committee not to sell the property. We recommend that we make it a definite stand that we should not sell Bonow House and request the Central Committee to reconsider its decision in this regard."

The Secretary said: "We shall try our best to save the building. I don't have a different opinion. If we do not sell the building, it could be economically viable and we can fulfill the expectations of the HO."

Mr. Bruce Thordarson : "Another element which is important is that when the Central Committee approved the new development strategy last year they also approved the new funding formula for all the ROs and they said basically costs of the physical facilities where the ROs are based should be covered by the host movement. In the case of West Africa the government of Ivory Coast provides rent and even accommodation costs of the ICA staff. In the case of East Africa, the Cooperative Movement of Tanzania provides free rent plus accommodation to the ICA staff. Therefore frankly this region is lagging behind from the other two regions. Contributions should come from the host country for the physical facilities and for operating costs of the office. The two offices in Africa are receiving far more support from their member organisations for the maintenance of the office. It has to be found in the region and to indicate to what extent the members in the region could contribute towards this.

Mr. Sten Dahl, ICA RO, "The value of the building if it is kept will be double in the next 5-7 years. Apart from losing the money by selling the building and using it for the operating

expenditure, you are losing the building and losing the money also. Cost of running the building is only about Rs.60,000 because wherever we move we will have to pay for electricity, water and other facilities, on top of the rent."

Gen Lozada, Member for Philippines : "I think the ball is in the court of the Indian Movement."

The Secretary : "We will be losing a very good property for a very small return".

Mr. Riazuddin Ahmed, Member for Pakistan : "I support the idea not to sell the building. We should talk to the Indian Movement and try to find a way out. It is a big privilege for the Indian Movement to have this centre in Delhi. Therefore it is desirable for them to have it."

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India : "From the very beginning the Indian Movement was not in favour of sale. As a matter of fact, when we were asked if this valuable building could be retained with the ICA, we said that would be very welcome and as far as the Indian Movement is concerned they were prepared to extend all possible help in this direction. There is a solid proof of that. We raised our membership subscription from roughly USD 6,000 to USD 40,000. As far as the deficit was concerned, we discussed this matter and we were prepared that as far as India is concerned we will also contribute. We cannot contribute the whole amount. After all it is a Regional Office for the whole region...At the Central Committee Meeting in Washington I opposed their decision. A decision was taken and then there was a suggestion that we should provide additional help. We offered a portion in the NCUI building for housing the ICA RO on a very subsidised rent. NCUI is not a commercial body. ICA RO was to move in July 1987. We have already spent Rupees 4-5 lacs on renovation. Since Mr. G.K. Sharma took over as RD, effort is being made to find alternative sources of funding. This matter was even discussed with the national leadership a few days back. We still feel that somehow this building should be retained. We would extend all possible help. However, this would have to be found out from the entire cooperative movement of the region. Definitely the Indian Cooperative Movement would extend all possible help to RO. Mr. Sharma is working on the proposal. He is trying to find support from other national movements and other sources within this country".

Mr. Riazuddin Ahmed, Member for Pakistan : "What about the government. We should approach the Government of India to help. After all the money is not very much."

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India, : "This matter was discussed at the highest level. Perhaps something would be possible, but they cannot make any commitment, but something could be found out."

Gen Lozada : "We should retain the Bonow House. We should not sell the building. This is a symbol of our unity. The Regional Director should explore the possibilities within the stipulated time frame."

Gen Lozada : "We should make representation to the Central Committee for not selling this property and request RO to make necessary negotiations and make a report to us accordingly."

Mr. Rai Singh, India : "As things stand today, the decision is to sell the building and the next Central Committee Meeting is going to be held in October 1987 in Budapest. I think this Regional Council should authorize the Regional Director to examine the possibilities whether this building could be retained and if solid grounds are found for reversal of the decision, they would be put up to the Competent Authority."

Mr. Quazi Abdus Salam, Bangladesh : "We authorize the Regional Director to find out the ways to retain the ownership of the building".

The Council then adopted the following resolution :

"The Regional Council recommends that selling of Bonow House should be reconsidered sympathetically and alternative should be explored for not selling the building".

Agenda Item No. 8 : Report on IDACA Activities

The information given in the Agenda Notes was noted by the Council. Mr. Shiro Futagami, the new Managing Director of IDACA, presented the report on the activities of IDACA between June 1986 and May 1987.

In regard to the Training Course for the Cooperators from Selected Countries to be held from 27 September to 31st October 1987, Mr. Futagami requested the Regional Councillors from India and the Philippines to select the participants as early as possible and forward the nominations to him.

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India, said that the NCUI had already selected five candidates. The proposal had been sent to the Government of India for clearance. He hoped that the Government of India would be clearing the names soon.

He also mentioned that last year he had raised the question that instead of a one month programme if IDACA could organise a ten day programme for a small group of cooperators as well as

Ministers of Cooperation, Registrars of Cooperative Societies and Secretaries in charge of Cooperation, within the same budget, that would be helpful. The Indian Movement would be willing to take care of the airfare costs. IDACA would only have to make local arrangements.

Mr. Futagami replied that budget for this course is subsidised by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture has been giving subsidy for the last 10 years. Now the Ministry of Finance had raised the question as to how long this course would be continued. The Ministry of Agriculture is considering to change the budget for this course. At the moment, it would be very difficult to organise such a course.

