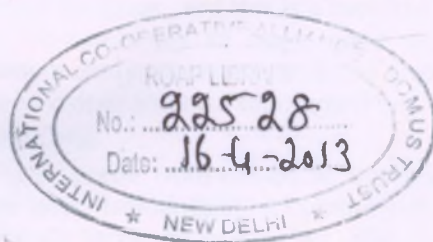


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NEWSLETTER

International Co-operative Alliance
Asia and Pacific

SELF-HELP • SOLIDARITY • CO-OPERATION

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Vol. 2 Issue 1

January–February, 2011

NATURAL CRISES

Japan

By the time this issue is going into press, a massive earthquake followed by Tsunami hit Japan resulting into huge loss of life and property.

New Zealand: Earthquake in Christchurch



Relief Work

A report by Mr Ramsey Margolis, Executive Director, New Zealand Co-operatives Association: On Tuesday 22 February at 2:51pm, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake rocked the Canterbury region of New Zealand's South Island, practically destroying the CBD in the city of Christchurch.

Thankfully, no-one from our co-operatives were killed, but a few suffered light injuries. Interflora Pacific Unit's

headquarters in Christchurch was shut down, as was the Christchurch World Travellers Store. Produce flew off the shelves in a number of the Foodstuffs co-op's supermarkets, and two supermarkets remain closed.

Farm supply co-operative CRT's head office had a good shake, according to General Manager, Marketing, Nigel Riley, who reported that "ceiling panels fell down, everything was all over the place... it looked like someone had thrown a hand grenade and shut the door."

Bill McLeod, chairman of fertiliser co-operative Ravensdown, was in the co-op's Christchurch CBD office when the earthquake hit. "I can assure you it's not something I would want to experience again. However, having got all our people out safely is something I will be eternally grateful for. We need to be aware though that the trauma will take a lot longer to fix than the building."

The building housing worker-owned Piko Wholefoods Co-operative was badly damaged in the quake. Co-op founder Tineke Witteman said that she believed no lives were lost because the 106-year-old building had been earthquake strengthened five years previously. "It took 29 years to build up, and 25 seconds to knock down," she said. "It's just not fair."

The blog can be found at <http://s.coop/nzquake>. Using a s.coop shortcut makes it easier to let people know about the page, and this is a tool I'd advise all co-operatives to make good use of. Google analytics reports that the page has been visited around a thousand times.

RESPONSE

The response from co-ops to the disaster has been tremendous. A number not only offered large donations but also set up funds to enable members and staff to make personal donations which the co-op would

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From the Editor



Happy New Year !!! Wish you all the best for 2011 as this is the first issue of the year, even though by the time the issue reaches you it will be well past first quarter. But the beginning of the year was not so good as we lost a promising cooperator and ICA Board member from the region, Mr. Surinder Kumar Jakhar who was the Chairman of IFFCO from India. The ICA family pays it's homage to Mr. Jakhar. The last year was quite eventful and this is also going to be very busy. However, the coop business won't be as usual with more and more natural calamity hitting hard. The shock of Pakistan flood was hardly over yet an earthquake hit New Zealand putting coop solidarity to test. ICA-AP has initiated the relief work in Pakistan in small way with support from members with more activities to follow and is equally concerned with situation in New Zealand. As always, this year too, International Women Day and Co-operative Day will provide ample opportunity for spreading co-operative influence. Members have planned a variety of activities to commemorate. An update of preparations for UN International Year of Co-operatives-2011 is posted regularly for members advantage. We try to reach out with more information, news and reports and will expect you to reciprocate.

Thank you-Savitri Singh

match \$1 for \$1. Water was shipped into the city in Fonterra's milk tankers and distributed in school grounds. The farmers' organisation Federated Farmers set up camp at Christchurch Show Grounds from where they sent out the "Farmy Army" to help clear up the vast amount of silt which had come up through the ground by liquefaction.

Pakistan: Distribution of blankets to flood affected people



Blankets for distribution

Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, ICA- AP visited the flood affected areas of Pakistan during 1-6 December 2010. He had provided funds for purchase of blankets on behalf of ICA in collaboration with Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union Ltd which were distributed among the flood affected people on 25th January 2011 by Managing Director along with other Directors of Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union Ltd.

Update on IYC 2012: Excerpts from DG's report



ICA is raising funds now to ensure that we can seize this opportunity together. We are developing the materials you will need to take advantage of the Year - key messages to promote the Year; templates to incorporate the Year into your communications and packaging; posters to advertise the Year; media kits to help tell the story. We are developing the web site for www.2012.coop, where we will direct those individuals who see the slogan in your communications and who want to learn more. We are preparing the stories that will ensure that the general public is exposed to the international, multi-sectoral dimension of co-operatives. And we are developing the social media strategy that will allow us to attract especially that next generation that is so critical to the future of co-operation.

The UN is within days of finalizing the logo that will accompany the already-announced slogan: Co-operative enterprises build a better world. When the logo is available, work on the templates can proceed to the next stage.

FROM THE REGION

India: NCUI: Participation in ICA Expo 2010

The NCUI arranged a pavilion for display and sale of products of the women members of Self-Help Groups of three selected NCUI Co-operative Education Projects viz. East Imphal (Manipur), Ganjam (Orissa) & Shimoga (Karnataka) in the ICA Co-op Expo 2010 in Bengaluru. Dame Pauline Green, President ICA visited the stall & bought several items. She also interacted with the women co-operators & encouraged them. The products displayed were silk sarees, handicraft, food items & herbal products etc.



Dame Pauline Green, President ICA at the NCUI pavilion

NCUI got the opportunity to have business meeting with Escola Profissional De Economia Social (EDES) and Co-operativa Dos Pedreiros, Portugal regarding collaborative programmes in the field of education and training and promotion of business of the co-operative products of India. Six documentary films prepared by NCUI were also shown during the Expo.

FISHCOFED: Blue Revolution

Co-operative can usher in blue revolution. After green and white revolution, we hear talk of blue revolution. Blue is the colour of ocean and revolution to increase the production of fish is called blue revolution. Fortunately, both the revolution-green and white were ignited by co-operative sector only. Now it has to plunge headlong to bring about blue revolution.

Speaking on the occasion of workshop organized by FISHCOFED at NCUI in Delhi on Thursday, Chief Guest Prof. K.V. Thomas,

Minister of State for Agriculture said that co-operatives offer huge scope for recognizing this Sector.

The National Workshop was organized on "Networking of Fish Marketing & achievement on Insurance of Fishers" by National Federation of Fishery Co-operatives in collaboration with national Co-operatives Union of India and Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.

Shri Naeem Ahmed Ansari, Chairman, FISHCOPFED, the national apex level Fishery Co-operative said that FISHCOPFED has kept the target of covering the accidental Insurance Policy for 33 lakhs fishermen for the year 2010-2011.

Pakistan: New Township

Taiser Town Scheme No. 45 would be developed as Co-operative Housing Societies township by Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union Ltd which would later be sold at low cost to the members.

Indonesia: Co-operative Day-2011

The DEKOPIIN (The Indonesian Co-operative Council) is celebrating the 64th Indonesian Co-operative Day in July 2011. A series of activities have been planned to celebrate the co-operative day like seminar, workshop, social service, race and tournament, pilgrimage and holy meditations, cultural night show, youth jamboree, international expo, talk show and speech, co-operative leaders meeting etc. The DEKOPIIN would like to invite international co-operative participations for International Expo as a part of their effort to support the International Year of Co-operatives in 2012.

For further details, check their website ie. www.dewen-koperasi.com or contact Mr. Ilham Nasai (ilham_nasai@yahoo.com) and Mrs. Wiwin Winarti (winarti67@yahoo.com).

New Zealand: Leading the Leaders

The New Zealand Co-operatives Association is running a two-day governance seminar for current and potential directors of co-operative and mutual businesses:

"THE LEADING BOARD : Governing a successful co-operative business" On Thursday 24 & Friday 25 March at The Brentwood Hotel, Wellington, New Zealand ICA members are most welcome to send participants.

For further details, phone the Association office on +644 384 4595 or email nzca@nz.coop and ramsey@nz.coop

MEMBER SERVICES

Enhancement of Farmers' Income and Poverty Reduction

The 5th Training Course on Enhancement of Farmers' Income and Poverty Reduction through Co-operatives was inaugurated on 10 January 2011 at FMDI, India in collaboration with IFFCO in India, ANGKASA in Malaysia and JA ZENCHU/ IDACA in Japan. Twelve participants from ten countries are attending the Training Course. The focus of the Course is on strengthening of farm guidance method, joint collection, shipment, safety and improvement in quality of farm products aimed at increasing farmers' income.

REACHING OUT

Korean Co-op Support to IYC-2012



Mr. Won Byung Choi, Chairman of NACF & Dr. Choi

In January, ICA appealed to members to engage in and financially support ICA's activities for the International Year of Co-operatives (IYC). Dr. Chan Ho Choi visited Korean ICA-members during 7th-11th February, and heard their general supports to ICA's appeal. The idea was generally adopted to include their additional 25% of contributions when ICA issue their membership subscription invoices for the years of 2011 and 2012. By organizations, National Agricultural Co-operative Federation (NACF) was planning to hold a pre-IYC celebration in the week of its 50th Years Anniversary in July, together with the Korean Co-operative Council. Mr. Won Byung Choi was concerned about the delayed progress in reforming the Agricultural Co-operative Law. NACF and

Highlights

New Zealand co-ops get new chair

At the 2010 AGM, Chris Knowles became chairperson of the New Zealand Co-operatives Association. Recently retired as chief financial officer and company secretary of Foodstuffs South Island where had served for 20 years.

New Deputy Foreign Affairs in ICC

Mr. Davood Salehi is the new Deputy of Foreign Affairs in Iran Central Chamber of Co-operative (ICC). His responsibilities are: Expansion of co-operation and regular interaction with Iran-based foreign embassies, raising the level of communication with ambassadors and commercial attaché of Iran in target nations etc.

