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ICA-Asia and Pacific

# newsletter

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## Governance

## ICA-AP Business Office in Malaysia



MOU signing at the office of the Malaysia Co-operative Commission

The 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly held on 29th November, 2012 in Kobe, Japan approved opening of its Business Office in Malaysia in collaboration with ANGKASA. To this end, Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director of ICA-AP and Dr. Mohd Ali Baharum, President of ANGKASA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 7th February, 2013 for establishing the office at ANGKASA premises which will likely to be operational by June this year. The term of the MOU is two years.

Further to establishment of the business office, four organizations,

namely the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC), National Agricultural Cooperative Federation, (NACF), Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU) and National Coop Organisation of Malaysia (ANGKASA) will second their staff to this strategic office. As stated in the MOU, the Business Office in Malaysia shall act as a regional hub for overall ICA establishment and will specifically implement the activities of ICA-Asia Pacific Region in promoting the business interactions among members through sectoral and thematic committees focusing on strategic areas such as Consumer Coops, Fair-trade, Insurance & Banking, IT Technology and Recycling of Renewable Resources.

For the operation of this ICA-AP Business Office, ANGKASA will provide 133 m2 of office space in the premises of its Subsidiaries & Business Division opposite the main building. Mr. Shahrudin Bin Mohamed, Chief Development Officer expressed his interests in the development of cold-chain system in Malaysia and to promotion of the 'ANGKASA Food' abroad. This business would get a boost with opening of the ICA-AP Business Office in Malaysia.

Dr. Choi extended his visit to the Malaysia Co-operative Commission and met Executive Chairman Datuk Nik Ali Bin Mat Yunus to discuss about organising of the 1st ICA-AP Co-operative Registrars' Conference in Kuala Lumpur in August this year.



Meeting with Malaysian Co-operative Leaders

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## From the Editor



My Best Wishes for a Peaceful and Co-operatively Progressive Year-2013 ! The IYC 2012 concluded successfully in terms

of reenergising the movement and the stake holders by prompting them to conduct celebratory events, make promises and commitments. Yet, a lot remains to be attended to. With the continuing negative socio-economic-legal trends, co-operative movement cannot afford to be complacent and ICA has issued the final version of the Blueprint for the Co-operative Decade. It presents the strategy outline through which ICA aims to make 2011-2020 a Co-operative Decade of "Confident Growth".

The Business Office in Malaysia will be operational soon and in order to continue efforts to create enabling legal and policy environment for good governance, "Study of By-Laws of Primary Co-operatives" has been commissioned and the ICA-AP will implement all the ongoing capacity building projects for co-operatives and members in the region. We are grateful to members for sharing their news regularly and look forward to hearing your views as well. -Savitri Singh

## Important Event

1st ICA-AP Regional Conference of the Registrars/Regulators of Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific will be held on 20-22 August, 2013 in Malaysia.

## Director General of ICA visited members in Korea

After attending the ICA-AP Regional Assembly in Kobe, Charles Gould, ICA Director General extended his trip to Korea to visit member organizations to sensitize about the 'ICA Blueprint For A Co-operative Decade' which was adopted by the ICA General Assembly in Manchester.

He visited ICA member organisation National Agriculture Co-operative Federation (NACF) and met Mr. Won-Byung Choi, ICA Board member.



DG with Mr. Won-BYUNG



ICA DG with Students of National Agriculture Co-operative Collage

He gave a lecture to students at Agricultural Co-operative College of National Agricultural Co-operative Federation (NACF) in the morning of 3rd December

and attended a co-operative forum with members and youth of iCoop Korea at the Sungkonghoe University in the afternoon.



DG at the iCoop Korea Forum

iCoop Korea, a consumer co-operative and a member of ICA, organised a co-operative forum of members and youth at the Sungkonghoe University in the afternoon of 3rd December and DG of ICA was invited to have an interaction.



*Charles Gould with Mr. Won Soon Park, Seoul City Mayor*



*Jae-Gu Kim, President of KOSEA with Charles Gould and Dr. Chan Ho Choi*

Charles Gould also met Mr. Won Soon Park, Seoul City Mayor in his office and discussed the possible cooperation with ICA in the area of public awareness on co-operative business model, noting that the Seoul Metropolitan Government declared Seoul as the 'Co-operative Metro City' in July last year.

He extended his visit to the Korea Social Enterprise Promotion Agency (KOSEA) which had been setup to promote new co-operatives in Korea on the basis of the new 'General Co-operative Law' enacted effectively on 2nd December 2012.

## Member Service

### Office Bearers Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on Women

Meeting of the Office Bearers of ICA-AP Committee on Women was held on 13 February-2013 at Consumer Co-operative of Saitama City in Japan. The meeting was held to discuss the operational matters and planning for the implementation of activities of the Women's Committee in 2013 and beyond.



*Ms. Tanaka chairing the meeting*

Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, Chairperson, Ms. Divina Cabunoc Quemi, Vice Chairperson and Ms. Savitri Singh, Secretary of the Women Committee were present. Ms. Satoko Horiuchi, Interpreter for Ms. Tanaka and Mr. Haruyoshi Amano, Manager of International Dept. JCCU attended the meeting as observers.

Ms. Tanaka extended warm welcome and gave a brief description of the activities to be followed after the meeting of the Office Bearers. She placed on record her appreciation to the office bearers and members of the Women Committee for their cooperation and active participation and specially to Ms. Savitri Singh for her initiatives for gender main streaming in the co-operatives. The committee discussed in detail the work plan for 2013 and strategy for successful implementation of all the activities.



*Mr. Haruyoshi Amano with office bearers of Women's Committee*

## ICA-JCCU Training of Trainers Workshop

The ICA-JCCU Training of Trainers Workshop (Pilot test of one topic of draft Resource Guide) was held on 14th February 2013 in Tokyo, Japan.

The workshop was held for 2 hours including consecutive interpretation and only one chapter; Chapter 2 "Co-operative Governance" was taken up for testing.

There were 80 participants, including member co-operatives of JCCU, Cabinet Office of the Government and Japanese Consumer Co-operatives Union (JCCU).

Three resource persons, two from Philippines and one from ICA-AP, New Delhi were also present.

Ms. Rie Saikawa, Organizing Committee and Board Member of Nagano Prefectural Consumer Co-operative Federation delivered opening address and Ms. Akiko Kawamoto Organizing Committee and Board Member of Saitama Co-op gave welcome address.

After the opening and welcome, Ms. Hitomi Tanaka introduced ICA-AP Committee on Women to participants. She talked about origin of the committee, membership and activities etc.

Ms. Savitri Singh made a presentation on introduction of Advanced Resource Guide for Training of Trainers (TOT). Technical session



*The Participants singing a co-operative song*

followed after lunch and exchange program. Two speakers presented following success case in the session:

1. Smile Café Project presented by Ms. Yukari Okumoto, Board Member of Chiba Co-op
2. Case Study of Co-op Kanagawa presented jointly by Ms. Masako Masuda, Board Member of Kanagawa Co-op and Ms. Akemi Kawahira, a Trainers in Members Activities

## Study of By-Laws of Primary Co-operatives Commissioned

In order to promote the use of co-operative By-laws that reflect the participatory governance and financial sustainability, the ICA Asia Pacific has commissioned a study of By-Laws of Primary Co-operatives in the Asia Pacific region for the year 2013. This is viewed to uphold the interest of the primary co-operatives in their right to co-operate and operate autonomously to undertake functions of an ethical enterprise.

This study was commissioned as part of the ICA AP Strategic Objectives (S.O. 2013-2016) drawn at the 10th Regional Assembly that laid down the need for what is a 'sound-tuning' between co-operative laws and commercial laws and between co-operative laws and government policy provisions under S.O. 15 along with the study on countries' By-Laws of primary co-operatives under S.O.09. The activity aims to draw a model By-Law with a view to ensure the financial sustainability of co-operatives and participatory governance and decision-making of members, and enhanced participation of women and youth by ensuring certain seats in their

Board structure.

The ultimate objective of this doctrinal activity would be to promote the adoption of co-operative By-laws through a 'conscious participatory process', the corner stone of participatory governance and Democracy. The activity is positioned to bring out a study covering the vast Asia Pacific region and will reach out to the primary level societies and unions with the help of its ICA members. The activity is an effort to scrutinize by-law making powers of primary societies from the angle of co-operative jurisprudence and the Rule making power of the Government and the powers exercisable upon these rules by Registrars/Regulators of co-operative societies that affect the functional autonomy and the financial sustainability of primary co-operatives.

The study shall include a draft-outline for a model By Law and promote the Guidelines that will be arrived at during the Registrars' / Regulators Conference.

## Capacity Building



*Participants with IRMA Faculty members*

## Fostering Core Leadership

India chapter of the 2 months long ICA-Japan training course on "Fostering Core Leadership of Agricultural Co-operatives" commenced on 17 February, 2013 at Indian Institute of Rural Management (IRMA) in Gujarat State of India and completed in mid March. The participants along with Course Co-ordinator, Mr. A.K. Taneja of ICA-AP left for Japan on 18th March where they will proceed with the Japan chapter of the course which will be concluded on 13th April, 2013.

## Enhancing the Role of Women in Co-operative Business

The ICA-Asia and Pacific Workshop on 'Enhancing the Role of Women in Agriculture Co-operative Business' was held from 17-19th December, 2012, Vientiane City, Lao PDR in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Government of Lao PDR. Six participants from four countries namely China, India, Indonesia and Malaysia attended the workshop along with participants from MAF, Lao.

The opening ceremony was held on 17th December, 2012 with Mr. Chantha Thipphavongphanh, DG of DAF-VC of MAF delivering the welcome address.

Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-AP delivered special address and inaugurated the workshop.

The business session started with introductory presentation on the topic of the workshop by host organisations, ICA-AP and MAF, Lao. Mrs. Savitri Singh initiated business proceedings by making a presentation on "Gender Integration and Situation of Women in Co-operatives in Asia -Pacific." Ms. Sisomphēt Souvanthalisith made presentation on the theme of the workshop "Enhancing Role of Women in Agriculture Co-operative Business in LAO PDR".

The participants from 4 countries made presentation of country reports and shared information with each other followed by discussions and question-answer sessions.