Mr. Riazuddin Ahmed, Member for Pakistan, supported the proposal of Mr. Rai Singh for giving an exposure to the Cooperative Movement of Japan to the people at the very senior level in their governments. "In the region, we agree that the Japanese Agricultural Cooperative Movement is very well developed and logically structured. The movements in the region have to depend on government attitude, government policies for cooperative development and it is important that these policy makers should be educated in cooperatives. Therefore, a short course of about 10 days or 2 weeks attended by policy makers including study visits to cooperative areas would be very helpful in giving right orientation to the policy makers in our countries. I would therefore support the proposal of India for a 10 days course for senior government officials including senior cooperative leaders".

Gen Lozada, Member for Philippines : "I support the idea. It is an integrated approach. If we send senior government officials, we should also include counterparts in the cooperative movement. I hope IDACA/CUAC would come out with such a course".

In order to economise the budget of the Training Course for cooperators from selected countries, Mr. Futagami suggested that the movements of India and Philippines should buy air tickets for the selected participants in their country and later on send the invoice to IDACA for reimbursement, as peas sent from Japan are very costly. It is almost double the airfare.

Gen Lozada felt that it would be difficult to pay for the cost of airfare of the participants from the Philippines. Mr. Futagami then suggested that if Gen Lozada could send in advance an estimate of the airfare, it would be possible for IDACA to transfer that much amount to CUP.

As regards the Training Course for Thai on Agricultural Development Project to be held from September 27 to October 31, 1987 at IDACA, Mr. Futagami said that from this year onwards IDACA would pay a pocket allowance to participants at the rate of

Yen 2,000 per day.

Mr. Futagami said that CUAC/IDACA would be prepared to organise a joint Regional Seminar in collaboration with the ICA RO in 1988 as well. The Regional Councillors were requested to identify priority areas for the 1988 seminar so that CUAC/IDACA can discuss more specific subject with RO. The 1987 ICA/CUAC/IDACA Regional Seminar will be held at IDACA from November 3-22, 1987.

Mr. Futagami mentioned about the holding of the 2nd Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in SE Asia which is scheduled to commence on 26 October 1987 and end by May 8, 1988. As in the case of first training course, 15 participants would be selected for this course. The second part of the course would be held at IDACA from February 22 to April 22, 1988.

The meeting was also informed that the next IDACA Reunion and Follow-up programme would be held in the Philippines in January 1988.

Agenda Item No. 9 : Regional Development Fund & Members Contributions

The Secretary informed the meeting that this was an important issue. The views expressed by the Executive Sub-Committee in this regard were placed before the Council for consideration. The Secretary said that the RO covers 14 countries which have a total of 43 member organisations. He asked the Council whether the contributions should be on country basis or member basis.

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India, said that the Regional Development Fund should be more important. If we could strengthen the development fund of the ICA RO that would be much more important.

Mr. Riazuddin Ahmed, Member for Pakistan suggested that each affiliated body of RO should contribute to RO.

Mr. Mathimugan said that the national cooperative organisations do not have the financial strength to make contribution whereas the affiliated organisations of the ICA within the national movement are business organisations and some of them may not be participating actively in the NCOs activities. It may be difficult to ask each of the affiliated organisation to contribute. ICA should ask each of the affiliated members of the ICA to contribute to the activities in the region.

Mr. Nakaoka, alternative Member for Japan, said that the collection of money for contribution to the RO should depend on the country itself.

The Secretary said that if the members of the Council agree, then the secretariat would come out with a formula. The Chairman asked the secretariat to get in contact with the member organisations in this regard.

Agenda Item No. 10 : Cooperative Data Bank

Mr. J.M. Rana said : Various Sub-Committees have emphasized the need for cooperative data banks. This particular matter was considered by the Regional Council meeting held in Tokyo in 1986. This matter was further discussed by the Executive Sub-Committee at its meeting held in Manila in June 1987. Both the RC and the Executive Sub-Committee stated that the main responsibility must be borne by the NCOs. It is only then that a Cooperative Data Bank at the regional level can be built up. There are associated questions such as (a) Collection of what kind of data, (b) basic data should be collected. Also performance and development indicators should be worked out, (c) use of the data for purposes of planning, monitoring, and evaluation, (d) requirement of infrastructure including the computers which can help us to update the data. On the basis of the recommendations made by both these bodies we have included an experimental project for India to build up such a data bank in collaboration with the NCUI. At the same time, we also feel that steps to build up data bank in other countries should also be continued and we feel that there should be a regional consultation of both users and experts which could be held to identify the basic statistics as well as performance and development indicators which are required for planning and monitoring purposes.

The Hq. is also planning to formulate a Project for Data Banks possibly with World Bank assistance. Mr. Rana drew attention to the Memo of Mr. Bruce Thordarson on the subject which was also part of the Agenda Note.

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India, : "I must congratulate ICA on this very good foresight. But my only doubt is about the personal computer. National cooperative movement of a country will require lot of information. Perhaps personal computer may not be sufficient. In future there is going to be an expansion. Therefore cooperative data bank should be started with mini computers".

Gen Lozada, Member for Philippines : It is a matter of really monitoring at what stage of development is in every country or movement. There is one practical aspect that is technical one. I hope the ICA RO would get some technical advice from the people who are setting up the data banks because you will be asked by the member movements on the technical aspects of the matter".

Agenda Item No. 11 : Change of Nomenclature of the Regional Office

There was a proposal to change the nomenclature of the ICA RO. The Secretary informed that once the Regional Council takes a decision on the change of nomenclature of the RO, the matter will be referred to the HO/Executive Committee.