New Chairman of IFFCO

After sudden demise of Mr. Surinder Kumar Jhakar, IFFCO Board elected NP Patel as the new Chairman. Mr. Patel is an eminent co-operator of India. He has been serving the movement for a long time in various co-operatives. At present, he is also the Chairman of Gujarat State Co-operative Marketing Federation Limited.

New ICA Member

Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited (CBH), Australia has joined the ICA family from the region. The contact details are as follows:

Address: 30 Delhi Street, West Perth, WA 6005

Tel: +61 8 9237 6900

Fax: +61 8 9322 2652

E-mail: info@cbh.com.au

Website: www.cbh.com.au

Contact: Dr Andrew Crane, Chief Executive Officer -

Mr Terry Cunningham, Company Secretarial

Services Manager

Remembrance



With grief, we inform sad demise of Shri. Surinder Kumar Jakhar, ICA Board member. Shri Surinder Kumar Jakhar, the Chairman of IFFCO, India and a committed co-operater, known for his simplicity and concern for the farmers and rural community passed away at his home in Punjab Province of India on January 17th, 2011.

Mr. Jakhar was elected to the Global Board of ICA at the ICA General Assembly in Singapore in 2007, and also served as Chair of ICA Audit & Risk Committee and more recently to Governance Committee. He was a very active member from ICA Asia-Pacific Region. The ICA extends its sincere condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

Upcoming Events

- ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting, China, 2 March 2011
- International Women's Day, 8 March, 2011
- 2nd ICA/China Training Course on Operation and Management of Circular Economy, China, 1-10 March, 2011
- 1st International Conference on Co-operative Social, Economic and Cultural Capabilities, Kish Island, Iran, 16-17 April, 2011



Mr. Jong-Gu Lee, Chairman of NFCF & Dr. Choi

Government had shared objectives of the reform in a way to strengthening the NACF services for member farmers, both pillars in agricultural marketing and banking functions.

The National Fishery Co-operative Federation (NFCF) as the chair of the International Fishery Co-operative Organization (IFCO) will launch the '1st World Fishery Co-operative Day' on 16th June 2011. Mr. Jong-Gu Lee emphasized the need of international studies on the impacts of global climate change to sea waters, fishing industry and fishermen's livelihoods. IFCO had been active since last year to organize international forum for fishery co-operatives.

Regional Director also met the new President of the iCoop-Korea

(www.icoop.or.kr), Mrs. Mi yea Oh at her office, Singgil-dong, Seoul. Mrs. Oh was the Chairperson of the iCoop Goyang, and elected as the top leader of iCoop in December last year. In the conversation, principles, policy and good practices of the iCoop Korea in promoting 'Ethical Consumption' and 'Fair Trade' were shared with. With a strong membership commitment and together with organic producers, iCoop has grown steadily not only in



Mrs. Miyea Oh, President of the iCoop Korea

membership but also in volumes. Dr. Choi hoped that iCoop could share their experiences and activities with other ICA members in the region.

Thailand to Host the 9th Co-operative Ministers' Conference-2012



Mr. Somchai Chamnarongkul, Director General of CPD, Government of Thailand

Regional Director visited the Co-operative Promotion Department (CPD) in Bangkok on 16th February to discuss the preparation for 9th Ministers' Conference. It was suggested by CPD to hold the conference in Chiangmai in November 2011. However the date and venue has moved after having the ICA-AP Board discussions in Guangzhou of 2nd March. The new proposal from CPD was

to host the Ministers' Conference in the last week of February in Bangkok in co-celebrating the 'Thai Co-operative Day' (26th Feb.) 2012 and coinciding with the UN International Year of Co-operatives in Thailand. The theme was tentatively suggested as "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy Support the Better Plays of Co-operatives and the Betterment of the Asia and the Pacific".

The United Nations has released the logo for the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives.

Please follow the Link: <http://social.un.org/coopsyear/ivclogo.shtml>



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newsletter



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Earthquake & Tsunami in Japan



A powerful tsunami has swept across a large area of northern Japan causing major damage, flooding towns and sweeping away buildings. It was triggered by a 8.9-magnitude earthquake on 11 March 2011. As reported by the media about 10,000 persons have died, thousands are reported to be missing and a large numbers are seriously injured. ICA and many ICA members have sent letters of condolences and support to ICA members in Japan. In addition, on 16 March the ICA launched an appeal to collect donations for its Japan Disaster Recovery Fund. A number of Japanese members have already established special funds for those that wish to support both the immediate relief efforts and longer term reconstruction.

News from Japan about coop damages

We regularly received news updates from our coop members in Japan about the damage caused and relief work started by them. Following are some reports:-

Fisheries Co-operative Associations:

Fishing sector was one of the most severely damaged sectors: by the earthquake, tsunami and radiation leak.

Almost all the fishing vessels along the northeast prefectures of Iwate and Miyagi etc were either destroyed or made impossible for reuse.

Many thousands of fishers lost their lives, became missing,

IYC 2012

The United Nations has released the logo for the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives. The logo and guidelines for its use can be seen at <http://social.un.org/coopsyear/ivclogo.shtml>

In order to download and use the logo, it will be necessary to request permission from the UN by submitting the "liability waiver" which is accessed through that site. A detailed communication in this regard has been sent by Charles Goud, Director General, ICA to all the members on 02 April, 2011 which can be accessed at following link http://www.icaroap.coop/News/News_Detail.aspx?News=156

Each organisation seeking to use the logo must follow the process identified on the UN site, but the ICA is ready to assist should you encounter any difficulties or have any questions. You may check the website www.ica.coop

The ICA has secured permission to use the Logo from UN. However, the members have to apply separately for permission to use the logo.

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“ IYC-2012 is our opportunity ”

From the Editor



Havoc caused by natural crises continued to trouble people in Asia and as we reported in the last issue, Japan was heavily damaged in

March. There are reports of huge damage to co-operatives and co-operative members in the country. We have been in contact with our members and received regular updates about the damage and recovery measures. ICA made an appeal to the world to extend helping hand. Due to their admirable grit and courage, Japanese people are on the fast track of recovery as Cherry Blossom in April filled the country with new hope. Dr. CHOI visited members in Japan on a solidarity mission post Tsunami devastation.

However, the co-operatives in the region have been very busy with number of activities as seen from this issue-the ICA issued message on the eve of International Women's Day-2011, the Logo and slogan for the International Day of Co-operatives-2011 is announced and the UN has issued the Logo of the IYC-2012. We are interacting with members for preparations of the event.

We have also conducted several activities to serve our members better, focusing on capacity building and have received news about their events as well. The COOPFED, Sri Lanka is making a mark by adding value to consumer co-operative services. We also cover news of interest from the region through other sources for the benefit of the readers such as decisions by the Governments which impacts co-operative institutions and the co-operative members as citizens of the country. We are happy to note that the members have started sharing their news gradually but their views about the news letter is awaited. Hope to hear from you.

Savitri Singh

injured, and their houses washed away.

Fishing ports were completely damaged in many places. fish processing plants, ice-making plants/facilities, cold storages, fishing gear storehouses etc were washed away.

It is unthinkable that even under such unprecedented damages, fishers in some places in severely damaged areas started to do necessary recovery work.

However, the problem now is that they lack in means of production (fishing vessels, fishing gears etc) and most importantly, the fact that a considerable number of fishers lost their lives. Their houses were completely smashed, and washed away. The

only thing left is a mountain of debris, and yet not found bodies. In addition, as a final blow, the nuclear incident.

This reminds us of something like the once famous novel entitled "NION CHINBOTSU (Japan Sinking)" written by Komatsu Sakyo, a writer.

Plutonium was detected from the soil near the crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

JA-ZENCHU:

According to the ministry of agriculture, forestry and fisheries of Japan, the area of farmland damaged by tsunami in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima provinces is more than 20,000 ha which is 5% of the total farmland area. It does not include farmland damaged by jishin such as cracks and swells.

In Iwate prefecture, as of March 16, 3 staff are dead and 17 staff are missing in 8 primary societies (JAs). No report on members.

In the case of JA-Ofunato, the first floor of HQs became flooded, 6 branches suffered severe damage, 2 branches catastrophic damage and 2 branches

have no information.

From March 14, JAs in Iwate province including damaged JAs have been supporting affected JAs and community residents by providing hot meals, rice, blankets, water, etc.. Some JAs have requested member farmers to contribute rice for support. Damaged JAs have implemented repayment of deposits without passbook.

Support by major provinces

JAs in Hokkaido province sent 35 tons of potato, 175 tons of onion and 35 tons of

rice to Miyagi province on March 16.

JAs in Akita province sent 9,000 bottles (2L) of water and 10,000 cans of porridge to Iwate prefecture on March 15. JAs in Yamagata province sent 20,000 of rice

balls and 7 tons of rice to Miyagi prefecture from March 15 to 20. JAs in Nagano province sent 30,000 bottles of fruit juice, 20,000 bottles of tea to Miyagi, Iwate and Fukushima provinces on March 15.

JAs in Niigata province sent food and living necessities such as blankets, portable stove burner, home drugs, etc.

Three provinces, Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima, in the north-eastern part of Japan were seriously affected. According to the TV news, the dead and missing are more than 3,000. Miyagi provincial police said the dead will over 10,000 in the province.

The situation of agricultural co-operative (JA) group is as follows;

1. In Miyagi province, the building of Miyagi provincial union received serious damages. The union's function becomes temporarily paralyzed so that the present situation of primary societies (JAs) has not been informed.
2. In Iwate province, 3 JAs, Ohfunato, Shin-Iwate and Iwate-Hanamaki, received serious damages.



Once prosperous fishing town : when will it be when fishermen can resume normal life as before ?



The chairman of JF Taro FCA directing recovery work

Ohfunato's damage is catastrophic.

3. In Fukushima province, some people in the JA federation hospital were influenced by radiation leaks from Fukushima nuclear power stations.