As part of the exposure visit to best practices, the participants visited to Lao Women Union, Organic Vegetable Production Group and Nikone Handicraft Centre.

The Lao Women's Union Gender Resource Information and Development Centre (GRID) made a detailed presentation of plans



*Dr. CHOI and Mr. Chantha Thipphavongphanh at the opening*

and projects of the Union for empowerment of women in the country. Lao Women Union was established in 1955 and has status equivalent to the Ministry at the central level. The organisation structure is from centre to provinces and village level. Activities of GRID Centre are to provide Gender Training, conducting Research and maintaining a Library as study and information centre.

Organic Agricultural group in Vientiane Capital were established from year 2005 by PROFIL Project (Promotion of Organic Farming and Marketing in Laos PDR) of Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in cooperation with Department of Agriculture and Forestry of Vientiane Capital.

The Nikone Handicraft Centre is a business with difference where they employ women artisans for weaving and colouring etc. The centre provides flexible working hours and also women are free to work at home. We saw that women weavers could bring their small children at the centre and look after them while at work. It was felt that the centre should consider providing separate nursery for children.

## From The Region

### Japan: JCCU launches its first Fair Trade product

With new release of "CO-OP Charcoal Coffee Fair Trade Coffee Bag" using only fragrant and high quality coffee beans sourced from Brazil, JCCU launched its first certified Fair Trade Product on March 1, 2013. The basic aim of JCCU Fair trade coffee production is to contribute towards poverty alleviation and sustainable development. JCCU purposes to create opportunities for producers in developing countries who have been economically disadvantaged or marginalized by the conventional trading system. The product source is limited to Brazil because of its stable production volume, quality of the coffee beans, varieties as well as its low acidity. Overall, the flavour is sweet and soft. Development of this Fair-trade product is an effort to demonstrate co-ops social role and responsibility through its business as one of the aspiration of the "Co-ops Vision 2020" is to make co-operatives leader in economic, social and environmental sustainability.

JCCU continues to develop easy to use products for senior citizens.

Taking into consideration the feedback received from senior citizens that "although can food is convenient, the lid of the can is hard and it is difficult to open", JCCU has developed new tuna

flakes products packed in pouch bags which was released on March 1, 2013.

The product is of highest quality standard and flavour, pouch bags are easy to open and can be stored at room temperature for two years. It could be eaten after warming in hot water for about 3mins. By adopting plastic bag, opening is easy and can be stored in a refrigerator and having convenience of re-cycling.



*New release of "CO-OP charcoal coffee fair trade coffee bag"*

## New Ordinance to Support Korean Co-operative Law

On February 6, Preparatory Committee for Seoul Co-operative Council held a press conference with PARK Yang-sook, a member of Seoul council, to propose ordinance for supporting co-operatives in Seoul. The committee consists of 14 co-operatives in various sectors such as consumer, finance, health care, worker and child care. Since Framework Law of Korean Co-operative took effect on December 1 last year for support of various co-operatives in new sectors besides traditional sectors such as agricultural and livestock. 93 out of 279 registrations of new co-operatives under the new law were accepted nation-wide while 28 cases in total 95 were approved

in Seoul.

To vitalize various co-operatives, the support of local government is crucial. It can be said that the ordinance embodies its efforts and the cooperation among co-operatives, Council and Government in Seoul has borne fruit. Through the ordinance and active support by local government and the public, cooperators hope that this is an opportunity for co-operatives as an alternative to tackle social polarization, enhance the economy of self-help and reciprocity, and achieve 'Seoul, Co-operative City', one of the aims of Seoul Metropolitan Government.

## KOREA: The Co-operative Counselling Center launched

On December 1, iCOOP Seoul Co-op, one of the primary co-ops of iCOOP KOREA launched "The Co-operative Counselling Center" to provide useful information for establishing and managing co-operatives.

2011 Framework Act on Co-operatives was enacted on December 29, 2011 and took effect on December 1 this year. Under the act, over 5 persons can organize a co-operative in various fields. To provide professional counselling service for those who want to establish their co-operatives, a total of 4 Co-operative Counselling

Centres started operating on November 1.

All centres are located in currently operative co-operatives which already have management education experiences, skills and know-how. Anyone can easily visit them to get information and counselling service from 9 am to 6 pm with no charge. The main counselling focuses are the Framework Act on Co-operatives, possible sectors for co-operatives, the differences between social enterprises and co-operatives, and proper operating, membership and governance system for co-operatives.

## NEW ZEALAND: Co-operative Business NZ'S Annual General Meeting

Around 40 people from 18 member businesses attended the Association's Annual General Meeting which took place in Christchurch on 30 November.

The meeting gave members an opportunity to reflect on achievements during the UN International Year of Co-operatives (IYC) and to look forward and discuss how they might change focus from leveraging the IYC to capitalising on the enhanced profile of co-operatives in general, the Association in particular, and education and advocacy work.

A new subscription table was approved which reduces the number of steps from 15 to 9, allows a brand new business to pay a reduced fee for their first year of membership and introduces a new category of membership- Corporate Associate Membership.



*Annual General Meeting of the NZ Coop*

Guest speakers at the annual meeting were Bevan Killick, Chair of NZCU South and Barry Baker, Chairperson of TeKaihangā Cooperative.

## INDIA: Making the Right to Form Co-operatives a Fundamental Right

National Conference on the Constitution (Ninety Seventh Amendment) Act, 2011 which has made the right to form co-operatives a fundamental right of the people was convened on 12th October, 2012 at NCUI. Dr. Charan Das Mahant, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture & Food Processing Industries, Govt. of India inaugurated the Conference. In the inaugural speech the Hon'ble Minister emphasized the importance of Amendment of the

Constitution and contained measures to strengthen the co-operative sector in India which has emerged as a unique institution to serve economically weaker sections of people with wide reach. The objectives of the Constitutional Amendment are to ensure that the co-operative societies in the country function in a democratic, professional, autonomous and economically sound manner.

The Hon'ble Minister informed that he had already written to the

Chief Ministers/Lt. Governors of the States/Union Territories (UTs) to amend State laws in tune with Constitutional Amendment within the stipulated time.



*Dr. Yadav and Honorable Minister Dr. Charan Das Mahant*

## Labour Co-operative Federation of India held National Conference

On the occasion of IYC 2012, National Labour Co-operatives Federation of India Ltd. (NLCF) organized national Conference with the theme "Association of Unemployed Rural Youth under Labour Co-operatives" on 24th November 2012 in New Delhi.

Conference was inaugurated by Shri Tariq Anwar, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Government of India.

Various issues concerning labour co-operative movement in the country were discussed and the NLCF emphasised on getting certain preferences from the government such as award of construction work, more funds for training, notifying the concessions and facilities recommended by National Advisory Council on Labour Co-operatives etc. The Minister observed that labour co-operatives can help to a large extent in reducing huge unemployment among youth and he assured to extend financial support for skill development.

Concerns were raised on reducing share of co-operatives in rural and agricultural financing and increased participation of youth and women are necessary for the success of the co-operative movement.

The Labour Co-operative Directory and several booklets were also released at this occasion and Tea Primary Labour Contract and



*Participants with Hon'ble Minister*

Forest Co-operative Societies working at the grass root level were awarded for their exemplary performance.

## Visitors

### Japan: IDACA



*The IDACA official with ICA-AP officials in New Delhi*

A 3 member delegation from Institute for Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA) visited office in February, 2013 for a planning meeting with ICA-AP to implement the projects with co-operative members in Asia Pacific. IDACA along with MAFF, Japan is a long time partner of ICA in implementation of development projects for co-operatives.

Currently ICA-AP, in collaboration with MAFF, Japan and IDACA is implementing 3 major capacity building programs in which about 40 co-operative leaders/officials are being trained every year covering 15 countries.

## Important Information New address and contact

1. Korean Association of Social Economy Enterprises(KASEE) C/o COMWIN  
Sukpo-ri 677-10, Jangan-myeon, 445-941 Hwasung-si, Gyeonggi-do Republic of Korea  
**New contact person** Woongeun JI  
Communication Coordinator  
Kasee2008@hotmail.com
2. National Forest Cooperative Federation, Seoul, Republic of KOREA.  
**New Contact Person** Deok-Hwan, Lee.  
Email : support@nfcf.or.kr  
Tel. : +82 2 3434 7209 Fax. : +82 2 3434 7219  
Address : 166 Seokchonhosu-Gil, Songpa-Gu, Seoul, Korea  
Zip-code: 138-880  
Homepage : <http://www.nfcf.or.kr>



## Nepal: NCF



*The Nepalese delegation at ICA-AP Office*

## Reaching Out

### MAKTAB KOPERASI MALAYSIA



*Madame Hajah Armi Zainuddin (ICA Board), Dr. Chan Ho Choi and Director Mohd. Safaai at the MCC*

A delegation of over forty persons from co-operatives in Nepal visited the ICA- AP office on January 11, 2013 to know about aspects of ICA's influence on the co-operative movement of the Asia-Pacific. The visit was arranged by the National Co-operative Federation of Nepal and the delegation was on study visits to co-operatives in India. The delegation was received by the Regional Director, ICA-AP who shared his views on the importance of co-operative enterprises and Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, Programme Officer made presentation introducing the activities and plans of ICA in Asia Pacific. The meeting was followed by visit to ICA-AP Library and Information Centre.

Dr. Choi visited the Co-operative College of Malaysia (CCM) on 20th Feb. and met Mr. Mohd. Safaai, Director of CCM. Mr. Safaai discussed with him organising the proposed Network Meeting of the ICA-AP Training Institutes probably in May this year. Dr. Choi emphasized that training institutes and co-operative colleges in the Region should initiate building up network through internet before venturing into physical networking meetings.

Madam Hajah Armi Zainuddin, ICA Board member from Malaysia and former Director of the Co-operative College of Malaysia and other staff of the CCM also attended the meeting and participated in the discussion on activities of the CCM and strengthening of the co-operative training institutions across the region through networking.