The Council was of the unanimous opinion that the ICA RO should be termed ICA Regional Office for Asia.

Agenda Item No. 12 : "Hall of Honor"

Mr. J.M. Rana presented salient points of the note on the subject in which criteria for selecting eminent cooperators for award had been indicated.

Mr. Mathimugan suggested that there should also be an award for regional services which should cover officers from the RO.

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India, said that we should have a provision for an award to the RO staff who had done good work and for the general overall performance/contributions to the cooperative movements in the region. We should delete point 4 (iv) from the guidelines.

Mr. Riazuddin Ahmed, Member for Pakistan, said that we should delete points 4 (iv) as well as 4 (v) from the guidelines. Member organisations should put up the best candidate and there should be one nomination and not two from each country.

Gen Lozada, Member for Philippines, said that we should retain (v). I do not know if this could be done easily. He asked the question whether Hall of Honor meant giving a certificate or scroll or a bronze plaque.

It was expressed that it should be a scroll or a certificate with no money.

Mr. M.V. Madane, ICA RO, said : "Award is not an incentive award. It is a recognition for the services rendered to a cause. Recognition comes from the people outside that personality. He does not prove his contribution. This is proving his contribution. There are several organisations in the world giving awards and there are standard practices of recognising one's services to a cause. I suggest that we view the award procedures and fix up norms. Contributions made to the cause of cooperative philosophy, cooperative thought in the development of thought".

The Regional Council approved the guidelines with the deletion of points 4 (iv) and 4 (v). The Regional Director was asked to implement it.

Agenda Item No. 13 : Relations with International Organisations

The information given in the Agenda Notes was noted by the Council.

Agenda Item No. 14 : Venue & Date of the next Meeting

The Secretary informed the meeting that we had an invitation earlier from Singapore which we could not utilise last year.

Two venues were proposed for the Council Meeting in 1988. The members for Singapore and the Philippines extended an invitation to the Council to hold its 30th Meeting in their countries subject to the approval by their Board of Directors. The Council decided that the next meeting be held in Singapore subject to the convenience of the Singapore Movement.

The Member for Korea extended an invitation to the Council to hold its 31st Meeting in the Republic of Korea in 1989.

The Member for India extended a standing invitation to the Council to hold its meeting in India again.

The Council deliberated at length on the timing of the Regional Council Meeting. It was agreed that the meetings of the Council should be held in end February or beginning of March every year.

Agenda Item No. 15 : Any other matter with the permission of the Chair

1. Consideration of Articles relating to the membership in the Constitution of the Specialised Sub-Committees

A note on the subject was circulated at the meeting.

Gen Lozada, Member for Philippines, said that we should not encourage a non-member in participating in the meetings.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson : "It would be desirable to enable representatives of cooperative organisations which are not direct member of ICA to participate in the work of the Sub-Committees".

Gen Lozada, Member for Philippines, said that such representatives may be invited provided they accept the objects and obligations of the concerned Sub-Committee.

Mr. M. Ohya, Member for Japan, suggested the following amendment:

"Each member organisation of the ICA would be entitled to nominate upto two persons."

The Council adopted the following amendments to the articles on membership in the constitutions of the Sub-Committees:"

Each member organisation of the ICA would be entitled to nominate two persons to the specialised Sub-Committee provided it accepts the objects and obligations of the Sub-Committee.

Non-member of the ICA may become member of a specialised Sub-Committee provided it accepts the objects of the ICA and the Sub-Committee."

Concluding Remarks

Mr B. Genberg, Director, SCC said : "This meeting of the Regional Council has been very valuable to me in that I listened to the deliberations, and had the opportunity to meet the leadership of the cooperative movements in Asia. I hope it would be possible for me to continue to keep closer contact with the members."

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, ICA, said : "I think it is nice to be at a meeting talking about the programmes, how to improve the work of the RO, provide more information to the RC that would help it to do its job better. He was happy that members of the RC have expressed a desire to take more responsibility in the operation of this office. I think the format and content of the next RC meeting will be quite different from this year."

Gen Lozada, Philippines : "In order to involve the members from China and North Korea in the activities of the RO, the RO should explore the possibility of a visit by RD to these countries".

"I would like to present an omnibus motion to express our thanks and gratitude to the following : the Indian Cooperative Movement for the kind hospitality and excellent receptions given to the members, welcome the new RD...We should also express our gratitude to Mr. Mathimugan for giving innovative ideas to the Council during his incumbency, i.e. decentralisation in the decision making and planning, creation of a revolving development fund, hall of honour etc.

We would like to express appreciation for the presence of Mr. Bruce Thordarson and Mr. Bjorn Genberg. We are most happy about their impressions, their open mind on Asians.

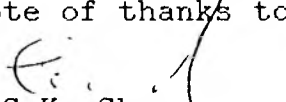
I would like to commend the DCU - Mess's J.M. Rana and Sten Dahl for their excellent performance of their duties. He also complimented the work of Mr. M.K. Puri, Adzer, Consumer

Cooperative Project, for his work in the region.

Mr. Salehuddin, Member for Malaysia, seconded the motion.