Japan Workers' Co-operative Union

- While the head office continues to check the safety of our members, the efforts are starting to shift to the relief work (e.g. sending supplies and human resources).
- The head office has been receiving supplies from members nationwide.
- Our members in several regions are also collecting supplies and will head to Tohoku separately.
- The head office is collecting the information from the affected areas and regional offices which are collecting the supplies. Those supplies mentioned above will be distributed to the affected areas based



The ice-making facility of JF Taro FCA destroyed by the Tsunami

on the information on what is needed in which area.

- The building of Ishinomaki Jigyodan (JWCU member co-op) is completely gone due to Tsunami.
- A nursery in Urayasu City (Chiba Prefecture): The building is too damaged to use.

NFUCA

NFUCA has set up a task force immediately following the disaster and began many of the support related activities for the universities and university co-ops. In addition, many of the other co-operatives as well as Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) have been assisting in the rescue and recovery efforts in the devastated regions.

NFUCA is determined and committed to carrying support activities for the disaster victims and many of the necessary reconstruction activities in joint effort with related association, when the rebuilding begins.

NFUCA will also set up a local task force to coordinate joint tasks located in the disaster struck area. Many of the university co-operatives have already initiated the set up of a donation fund to help support some other financial needs.

JCCU

Consumer Co-ops got substantial damages at their business facilities.

JCCU has already supplied 29,000 pet bottles (500ml) of tea, 29,000-cup noodles, 27,000 bags of cookie, bread with longer expiry date, some quantities of banana, fruit juice, towels and some blankets and 25,000 pieces of pocket heater.

On the 13th March, Co-op Kobe and the JCCU dispatched 5 volunteer staffs 3 and 2 respectively to Miyagi Co-op to serve as secretariats to the task force to assist in the restoration effort.

GOVERNANCE

Regional Board Meeting

The meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held in Guangzhou on 2nd March 2011. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Li Chunsheng, ICA-AP President and Chairman of the Regional Board. 22 persons including members, observers and ICA Officers attended the meeting. The meeting was hosted by the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives

(ACFSMC).

In his opening remarks, Mr. Li Chunsheng extend a warm welcome to participants of the ICA-AP Regional Board for coming to Guangzhou to attend the meeting. He began the meeting with the information of the sad and untimely demise of Mr. S.K. Jakhar, ICA Board Member from IFFCO, India on 17th



Mr. Li Chungsheng along with the Board Members

January 2011 and further said that Mr. Jakhar had made substantial contributions to the co-operative movements all over the world.

Dr. Choi, Regional Director, ICA-AP gave a brief account of the activities carried out by ICA-AP during 2010 and also presented the financial report of ICA-AP for the year 2010. The members noted that there was a surplus of CHF 8,440 in Delhi office for the year 2010. All members expressed happiness with regard to the outstanding performance and positive financial results of ICA-AP.

Dr. Choi also reported to meeting about the membership position, workplan-2011 and other current issues.

Since last Regional Board Meeting following 4 members joined ICA from the region: (a) National Association of Labour Banks, Japan; (b) Supervision and Central Co-ordination Union of Rural Agricultural Co-operatives of Iran (SCURA); (c) Co-operative House Building and Finance Corporation Limited, India; and (d) Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited (CBH Group), Australia. Thus total membership of ICA-AP is 71 member organizations from 25 countries.

Informing that there are 45 countries in Asia-Pacific region, but only 25 countries are members of ICA, Dr. Choi requested the board members to help him to increase the membership of ICA.

While presenting the work plan-2011, he said that in addition to routine activities the following four studies were included in the Work Plan - (a) Study on Consumer Cooperatives in Asia; (b) Study on Co-operative Trade among Co-operatives; (c)

Study on Technical Co-operation among Co-operatives; and (d) Study on Communication Strategy for Co-operatives. He informed the members that the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - MAFF (Government of Japan) supported training courses ended in 2010 and three new training courses would be starting from 2011 for three years.

Other matters such as proposal of ICA-Americas to amend the 7th Cooperative Principle,



Board Members on a trip

organising of 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference and time & venue of the next meeting were also discussed. Meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

Reaching Out

International Women's Day 2011

The theme of International Women's Day is "Equal access to education, training and science and technology: Pathway to decent work for women"

On the occasion of International Women's Day, every year the President of ICA, Dame Pauline Green and Chairperson of ICA Gender Equality Committee Ms. Stefania Marcone issue a message to co-operative members. The full message can be seen at http://www.icarop.coop/News/News_Detail.aspx?News=155

The gist of the message is given below:-

On the International Women's Day, the United Nations calls on

local, national and international communities to focus on the importance of equal access to education, training and science and technology as crucial pathway to provide women with decent work opportunities.

Investing in women's education has well recognised benefits not only for women's own well-being but also for society as whole. The link between better education for women and the reduction of poverty and improved human development is well documented.

The co-operative movement's principle on co-operative education, training and information is recognition of the

important role the movement can play in this area.

Many co-operatives have provided women with opportunities to become entrepreneurs and access decent work. They have enabled them to move out of informal and precarious job markets. They have improved access to credit, product and market information, technology and training in management skills and enterprise development.

ICT not only improves economic efficiency, it has also provided an extraordinary way for co-operators, both women and men, to participate in technology development and create networks for sharing knowledge worldwide thus reducing isolation.

Therefore, 8 March 2011, International Women's Day, we call

on ICA member organisations and co-operators, to not forego the contribution of the large talent pool that women co-operators represent and to strengthen their commitment for fostering equal access to education, training and science and technology by providing women co-operators with targeted training programmes, particularly on new technologies, and promoting exchanges which can crucially work to build bridges and foster collaborations among co-operators worldwide.

Let us lead with good practice. Let us show what can be achieved when co-operatives enable women all over the world to reap the benefits of equal access to education, training and science and technology!

Dr. Choi visited Japan

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director of ICA-AP visited to members in Japan on a solidarity mission post Tsunami devastation.

He visited the leaders of Japan Consumer Co-operative Union (JCCU), The JA-Zenchu and Japan Joint Committee on Co-operatives (JJC), officials of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF) and IDACA.

During his visit with the member, he paid his sincere condolence for the damage caused by Tsunami and exchanged information about recovery work being done. He also discussed about preparation of IYC-2012 and other issues such as preparations for the Regional Assembly-2012 which is scheduled to be held in Japan next year.

Dr. Choi met with officials of MAFF in connection with the new



Dr. Choi at a meeting in Japan

partnership ventures. The MAFF has sanctioned 3 new projects to be jointly implemented by ICA-AP and IDACA for 3 years commencing from 2011. The total annual contribution from MAFF would be US\$ 991,057. The projects are for the capacity building of leaders and staff of agricultural co-operatives in

the region.

He also visited IDACA and have had meeting with the Managing Director and staff of the IDACA to discuss about the implementation of the new projects.

Dr. Choi also attended the closing ceremony of the 5th ICA-Japan Course on 18th April, 2011 and addressed the participants.

From the region



AWCF poster on gender equality in co-ops

The Asian Women in Co-operative Development Forum (AWCF) is continuing to implement the activities of the "Promoting Gender Equality Among Co-operatives in the Philippines Project" that is supported from 2010-2012 by the Swedish Co-operative Centre (SCC), with fund support from the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA). AWCF is a regional

resource center and advocacy body on gender and co-ops in Asia, with a Secretariat based in the Philippines. It is member of the Regional Women's Committee of the International Co-operative Alliance-Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP).

AWCF



Women and men learn more about GE advocacy in AWCF project

The Project is under SCC's Philippine country programme "Advancing Civic Capacities for Effective and Sustainable Services to the Poor" (ACCESS to the Poor Programme). In this Programme, AWCF joins four Philippine national organizations in the implementation. In addition, 15 co-ops located nationwide in the Philippines are also the partners in AWCF's gender equality (GE) Project for the SCC Programme.

Sri Lanka: COOPFED



Mr. Pathirana, General Manager at the Super Market

A Co-op Store

As the pilot project, Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation Ltd (Coopfed) of Sri Lanka had opened the largest Super Market at National Institute of Co-operative Development, Polgolla in the Central Province in Sri Lanka.

The COPFED has already opened 10 Super Markets and have planned to develop around 25 super markets throughout the island.

Through the year of 2010, The COPFED have done training programmes for the co-op stores managers and employees of member co-op societies in order to develop their management skills for store keeping and the technical knowledge. Through these training programs, the COPFED intends to popularize co-operatives business model and in turn increasing the business of the consumer stores.

Bangladesh: Cabinet okays co-operative law changes

The Cabinet approved the draft Co-operatives (Amendment) Bill, 2011, aiming to expedite the 'Vision 2021' as the present law is not capable enough to achieve the target.

The cabinet took the decision at its regular weekly meeting held at the Cabinet Division with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Prime minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters after the meeting at PID conference room. He said



Meeting with the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

the original Act was amended slightly in 2002. But the cabinet found the present Act not enough for them to achieve the Vision 2021 of the government.

In the draft the provision to enlistment was made easier, there is a provision to cancel the registration.

It also turned 'registrar' post to 'Director General'.

Source: http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=29003

Nepal: Tax exemption to women's co-operative in coming budget

KATHMANDU: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Bharat Mohan Adhikari has said the provision of entire exemption of tax would be made in the upcoming budget for women's co-operatives across the country.

At a special programme organised here on Tuesday by the National Co-operatives' Association Limited Nepal on the occasion of 101st International Women Day, Deputy Prime Minister Adhikari said the arrangement of tax exemption

would be made to enhance self-dependency and standards of co-operative organisations related to women.

The government will prepare the upcoming budget by incorporating the spirit and suggestions of people involved in the co-operative movement, he added.

Source: <http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Tax+exemption+to+women's+cooperative+in+coming+budget%3A+DPM&NewsID=279218>

Member Services

Operation and Management of Circular Economy

The 2nd Training Course on Circular economy was conducted jointly by ICA and All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC) from March 2-10, 2011 in Guangzhou, Beijing and Qingyuan. 17 Participants from nine countries along with organisers from ACFSMC and ICA were the part of the course that was conducted through lectures and group discussions along with country reports presentation

from participants. The Training Course was divided in two field visits in Huaqing RECYCLING INDUSTRIAL PARK and Beijing HuaJing Yuan RENEWABLE RESOURCE RECYCLING MARKET Ltd where the process of collection and recycling of wastes was demonstrated. There was Audio/Visual information shared as well. The first Course on this topic was held in November 2010.