## Korean University Co-operative Federation



*Dr. Chan Ho Choi and Prof. Sang-Jin Park (Dongguk University) with Seoul Workshop task force team*

On 28th Feb, 2013, Dr. Chan Ho Choi visited the Korean University Co-operative Federation (KUCF: [www.univcoop.or.kr](http://www.univcoop.or.kr)) in Seoul and discussed with Prof. Sang-Jin Park, Chairman of KUCF and his team about the upcoming ICA-AP University/ Campus Committee Workshop to be held on 4th – 7th July in Seoul. The KUCF as host organizer expected to gather about 70 participants from 9 countries. Theme of the workshop was "Healthy Campus Life, Healthy Co-operative Society." Dr. Choi thanked KUCF for their efforts in organising the workshop and wished that this significant event will boost awareness about the important role of cooperatives in addressing youth at Universities and school campuses in Korea as well as in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Founded in August 2011, KUCF has 31 university coop members in Korea and helps many new groups in organizing their own co-operatives in the universities.

## Upcoming Events

- ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting, March 16-17, 2013 Hainan, China.
- ICA-JCCU Sub-Regional Workshop on Development of Consumer Co-operatives. April 2-5, 2013, Goa, India.
- Pilot Testing of ICA-AP Advance Resource Guide, April 22-26, 2013, Pune, India



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## Governance

## ICA President in India



*Dame Pauline Green at NCUI Conference*

This was the first visit of the ICA President Dame Pauline Green to India after she was elected the President of ICA in November 2009.

She visited the ICA-AP office in New Delhi and met with staff and also paid a visit to Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited (IFFCO) and National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI). She had put down succinctly her views on the role India could play as an emerging economy and the present and future potential of the co-operative movement in the country. This is reproduced below:

"India is now getting used to being something other than just a 'developing' country, as its economy continues to grow at rates significantly greater than those of the mature Western economies — an average of 7.6% between 2002 and 2007 and of 8.2% for the four years 2007 to 2011.

So what of its huge co-operative sector?

The largest co-operative country by numbers of primary co-ops at just over 610,000 with 98% of Indian villages covered by co-operatives that are active in a vast range of economic activities, the Indian movement represents one quarter of the worlds one billion individual co-operative members!

A three-day visit can only touch the surface of understanding just what that means for the future of co-operation in this vast, teeming, energetic and young country as it starts to lift itself into a better future.

The ICA has had an Asia Pacific office in New Delhi now for over 50 years and this was the starting place for my visit. Its key aim was to recognise the growing influence of the Indian political and

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## From the Editor



Now that all the celebratory events of the IYC-2012 are over, it is time to give some serious thoughts on the challenges to the progress of co-operatives still unmet in the areas of capacity building, gender mainstreaming and diversification with a view to placing the co-operative sector as strategic sector of the economy in this period of continuing global economic slowdown and therefore, ICA is concentrating on image building for development of a new global visual identity for the co-operative brand by replacing the current rainbow and implementation of the Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade.

In this background, Dame Pauline Green made her first visit to India during the last leg of her first tenure as ICA President. It was a significant event for co-operative fraternity in India as she met with leaders, exchanged views and visited co-operatives. During the months under report, the Regional Board meeting was held which discussed about membership subscription and other governance matters. The regular activities for capacity building and advocacy were also held involving members. In order to facilitate networking and information exchange, we have covered interesting news from members. Forthcoming events are also listed for information.

Please do share your news and views for making this newsletter more interactive.

Savitri Singh

## Important Information

Current Status of ICA membership in Asia Pacific Region is 77 members from 23 countries.



*The ICA President with staff at ICA-AP office*

economic leadership in the global economy, and the role of the leadership of the Indian co-operative movement in helping to develop its representative role, not just its traditional work on behalf of Indian co-operatives, but more particularly now on global issues as well.

The office visit was also a rare and valuable opportunity to meet with the staff of the New Delhi office, and I was able to see the way in which a significant tranche of the historical archive of the ICA (recently transferred from Geneva) is now housed and being catalogued in the library facility. Ultimately, the catalogue will be made available for worldwide researchers, whilst we continue to find ways to digitize as much as possible.

The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative (IFFCO) has been a strong supporter of the

work of the ICA and the international movement particularly during the last decade. Started in 1967 with 59 co-operative members, IFFCO now has nearly 40,000 primary co-ops grouping 55 million farmer members, and a turnover in 2011-12 of over USD 4.5 billion. The largest fertiliser production business in India by far, it now has five major manufacturing units in India, and significant investment in fertiliser production in Dubai, Oman, Jordan, Senegal and recently Peru and Canada.

Is this just big business? Not a bit of it.

What really encouraged me was the detailed, planned and utter focus of management and staff on trying to take a business with a traditional heavy energy and waste water discharge, and take down those levels year on year, and at the same



*The President with IFFCO Officials*



*ICA President addressing Indian Co-operators*

time encourage the use of non chemical fertiliser amongst its farmer membership through its 'Save Our Soil' campaign. Whilst that campaign started relatively recently, at a meeting I attended of a primary co-op in the village of Isanpur Mota in Gujarat, it is clear that the farmers had a very good understanding of the issues, and their need to protect their soil. Whatsmore, they were using their collective initiative to go further and develop a bio-digester and other organic fertiliser alternatives themselves, and by the way, the Chairman of the co-op showed me round the soon to be finished building that will become a shopping unit to bring consumer goods to the village. This is grass roots co-operation at its best and I was inspired.

One of the most powerful moments was to visit the IFFCO township. I was struck by the strong resonance with the work of social reformer Robert Owen's New Lanark, as I saw the homes built to house the workers at the original manufacturing plant in Kalol, Gujarat, some four kilometres away. Incidentally, those workers of the enlarged workforce not now able to be housed by IFFCO are given a 25% (of salary) housing allowance to find suitable local housing. The township had a shopping mall, a four bed hospital unit with doctors and nurses in attendance each day, a school, multiple play and recreation areas, a post office and bank, a small Hindu temple for worshippers, and a small facility where retired family members of workers could meet to avoid loneliness and alienation. The three gentlemen present when I visited told me that the Managing Director of the site visited them about once a fortnight to chat and see how they were.

So was this a one off, built when the co-operative was new in the 1970s and started as some idealistic dream?

No, the same provisions have been provided at all five

manufacturing units — just as every floor of the head office in New Delhi has exercise bicycles somewhere along the corridor! When you travel the streets of India and see the levels of housing deprivation, poverty and need that still waits to be tackled, it is very easy to see how unusual IFFCO is and why people are so loyal and keen to do a very good job.

The last day in New Delhi was a public holiday, but despite that, the long-standing national member of the ICA in India, the National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) brought together about 70 people including many of its governing council and the leaders of many of its state co-operative federations and business sectors to talk to me and the Additional Secretary for Agriculture and Co-operatives from the Indian Government Mr Dilip Singh.

The NCUI has a major education and training arm and provides key traditional trade association services to this huge movement, and produced the excellent 'Indian Co-operative Movement A Statistical Profile' from which some of the statistics in this short article were taken. It was a unique opportunity to spend a couple of hours listening to just what they do and what their concerns are. What was very clear is that they know that they have some great challenges and some huge opportunities in the coming decades. They worry about the relationship with government, about some poor governance, a growing lack of knowledge about the value of co-operatives, the need for more co-op to co-op business, whether they can fund development — all this sounds very familiar? They can take heart that these are the worldwide issues that dominate the co-operative movement and that led us to come together in 2012, the International Year of Co-operatives, and develop the Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade.

Am I confident that the Indian co-operative movement will continue

to flourish in the new economic order? Yes, but there are some fundamental concepts that will make it much less painful as the need to embrace change becomes more evident — the most crucial is that they work together. This was also one of the challenges that they raised with me. The NCUI has just negotiated a ground-breaking amendment in the Indian Constitution to enshrine the right to form a co-operative as a fundamental right of Indian citizens. If they are to

make the most of this great opportunity, then confronting the competing interests of the sovereignty of an individual co-operative enterprise, with the need to lift their collective eyes to the big picture in a maturing domestic economy in a global market, will become paramount. I have every confidence that they will do so".

Her observations were well received.

## ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting



*The Regional Board Members in Hainan during the meeting*

First meeting of the reconstructed ICA-AP Regional Board was held in Haikou (China) on 15th March 2013 hosted by All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC). The meeting was chaired by Mr. Li Chunsheng, ICA-AP President and Chairman of the Regional Board. 24 persons including members, observers and interpreters were present.

Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director informed the meeting about his visit to Malaysia and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ANGKASA on 21st February 2013 regarding opening of the Business Office, secondment of the staff and other logistics for smooth functioning of the office.

Dr. Choi also presented the draft subscription details of ICA-AP members for the 2nd phase (2013-2016). He said that the Invoices have been sent by ICA Geneva based on number of individual members and World Bank Country Income Index (WBCII). Prior to 2009, the subscription was based on business turnover which was more reasonable. For six countries in our region (China, India, Iran,

Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam) the WBCII has gone up. Accordingly, the total subscription from our region has increased by 30 per cent which was very high.

The agenda for appointment of one trustee to ICA Domus Trust came up for discussion and Dr. Choi suggested that since it was an honorary post and involves additional time and funds, it could be better if a global board member from our region was nominated as trustee in his place.

Mr. Li Chunsheng asked the members to be a trustee of the Domus Trust voluntarily. Since nobody came forward, the meeting authorized the Chairman and two Vice Chairmen to discuss this issue further and nominate a person as trustee to the ICA Domus Trust.

The next board meeting will be held in Cape Town (South Africa) in the afternoon of 1st November 2013 in conjunction with the ICA General Assembly.

## Capacity Building

### Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives



*Participants with ICA, MAFF and IDACA officials*

2nd Training course on “Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives-2012” was organized by ICA-AP in India and Japan between 17th February and 12th April 2013. The overall objective of the training program was to assist fostering of the core leaders, who are expected to play the leading roles in agricultural co-operatives and farmers’ groups that will contribute to the improvement of agricultural production and income of the farmers in the LDCs of Mekong River countries and South Asian Countries. The training program was implemented by ICA-AP in collaboration with Institute of Rural Management, Anand India, Institute for the Development of Agriculture Cooperation in Asia (IDACA), Japan and ICA’s member-organizations in India and Japan.

The program was inaugurated by Mr. Hitesh Bhatt, MDP Coordinator of IRMA on 20th February 2013. 13 participants from

10 countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam attended the training. After completing the IRMA Module in India, the participants moved to IDACA and attended the Japan segment of the training.