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India : "It is our sacred duty to thank all. Presence of Honourable Minister at the inaugural session was an evidence that there is commitment and regard for the ICA at the highest level. The Minister said to me that as far as India was concerned, they will stand by the side of the ICA. As far as RO and the Regional Director are concerned, they are our own people and we will definitely help them - whether there is a crisis or no crisis. I can assure you that with your active support from other cooperative movements in the region, this region should be able to show an ideal example to other regions. Due to the short time available at our disposal there might have been some shortcomings and failures on the part of the Indian Cooperative Movement to make suitable and comfortable arrangements, and I, as Chief Executive of the NCUI own responsibility for those failures..I want to once again invite the RC to have its next meeting in India whenever the Council is pleased to have the meeting...Since the arrival of Mr. Bruce Thordarson that there has been a very positive trend. Otherwise the impression with us about the ICA was that the ICA just holds meetings and not much was being done on the programmes. I hope this trend would continue and necessary support for implementation of these programmes effectively will come from us as well as from you."

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.


G.K. Sharma —
Secretary

New Delhi
14 September, 1987

pk/

Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Dr. Dhillon, Shri D.S. Bhuria, President, NCUI, Shri V.P. Singh, Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Associate Director, ICA Geneva, Mr. Bjorn Genberg, Director, SCC, Shri Rai Singh, Distinguished Councillors and Fellow Cooperators :

I have great pleasure in extending a cordial welcome to the distinguished members of the Regional Council, our Chief Guest and fellow cooperators. At the outset, I would like to thank the NCUI for hosting this 29th Regional Council Meeting at a short notice and for making excellent arrangements. This meeting was originally planned to be held in Singapore but in May this year the venue was changed to Delhi. Thus, the NCUI had to make arrangements at a very short notice and we are grateful to them for their warm response.

I am extremely grateful to the Honourable Minister on behalf of the ICA and on my own behalf for accepting the invitation to inaugurate this Council Meeting and benefiting us with his words of wisdom. The Hon'ble Minister has taken time out of his many pressing preoccupations to associate with this meeting of cooperative leaders from Asia. We are aware how busy the Hon'ble Minister is on account of the unprecedented drought situation in the country. We deeply appreciate the presence of the Hon'ble Minister amongst us and we look forward to his valued guidance and support to our cooperative activities.

Sir, I would like to mention here that 14 countries are the members of this Council. They are Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Australia, China and the Democratic Republic of Korea are unable to attend the Council Meeting this year and have sent their best wishes for fruitful deliberations.

The ICA Regional Council was inaugurated in Delhi in 1961 by late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. It had the good fortune of having Mrs. Indira Gandhi as its Honorary President from 1961 to 1968. Another eminent Indian cooperator and former Chairman of the Regional Council, Prof D.G. Karve, had the distinction of heading the ICA Commission on Cooperative Principles.

As would be seen from above, India's contribution to the activities of the ICA was substantial which is further confirmed from the fact that from 1961 to 1971 five meetings of the Council were held in India. However, from 1971 onwards, no Council meeting was held in India during the next 14 years. It is a matter of satisfaction that India is taking increasing interest in the ICA activities and within last three years this is the second time that India is playing host to the Regional Council.

Even though some drastic steps had to be taken in the last two years in the Regional Office with regard to administrative matters, there has been no slackness in its developmental activities. We are already running four projects in the region with financial assistance from the Swedish and Japanese Cooperatives. The budget of the activities of Regional Office for 1986-87 was around Rs.13.64 million. We are getting encouraging response from donors particularly Sweden, Japan and Canada and we hope the ICA Regional Office will be able to play a much bigger role for promoting cooperative activities on right lines in the coming years. At this juncture when we in the ICA Regional Office are at the cross roads, I would like to pay tribute to the Swedish Cooperative Movement and particularly their outstanding leader Late Dr. M. Bonow. Right from the establishment of the Regional Office in 1960 the Swedish Cooperative Movement has provided tremendous support to it. This support has enabled the cooperative movements in Asia to develop strong bonds of solidarity and economic collaboration. We would like Mr. B. Genberg to carry our feelings of gratitude and solidarity to the Swedish cooperators and especially their nerve-centre for cooperative development viz. the SCC.

Another important source of steady support to our activities has been from the Japanese Cooperative Movement. This support backed up by the Government of Japan has substantially increased since last year. The experience of the Japanese Movement is of special relevance to the Asian Movements and we do hope that the Japanese Movement will play a much bigger role in the years to come. I request the Japanese delegation convey our feelings of gratitude to their Movement and the Government of Japan.

The ICA Regional Office located in Delhi had the good fortune of getting full support from the Government of India and particularly from your Ministry and therefore, Sir, I would like to extend our gratefulness to you for this support.

If I am not going beyond my jurisdiction, I would like to state that in the coming years the ICA wants to have a greater collaboration with governments particularly in the developing countries and proper strategies will have to be worked out in this regard in consultation with the respective governments for fostering genuine cooperative movements. Sir, we will need your cooperation and support in this matter also.

Before I conclude, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Associate Director, ICA Geneva, and Mr. Genberg, Director, SCC, for sparing their time and attending the Regional Council Meeting. Their presence and participation will help us in planning future developmental activities.

Once again, I welcome you, all Councillors, and particularly those who have come to attend the Council meeting for the first time and I hope that your stay will be fruitful and comfortable.

) sm/pk

Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Dr. Dhillon, NCUI President, Mr. Bhuria, Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Mr. Genberg, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Rai Singh, fellow councillors and cooperators :

It gives me great pleasure to say a few words in my capacity as Vice Chairman of the ICA Regional Council for South-East Asia at this inaugural function of the 29th meeting. I have been associated as a member of the Regional Council for over two decades. I can therefore speak with some authority on the role and relevance of the ICA Regional Office. But before I do so I would like to express our sincere thanks to the National Cooperative Union of India for hosting this meeting and for making very nice arrangements, as usual. I am sure that with the care which the NCUI always takes in looking after the arrangements, this meeting would be a fruitful one and also comfortable to the Council Members.