The participants

The core part of the Training Course were the sessions taken by the Lecturers on Circular economy , the environment around the C.E. Concept and the management side of the topic. The Lecturers were from various strides such as economics, environment studies, Law and policy, International Relations amongst others. The participants took part in Group discussion and completed the training by presenting their project proposals.

SAARC Regional Workshop for Youth

The SAARC Regional Workshop on "Campus Co-operatives and Youth Integration in Co-operatives" was organised under the auspices of ICA-AP Committee on University /Campus Co-operatives in collaboration with National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI), National Federation of University Co-operative Association (NFUCA) of Japan and Karnataka State Co-operative Federation and hosted by Mangalore University Employees Credit Co-operative Society (MUECCS) & Department of Business Administration at Mangalore University, Mangalore, India during March 23-25, 2011.

The representatives of SAARC countries viz. co-operative functionaries, teachers and government officials from Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka as well as student representatives from Afghanistan, Iran, Uganda & India participated in the workshop. Dr Chandra Pal Singh, President of NCUI inaugurated the Workshop and the Vice Chancellor, Mangalore University presided over the Opening ceremony. The Chairman, Karnataka State Co-operative Federation was the also present as Guest of Honour.

The workshop was divided into 3 sessions, information sharing by way of country paper presentation, Group discussions and Study visits. The Chief Executive, NCUI made a presentation on Status and need of Co-operative Education in School in India and Secretary of NCCT of India made a presentation on Campus Co-operatives - an instrument of youth integration. In addition, the resource persons from Indonesia, Japan and Malaysia gave an overview of the Campus Co-ops in their respective countries.

Prof. Kuriki and Ms. Matsuka from NAFUCA, Japan gave an introduction of University Co-operative in Japan, Prof. Ali Hassan of Malaysia gave an overview of campus cooperatives

in Malaysia and discussed the issues/challenges .Mr. Ilham Nasai, Indonesian Youth Co-operative (COPINDO), provided a detail strategy for a strong membership based university/campus co-operatives to increase business and economically vibrant socio-economic enterprises.

The participants visited to Mangalore University Employees



Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President NCUI inaugurated the Workshop

Credit Co-operative Society (MUECCS), Gobind Dass College Campus Co-ops and National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK) campus cooperative.

Countrywise group discussions held to discuss about the ways and means for promoting campus co-operatives in their respective countries.

The workshop concluded by award of certificate to the participants.



A group photo of the participants

Enhancement of Farmers' Income and Poverty Reduction Through Co-operatives

5th Training course on "Enhancement of Farmers' Income and Poverty Reduction Through Co-operatives" was organized by ICA-AP, at India, Malaysia and Japan between 08 December 2010 and 19 April 2011, with a focus on the strengthening of farm guidance method, joint collection, marketing, safety and improvement of quality of farm products. The training programme was implemented by the ICA-AP in collaboration with IFFCO/FMDI, Gurgaon, Institute of Rural Management (IRMA), Anand (Gujarat), India, National Co-operative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Institute for the Development of Agriculture Co-operation in Asia (IDACA), Tokyo, Japan and other ICA

(Trg), FMDI, welcomed the participants, while Dr. D. Bhattacharya, Executive Director (PA&HRD), IFFCO, proposed a vote of thanks.

There were 12 participants from 11 countries- Cambodia, China, India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The IFFCO-FMDI Module on Review of Management of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia was conducted at FMDI Gurgaon then the participants moved to IRMA on 23rd January and attended the IRMA segment of the course on Project Management until 23 February 2011.

The comparative field study visits of Agriculture Co-operatives in Malaysia took place during 27 February - 05 March



The Participants

members in India, Malaysia and Japan. The Training course was formally inaugurated by Mr. A. Roy, Marketing Director, IFFCO, on 10 January 2011 at the IFFCO's Fertiliser Marketing Development Institute [FMDI], Gurgaon. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, ICA-AP, Mr. Manabu Suzuki, First Secretary in the Embassy of Japan, Mr. Ashikari Ikuo, Managing Director, IDACA, Mr. Nakashima Toru, Dy. Manager, IDACA, Tokyo, the Chief Executive of National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI), and Mr. A.K. Taneja, Project Co-ordinator, ICA-AP, addressed the participants. Mr. S.P. Singh, Deputy General Manager

2011, and then the Part-III of the programme was held at IDACA, Tokyo (Japan) from 6 March-19 April 2011.

At the concluding session at IDACA in April, Mr. Kazuhiro SHIMANE, Deputy Director of International Co-operation Division, MAFF, Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, ICA-AP, Mr. Akihiro Fujii, Manager, JA-ZENCHU, Mr. Ashikari Ikuo, M.D. IDACA and Mr. A.K. Taneja, Project Co-ordinator, ICA-AP, addressed the participants. Mr. Xu Mingfeng, participant from China, gave a vote of thanks on behalf of all the participants. The participants also received ICA-IDACA "Certificate of participation" in the course.

Highlights

India: New CEO of NCUI



Dr. Dinesh has joined as Chief Executive of National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) on 18th April 2011. He has 28 years of vast experience in

Administration, Human Resource Management, Academic Administration/Training in Corporate Sector, University System, Educational Regulatory Bodies & US-Indo Educational Body.

NEW ICA MEMBER:

Tose'e Ta'avon Bank (T.T. Bank) of Iran has joined ICA as an Associate Member

T.T. Bank is an association created and inspected by the Government of Iran to administer co-operative development funds along with other activities.

In 2010, T.T. Bank had 2,497 employees of which 319 are women. In 2010, their turnover was IRR 900 million (CHF 84,613).

Contact:

Ms Faiiaz Qaed Head of International Division

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Fax: +98 21 2292 5368

Website: www.TTbank.ir

Upcoming Events

- ICA Board Meeting, Malaysia, May 2011
- Office Bearers' Meeting of University/Campus Committee, Malaysia, May 2011
- RWC-Office Bearers' Meeting, June 2011

“ 9th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference, 27th February - 1st March 2012, Thailand ”



ICA-Asia and Pacific

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Development

Sugar from Coconut Tree - Agrarian Reform Co-operative in Mindanao



Dr. Chan Ho Choi attended a general meeting of the Linabu Agrarian Multipurpose Co-operative, Mismis Oriental, Mindanao

Coconut sugar is made from sweet sap that drips from cut flower buds of coconut tree. To collect translucent sap, skilled farmers need to climb up to top of tree. Then in boiling, juicy sap starts to transform into a thick syrup known as "toddy", and further reduced to crystal powder. This organic sugar is considered to be healthier because of its richness in minerals and vitamins, and safer for even diabetics because of its low glycemic index (GI=35). Earlier in 2003, coconut farmers became to know the price of coco-sugar was three times higher than ordinary sugar. Then they started to boil sap instead of fermenting to an



alcoholic beverage called 'tuba'. The Linabu Agrarian Multipurpose Co-operative (LAMPCO) produces 1,500Kg per month in their processing facility which was rebuilt October last year with 1.3 M peso provided by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). This village-based cooperative was established in 1997 with 172 members when Philippine

A School Co-operative Shows the way in Malaysia



Dame Pauline Green, ICA President and Dr. Mohd. Ali Baharum, ANGKASA President at the Co-op

The ICA President and Board Members visited a secondary school co-operative during the ICA Board Meeting (3rd-6th) held on 4th May, 2011 in Kuala Lumpur. This Gombak Setia Secondary School which started functioning in 1982 has 3,010 students with 170 teachers. Serving the multi-farious needs of the student community. It sells stationeries, t-shirts, books, drinks, banner printings, photo, uniforms etc. It also runs various computer courses, as well as manages parking lots, and cyber cafés. In Malaysia, there are 2,135 school co-operatives associated in ANGKASA with 2,087,000 individual members (2010).

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From the Editor



Summer Greetings !
This is broadly a season for taking a vacation but co-operatives work relentlessly.

The region was abuzz with activities in all sector of co-operatives during the season.

On the eve of IYC-2012, the Regional Director, Dr. CHOI is making efforts to reach out to members, members are being informed about IYC-Updates and we are trying to discover and highlight the unique co-operative stories which are being made available through this news letter along with other information. The ICFO achieved milestone by celebrating the "First" World Fisheries Co-operative Day, the meeting of BRICS Co-operative Leaders and MOU for bilateral business among the members in China is also a special event which demonstrates the feature of co-operatives as strong business models, Indian govt. initiated preparation for IYC-2012 by organising a Co-operative Minister's Conference .

All the other regular activities regarding capacity building and governance etc. also have been reported.

We are encouraging members to share their news and views to make the news letter more relevant. With co-operative Greetings,
Savitri Singh

Upcoming Events

1. HRD Meeting and Seminar on Need and Importance of HRD in Co-ops with special reference to Training of Board of Directors, Malaysia. 1st to 7th July, 2011
2. ICA/Japan Training Course on Quality and Safety Management of Farm Products, Japan, 10th July-4th August, 2011
3. 1st ICA Conference on Strategic Alliances among Co-operatives-Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, 6th-7th Sept, 2011

government enacted the land transfer program (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program) in Mindanao for indigenous people to settle down peacefully in production on their communal lands. Mr. Orlando R. Ravanera who is Executive Director cum Region-10 Director of CDA said that "creation of those agrarian reform beneficiaries' co-operatives have contribute largely to region's peace and inclusiveness of endogenous peoples

into a market economy through co-operatism. Isn't it wonderful? Cocosugar is just one item promising good income for farmers in the tropical forest areas. There are many other healthy products like corn-coffee, yacon syrup, organic cacao and other traditionally- processed food items." The manager in LAMPCO expressed their wishes to expand their production capacity by some fair-trade contract.