At the concluding session, Mr. Masahito IWAHANA, Deputy Director of International Cooperation Division, MAFF, Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, ICA-AP, Mr. Hiraoka Keiji, E.D. IDACA & Mr. A.K. Taneja, Project Coordinator, ICA-AP, addressed the participants. Ms. Dhiyana Fathimath, a participant from Maldives, presented a vote of thanks on behalf of all the participants. The Certificates of Participation were awarded to the participants at the concluding session.

### Workshop on Development of Consumer Co-operatives

ICA/NCCF Workshop on Development of Consumer Co-operatives was held on 3rd April 2013 in Goa, India hosted by National Co-operative Consumers’ Federation of India Ltd.

ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific decided to start a Sub-Regional Workshop on Development of Consumer Co-operatives in 2009.

The Workshop is held every year by turns in India and Sri Lanka. It was the second time to hold the Sub-Regional Workshop in India. 50 delegates from consumer co-operative movement in India, Japan and Vietnam attended the Workshop.

The objectives of the Workshop were to promote understanding of

co-operative principles, strengthen management of consumer co-operative societies, understand the present status and problem areas of consumer co-operatives and strengthen relationship with local government.

Mr. P. M. Dhavlikar, the Honorable Minister for Cooperation Government of Goa, Mr. Virendra Singh, Chairman of the National Co-operative Consumers’ Federation of India Ltd, Mr. Haruyoshi Amano, Chairman of the ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific, Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA Asia and the Pacific addressed the delegates during opening ceremony. Special invitee, Mr. Ramakant Khalap, Ex Union Law



*Group of participants and speakers at the workshop*

Minister, Government of India also delivered a speech.

Five reports were presented by the experts in the workshop as per following details:

- 1) Co-operative Law and Management & Future Challenges of Consumer Co-operatives in India: Mr. Rangan Dutta, Senior Consultant of ICA-AP.
- 2) Government Policy on Consumer Co-operatives in Goa: Mr. J.B. Bhingui, Registrar of Co-operative Societies of the Government of Goa.

- 3) Business Collaboration in Store Operations amongst Cooperatives in Japan: Mr. Haruyoshi Amano.
- 4) Current Status of Consumer Cooperatives in India and their Challenges: Mr. Virendra Singh.
- 5) Introduction of Saigon Co-op and Joint Venture with NTUC Fairprice: Mr. Nguyen Anh Duc, Vice General Director, Saigon Co-op.

On the second day the participants visited Bardez Bazaar Consumers Co-op Society, Baigaitdar Consumer Co-op Goa and Goa Co-op Marketing and Supply Federation.

## **Resource Guide for Advanced Training of Co-operatives**

The Pilot testing of the ICA-AP "Resource Guide for Advanced Training of Co-operatives on Entrepreneurship Development of Women and Gender Equality" was held from 27 April to 1st May 2013 at Vakunth Mehta National Institute for Co-operative Management in Pune, India hosted by the National Co-operative Union of India.

Women empowerment and gender mainstreaming in co-operatives is one of the priority areas of ICA and we are very much concerned about low and negligible participation of women at all levels of co-operatives in the region. Therefore, Training of Trainers program was being organized based on "Leadership Training Manual for Women Leaders of Co-operatives" jointly produced by ICA-AP and ILO-COOPNET.

In the present manual there is only one module which talks about co-operative enterprise management which is not adequate for meeting the requirement of the present day participants in coops who face more technical challenges in day to day operations of a coop. The focus is gradually shifting towards competence than the gender, the glass ceilings exists though.

Therefore, ICA-AP has commissioned developing of a resource

guide which is aimed at taking care of the requirement of the co-operators. First draft of the Resource Guide is ready and needs to be tested in a training class of co-operative trainers.

The pilot testing of the draft resource guide was held with the trainers and resource persons of the co-operative movement of India and hoped to generate valuable response which will enrich the document further and will be use full for the co-operators in the region. The consultant documented the responses on and gaps in the recourse guide and will revise the document with the inputs received during the testing.

The objectives of the program are :

1. To test the content and format of the resource guide
2. To get feedback from Trainers on the resource guide for improvement

The following topics were addressed during the programme:

**Chapter 1 :** Statement on the Co-operative Identity (SCI) vis-à-vis market economy perspective

**Chapter 2 :** Cooperative Governance Chapter

**Chapter 3 :** Cooperative Enterprise and Management



*Training in Progress*

#### **Chapter 4 : Case Studies**

The methodology of the programme involved presentation of status paper on “Situation of co-operative movement and women’s participation in India” by National Co-operative Union of India and discussion on various aspects facilitated by resource persons.

20 co-operative leaders, managers, trainers and Education Committee members etc. attended the program which was inaugurated by Mr. Suhasrao Tidke, Chairman of the Maharashtra State Co-operative Union, Dr. Dinesh, Chief Executive Officer of NCUI, Ms. Savitri Singh of ICA-AP and Ms. Salome Ganibe Consultant were also present and have contributed as resource persons.

## **Influence**

*International Women’s Day – 8 March 2013*

*“The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum!”*

*Message from Dame Pauline Green, President of the International Co-operative Alliance*

Over the last four decades, the position of women has made some progress, however, it is still too little and too long in coming. Let us encourage our daughters, and granddaughters. Let us insist that today’s world demands equality for each individual whether man or woman.

Today the world faces unparalleled challenges. What we know today is that the traditional approaches to governing society, managing businesses, financing public services, handling conflict and war are simply no longer relevant.

Having more women in key decision-making places in political, economic and social decision-making at all levels in society is the way to move away from the sort of decision-making that has served us so poorly in recent years.

Today we want a different approach – one that values each individual and the contribution they can make to building a better world.

We can no longer put up with a world where it is acceptable to shoot a girl child for wanting to go to school, or to disregard the crime of rape against a woman who just happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. We thought the campaign for equality was about low pay, discrimination, humiliation or glass ceilings in the work place, or by hunger and poverty. But its more, all too often it is a classic case of oppression and repression. Building a better world is about allowing each person to flourish and fulfil their potential – nothing else will do.

We want to prioritise policies for people; one that values businesses that have people at the heart of economic decision making and not profit; one that believes that money is better spent on creating a fairer, more just legal and social environment rather than funding political despots or trading in conflict.

Co-operative businesses have done so much to help women onto the ladder of economic activity. With that comes community respect, political legitimacy and influence. So far it has come too slowly. It is time for us to show that our co-operative movement can be a movement for the economic, social and political emancipation of all women. This is the real co-operative message of International Women’s Day.

## **News from members**

### **INDIA: Indian Co-operative Congress to be held**

The National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI), the apex organization of Indian Co-operative Movement is convening the 16th Indian Co-operative Congress on 25-26 June 2013 in New Delhi which will be inaugurated by the Hon’ble President of India on 25 June 2013 at 12 Noon at Siri Fort Auditorium, -August Kranti Marg, New Delhi, India (Opp. of NCUI office Complex). For further information contact Ritesh Dey at : [riteshdeyncui@india.coop](mailto:riteshdeyncui@india.coop); visit [www.ncui.coop](http://www.ncui.coop).



## Fisheries Sector: TMC Meeting

The 10th National Technical Monitoring Committee (TMC) review meeting on strengthening of database and geographical information system (Central Sector Scheme) for fisheries sector development was held under the chairpersonship of Shri V. K. Bhatia, Director, IASRI, New Delhi on 29th January, 2013 at Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

The review was chaired by key Government of India functionaries, Shri O.P. Mishra, Deputy Director General (Fy.), Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, Sri B.K. Mishra, Managing Director of FISHCOPFED and Sri K. Vijay Kumaran, Director General, Fishery Survey of India.

## NEW ZEALAND

While new co-ops are emerging, consolidation is taking place at the same time.

Two seemingly opposite trends are going on right now among New Zealand's co-operatives. While almost 30 groups are taking advantage of provisional membership of Co-operative Business New Zealand to help them get a new co-op off the ground, the members of large, well-established co-ops are voting to combine.

In February, members of the country's two largest farm supply co-ops voted in favour of merging. A merger of South Island co-op CRT and the North Island co-op Farmlands, with 54,000 members, more than 1,000 staff and 78 stores, the new Farmlands Co-operative Society will have an annual revenue of more than NZ\$2 billion.

The grocers who own Pak'nSave, New World and Four Square stores are members of one of the three co-operatives that cover the length of New Zealand: Foodstuffs Auckland, Foodstuffs Wellington and Foodstuffs South Island.

If the much discussed merger of Foodstuffs Auckland and

The Technical Session comprised of presentation by CIFRI, Barrackpur on Inland catch assessment and other related components while fishery survey of India presented on marine catch assessment. Directorate of Fisheries, Govt. of West Bengal submitted presentation on pilot project of Geographical Information System and presentation on marine fishery resource was made by CMFRI, Cochin.

The programme was attended by more than 80 delegates from across the country and was first of its kind, to be conducted in the state of Orissa.

Foodstuffs Wellington Co-operative Society goes ahead, the new co-op – likely to be known as Foodstuffs North Island – will have an annual revenue of more than NZ\$6 billion, making it New Zealand's third largest business.

Back in the rural sector, two grower-owned kiwifruit and avocado packhouse co-operatives, Te Puke-based Satara and Edgecumbe-based Eastpack, announced that they will be merging after a member vote supported merger by a large margin.

So as consolidation takes place among existing co-operatives, the number of co-ops in New Zealand is growing as more entrepreneurs become aware of what can be gained through joining together with others in a cooperative business that transacts with its members.

The small number of co-operative and mutual businesses in New Zealand are not insignificant: put together, their annual revenue is almost NZ\$40 billion. These two seemingly opposite moves are likely to result in a long-term increase in the contribution co-operatives make to the economy.

## Co-operative Business New Zealand Education Seminar

The annual Co-operative Business Education Seminar will be taking place in Wellington, New Zealand, on 17 and 18 September, 2013. The focus will be:

Adapting to the Demands of Modern Business – Leading Change in a Cooperative

The seminar is expected to attract senior managers and board members of co-operatives and mutuals from New Zealand and Australia, as well as those wanting to start a co-operative.

ICA Asia Pacific members should write to [ask@nz.coop](mailto:ask@nz.coop) for details of their limited special offer for ICA members.