We now have a new Regional Director in the person of Mr. G.K. Sharma who has joined the ICA from July this year. Mr. Sharma has a long experience as Managing Director of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited. Mr. Sharma has also worked for five years as Regional Adviser on Cooperation in the ILO Asia and Pacific Office. With his long and rich experience, I am sure, Mr. Sharma would provide effective leadership to the ICA RO. The RO is also further strengthened by the appointment of Mr. R. Mathimugan as Special

Adviser on Cooperative Development and Training. Mr. Mathimugan was Chairman of the Regional Council until recently and hence he needs no introduction.

During its nearly 27 years of existence, the ICA RO has played a very important role in the promotion and development of cooperative movements in Asia. Thanks to the contribution made by the Regional Office, national cooperative organisations in a few countries which were not members of the ICA were established. Greater collaboration among the movements in the Region was established and the ICA RO played an important role in the development of leadership and management training through its Education Centre. With the growth of cooperative movements in the Region and the emergence of new needs, it was considered necessary that the ICA's role should be redefined. We are indeed happy that in response to our discussions in the Regional Council, and with the evaluation missions, the ICA formulated a cooperative development policy which is more directly geared to answering our needs. As a consequence, the specialised Sub-committees have become more active and they play an important role in formulating development programmes of the ICA RO. As the Council members would see from the reports submitted, a number of useful ideas and proposals have been suggested by them. What is important is that these ideas and proposals are translated into work plans and that they would be implemented. I would like to suggest that there should be greater interaction among

the various specialised Sub-committees and we would be able to promote it possibly by having the various Sub-committee meetings in one place. This would enable the interested members and especially the Chairmen of the Sub-committees to take part in the meetings of other Sub-committees in which they have a special interest. Similarly, it is also necessary that we in the Regional Office have an opportunity of directly listening to the views and reports of the Sub-committees from the Chairmen. I hope in future it will be possible for the Regional Council to invite the Chairmen of the Sub-committees to participate in the meetings as special invitees so that our discussions would get richer from their specialised knowledge and experience.

The new orientation to ICA's policies and programmes has necessitated reorganisation and restructuring of the Regional Office. Reorganisation and restructuring is sometimes a painful process, but by now we have trimmed the RO and it has become fit enough instrument to carry out the new development programme. The activities carried out by the Regional Office since reorganisation have concentrated on Perspective Planning for Agricultural Cooperatives, Assistance to member organisations in project identification and planning, agricultural cooperative training, development of retail trade and assistance in promoting international cooperative trade. These activities have received much appreciation from the movements in the Region.

While contribution to cooperative development programmes on these lines is important, we should remember that the aim of the ICA is to strengthen the cooperative ideology and make cooperatives self-reliant. We should also remember this larger Perspective in the work which we map out for the Regional Office.

I would like to draw the attention of the distinguished members at this meeting to an important principle of cooperation, viz. Cooperation among Cooperatives. The Swedish Cooperative Movement is a shining example of such cooperation extended by advanced cooperative movement to the Asian cooperative movements. I am aware that they are making their contributions to other Regions also. We owe a great deal to the help provided to us by the Swedish Cooperative Movement. It is a matter of satisfaction that the Japanese Cooperative Movement has increased its contribution to the Regional office. The movements from other countries of the Region are also sharing in this responsibility. I am told that the Indian Movement has significantly increased its membership subscription to the ICA since last two years. The Indian Cooperative Movement has made great strides in several fields and it has much to offer to their sister movements in the Region. I am sure that the Indian Cooperative Movement would come forward to play a greater role in the affairs of the ICA which is commensurate with its inherent strength. I would make the same appeal to the leaders of other movements also to make the Regional Office not only self-reliant but also a very

vigorous and dynamic instrument for rapid cooperative development.

In the last couple of years several of our countries have faced economic recession. However, cooperatives have generally stood their ground and made progress despite economic constraints. It is important for the cooperative movements in the Region to cope with the changing economic scenario and to update their management. We also need to forge cooperative financing system which can mobilise members funds and make our cooperative movements self propelling and dynamic. I would like to point out that in many countries, there are now national cooperative banks. It is time that we give attention to this question and take steps in this direction. Possibly Japan and India and my own country which have experience in this field can show the way in this regard.

In conclusion I would like to once again express our sincere thanks to our gracious host, the NCUI for hosting this meeting and for making arrangements for our stay and work.

Thank you for your attention.

sm.

ICA REGIONAL COUNCIL .. 8-9 SEPTEMBER 1987

Remarks by Mr. B. Genberg, Director of Swedish Cooperative Centre

Honourable Minister of Agriculture, President of ICUI, dear Cooperators.

I thank you for the invitation to attend this meeting of the Regional Council and I am also grateful for the opportunity to address the Council.

I bring greetings from the Swedish Cooperators, who wish the Council success in its deliberations.

I would like to say a few words about the important relation between cooperatives and Governments. It is not my intention to be country specific. I will address the issue in rather general terms.

Because of their important role in the economy of many developing countries, Governments need to support and guide the Cooperatives. However, in this task the Governments must strike the right balance between providing incentives/support and unnecessary interference/control. We should realise that it is a difficult task to keep the right balance. In this question there are five areas of concern which I would like to mention.