The First "World Fisheries Co-operative Day"



The participant with Charles Gould, ICA-DG & Dr. CHOI

The first World Fisheries Co-operative Day was commemorated by International Fisheries Co-operative Organisation (ICFO) and Korea National Federation of Fisheries Co-operatives (KNFC) on 16 June, 2011 in Seoul, Korea with 258 participants including ICA Director-General, ICFO representatives, minister of ministry of food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, a national assembly member, government officials, experts of co-operative and presidents of member fisheries cooperatives in Korea, etc.

Last year, when the international symposium was held in Seoul, Korea, all the participants adopted the "Seoul Declaration" to seek the role of co-operatives for the sustainable development of fisheries in 21st century including "World Fisheries Co-operative Day" and marine environmental protection, etc. In order to give the shape to the Declaration all the representatives unanimously agreed to establish June 16 as "World Fisheries Co-operative Day".

The event became a great opportunity

to strengthen relationship among ICFO members and to share expertise and experience for the future of fisheries at the time of a great change in fisheries. ICFO Representatives were convinced that it would lead to gather their will for the preparation for the future fisheries. It also is expected to raise a public awareness about co-operatives with the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives declared by United Nations.

At the event, Mr. Uemura shoji, president Aomori Prefectural Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations, was awarded the first "World Fisheries Co-operator Prize". ICFO and KNFC established a Selection Committee for the prize. Mr. Uemura, former chairman of ICFO, has greatly contributed to the development of fisheries and fisheries co-operatives around the world with various activities such as Seminar on Fisheries Co-operatives of South East Asian Countries and Training Project for Leaders of Fisheries Co-operatives in the world, etc.

ICFO and KNFC also adopted "The

Fisheries Co-operators' Pledge to the Fishermen of the World" to improve the quality of fishermen's lives and to build a brighter future for fisheries worldwide. At the event, the prime minister of the Republic of Korea delivered a video message emphasizing the importance of fisheries as a life-saving industry for humankind and promising that the Korean government will actively support the development of fisheries and the co-operation of fishermen in the world with proper policies

The Fisheries Co-operators' Pledge to the Fishermen of the World

On this First World Fisheries Co-operative Day, to improve the quality of fishermen's lives and to build a brighter future for fisheries worldwide We, the Fisheries Cooperators Worldwide pledge: First, to take the lead in protecting the global fisheries as a human food resource, in publicizing the

importance of the fisheries for the next generation, and in introducing the necessity of fisheries cooperatives worldwide; Second, to encourage fishermen worldwide and strive to build active fishing communities, in order to realize sustainable fisheries businesses.

Third, to strive to increase the value of the future fisheries and take further initiatives to create green growth in the industry, by actively sharing our collective experiences and expertise; Fourth, in a cooperative spirit, to strive to earn the respect of the community of fishermen through service and by supporting their pursuit of happiness and Last, to contribute to the prosperity of humankind and world peace, the fundamental ideals of cooperatives, in collaboration with International Cooperative Fisheries Organization and other related international organizations.

Seminar on Social and Economic Development of Women



ICA Regional Director Dr. Chan Ho Choi honouring Dr. Sarla Menon First Neurologist and Head of SCOPE (BHEL) for her outstanding contribution in social services in the seminar

Dr. Chandrapal Singh opined that co-operatives institutions should be allowed to grow on democratic principles and further emphasised on need of progress for women and informed about projects of NCUI for empowerment of women through co-operatives.

Regional Director of ICA-AP, Dr. Chan Ho Choi addressed the seminar and appreciated the Chairperson of the Women Co-operative Bank Ltd. for organising seminar on such an important subject which is focusing on social and economic development of the women through co-operative. He further said that women segment needs to be given equal opportunity to participate in the process of economic development of the society and informed about the projects

The National Co-operative Union of India, NCUI Women Co-operative Education Field Project, Bhopal and The Women Co-operative Bank of Bhopal jointly organised the seminar on "Social and Economic Development of Women" at Bhopal on 27 June, 2011 which was very well attended by women co-operators and members of SHGs operating in Bhopal district, leaders, officials and representatives of state co-operative institutions, women cooperative banks and officers of co-operative department, Reserve Bank of India and NABARD.

It was inaugurated by Mr. Gourishankar Bisen, the Honourable Minister of Co-operation and Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of NCUI and Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director of ICA-Asia and Pacific were also present as special guests.

On this occasion, the Minister said that the women segment of the society needs to be motivated to join the main stream of economic development. He also expressed that Self Help Groups play important role in managing efficient social services in rural areas and urban co-operative banks may play vital role in dispensing of micro credit in urban and rural areas as well.

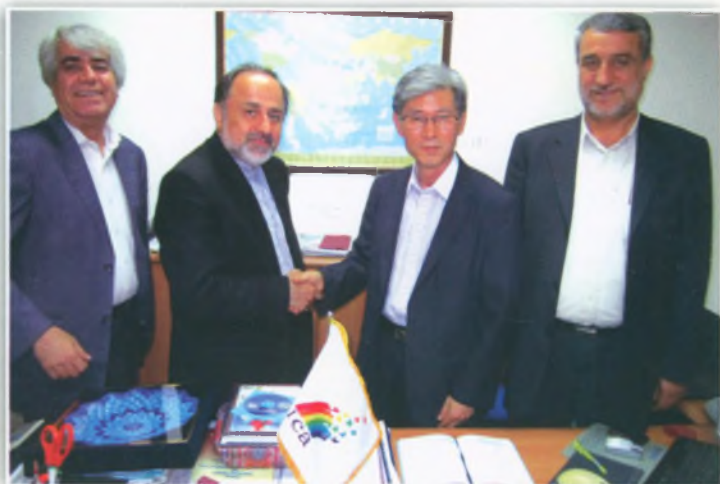


Members of SHGs seen with their products

and work of ICA Asia-Pacific in the region for gender mainstreaming. The work done by the Women Co-operative Bank Ltd. Could be a good example to other regions as a motivating factor.

An exhibition and sale of products by Women Self Help Group was also organised at the occasion and awards were given to women for their outstanding work for the welfare of the society.

Delegates from Iran



Mr. Seyed Davood Salehi, Mr. Gholamhossein Deraei,
Dr. Chan Ho Choi and Mr. Habibollah Bahrami (Left to Right)

A three members delegation from the Iran Central Chamber of Co-operative (ICC), headed by Mr. Seyed Davood Salehi visited ICA-AP Office in Delhi on 16th May to discuss the future co-operation. They also visited NCUI and IFFCO in India.

Committee Meetings

Office Bearers Meeting of ICA-AP University / Campus Co-operative Committee

The Office Bearers Meeting of ICA Asia Pacific University/Campus Co-operative Committee was held on 23-26 May 2011, at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Six office bearers and three others attended the meeting and discussed the operational policy and the operational responsibilities for The 3rd Meeting of ICA Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives for Asia and the Pacific in Manila, Philippines, from 28th Sep. to 2nd Oct. 2011.

On 24th May, Meeting began under the chairmanship of Prof. Madya Datuk Hj. Mohamad Ali Hasan, Vice President of the committee and followed by the opening address of Mr. Toshiaki Wada, General Director & CEO, NFUCA.

Ms. Zeny, Vice Chairperson outlined the agenda of the meeting and the meeting proceeded further. The Office Bearers



Office bearers with ANGKASA Staff

discussed various management issues related to functioning of the Committee. During the meeting, all the members exchanged their views, impressions and opinions about the functioning of the committee. Half of a day was crafted in a way to have a round table meeting with the Malaysian Co-operators. This was attended by a representative from National Co-operative Commission of Malaysia to discuss their action plans & policy for next 5 years.

The Meeting also included exposure visits to ANGKASA, Co-operative College of Malaysia, University of National Energy Co-op, University Putera Malaysia Co-op and their member service network. During study visits, office bearers have had interaction n about different type of Univ. coops in the region.

Concluding the meeting Mr. Kuriki, Co Secretary of the committee thanked Vice chair Prof. Ali hasan and other concerned to host the meeting successfully.

Meeting of the Office Bearer's of ICA Regional Women's Committee



Meeting in progress

Meeting of the Office Bearer's of ICA Regional Women's Committee was held on 21 June, 2011, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Ms.Hitomi Tanaka, Chairperson of the Committee chaired the meeting.The meeting was attended by the Chairperson, 2 Vice Chair Persons, Ms.Emma Neiva, Board Director of NATCCO, Philippines and Ms.Kruewan CHONLANAI, Chairpeson of AWCF and Ms.Savitri Singh, Advisor-Gender Programme and Secretary to the committee. She convened the meeting and presented the progress report.

The members discussed usual business of the committee, work plan for 2011 and preparation for major activities coming up next year-2012 such as Regional Women Committee Meeting and Women Forum to be organized in conjunction with the ICA Regional Assembly-2012.

The meeting was hosted by the ANGKASA and officials of ANGKASA including Ms.Armi Zanudin, Vice Chairperson of ANGKASA and ICA Global Board Member participated as observers. Ms. Armi suggested that ICA-AP should consider organizing a women conference in 2012 as part of YIC-2012 celebrations. Ms.Tanaka agreed to consider the suggestons depending upon resources available.

The meeting ended by vote of thanks to Chair and the host, ANGKASA.

From the region

Japan

Road To Recovery: Japan Earthquake

Earthquake updates received from our member: Japan Workers' Co-operative Union

General Meeting in Tohoku Region

On May 21st, 42 members gathered at a general meeting of Tohoku region representatives in Sendai, exchanging their experiences and plans for the future. For example, the members in Noda Village (Iwate Prefecture) have



Bihoro Hall in Ishinomaki City



This is where Onagawa Office used to stand

been offered home care jobs at temporary houses, while other members in Fukushima feel needs to create jobs for those who became unemployed due to the earthquake.



The Participants

The generous support from a number of people and organizations, 104,681,353 yen has been raised at JWCU relief fund (as of June 7th, 2011). The additional support is to arrive soon via ICA relief fund. We are truly grateful for your generosity!