## Reaching Out



*Dr. Choi in meeting with IDACA Officials*

Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director visited to Japan on 10-12 April, 2013 to attend the closing ceremony of the ICA-Japan Training on "Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives" at IDACA. He took the opportunity to have a meeting

with IDACA officials and discussed about the long standing partnership between two organisations in the field of education and training for co-operative fraternity in the Asia and Pacific region. He also visited members in Tokyo and held meetings with member organisations: Japanese Consumer Co-operatives Union (JCCU) and Central Union of Agriculture Co-operative (JA-ZENCHU).

## Upcoming Events

Following programs will be held in the coming months:

- ICA-ACFSMC Training on 'Agricultural Products Marketing and Logistics for co-operatives' to be held in China on May 22-31, 2013
- ICA-AP Regional Workshop on "Enhancing the Role of Women in Co-operative Business" to be held on 4-6 June, 2013 in Mongolia

## President of India inaugurates 16th Indian Co-operative Congress



*The President of India along with national and international leaders at the opening of the Congress*

The National Co-operative Union of India organized its 16th Indian Co-operative Congress on 25-26 June 2013 in New Delhi. The Congress was inaugurated by Honorable President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Shri Sharad Pawar, Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister of India, several very important political leaders such as Chief Minister and Governors of States, Ms. Dame Pauline Green, President, International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), Mr. Li Chunsheng, President, ICA-Asia Pacific were present at the ceremony.

About two thousand national co-operators, leaders, government officials along with about forty foreign delegates attended the two days long deliberations.

In solidarity with the slogan of IYC-2012, the theme of the congress was set as "Co-operative Enterprise Build a Better World".

The Co-operative Congress is a very significant event of the Co-operative movement of India which is held in every three years. This

event is an important platform for lobbying, advocacy and capacity building wherein the leaders and co-operators come together to discuss relevant issues concerning various aspects of co-operatives in the country and making recommendations to impress upon the government and other stakeholders for creating enabling environment for sustainability and development.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India expressed his pleasure in inaugurating the great event of national importance and mentioned the importance of co-operation as a philosophy being followed in all walks of life. To him, co-operatives have a great potential which needs to be harnessed for the development of the society. He recalled the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi on cooperation and referred the Directives Principles of the Indian Constitution and considered co-operatives as a tool for economic growth. He felt that co-operatives can transform the economy and can play important role in bringing cohesion & harmony in the

### IN THIS ISSUE

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- The President of ICA-Asia Pacific visited ICA-AP Office
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## From the Editor



New Delhi has recently witnessed a good example of co-operative solidarity as a galaxy of co-operative leaders from Asia-Pacific as well as the ICA leadership came to attend the 16th Indian Co-operative Congress organised by National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) in June end.

The presence of President of India, Union Minister of Agriculture and a large number of top leaders including Governors, Chief Ministers and Co-operative Ministers of several states at the Congress sends a strong message across about strategic and crucial presence of co-operatives in the country at the same time inspiration to the co-operative fraternity in the neighbouring countries who were also present there.

Participation by Dame Pauline Green and Mr. Li Chunsheng at the Congress of the world's largest cooperative movement was significant in impressing upon the political leadership of the country about worldwide influence of the cooperatives

In our initiative to engage with members, first ICA event was organised in Mongolia and the response was overwhelming. The co-operatives in the world owe IYC-2012 largely to Mongolia and one could sense a strong political will in the country to develop co-operatives as viable mechanism of livelihood for the people. Uniting, developing and serving a nomadic community is a challenging task but co-operatives have already made a mark in the country and should be engaging more with ICA activities for capacity building.

Hope you enjoy reading this issue.  
Savitri Singh

community life. He expressed his belief in the strength of co-operatives in facing global crisis. Though co-operatives have limitation, he reiterated his conviction over the strength of co-operatives in finding solutions and hoped that co-operatives can enter into new areas such as education, health, precision farming etc. He viewed that co-operatives need a bottom up approach wherein it can work as an organization of the people, by the people, among the people and achieve qualitative development along with the quantitative achievements and concluded by hoping that this congress will deliberate on strategies for developing an equitable world through co-operatives.

Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, President NCUI delivered welcome address and congratulated Agriculture Minister for passing of historical Constitutional Amendment Bill 2011 in the Parliament making "formation of co-operatives" a fundamental right of the citizens. He also mentioned about the merits of co-operatives and touched upon core issues which needs attention of the government such as Director Tax Code and its implication on the economic viability of co-operatives, inclusion of a separate chapter on co-operatives in 12th Five Year Plan draft and inclusion of subject on co-operatives in the school syllabus.

Dame Paulin Green, President, ICA said that "India as cooperatively developed country could widen its coverage to all the villages, towns and cities. Their are good stories to tell in the co-operative sector and India should develop global brands too". She also shared her experiences of visiting IFFCO which is serving the rural people.

In her speech, she congratulated President of India for making formation of co-operatives a Fundamental Right through 97th Constitution Amendment and stressed upon the need for helping the co-operatives by recognizing their significance as well as channelizing the funds to this movement.

She concluded the speech by positively hoping for building a better world through co-operatives.

Shri Sharad Pawar, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Food Processing industries said that he came from the field of co-operatives and understands the role played by the co-operatives in various spheres like rural credit, supply of inputs storage, marketing, consumer, sugar and other areas and financial inclusion is the mantra to achieve inclusive growth. He said that the Government of India, in its endeavor to provide enabling policy & legal framework for co-operatives, brought out important milestone in amending the constitution of India, Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act and the implementation of Short Term Co-operative Credit Structure Reforms & Revival Package. He also mentioned the contribution of co-operatives in ensuring achievements of target in food production and the greater role played in implementing the food security bill.

The Minister concluded by saying that co-operative is the potential tool for the sustainable development of its members, stakeholders and women.

The Business Sessions of the Congress addressed and discussed the following issues:

- Direct Tax Code Bill – Income Tax Exemption to Co-operatives
- Co-operative Legislation and Governance—Recent Trends
- Co-operative Credit Sector – Issues and Challenges
- Co-operative Enterprises—Acceptable Business Model
- Consumer and Food Production—Role of Co-operatives
- Women and Youth in Co-operatives
- Co-operative Education and Training
- Emerging Cooperatives and Weaker Section Cooperatives

## Important Information

“ICA Global Conference & General Assembly will be held in Cape Town, South Africa on  
1-5 NOVEMBER 2013”

## The President of ICA-Asia Pacific visited ICA-AP Office



*Mr. Li Chunsheng in the library*

Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of ICA-Asia Pacific visited Delhi on 24-25 June 2013 on an invitation by National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) to attend the 16th National Co-operative Congress of India. He took some time out of his busy schedule to visit the ICA-AP Office and meet with the staff.

He was very pleased to visit the office and meet with the staff members on 24th June, 2012 as it was his very first visit to the office. Mr. Li held a meeting with staff wherein Dr. Choi made presentation about the progress of the office and an informal

discussion was held about overall activities of the office.

While interacting with the staff, Mr. Li expressed his happiness and said that this office has a long history of 53 years and he is happy to be here. He further observed that "I have visited all the ICA regions but co-operative network and office of this region is the best and financial position is also better than the other regions. This shows that people in Asia-Pacific have great confidence in co-operative system. I hope to get support from all the members to strengthen the co-operative network in the region and especially thankful to Indian co-operative movement for their continuing support and also the country for providing space for establishing the office and all the staff are also Indian."



*In discussion with Dr. Choi*



*Mr. Li Chunsheng seated with ICA-AP staff*

After the meeting he also took a tour to the building and saw the working space and Library and Documentation Centre.

Mr. Li Chunsheng was re-elected as President of ICA-Asia Pacific in November 2012 for the second term.

## Governance

### Opening of ICA-AP Business Office in Malaysia



*Meeting with ANGKASA in Progress*

Dr. Chan Ho Choi along with Mr. K Sethu Madhavan, Manager (P&M) visited ANGKASA in Malaysia to review progress of establishment of the ICA-AP Business Office in Malaysia with Prof Dato Dr. Mohd Ali Baharum, President of ANGKASA, Dr. Baharum organized a formal meeting on 15th May, 2013 wherein 4 Vice Presidents of ANGKASA along with several Sr. Officers were present for discussion.

He extended a warm welcome to all and informed that the office space identified earlier for ICA-AP Malaysian Business Office has been taken over by MyANGKASA Holdings for its expansion and ANGKASA has identified two sites for ICA-AP which they have already visited in the morning.

Dr. Choi said that ICA-AP would like to locate its Business Office closer to the MyANGKASA Holdings and preferred the 1st floor of A-307, Glomac Business Centre. Dr. Baharum informed that the paper work of this office would take 2-3 months to complete and it will be ready by August and renovation work could also be done

He is representing China Co-operative movement at the ICA network and is the President of All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives which is a longstanding esteemed member of ICA from the region.

simultaneously.

Dr. Choi said that the office will be registered as ICA-AP Representative Office in Malaysia. In short it would be called as Malaysian Business Office (MBO). The registration of the office is very important and it should be attended to immediately. In order to avoid any laps, ANGKASA being the local organisation may help in completion of Registration formality. Dr. Baharum informed that Dr. Mohamed Shafari Yaakub of MyANGKASA Holdings will be responsible for registration of ICA-AP Malaysian Business Office and facilitation of long-term visa for expatriate staff.

Dr. Choi also talked about opening of a office bank account in Malaysia as soon as possible and this year's contribution of USD 20,000 from ANGKASA would be used for setting up the Malaysian Business Office and further discussed about work allocation of the staff to be seconded from ANGKASA and joining of other staffs from 3 other countries. Since 2 staff would join office in June and July respectively and the office would not be ready by that time, ANGKASA may provide two working desks for them.

After the meeting in ANGKASA, Dr. Choi met Datin Hajah Zuraidah Binti Hasni, Director, Extension and Promotion Division, Co-operative Societies Commission of Malaysia in her office on 16th May and discussed the proposal of organising the 1st ICA-AP Regional Conference of Registrars of Co-operatives in Malaysia in August. The Director informed that she will convey the decision of the commission in due course.

## Capacity Building

### Enhancing the Role of Women in Co-operative Business

In our endeavour to reach out to all the members and provide services, the first ICA program was held in the country ever since the Mongolian Co-operatives became member from the region.