1. Cooperative Laws

Basically it is the Government which determines the rules of the game to a very high extent.

The cooperative legislation is very often not based on the cooperative principles, which it should be, according to my way of seeing it.

It is difficult to escape the impression that the cooperative laws in many countries are rather instruments of control instead of instruments for development.

2. Lack of coherent policies/strategies

Cooperative development would be stabilized if there were clear-cut policies/strategies jointly worked out by the Government and the Cooperative sector.

Too many policies are too vague and they have not been prepared with the participation of the cooperative movement.

Preparation of cooperative policies and plans are too much of a top-down approach.

Related to this, is the lack of price incentives and margins in several countries.

3. Cooperatives as a tool of Governments

While reading cooperative plans one sometimes gets the impression that cooperatives serve as a tool for implementation of Government policies and programmes. That might be in the interest of the cooperative members, but not necessarily so.

It could be very difficult to determine whose interests the Cooperatives are serving. But, the Cooperatives must always ask themselves this question.

4. Misunderstandings/misconceptions as to the capability of cooperatives.

Such misconceptions are often shared by Governments, cooperative leaders and donors as well. I will mention a few to illustrate my point.

.. 3 ..

a) It is sometimes believed that Cooperatives can serve as a sort of universal medicine where conditions for economic development are absent. Cooperatives are for instance believed to be able to spearhead the economic and social development in marginal areas and are often also at the same time looked upon as a guarantee for economic and social equity.

b) Cooperatives are sometimes believed to be able to carry out functions/tasks/services for which they do not have the experience or capacity.

They are expected to carry out additional functions and the consequences are often that they do not only fail in carrying out those additional tasks but also fail to do their primary job satisfactorily.

c) The time perspective we use is often too short. Cooperative development is fundamentally human development and this takes much longer time than we are prepared to give the Cooperatives.

To sum up these points it can be said that expectations are sometimes too high, and we get disappointed when the Cooperatives fail to perform according to our expectations.

5. Government financial assistance/funding, grants and loans.

We are so used to this that we don't question it. We say that they are necessary inputs for the Cooperatives to get off the ground. But we should always ask ourselves for whom and for what they are necessary.

If Government financial assistance is a prerequisite for a cooperative to develop at all - we need to question the basic viability of that cooperative. Self-reliance

.. 4 ..

.. 2 ..

and mobilisation of our resources as concepts which should be brought into the discussion.

Government financial assistance is often very helpful but it should always be very carefully considered since it could lead to greater dependency on the Government in case of depending on the members. Government funding can in the long term perspective be very costly.

Government officials and cooperative leaders need to work together in order to develop the Cooperatives. But, if we are to see more independent and self-sustained Cooperatives develop, Government will have to pay attention to that difficult act of balancing between support and unnecessary interference. Cooperatives on the other hand must take the initiative and not expect Governments to plan for them. Cooperatives must build up a capacity, which will let them participate in the planning process and influence policies, which are important to them.

Cooperatives must develop a knowledge and know-how in cooperative business at all levels, which is superior to that of the Government, thereby creating confidence in their ability. Such confidence will in the long-term change the attitude of Governments as regards the need to monitor and control the Cooperatives.

To maintain a dialogue based on mutual respect and understanding between Governments and Cooperatives on this and related issues is extremely important. And to assist the Cooperative movements in the region to keep that dialogue with Governments is, I think, Mr. Chairman, one of the key functions of the ICA Regional Office.

Thank you for your attention.

SPEECH OF SHRI DILIP SINGH BHURIA, M. P., ON THE
OCCASION OF 29TH MEETING OF THE ICA REGIONAL
COUNCIL FOR SOUTH EAST ASIA

Respected Dr. Dhillon Sahib, Gen. Lozada,
Mr. Thordasan, Mr. G. Berg and Hon'ble Members of the
Regional Council for South East Asia,

At the outset, I express my gratitude to
International Cooperative Alliance that once again they
have provided this opportunity to Indian Cooperative
Movement to host this meeting through the National
Cooperative Union of India. On behalf of the National
Cooperative Union of India and on my own behalf, I
extend my warm greetings to all the members of the
Council and distinguished guests present here. I expect
that this meeting would be yet another milestone to
forge effective unity and cooperation among the coop-
erative movements of the Region and would make the role
of International Cooperative Alliance more effective
and sharpened.

On this occasion, we have amongst us
respected Dr. Dhillon, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture,
Government of India, who inspite of precarious situation
created by unprecedented drought in the country, has
taken trouble to inaugurate this meeting. This is a
symbol of his commitment to cooperative ideology and
is indicative of the fact that Government of India is
continuously endeavouring to strengthen and develop
cooperative movement. For this, I express my grateful
thanks to Dr. Dhillon and greet him on behalf of the
National Cooperative Union of India and on my own
behalf.

.....2/-

This is a unique occasion when the distinguished representatives of the cooperative movements of South East Asia are present here. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to lay some of my views in regard to the mutual collaboration among cooperatives at international level and the role of International Cooperative Alliance in this direction. The present day world is divided into two classes - one, economically developed nations and other one the developing nations. In spite of exhortations of United Nations Organisation for establishing new international economic order, the problem of poverty in the world stands as it was. The reality of the situation is that the poor nations have become poorer and the rich the richer.