So far, the money has been spent on salaries for the members in Onagawa and Ishinomaki, supplies that are needed in Tohoku, and renting trucks to deliver supplies to Tohoku. For the future, our members need even more human, material and

financial resources to restart their existing jobs as well as to create new jobs in order to reconstruct not only the organizations but also their communities. Member organizations in the affected areas have submitted 2-year action plans with the budget, and funds will be used mainly (1) to support the lives of members, (2) to secure jobs for members, and (3) to reconstruct the communities where members live.

JWCU General Assembly was held on June 10th and 11th, and it was a big success. It was an opportunity for all the members not only to share the experiences and visions for the future but also to feel the warmest support from our global friends. We have received more messages for the general assembly than ever, and we would like to



express our deepest gratitude for the organizations and people who kindly sent us messages. All of the messages were translated in Japanese, printed, and distributed to the participants. It also gave the Vision for the Future.

Philippines

Victo Organises Coop-Leader's Symposium at Cebu



Dr. CHOI with the participants

The VICTO National Co-operative Federation and Development Center (VICTO) organized its 2011 Co-op Leader's Symposium in Cebu, Philippines on 21st May. It was a preliminary event for the various celebrations which will be organized during the 2012 International Year of

Co-operatives in the country. In conjunction with the VICTO's General Meeting of primary cooperative members held in Visayas islands, the symposium came up with useful insights on the various issues like enabling policy & legal environment, government partnership, coop bills, sectoral networking and national federations, advocacy and social media, standardization of education and climate change and disaster risk management. The interest which the symposium generated can be seen from the fact that it was well attended with over 550 participants representing various cooperative organizations. Dr. Chan Ho Choi,

Regional Director of ICA-AP presented a paper on "Enabling Policy Environment for Sectoral Networking among Co-operatives".

China

ACFSMC hosts the 2nd BRICS Co-operative Leaders Meeting in Beijing

Presidents and CEOs of ICA member organizations from BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) countries met on 14th June in Beijing, in the 2nd BRICS Cooperative Leaders meeting hosted by the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives. In his opening remarks, Mr. Li Chengyu, President of ACFSMC pointed out that with a 60%



The Meeting in progress

contribution to the world economic growth in 2010 alone, the BRICS has become a new engine of the global economic growth. He noted that in all the five countries, the co-operative movement has played an irreplaceable role in addressing the issues of poverty, unemployment, sustainable development of the vulnerable as well as balanced economic and social development. Li Chunsheng, Vice President of

ACFSMC; Daniel Fontes Dias, CEO of the Conagro-Co-operativa National Agroindustrial (Brazil); Liudmila Zaytseva, Chairperson of the Centrosojus of the Russian Federation; Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of the National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI); Natwarlal Pitamberdas Patel, Chairman of the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Limited (IFFCO); Bijender Singh, National Federation of State Co-operative Bank

(NAFSCOB; and Nndwakhulu Lawrence Bale, President of the South African National Apex Co-operative headed the delegations of their respective countries on the occasion. An important outcome of the meeting was the MOU and signing contract ceremony that produced 11 sets of bilateral business MOUs between the CEOs of BRICS cooperatives.

Highlights

New Members:

Iran:

Co-operative Investment Guarantee Fund (CIGF) of Iran has joined ICA Family from the region as an Associate Member

CIGF's aim is to provide an investment guarantee for co-operatives in Iran so that they can get loans for development from banks. They classify and do a risk analysis of co-operatives which is also useful for trade. They work in close collaboration with Tose'e Ta'avon Bank (T.T. Bank) who was recently accepted as an Associate Member of the ICA. CIGF currently has 90 employees, 11 of which are women.

Contact details are:

Mr Alireza Motameni

Chairperson and Managing Director

Co-operative Investment Guarantee Fund (CIGF)

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Phone: +98 218 845 242-5

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Contact person: Fayegh.Mojarrad

E-mail: fayeghmojarrad@yahoo.com, info@cigf.ir, and international@cigf.ir Website: www.cigf.ir

Israel:

Central Union for Co-operative Initiative in Israel Ltd. has rejoined ICA Family after a gap of one year.

The Central Union for Co-operative Initiative in Israel Ltd. organizes and improves economic and social conditions for its members. They develop new co-operatives, train in the values of co-operatives, do education on co-operative development, represent members on issues of organization, economics, finance, trade and education. They also cultivate mutual assistance and business improvement between members. Their members are workers co-operatives.

In 2010, the Central Union for Co-operative Initiative in Israel Ltd. represented 46 member societies with 3,000 individual worker members.

Their turnover was \$750,000. The turnover of their members was \$1 million in 2010. Organisation has ILS 2,040,000 (CHF 254,000) in income for 2011.

You may contact them at il.org.coope@sarit

India

Co-operative Ministers Conference

A National Conference of Co-operative Ministers of States was held in New Delhi, on 20th April, 2011. The Conference was inaugurated by the Minister of Agriculture and Co-operation, Shri Sharad Pawar and was attended by the State Co-operation Ministers of 18 Indian States. The Conference noted the valuable contributions made by Co-operatives in different sectors of Indian economy particularly in rural credit, agriculture input and production, agro-processing, storage, marketing, consumer, fertilizer, dairy, fishery, housing etc. The widespread coverage and diversified business activities of co-operatives have made numerous success stories and provided immense possibilities and ample opportunities for the people, particularly those from the weaker sections in the hither to unserved areas.

Agriculture Minister addressing the Conference emphasized the co-operatives should develop their internal strengths in the form of professional management, enlightened and active membership, inspiring leadership and innovative vision. He further mentioned about major initiatives taken by the Central Government include (i) enunciation of National Policy on Co-operatives (ii) enactment of the Multi-State Co-operatives Societies Act, 2002 and its proposed amendment to provide greater functional autonomy to co-operatives; reduce Government interference and to encourage them to become professionally managed institutions, (iii) proposed amendment in Constitution of India - with a view to ensure the democratic, autonomous and professional functioning of co-operatives and (iv) approval of revival package for Short Term Co-operative Credit Structure (STCCS) envisaging financial outlay of Rs. 13, 596 crores.

The Conference unanimously resolved to take various actions to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country.

The Conference concluded with a pledge to restore the credibility and dignity of cooperatives so that the co-operatives become autonomous, self reliant, democratic, and accountable to members and fulfil the expectations of its members and other stakeholders.

New Zealand

Announcement: Seminar

A two-day co-operative education seminar course for directors, members and executive of co-operatives and mutuals will be held on "The evolving nature of governance and capital in co-operative and mutual business" from 25th to 26th August, 2011 at Wellington.

During these two days, speakers from Australia, Canada and New Zealand who recognise that co-operative structure needs constant review will offer different -- and often differing -- viewpoints on how co-ops and mutuals may develop their capital structure and improve their governance and, importantly, relate their own experiences.

Cost: \$1144.25 including GST Co-operatives Association members & overseas ICA members • \$1604.25 including GST non-members

For more information and to book place(s) phone the Association office on 04 384 4595 or send an email to nzca@nz.coop

Member Services

Seminar: Law on Co-operatives

The Seminar on 'Law of Co-operatives - International Experiences and Realities in Vietnam' was organised by the Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA) at Vinh Phuc, Vietnam from 3-4 June 2011.

The speakers of the Seminar were from the International co-operative Alliance- Asia Pacific, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Government of Vietnam, VCA, the Justice Department of Vietnam, and International experts from Germany and Korea and the seminar was attended by the representatives from co-operatives and the ministry of Planning and Investment of the Government of Vietnam. The subject of discussion for the seminar was the newly developed co-operative law of Vietnam, if passed by the 11th Legislature would take effect amending the existing 2003 Law.

The session was started with welcome by VCA Vice President and remarks from Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, ICA-AP, in his opening speech. The core issues to be dealt with in the seminar were the aspects of co-operative Legislations in light of social needs and poverty reduction through co-operative Business. ICA-AP presented a paper on 'Co-operative Laws as Tools for Development of Co-operatives in Asia Pacific'. That was followed by Q/A where Dr. CHOI answered questions from the participants. The session was followed by presentation by



Dr. Choi addressing Members of Government and Co-operators of Vietnam Co-operative Movement

the Ministry of Planning and Investment. The official talked about the nature of Union of Co-operatives. He thereafter, shared the importance of labour in co-operation, the economic, social and cultural impact of co-operatives and concluded by saying that there has to be a complete legal framework and policies on co-operatives in Vietnam and giving direct benefits to the members being a priority. Thereafter, the

amendments in the proposed drafts those have been mentioned in the document provided by VCA was debated upon through detailed discussions and question -airing by the participants who were the members and in many cases the Chairman and Chief Officers of co-operatives in Vietnam. The International Experiences were shared by Experts from Germany and Korea on the final day of the Seminar. Mr. Lee from NACF made a detailed presentation about the functioning of the NACF and the co-operative system in Korea. The concept of open and close membership was discussed in relation to its inclusion in the Vietnamese Co-operative Law. Along with this, Dr. CHOI referred the UN International Year of Co-operatives 2012, he discussed about the importance of the year and made suggestions on the commemoration of the Year.

IYC 2012

Artistic Competitions For Youth

The ICA, as a part of its various initiatives for the International Year of Co-operatives 2012, has proposed to launch a global artistic competition designed to encourage youth to creatively express their views on co-operative principles. The competition was announced by the ICA on the UN International Day of Co-operatives on July 2, 2011. The event was conceived by José Antonio Chavez, ICA's Youth Representative to the ICA Board and invites large number of participation from youth across the world.

The participants can be in the age group of 16-35 years. An awards ceremony will be held at the World Co-operative Forum in Manchester, UK in November 2012 to commemorate the competition.

The other important event to take place is the ongoing competition of designing a Dedicated ICA Poster for the

International Year of Co-operatives as 2012 provides ICA with the opportunity to raise awareness about co-operatives and position them as a serious business model. The winning entry will be unveiled at the ICA Launch of the International Year in Cancun, Mexico, in November 2011. The prize money for this competition is \$3500.

Please view www.ica/2012/poster.coop for further details.