ICA-AP Regional Workshop on "Enhancing the Role of Women in Co-operative Business" for women and men co-operative leaders of our region was held from 4-6 June, 2013 in Mangolia in collaboration with Mongolian Co-operative Alliance (MNCA).

The three days programme consisted of one day workshop followed by two days study visits to few successful co-operative businesses/women groups in the country. The consultations during the workshop focused upon co-operative endeavour to promote women's interests for gender mainstreaming in co-operatives. The program objectives were to:

- Provide a platform to co-operators of different countries for networking and experience sharing which may lead to mutual business opportunity.



*Dr. Choi presenting "The Joint Declaration of the 9th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Minister's Conference" to Mr. Enkhbold Nyamaa*



*A picture of the opening of the workshop*

- To have an exposure of gender focused best co-operative practices in Mongolia.
- The co-operative members of Mongolia will be having an opportunity to interact with foreign co-operators and learn from their experience.

Twelve co-operative leaders / managers from ICA member co-operatives from six countries namely China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Nepal and twenty one from the host country Mongolia attended the program.

Mr. Enkhbold N, Chairman of the MNCA and Member of Parliament, Ms. Gantsetseg B, State Secretary Ministry of Labour, Ms. Bat-Amgalan B, Head of SME Development Department, Ministry of Labour and a group of Members of Parliament attended the opening and delivered opening and special address respectively.

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director addressed the participants and Ms. Savitri Singh, Advisor-Gender Programme & Communication of ICA-AP delivered introductory address at the opening ceremony. The MNCA presented status paper and discussed certain co-operative stories. Ms. Savitri Singh made presentation on ICA initiatives for women empowerment and gender mainstreaming in co-operatives and also introduced the "ICA-AP Committee on Women". The foreign participants also made presentation to share information about status of women and gender integration in their country and coop stories followed by question -answers and discussion. Next day the foreign and local participants made a study tour to Bornuur bor tolgoi co-operative, an agriculture co-operative located 100 km north of the Ulaanbaatar city.

The program was widely covered by the Mongolian national print and television media.

## Agriculture Co-operative in Mongolia



*A coop bazaar*

In Mongolia, first co-operative established in December, 1921 and there have been operating mostly government driven, 'socialist type' co-operatives till 1990. Since 1990, started development of 'market driven' co-operatives and there are about 1900 co-operatives by the end of 2008 with 2125 thousand members. In

terms of co-operative operation fields, about 26% of total co-operatives are in agriculture sector, 25% in consumer service and wholesale trade, 25% in manufacturing, 10% in financial sector and rest of co-operative operations belong to social service, education and health service etc. The annual total income of all co-operatives



*Participants getting introduced to the activities of the coop*

In Mongolia, first co-operative established in December, 1921 and there have been operating mostly government driven, 'socialist type' co-operatives till 1990. Since 1990, started development of 'market driven' co-operatives and there are about 1900 co-operatives by the end of 2008 with 2125 thousand members. In terms of co-operative operation fields, about 26% of total co-operatives are in agriculture sector, 25% in consumer service and wholesale trade, 25% in manufacturing, 10% in financial sector and rest of co-operative operations belong to social service, education and health service etc. The annual total income of all co-operatives is approximately USD18 million and there are 59 thousand employees in co-operatives. By the end of 2012, there are over 3000 co-operatives. (source: MNCA, Mongolia).

One of the successful agriculture co-operatives we visited is the Bornuur bor tolgoi co-operative. It was established in 2012 with ten

members and now it has total 396 members out of which 190 are women and 150 men. Source of the livelihood of most of the members are herding (80%) and live stock. The co-operative is helping members in developing their business by providing soft credit, skill development training and also making available fodder and other utility items during winter. The business of members from herding community is unpredictable. The members own hundreds of cattle, sheep, goats, yak and cows. To provide covered shelter to such large herd is unaffordable and they remain in open during harsh winters and snow fall. Many of them die due to harsh weather conditions and the member loses the source of livelihood. Sometimes the whole herd perishes overnight. The role of co-operatives becomes crucial under such trying circumstances. Since terrain is unapproachable and members travel far off places with herd in search of fodder, the co-operative dispatches food,



*A coop consumer store*



*A coop tailoring shop*



*The 90 year old coop member ready for the horse catching competition*

medicines, fodder and other consumables through horse riders to members in need.

Most of the members are active and participate in co-operative activities but attendance in meetings are normally short as members

are generally travelling with herd to far off places. However, co-operative has introduced motivational schemes for attracting members to attend meetings and participate in activities. There are many households in the area who need to be convinced to join the co-



*The Chairperson explaining to an Indonesian participant*



*The Mongolian hospitality with a huge tray full of variety of milk products and modern cold drinks*

## **Training on 'Agricultural Products Marketing and Logistics for co-operatives'**

While continuing the efforts to promote the growth of co-operatives and enhancing the capacities of the co-operative managers, the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing co-operatives (ACFSMC) in collaboration with the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) conducted a training course on 'Agricultural Products Marketing

and Logistics for co-operatives' in Beijing along with study visits to Co-operatives in Jinan and Zibo cities of the Shandong Province from May 22- 31, 2013. The training was attended by 28 participants from thirteen countries in Asia Pacific and two participants, one each from Tanzania and Uganda in Africa. The inauguration ceremony was held on May 23, 2013. Mr. Li chunsheng, President





*Group photo of the participants*

ICA AP, Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, ICA-AP, Ms. Ann Herbert, Director ILO Office (China and Mongolia), Mr. Yang Qian, Director, ICECC and Mr. Zhang Wangshu, Director, International Department of ACFSMC delivered address at the opening.

The objective of the training was to share information and knowledge on the principles of agricultural co-operative management and value addition. The course also laid emphasis on the role of co-operative federations and implications of latest

technology while developing the co-operative supply and marketing channels. The chief resource persons were Mr. Huseyin Polat, former ILO official and Mr. GE Shuyuan, Division Chief, Co-operative Guidance Department, ACFSMC. They were assisted by Mr. Mohamed Farzan, ILO, Sri Lanka and Mr. Tendency Gunawan, ILO- Indonesia and the course was coordinated by Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, ICA AP. The staff of ACFSMC provided all the support in organising the program.

## Membership

### New Member

We welcome National Co-operative Bank Ltd. (NCBL) in the family of ICA as new member from Nepal.

NCBL is the co-operative banking federation which provides banking and financial services to its member co-operatives. They also provide different activities for members to strengthen their professional and competitive competencies.

For more information: [www.coopbank.com.np](http://www.coopbank.com.np)

### Members who left this year

1. Sharjah Co-operative Society (SCS)  
PO Box 5435, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
2. Supervision and Coordination Central Union of Rural and Agricultural Co-operatives of Iran (SCURA) 4th Floor, No.518, North Felestin St Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.
3. Mollah-Al-Movahedin Credit Co-operative (MAMCC) No.472, 68th St. Seyed Jamaledin Asadabadi St. Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.
4. Fiji Co-operative Union (FCU) Limited, Fiji

## Upcoming Events

- 5th Meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives and Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives will be held on 4-7 July, 2013 in Seoul, South Korea.
- ICA-Japan training course on "Quality and Safety Management of Farm Products FY-2013" will be held on 9th July to 3rd August, 2013 in Tokyo, Japan.
- ICA-AP Regional Co-operative Youth Forum and 6th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Youth will be held on 17-21 July, 2013 in Buldana, India.

## ICA-AP Business Office in Malaysia Opened



*Opening Ceremony*

The soft opening Ceremony of the ICA-AP Malaysian Business Office (MBO) was held in the afternoon of 28th August 2013 in the premises of Malaysian National Co-operative Movement (ANGKASA). The opening was addressed by Dato Hj. Abdul Fattah Hj. Abdullah, President of ANGKASA and Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-Asia and Pacific. ICA-AP staff, the Deputy President,

Vice Presidents and other officers of ANGKASA, representatives of two other ICA-AP members, ACFSMC-China and NACF-Korea and the staff seconded by these organisations to MBO were also present. A press conference was held after the opening.

The MBO will plan and implement relevant activities to achieve following strategic objectives:

- (a) To increase the business interaction and exchange between/among consumer coop, coop insurance & banking.
- (b) To promote 'coop trade' strategically by the models of 'fair-trade' and 'B to B trade platform' through internet in the region.
- (c) To promote technical exchange and assistance in IT technology through workshops and trainings.
- (d) To transfer the technical and managerial know-how, especially in the field of 'resource recycling' and 'renewable energy' business.

Dr. Mohamed Shafari Yaakub, Mr. Ge Shuyuan and Mr. Seung-Min Lee seconded by ANGKASA, Malaysia, ACFSMC, China and NACF-Korea respectively have already joined the MBO.



*ICA-AP and ANGKASA official at the opening*

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## From the Editor



Dear Co-operators, co-operatives are the living example of "economic sustainability and resilience with a difference" and have been serving the humanity quietly for generations as ICA has completed 118 years on 19 August 2013. The theme of the International Co-operative Day 2013 emphasized upon these core strengths. The co-operatives have been able to sustain as economically viable business for a long time and this is the time to fully recognize their contribution, utilize their maximum potential and make them household name. Creating enabling environment through law and policy reforms is essential in achieving these objectives, at the same time it is also important to focus on outreaching the common members, general populace and population living on social networking sites. Unless these segments of society embrace cooperatives as their bank, insurance agency, retail store, housing and hospitals etc., it would not be easy for cooperatives to match with other corporate brands/private businesses in popularity and demand. Therefore, Blueprint on Cooperative Decade provides crucial guidelines. Members in Asia-Pacific celebrated and observed the Cooperative Day-2013 by organizing events for increasing awareness and taking up issues for deliberation. Structured, systematic and constant publicity for awareness should be the mantra for cooperatives. Savitri Singh

## Member Service

### International Co-operative Day -2013

91st ICA International Co-operative Day and 19th UN International Day of Co-operatives was observed on 6th July 2013. The theme of the Day is "Co-operative enterprise remains strong in time of crisis".