The main objectives of cooperation are to usher in social justice, elimination of poverty and to bridge the economic inequalities. We have, therefore, to see that how far the International Cooperative Alliance has succeeded in achieving these objectives. At the same time, we have also to see that up to what extent the mutual collaboration and united efforts have been built up among various cooperative movements of the world. I would like to call upon this august gathering to deliberate on these two important aspects of international cooperation.

Today the world is changing very fast. New equations are being formed and new technologies are emerging. I think that the transfer of technology to developing nations has not been satisfactory.

One of the reasons behind deteriorating poverty situation in the world is that the poor nations are not getting advantage of technological development.

.....3/-

Since the principle of cooperation and ideology is to establish a society sans exploitation in the world, all the international cooperative organisations should orient their policies towards this objective. The UNO and its allied institutions have accepted cooperation as a means of development. But how far this thinking is being implemented is a big question to ponder over. The International Cooperative Alliance also will have to review and revise its policies and approach in this context. The Alliance will have to redefine its role in changing situation in the world. In my opinion, the Alliance should not confine its meetings and activities merely to the academic interpretations and analysis of cooperative policies. What is important for Alliance in this context is its resolve to develop mutual cooperation and collaboration among various cooperative movements and to bridge the inequalities in development in various parts of the world. I would like to place some of my views in this respect. First of all the international cooperation should be developed at the regional level through the Regional Councils. These Councils should identify the areas for trade and industrial collaboration among various cooperative movements of the region. The Regional Office of Alliance should maintain a full documentation about the information and the contribution the cooperative movement of one country can make towards the development of cooperative movement in another.

The Regional Office should maintain a profile about the cooperative movements of each of its member organisations. These profiles should be reviewed and updated from time to time and should be made available to all the member nations of the region. Based on the

needs of the nations, the ICA may prepare workable feasibility reports and projects and should maintain shelf^{of} projects at its level. These projects should be circulated among cooperative movements of various countries of the region to elicit their views. After obtaining their reactions, the donor institutions can be identified for implementing these projects.

This approach, however, would call for a very effective and modern system of information collection, its analysis and the preparation of project reports on the basis of this analysis. To have an effective system for continuous information collection, it is necessary that the office of Regional Office of ICA should be computerised. I am happy to note that ICA has already taken initiative in this direction. It is going to establish a Data Bank. But the scheme of Data Bank can succeed only if the member institutions in the region also maintain some sort of Data Bank at their level, because information and statistics for ICA Data Bank will have to be obtained only from the member institutions. I would, therefore, suggest that the system of Data Bank, though attractive and worth appreciation, should receive careful analysis of totality of the situation prevailing in the region. Most important aspect is how far and how effectively this Data Bank would be linked with the member organisations of the ICA.

The International collaboration for development cannot succeed without availability of financial resources. I have been told that a few years back a Regional Development Fund was established at the level of

.....5/-

ICA Regional Office. The only cooperative movement of Malaysia contributed to this Fund and the fund was basically utilised to subsidise the travel cost of those representatives whose institutions were not in a position to bear their travel cost. In my opinion, this Fund has to be further strengthened and well thought out rules and regulations for its utilisation should be formulated. May I suggest that the complexion of this Fund should be just like a consortium through which economic resources may be made available to various countries of the region for cooperative development. I would, therefore, urge upon the distinguished members of the Council to formulate an outline of international cooperative consortium. The proposal so worked out may be placed before the coming meeting of the Central Committee of ICA in October for further discussions.

All of us are aware of the resource constraints in cooperative organisations. International Cooperative Alliance is also not an exception to this. Therefore, the resources of Alliance have to be invested and spent in a very planned manner. We have to carefully analyse that how far the resources have been used for programmes and projects and how far they have been used for administrative expenses. We have to find out ways and means which should result into most minimum expenditure on administration to take ahead the developmental programmes. Needless to say that financial resources of the Alliance may have to be mobilised basically by the member organisations. But at the same time we should not forget that the member organisations would like to have benefit from Alliance on quid pro quo basis.

.....6/-

Member Organisations would like to have equitable representation in the Regional Council and the Central Committee of ICA. In this context, there is a need for review of regulations of ICA and necessary amendments therein. In the same way, in the establishment of ICA, the developing cooperative movements of developing countries should have adequate participation so that their problems could be properly identified and presented at international level.

Another important aspect of cooperative development in developing countries is the role of Government. In most of the developing countries, Cooperation has been accepted as an instrument of economic development and the government is, duty-bound to provide multi-faceted help and assistance to the cooperatives. In the management of cooperatives also, the Government has very important role. Therefore, without positive attitude of the Government, the development and growth of cooperative organisations is not possible. In these countries, there is a continuous interaction between the government and cooperative movement about the cooperative policies and programmes. But such sort of interaction at international level is more or less negligible. At the level of International Cooperative Alliance also, there is no provision for providing representation to the Government in any form. I think that international cooperation and collaboration may not effectively materialise if the governments of concerned countries do not support and help. ICA may give thought to this aspect.

.....7/-

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Bruce Thoradson, Associate Director, ICA, Director of the Swedish Cooperative Centre, Shri G.K. Sharma, Shri Bhuria, distinguished Members of the Regional Council and fellow cooperators ;

I join Shri Dilip Singh Bhuria, President NCUI in extending a hearty welcome to the distinguished office bearers and Members of the ICA Regional Council for South-East Asia and officers of the ICA as also the distinguished guests from abroad who have assembled here to participate in the 29th meeting of the ICA Regional Council for South-East Asia.