The entries have be sent to brougham@ica.coop by 23 September 2011

For further queries please contacts:

- i) Rodrigo Gouveia - Secretary General
EURO COOP a.i.s.b.l. Tel.: +32 2 285 00 70
- ii) Nicola Kelly - Co-ordinator International Year of Co-operatives International Co-operative Alliance
Telephone +41(0)22 929 88 27



Coop Stories

Women on move in Nepal



Dr. Choi with Co-operative Members

Nari Jagaran Bachat Tatha Rin Sahakari Sanstha Ltd. (Women Awakening Saving and Credit Co-operative Ltd.), Nepal is one such Co-operative which reinforces the faith in the cooperative philosophy.

This co-operative was established in a remote area of Nepal 12 years ago by a group of illiterate women led by Ms. Nirmala Shrestha.

Today this co-operative has 900 members and 300 child members. In order to increase its income and serve the members in a better way, this co-operative operates a vegetable collection centre. It also takes up challenging activities such as family welfare and health clinic programme for the health of women.



Co-operative Members

The current annual report of the co-operative gives complete information about the operations and financial health of the cooperative.

The co-operative is holding regular meetings of management committee, accounts and monitoring committee, loan sub-committee, education committee and agriculture sub-

ICA President in Japan



The ICA President with Co-operators

The ICA President Dame Pauline Green visited Tsunami affected areas of Japan during her visit to the country from 11 to 14 July-2011. The visit was to extend solidarity with the co-operative members who suffered loss due to the calamity.

She visited Miyagi Agricultural Co-operative and Strawberry Farm, Araham Port and a shop of Miyagi Consumer Co-operatives and met with the co-operators to share their grief.

She also met with representatives of agricultural, consumer and fishery co-operative in Miyagi prefecture and had meeting with the Japanese National Co-operative Organizations affiliated with ICA at JA-Zenchu.

The glimpses of press release are at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pomccyfv-bU&feature=share>

IN THIS ISSUE

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“Co-operative enterprises build a better world”

From the Editor



The response coming in from members in the form of news and feedback is encouraging.

Thank you!

The Monsoon is good and the International Coop Day was commemorated widely by members. A variety of development activities took place revitalizing the movement.

Presence of National Presidents of Indonesia and Sri Lanka in their respective celebrations is an indication of the success of the coop movement.

IYC-2012 countdown has begun. Two exclusive coop stories are included in this issue like the last one and will continue with showcasing more such examples.

The ICA president, Dame Pauline Green visited Japan to express solidarity with devastated members in the aftermath of Tsunami.

Dr. Choi participated in the coop seminars and other events of the members, the regular activities and meetings of ICA regional committees took place along with other capacity building programmes for the members.

We welcome a new member from Nepal and changes in leadership are also reported from some quarters. Some "news to be used" are also included.

Hope this keeps you interested.

Savitri Singh

Upcoming Events

1. 1st ICA-Japan Training Course on Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives, India and Japan, September-November 2011.
2. 1st Training Course on "Revitalization of Local Community by Rural Women, Thailand and Japan, September - October 2011.
3. 3rd ICA/SNCF Business Seminar for Cooperative Leaders on "Innovating Co-operative Business with Internet Technology", Singapore, October 2011.
4. Enhancing the role of women in Co-operative business, Indonesia, October 2011.

committee.

The coop also receives visitors from other institutions who come to study the operations of this coop.

They have various financial products for the members and their children. It follows the rules and regulations of the land and upholds the coop values and principles.

A Co-operative for displaced



Glimpses of Co-op

The strength of the co-operatives are immense. It can not only provide the members of a co-operative security, but also makes them self-reliant. So when the members of a co-operative taste the fruits of success, the result is indeed electrifying. Not surprisingly, Tibetan Handicraft Production-cum-sale Industrial Co-operative Society is one such society which has surged ahead in the recent times imbibing the true ethos of co-operative. Located in Macleodganj in Dharamshala district of Himachal Pradesh State in India, this society has not looked back ever since it was formed in 1961. After the Indian Government provided asylum to the Tibetan refugees in the hill town of Dharamshala in early 1960s, a sustainable and responsible rehabilitation process became an imperative need of the newly formed and still settling Tibetan community. An ethical business practice was most desired by them, and it was felt that a co-operative form of an enterprise was most suited to serve the needs of the refugee population. In 1969, after eight years of working relentlessly as an informal enterprise, the handicrafts society was registered under the Co-operative Societies Provision Act of the Indian State of Himachal Pradesh. The

main objective of the society was to help the economically poor refugees to earn a livelihood and help them become self-reliant.

Working under the aegis of 'Federation of Tibetan Co-operatives in India Ltd [FTCI]', the society has its office, mill, workers' residence, a tailoring shop and two stores.

The members are provided housing in

the same complex and are given many other benefits such as child care, education allowance, yearly and festival bonus, medi-care, etc. The society provides workers with competitive wages and a 25% bonus from the net profit. There is a provision even for the workers' provident funds. Today, the society directly benefits 350 working families and is now contributing 15% of the net profit to the Central Tibetan Administration. However, it is aware of future challenges. Enhancing its reach, stepping-up its business potential, and diversification in new activities are high on its agenda. All the co-operative members of the Tibetan refugee committee met at Dharamshala in early August to discuss their future plan of action giving the members a sense of belongingness and to be a part of a responsible business enterprise.

This story is collected by ICA-AP staff Ms. Archana Gupta and Mr. P. Santosh Kumar. They visited the Federation of Tibetan co-operatives in India in the small town of Macleodganj in the Indian State of Himachal Pradesh in early August. Please check the video at : <http://www.ica-ap.coop/>

Influence

International Co-operative Day-2011

The International Co-operative Day-2011 was celebrated widely by the co-operatives in the region. Following are some reports from members-

India: NCUI

National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) organised a National Symposium on the occasion of International Co-operative Day on 2nd July, 2011 at New Delhi. The Symposium addressed the theme of this year's celebration "Youth, the Future of Co-operative Enterprise". The speakers and guests were Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, International Co-operative Alliance (ICA-AP), Shri R. K. Tiwari, Joint Secretary and Central Registrar, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, Shri Rakesh Mohan, Joint Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. G.N. Ghosh, Assistant FAO Representative and Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Joint Commissioner, Kendriya Vidhyalaya Sangathan. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President, NCUI presided over the Symposium and Dr. Dinesh, Chief Executive, NCUI, gave his presentation on "Youth, the Future of Co-operative Enterprise".



Dr. C P S Yadav, President NCUI speaking at the event

Chairman and Managing Directors of National Co-operative Federations, officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, Govt. of India, ICA, FAO, NCDC, ILO etc. were also presents besides the student of different educational institutions in Delhi.

Dr. Yadav called on the youth to join the co-operative sector for mutual benefits, he said that - it will give them employment and sharpen them on leadership as well as on entrepreneurship.

Dr. Choi shared the international experiences i.e. working of youth and campus co-operative in Japan & Singapore and said that there is enough possibilities & scope for youth to participate in the co-operative movement.

Indonesia- DEKOPIN

In the presence of the President of Indonesia, Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and his Co-operative Minister, Dr. Syarifuddin Hasan MM. MBA, the 64th National Co-operative Day Celebrations in Indonesia was held on 12 July at the



The President of Indonesia awarding excellent co-operators

Jakarta Convention Center. In his inaugural speech, His Excellency, the President Yudhoyono called for a strong government support for co-operative enterprises, especially in the occasions of coming International Year of Co-operatives 2012. He also expressed his thanks to Dr. Choi for his presence on the occasion.

Sri Lanka: NCC

The Sri Lanka Cooperative Movement celebrated the 89th International Co-operative Day and completion of 100 years of legal registration of the co-operative movement at Welagedera stadium in Kurunegala, the capital of North Western Province from 28th June to 02 July, 2011. The president of Sri Lanka Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa graced the function as the chief Guest on the final day of the ceremony.

Ministry of Co-operatives and Internal Trade, Department of Co-operative Development along with the National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka made arrangements to implement several programmes to celebrate both occasions. Some of the events were:-

- Holding exhibitions and a trade fair under the name of 'Isuru Saviya', - "Prosperity of Co-operatives"



Hon'ble President with President and General Manager of NCC

- Building of 100 houses for the needy and vulnerable active members in the Co-operative Movement ,
- Preparation of a national policy
- Amendments to co-operative act by launching regulatory systems
- Registration of co-operative societies in the fields of Media, Tourism, Housing and Property Development etc
- Sports competitions
- School Children Competitions
- Selection of best "Co-op City" and "Mini Co-op City" super markets.

Japan: JCCU

This year the commemoration of 89th International Day of Co-operative-2011 was uniquely held on July 14, 2011 in Tokyo, Japan by JCCU. In light of the earthquake and the tsunami followed by the Fukushima Nuclear crisis this year's theme was settled on "What co-operative society can do for the earthquake disaster reconstruction".

Representatives from 63 co-operative societies in Japan totaling 550 attended the occasion.

Opening greetings was given by Mr. Katsuto Uchihashi, the steering committee chairman of IYC, followed by a report from each of the three panelists regarding updates from the quake-hit area. Based on these reports the future work by co-operatives towards the reconstruction to overcome the challenge were discussed.

Next was a panel discussion in relation to the theme by six panelists, two each from the fishery, agricultural and the consumer co-operatives with Professor Kobayashi Masaya (Chiba University Graduate School) as the coordinator.

Mr. Kumagai, the chairperson of the Fukushima Prefecture Co-operative Union reported about the collaborated effort being taken by co-op and various local organizations in tackling the problems brought by the radioactive contamination in Fukushima.

Mr. Haga, the managing director of JCCU reported about the wide range of support being given by JCCU and its member co-ops towards the rehabilitation work at the stricken area. He also mentioned that within the year JCCU would present its viewpoint about the energy policy of Japan.

Professor Kobayashi concluded that the challenge confronting Japan must be regarded as personal and requires greater effort from the government, co-operatives, the private sector and individuals.

It was a very successful gathering and all the speakers gave the attendees lots of food for thought.