The ICA, as always, issued a message on the Day which has been widely

circulated across the globe to members for their use. Several members in the Asia-Pacific region celebrated the event using the theme and message. Full message can be found/ downloaded from the following link: <http://ica.coop/en/events/international-co-operative-day-2013>

### Training on Quality and Safety of Farm Produce



*The participant at a fruit processing centre*

Organizing farmers and strengthening marketing activities of farmer's organisations is essential for ensuring sound development of agriculture and activation of rural economy in the Asia-Pacific region.

Therefore, ICA-Japan Training Course on "Quality and Safety Management of Farm Products" has been designed as a new training course commencing from year 2011-2013, and is being implemented by ICA, based on an

agreement among ICA, Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives of Japan (JAZENCHU), Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA) and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan.

The training is being held once in a year with the objective to assist fostering of experts in distribution field who play vital role in the quality and safety management of farm products of agricultural cooperatives or farmers'

## Upcoming Events

1. 3rd ICA-Japan Training Course on "Revitalization of Local Community by Rural Women" to be held in Thailand and Japan on 16th September to 18th October 2013.
2. "ICA-AP / NACF Joint Workshop on Agricultural Co-operative System in Korea" will be held on 23- 28 of September in South Korea.

groups in order to increase their income through enhanced production of good quality and safe agricultural produces in the LDCs of Mekong River countries and the South Asian countries.

The 3rd course, coordinated by Ms. Savitri Singh of ICA-AP and Mr. Yukio Abe of IDACA was held on 9th July to 2nd August, 2013 in Japan and nine participants from six countries attended the program. Besides the classrooms lectures, the participants also went on a week long study visit to Hyogo Prefecture where they have been received by the cooperative and government officials.

An introductory meeting was held wherein Mr. Tsuneo-Miura, Director General of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Bureau of Hyogo Prefecture interacted with participants along with other senior officials. Mr. Miura in his speech introduced the features of the prefecture along with agriculture system. He said that "Japan consists of 47 prefectures, and Hyogo Prefecture is located in the middle of Japan, consisting of

Since 1992, we proposed a concept "Environment friendly agriculture" and promote using environment friendly technologies without chemical fertilizers and pesticides as far as possible. In 2009, we renewed "The promotion plan of environment friendly agriculture" and this concept is the base for our agricultural production. At present, in the case of rice production, for example, this technology is introduced in 21,495ha, some 60% of rice cultivation. We have founded a system "Hyogo certified foods" verifying and confirming safe and secure, individual and characteristic features. By using this system, we make an effort to secure great trust in safety and security of Hyogo products. The share of Hyogo certified foods, vegetables and fruits in the market in our prefecture tend to increase, reaching some 30%. In addition, we require to cope with challenges of globalization of world economy and trade liberalization. We need to implement our agricultural policies actively taking advantage of our strong points such as location near cosmopolitan city and our branded products.



*Spinach processing centre*

various geographical areas from cosmopolitan cities and rural agricultural towns to isolated islands. That's why it is also known as "Japan in a miniature" and by visiting few places you can almost understand all about Japan. Agriculture is prosperous taking advantage of various natural resources, climate and culture and also location close to a cosmopolitan city. There are many products ranking in upper phase in Japan based on shipment amount such as brewer's rice named "YAMADA-NISHIKI" and world's biggest soybean "TAMBA-GURO" as number 1 in Japan. Furthermore, we have onion, fig and carnation. You must know "KOBE BEEF," most delicious beef in the world. But the degree of Japanese food self-sufficiency is only 39% on the calorie base and depends on specific foreign countries for most of our food. We must increase our agricultural productivity but now faced with the problem of aging farmers and an increase of fallow land. So it is important to increase number of farmers and fostering farm managers, especially young farmers, is a significant and urgent issue for us along with ensuring quality of products.

Other officers talked about various subjects such as outline of agricultural policies, system of safety and security of food production and agricultural cooperatives. In addition, participants visited KOBE Consumer's Cooperative which promotes supply of safe and secure food to consumers working jointly with agriculture cooperatives and TAJIMA agricultural cooperative which has implemented production of secure and safe foods.

A formal closing ceremony was held in IDACA to conclude the program and to award certificate of participation. Mr. Iwahana Masahiro, Deputy Director of International Cooperation Division, MAFF, Government of Japan, Mr. Hiraoka Keiji, Executive Director of IDACA and Ms. Savitri Singh, Advisor and Coordinator of the program from ICA-AP addressed the participants at the closing. The officials appreciated efforts of the participants and hoped that they will be able to use their learning back home in introducing a system for improvement of quality and safety of farm products in turn enhancing capacity of farmers to increase their income.

## University/ Campus Cooperative Committee Workshop and Meeting



*Participants of the workshop in Seoul*

The ICA-AP Committee on University/ Campus Cooperative held its meeting followed by a Workshop held on the theme – 'Better Campus Life, Better Society by Cooperation' in Seoul, Korea on 4th~7th July 2013 hosted by the Korean University Cooperative Federation (KUCF). Dr. Choi, Regional Director made a presentation on the topic – 'University Campus Cooperatives in the Contemporary Society'.

The three days workshop was attended by fairly large number of 102 participants from 9 countries namely Korea (45), Japan (27), Indonesia (8), Thailand (6), Philippines (5), India (3), Malaysia (1), Singapore (1) and Sri Lanka (4), among them were 70 students from their respective universities as member of campus cooperatives.

The participants of the workshop were enthusiastic and dynamic discussions

took place as the program was organized and conducted by the student themselves and the workshop moved venues to three universities in Seoul – Kyung Hee University, Kook Min University, and Dong Guk University. Field trips were arranged to see the Kook Min University Coop and last day of the Exhibition of Seoul City Social Cooperatives on 7th July which was held in commemoration of the International Cooperative Day-2013 in Seoul.

The Committee meeting, chaired by Prof. Kokichi Shoji (NFUCI), was productive and remarkable as the discussions concluded with an important recommendation to adopt student members as the ICA-AP Committee member. This innovative idea was proposed by Prof. Sang-Jin Park, President of KUCF in his opening

remarks. He suggested that every country/ organization would nominate one student, besides their professor or president, as Committee member in constituting the University/ Campus Cooperative Committee of the ICA Asia-Pacific. Accordingly, meeting revised the new Constitution which was adopted in November last year in Kyoto to change the clauses on 'Membership' and 'Officers'. The meeting also adopted, so-called 'Seoul Resolution' of the Asia-Pacific Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives.

Dr. Dinesh and Prof. Dongre from India, Prof. Zenaida Diola from Philippines, Ms. Emily Cheyenne from Singapore, Mr. J. Apichainunt from Thailand participated as Member, and Mr. Pathirana from COOPFED, Sri Lanka attended as an observer.

## Youth meeting: Co-operatives achieve greater happiness than other forms of enterprise

The ICA AP Committee on Youth Co-operation (ICYC) has successfully completed its Sixth Meeting that was convened in Buldana, India on 19th July 2013 and has formally adopted its Constitution. It was attended by fourteen members hailing from twelve countries from the Asia Pacific region representing

ICA membership across various sectors such as banking, fisheries, consumer, housing, education & training along with national apex co-operative organisations. The meeting also elected the new ICYC Office Bearers that shall serve until the ICA AP Regional Assembly-2016 with Dr.

Sukesh Zamwar, India as the Chairperson, Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur, Pakistan and Mr. Udaya Prabhat, Sri Lanka as Vice Chairpersons and Mr. P. Santosh Kumar of ICA AP continues as Secretary.

The meeting was held along with the Asia Pacific Co-operative Youth Forum



*Youth Representatives and delegates at the event*

on the them “Challenges for Youth as a Strategic Group in Development of Co-operatives” which was attended by 600 persons, mostly youth, from the Sahakar Vidya Mandir in Buldana along with international delegation. The students presented various performances showcasing youthful talent during the cultural night organised in the school auditorium and reminded the audience of how meeting cultural needs of people will ensure a better world. The infectious energy of the cultural performers rubbed on to the members who joined the celebrations after spending over nine hours deliberating on thematic issues at the Forum.

The ICA Blueprint was placed by the committee as the governing document and the following issues were addressed in detail – a. Meaning and definition of Youth in the Co-operative sector, b. Knowledge Platforms for awareness on climate change among coops, c. Status of coops in central Asia & middle east; and case studies on co-operatives from Pune, India (Women’s Waste collectors

co-operative) and from Thimpu, Bhutan (Organic farming and multipurpose co-operative) were presented by young co-operative entrepreneurs and managers. Committee members got opportunity to speak about their nations’ co-operative movements as well as share information on the business-sector they represent professionally.

The committee plans to reach out to a larger number of youth and provide them with an easy access to co-operative awareness and cultural exchange. It is also noted that an estimated 30 million jobs in co-operatives are held by youth, and it is our objective to strengthen their labour market value with the International Co-operative Identity Statement (ICIS) as guiding principles. The Forum was presided over by Dr. Chan Ho Choi.

C a s e s t u d i e s o n  
1. Women’s Waste Collectors Co-operative – Solid Waste Collection and Handling Co-operative and 2. Organic farming and multipurpose co-operative

– Happy Green Co-operative were presented by young co-operative entrepreneurs and managers Ms. Pratibha Sharma and Mr. Sangay Rinchen respectively. Two technical papers were presented by Dr. R.K. Jalan, Moderator and Resource Person – UN Community on Climate Change and Dr. Bhagwati Prasad, Former Chief – NCUI and Vice Chairperson – Sahakari Awas Nirman Evam Vitt Nigam Ltd., Lucknow. Mr. Babak Koshnevisan, a Member from Iran shared vital information on co-operatives in Iran through his presentation.

It was proclaimed that co-operatives achieve greater happiness than other forms of business associations. The Committee decided to provide a platform for the Asia pacific youth during the ICA Global Conference in Cape Town later this year and create one for the co-operatives at the UN Youth Conference in Sri Lanka in 2014. The committee also decided to work along the lines of the UN communities to create a reliable knowledge base.