2. The association of the Government of India with the ICA Regional Office and Education Centre for South-East Asia has been very close right from its inception. We recall with pride the year 1960 when ICA ROEC was inaugurated by our first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, an architect of modern India and an ardent supporter of the cooperative movement. It was under his leadership and guidance that cooperative development became an integral part of the five-year plans, a sector of national economy and an agency for nation building efforts on planned basis. Since then, the inspirations and guidelines provided by Pandit Nehru have been a beacon light for all those engaged in the expansion and strengthening of the cooperative movement as a voluntary people's democratic form of economic organisation with social content.

3. I also recall with immense pleasure the association of Madam Gandhi as the first President of this Regional Council of the ICA for South-East Asia. Shrimati Gandhi attached considerable importance to this body. As far back as in 1964, while addressing a Regional Conference convened by ICA ROEC in Tokyo, Mrs. Gandhi said "The Advisory Council provides a requisite platform for South-East Asian cooperators to meet and discuss problems of mutual interest". It is in this context that we have been associating ourselves, extending our support and looking

at this international agency for the cooperative movements in this region with great interest. It also gives me an immense satisfaction to learn that "India has both been a receiver and a contributor to cooperative ideas, experiences and experimentation at the world level as also at the South-East Asian regional level", as pointed out in one of the documents circulated for the meeting. This is the result of a deliberate policy which is in consonance with the basic approach and strategy to promoting cooperative credit structure which envisages that the member of a cooperative credit society is not only a borrower but a lender as well.

4. From the agenda of the Regional Meeting, I find that the experiences of the member countries would also be discussed. The Indian experience will, no doubt, be presented by our representative, I would like to invite the attention of this distinguished body of cooperative leaders in the region to some of the major aspects of the Indian cooperative development. As you may be aware, the network of cooperative institutions comprises 315 thousand cooperative societies of various types with a total membership of over 145 millions. These cooperatives undertake service functions, like, supply of production inputs, distribution of essential consumer goods, marketing of agricultural produce and supply of raw materials. The consumer cooperatives represent not only cooperative stores, but also housing cooperatives etc. In the service of the economically disadvantaged sections of the population, cooperative societies have been rendering yeoman service through labour cooperatives, dairy cooperative societies, farming cooperatives, fisheries societies. In the field of high technology, fertilizer manufacturing units, sugar industry, spinning mills etc. have been making significant contribution. The cooperatives have also played a significant role in the field of development of rural entrepreneurship. Women constitute nearly half of the total population, but their place in the cooperative movement is still rather insignificant, and to fill up the gap, measures are being evolved. In certain other sectors of activity, like, weavers' societies, urban cooperative credit and banking and various types of activities in the

hilly and tribal areas, women have come to play an increasing role. The human resources development programmes in the cooperative sector are being upgraded from the point of view of technology, management skill, information system and overall cooperative leadership growth.

5. Significantly, the cooperative societies which started activities as a small man's organisation, doing small business, are now widely recognised as an economic enterprise of a small man doing big business. This is reflected in fertiliser manufacturing cooperatives, cooperative sugar factories and cooperative dairies, in particular. The achievements of the cooperatives could be further seen in the fact that in the cooperative credit and banking sector, cooperatives provide nearly 47% of the institutional credit to agriculture. The cooperative sector accounts for nearly 42% of the fertilisers distributed in the country, 60% of the national sugar production and 20% of fertilisers production.

6. At the same time, our cooperative movement faces a variety of problems relating to their organisation, operation and management, regional and sectoral imbalances within the movement, inadequacy of professionalisation and democratisation in the functioning of cooperatives and above all, the problems of the size and growth of the movement which is one of the largest in the world. Expressing his concern about the present state of the cooperative movement, our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi has given a clarion call to revitalise cooperatives as an essential aspect of the poverty alleviation programme and accelerated agricultural growth. This, according to us, is of crucial importance for the survival and continued progress of the cooperative movement in the larger interest of the masses and the nation. The Government is, therefore, focussing attention on the major problem areas and initiating and supporting remedial measures to accelerate healthy growth of cooperative enterprises. The Prime Minister and the Government are determined "to give the cooperative movement the primacy which it deserves".

7. The International Cooperative Alliance, a world confederation of cooperative movements, is the largest non-governmental organisation and even one of the oldest. In the course of over 90 years of its existence, it has been playing an important role in the expansion of cooperative movements and preservation, promotion and strengthening of cooperative principles, cooperative ideology and cooperative philosophy in different socio-economic and political set-ups. I pay my glowing tributes to pioneers of cooperation and the leaders of the cooperative movements associated with this organisation. Largely because of their foresight, dedication and concern for the humanity that the world cooperative movement has been striving for peace and progress of all in every nook and corner of the world. While wishing the ICA continued success in this mission. I assure you our fullest support in promoting peace and progress through cooperative everywhere.

8. Before I close, I would like to quote Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the first President of ICA Regional Office and Education Centre for South-East Asia, which sets up the task before the Council and all those associated with the cooperative movement, as said in 1964 and which, according to me, still holds good :

“We all believe in peace but peace does not come by wishing but by working for it. Faster communication has brought us closer together and made us all neighbours. Travelling has increased and many people go round the world. But they rarely have the time or the inclination to stop and to try and understand. It is through cooperation, through working together and helping one another that we can gain the understanding and friendship which can lead to peace.”

9 I have now great pleasure in inaugurating the 29th meeting of the ICA Regional Council for South-East Asia, and I wish its deliberations a success and the stay of the distinguished participants in India pleasant and useful.

Thank you.