## From the Region

### Indonesia: International Workshop on Cooperatives

The International Workshop on Cooperatives was held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 13-14 May 2013 attended by 13 delegates from European Research Institute on Co-operative and Social Enterprises (EURICSE), WCM

Scientific Committee members (WCM SC), ACO members, DEKOPIN representatives, Indonesian cooperative scholars and observer from Timor-Leste. Main topics presented and discussed were:

Improvement of World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) Methodology and Tools and Proposal for Regional ASEAN and the National Cooperative Monitor. The workshop came up with the following remarks and conclusions that need to be

further followed-up by stakeholders:

HE. Syarifuddin Hasan, Minister of Cooperatives and SMEs of the Republic of Indonesia in his opening speech extended warm welcome to participants and thanked all partners involved to make the workshop successful. He stated that cooperatives play vital role in Indonesian economic and social development. Therefore, enabling policy initiatives are of importance to foster cooperative development in the country and to face the globalization. He further stated that international strategic alliances among cooperatives could lead to even more significant contribution of cooperatives to the world economy. He declared the establishment of National Cooperative Monitor under the leadership of Indonesian Cooperative Movement.

The president of DEKOPIN represented by Mr. Teguh Budiyan in his welcome remark indicated strong intention of Indonesian cooperatives to get involved in the global engagement by actively participating in the ICA agenda and programs. Under close collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs, DEKOPIN encourages their members to participate in the WCM.

During the workshop, there was common view that the methodology and tools

used in the WCM process need to be continuously improved to fulfil the ultimate goals of the WCM. The improvement is necessary to ensure fairness, universally comparable, guided by ICA cooperative identity and featuring global competitiveness.

WCM SC welcomed the initiative of Indonesia in making suggestion to improve WCM instruments, to create more inclusive networking and strategic alliances between cooperatives and mutuals with that of the developing countries for greater sharing of information, business intelligence and opportunities. This objective should be promoted worldwide for the benefit of cooperatives.

WCM SC also welcomed the proposal to provide a greater opportunity to all ICA members to expose their cooperatives under the WCM. There was suggestion to expose top 10 ranking cooperatives of ICA members by having new categories according to country and areas or sector. The methodology and criteria for producing these categories might be discussed separately. The Indonesian cooperatives also proposed that cooperatives from the developing countries to be listed in WCM General

Report 2013. After discussion, it was agreed to provide to all ICA members the opportunity to list some of their good practices in WCM report. This could be undertaken by adding some chapters to the General Report. WCM SC needs to consult with ICA to materialize this proposal.

EURICSE and Indonesia cooperation in the area of WCM development will be covering the following activities:

- a. EURICSE will transfer knowledge in the field of methodology and tools of the WCM and a reference to be used by Indonesia in establishing national and possibly regional cooperative monitors.
- b. EURICSE and Indonesia may establish joint project, in order to implement and evaluate the methodology and tools established by Indonesia.

During the workshop, ACO members from ASEAN member states expressed their willingness to establish a regional cooperative monitor using the WCM approach and methodology as guidance. The establishment of the ASEAN Cooperative Monitor will be led by Indonesia and will be reported during 2014 ACO general assembly.

## Iran: ICC International Building and Construction Industries Exhibition

The Iranian Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC) organised 13th International Building and Construction Industries Exhibition on 3-6 July, 2013 at the Tehran Exhibition Ground Auditorium. The opening ceremony was held on 3rd July where the Cooperative Minister of Iran was the Chief Guest and delivered opening address.

Mr. Dariush Pakbin, General Secretary of ICC and the chief host extended warm welcome to delegates and gave an introduction of the event highlighting the success of the exhibitions held under the leadership of ICC for last several years. He also spoke about the ambition of constructing low cost housing so that all the people of Iran can have homes to live in. 21 countries, mainly from Middle East, Central Asia and Africa participated

in the Exhibition. The exhibition was organised very well with many professionally displayed stalls covering all the possible range of quality products ranging from wall stones, steel and interior designing to office furniture, kitchen and computers. A large number of visitors from all over Iran as well as from neighbouring countries were present crowding the stalls. Though participation is from private builders and business houses, this is an important project of ICC which generates revenue and gives publicity. The secretary general also held a meeting with all the participants of the exhibition and asked them to share their views and if there is any problem. He offered to facilitate smooth business for them. The participants

from Afghanistan and other countries appreciated the efforts of ICC. The representatives from Govt. of Afghanistan Urban Development Ministry hoped that ICC /Iran may help them in rebuilding the country.

ICA-AP office was invited by ICC to attend the event. Ms. Savitri Singh represented ICA-AP and also had a meeting with Mr. Pakbin. He talked about activities of ICC and its influence on the cooperative sector in the country. He said that ICC, under his leadership is doing significant work to strengthen the cooperative movement in Iran as well as influencing the neighbouring countries in Central Asia and Africa. Savitri Singh informed him about the forthcoming ICA Regional Assembly in Cape Town. She also discussed with him about the

potential of ICC/ Iranian Co-operative movement in developing and promoting cooperative movement in Central Asia as several of these countries have potential. Also, there are ICA members in Middle

East and Central Asia who need to be more participative in ICA activities. She presented him a copy of the 4th Critical Study-2012 on Co-operative Legislation & Policy Reforms in ICA-AP

Region and Recommendations of the 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference-2012.

## Japan: JJC 91st International Day of Co-operatives Commemoration

The Japan Joint Committee of Co-operatives (JJC) and Cooperatives Japan (National Co-operatives Alliance replacing the Japan National Planning Committee for IYC 2012) organised the 91st International Day of Co-operatives Commemorative Forum on July 26 in Tokyo. The theme of the Forum was "Reconstruction Efforts by Japanese Co-operatives after the Great East Japan Earthquake". Approximately 250 participants from co-operative and other organizations, academicians and the press attended the event.

At the 91st Forum, Mr. Banzai Akira, President of the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (JA ZENCHU), Chairman of the JJC and Representative of the Co-operatives Japan, made his opening remarks

followed by message from Dame Pauline Green, President of ICA.

Prof. Koyama Ryota, the associate professor of Fukushima University delivered keynote speech entitled "Report on Support Activities for the Reconstruction of Fukushima after the Earthquake and How Co-operatives Can Contribute". It was followed by a panel discussion. Panellists from consumer, agricultural, workers and fisheries co-operatives presented their activities concerning the reconstruction and revival of the communities in Tohoku area after the Great East Japan Earthquake. Ms. Nakamura Yuko, Vice Chairperson of Miyagi Consumer Co-op, represented consumer co-op sector as a panellist, and made a brief speech on Miyagi Co-

op's contribution to the recovery from the earthquake and what they learned from the support activities. In the course of discussion, members of JJC and Co-operatives Japan formally agreed to strengthen their collaboration and partnerships in implementing concrete measures for the reconstruction, taking this event as the starting point.

The forum was concluded by closing remarks from Mr. Asada Katsumi (President of Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union), Vice Chairman of the JJC and Vice Representative of the Co-operatives Japan. This forum provided an opportunity to recognize the importance of social responsibility of co-operatives and a need to further strengthen their collaboration for the development of the community.

## Korea: iCOOP 91st International Day of Co-operatives Commemoration

To celebrate the 91st ICA International Co-operative Day and the 19th UN International Day of Co-operatives on July 6 2013, the 1st Co-operative Week was held to raise public awareness on co-operatives with the theme 'Hope to make together, happiness to share

together'. It was the first commemorative week held in Korea after the enactment of Korean Co-operative Fundamental Act in last December.

On July 3, Korean Council for Establishment of National Co-

operative Association held 'policy forum for promotion of consumer co-operatives' at SK building in Seoul as the first program of Co-operative Week and about 100 people and officials from co-operatives and government attended.

On July 5, 'Meet the Authors on Co-

### New Members:

Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives (DAMC) from Bhutan joined as an Associate Member. The contact is:

Mr. Dorji Dhradhul, Director/Mr. Yonten Gyamtsho, Chief, Co-operative Development Division, Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives P.O Box 929, Thongsal Lam, Thimphu, Bhutan.

Tel: +975 2 322 909, Fax: +975 2 324 898, Email: dhradhul@gmail.com; ygyamtsho23@gmail.com

### New Leaders and Officials:

- Mr. Takaaki Fujiwara elected as President of Japanese Health and Welfare Co-operative Federation of Japan ( HeW Co-op Japan).
- Dato' Haji Abdul Fattah Haji Abdullah elected as President of ANGKASA, Malaysia.
- Mr. A. Lalith W Peries elected as Chairman of NCCL, Sri Lanka.
- Dr. Tanapat Phalakavong Na Ayuthaya appointed as Executive Director of the Cooperative League of Thailand.



operatives' was held by iCOOP Co-operative Development Centre (ICDC) at the Seoul Women's Plaza.

The main Co-operative Week event was held at the Coex Exhibition Centre by Joint-Promotion Committee for Co-operative Week Events which consists of Ministry of Strategy and Finance and Korea Social Enterprise Promotion

Agency. iCOOP Korea had set up 2 promotional booths to introduce it's activities and provided consultation service about establishment of co-operative. People could learn about co-operative and ethical consumerism enjoying through various programs such as quiz and dice-play, reading co-operative story books and drawings.

ICDC organized 'A day workers' co-operative' with 9 youth for simulation of the co-operative operations starting from establishment to dividend return. Total 70 co-operatives from various sectors participated in the booths to promote their co-operatives at this 2 days event.

## “Empowerment” and ICA President



Dame Pauline Green, ICA President had recently completed an interview for the United Nations Social Development

Network web page on her opinion about empowerment and social issues. In her answer to their first question asking about her perspective on what would empowerment of people mean in practical terms? Dame Pauline Green answered that “Empowerment to me is about allowing each individual to strive to reach their potential without discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion, sexuality or physical impairment. It is about a cultural, social and legislative environment that encourages tolerance and a greater understanding of those things that human beings share, rather than what divides them. It is about the state understanding that its role is to steward, promote and support rather

than to dictate, enforce and punish.

The empowerment of people provides the most challenging but exciting way of finding a better balanced, sustainable future for mankind that is built on the power of a shared future and not on the power of elites. In practical terms sadly requires generations to secure a change in culture and an understanding that the politics and institutionalism of the last two centuries need to change, in a world of technological innovation and access to information on an unprecedented scale.

The complete interview to be posted on UN Social Development Network web page soon.

## Important Announcement: ICA General Assembly



**ICA GLOBAL  
CONFERENCE &  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**  
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA  
1-5 NOVEMBER 2013



## The latest ICA Global membership statistics

268 member organisations i.e. 231 Members and 37 Associate Members from 94 countries.