Reaching Out

Indonesia: Co-operative Expo in Jakarta

In conjunction with the 64th National Cooperative Day Celebrations in Indonesia, the Indonesian Cooperative Expo was held on 12-15 July at the Jakarta Convention Center,



Dr. Choi and Mr. Shiombing at the Expo

organized by the Co-operative Council of Indonesia (DEKOPIN). There, various kinds of co-operative products and services from 190 domestic enterprises from all over the country were exhibited in a way to showcase the evident potentials of co-operative enterprises, and to invite their market and trade opportunities.

Nepal: Co-operative Sector as One of the Pillars of Economic Development

The National Co-operative Federation of Nepal invited Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director to attend the seminar on Role of Co-operatives in Socio-Economic Development at Kathmandu, Nepal on August 17, 2011.

The Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives of Nepal Mr. Hari Narayan Yadav formally inaugurated the seminar and said "The Interim Constitution of Nepal -2006 has made a provision recognizing the co-operative economic sector for the national economic development as equal to the private and public sectors". Minister Yadav also highlighted that the Government of Nepal had given high priority to the co-operative economic sector as one of the pillars of the national economic development in the plan, programme and budget.

Expressing his confidence he also assured that the co-operative economic sector would join hands together with the Nepal Government for achieving the set objectives of the national economic development programmes for the socio-economic upliftment of the people of Nepal.

Minister Yadav informed that the government of Nepal is going to constitute a national celebration committee for the



Dr. Choi greeting the Minister Mr. Yadav



Dr. Choi, Mr. K P Badal and Mr. Yadav at the opening ceremony

He expressed his happiness that the government of Nepal had recognized that the co-operatives are one of the pillars of National economy when it is still facing many challenges.

This was his first visit to Nepal and Dr. Choi took this opportunity to know more about the coop movement of Nepal. After conclusion of the seminar he visited office of the NCF, NCDF, Coop Bank Federation of Nepal and Cooperative Department of Ministry of Agriculture and Coops, Government of Nepal.

Besides meeting with leaders and officials of the movement Dr. Choi also visited cooperatives inside the rural area of the country. He visited the following coops-

1. Nari Jagaran Saving & Credit Coop Society Ltd., Nala Shera
2. Greenary Agro-Integrated Group Pvt Ltd, Bhaktapur
3. Samudayik Saving & Credit Coop Society Ltd.

observance of the International Year of Co-operatives- 2012 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of Nepal soon as announced by UN for full year of 2012.

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director, ICA-AP expressed immense pleasure to convey his greetings and congratulations to the delegates.

Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, Chairman chaired the opening ceremony while Mr. Ganesh Bahadur Thapa, Former Governor presided over the working session.

In the seminar 68 participants including Ms. Savitri Singh, Gender Advisor, ICA-AP, Registrar of DoC Mr. Sudharsan Prasad Dhakal and Co-chairman of NCDB Mr. Saroj Kumar Sharma were present.

IMPORTANT

9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Minister's Conference -
Feb. 27th - March 01 2012 at Bangkok, Thailand

Committee Meetings

HRD Committee

The 23rd meeting of the ICA Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) for Asia and Pacific was held on 4th July in Selangor, Malaysia. The meeting was hosted by the National Co-operative



Meeting in progress

Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA). 28 participants from seven countries, namely, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia and Sri Lanka attended the meeting.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chairman of the HRD Committee. He welcomed the presence of the members and thanked them for coming to the meeting. He also gave a brief account of presentations scheduled to be made by various speakers during the seminar after the meeting on 4th and 5th July.

The opening session was attended and addressed by Hajah Armi Haji Zainudin, Vice President of the National Co-operative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA); ICA Board Member and Vice Chair of HRD Committee. She extended a warm welcome to the members on behalf of ANGKASA. She said that Malaysia is pioneered in "school co-operatives" which is a unique experience. Another unique thing was compulsory training for board of directors. She appreciated

the work being done by the HRD Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Bhagwati Prasad. She also thanked ICA-AP for giving an opportunity to host the meeting and seminar in Malaysia.

Mr. Bhagwati

Prasad made the presentation on Global HRD Networking Portal and explained in detail the various features of the portal. He said that the project was running successfully and about 66 HRD institutions and 4 experts have registered so far. However, for the last two years not much work has been done on this portal due to various reasons. Even registered members were not uploading their information on the portal. He requested all registered organizations to upload all the information relating to them.

The presentation followed by discussions focused on the following issues: (a) Strengthening of portal by uploading all information required by registered members of the portal; (b) Making it more useful by updating the information from time to time; (c) Mobilization of advertisements from cooperatives to be posted on the portal on payment basis and (d) Motivating HRD institutions and individual experts to register themselves with the portal to make it more broad based and useful.

Highlights

New Chairman of CLT



The existing boards of directors of (CLT) the Co-operative League of Thailand have voted for Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit as the next Chairman of CLT since 21 June 2011. Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit, a 55 - year old former taxi driver to a top co-operative leader in Thailand, established a taxi co-operative specifically designed and targeted to improve the livelihood of the drivers migrated from the rural farmers community to a city like Bangkok.

He upgraded to graduate MINI MBA of Chulalongkorn University. He is the founder and General Secretary of political party namely, Machimadhibhatai Party. He has been a candidate for Member of Parliament of Bangkok, area 7. He is also a member of the Advisory Team to Minister of Commerce for the tenure of 2009 - 2011.

New President of Ja-Zenchu



Mr. BANZAI Akira is elected as 13th President of Ja-Zenchu on 10th August, 2011.

Earlier he worked

with Niigata Prefectural Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (2008-11), Niigata-"Mirai" (means "future") Primary Agricultural Cooperative (2007-2008) and Gosen-Yotsuba Primary Agricultural Co-operative (1998 - 2007) as a President.

Committee for Youth

The ICA-AP Committee for Youth conducted its preparatory meeting through Skype to discuss the arrangements of the forthcoming plenary meeting at Cancun in November, 2011. The Skype meeting was attended by members from Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan. Members from India, Vietnam and Japan could not join the meeting but extended their support to the meeting. The agendas of the discussion were:

1. Future course of action for the committee in view of the ongoing preparations on International Year of Co-operatives 2012 and the participation of youth at the ICA General Assembly in November

this year.

2. During the discussion, the plenary meeting for youth to be held at Cancun was referred to with regards the issues that need to be addressed by the Youth of the Asia Pacific region.

3. As future activities of the committee, a workshop on co-operative entrepreneurship was planned and was proposed to be held in India later this year. The Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the committee read out their messages and expressed their best wishes for the commencement of the activities for the year.

Member Services

Regional Seminar on HRD



The participants

A Regional Seminar on "Need and Importance of HRD in Co-operatives with special reference to Training of Board of Directors" was organized by the International Co-operative Alliance-Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) in collaboration with the National Co-operative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA) on 4th and 5th July 2011 in Subang, Selangor, Malaysia.

The objective of the seminar was to provide a platform to discuss various issues relating to human resource development of board of directors in co-operatives with main focus on good governance, role perception, desirability of training and identification of areas of relevance for training of board of directors. The seminar also discussed in detail the

policy of mandatory training of board of directors adopted by Malaysian Co-operative Movement and also explored the possibility of its adoption by other countries.

The seminar was inaugurated by Professor Dato Dr. Mohd Ali Hj. Baharum, President of ANGKASA and Board Member of ICA-AP. Dato' HJ. Abdul Fattah HJ. Abdullah, Deputy President of ANGKASA was also present during the ceremony.

28 participants from seven countries, namely, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia and Sri Lanka attended the seminar.

A number of presentation made by the delegates at the seminar which are placed at <http://www.icarop.coop/Publications/Default.aspx>

Ensuring quality and safety of food



Participants at a farm

Perhaps due to poverty and large number of population, most of Asian countries focus more on increasing food production and generally less attention is paid to safety and quality of the food resulting into health and environmental problems. Uninformed/misinformed use of chemicals, pesticides and fertilizers and other farm inputs impact the quality of food and also affect the soil etc. Therefore, it has become necessary to ensure quality and safety management of farm products including meats, dairy and poultry etc. for better health of people, better value to farm products and conservation of soil and natural resources as well.

In order to address these concerns, the ICA-Japan Training Course on "Quality and Safety Management of Farm Products" was designed as a new

training course commencing from the current year 2011. The course was held from July 11 to August 4, 2011 in Japan which was implemented by ICA, based on an agreement among ICA, JA ZENCHU, IDACA and MAFF.

16 female and male middle level government officials and cooperative managers and leaders from 9 countries (South Asia and CLMV countries of Mekong River) attended the programme. During the 25 days schedule, the participants learned about GAP (Good Agricultural Practices), research and development of agricultural inputs, processing and marketing and also vital role played by cooperatives in promoting Safety and Quality of food products.

The Program was coordinated jointly by Ms. Savitri Singh of ICA-AP and Mr. Yukio Abe of IDACA.

From the Region

India

₹ 9846 Crore for Credit Co-operatives

An amount of Rs. 9846.70 crore (Rs. 8992.36 crore Government of India share and Rs. 854.34 crore State Government share) has been released as on 30.6.2011 under package for revival of credit cooperatives.

The package for revival and strengthening of Short-Term Cooperative Credit Structure (STCCS) in the country is presently under implementation with an estimated

total financial outlay of Rs. 13596 crore. The package has been formulated on the basis of recommendations of Vaidyanathan Committee. Implementation of the package has facilitated the STCCS entities to function in a democratic and self-reliant manner.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=74462>

Highlights

New Member:

Nepal:

National Co-operative Development Board (NCDB) from Nepal has joined the ICA network as an Associate Member.

The National Co-operative Development Board (NCDB) was founded in 1992 and is a semi governmental organization which advises government on co-operative development policy and its implementation. It carries out development and research work. The Government appoints the Executives, Member Secretary and Members of the Board of Directors. The Board of the NCDB is a combination of representatives from the Government Ministries and co-operative researchers and leaders.

Change in the contact:

Thailand:

Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions ACCU

8th Floor, U Tower Building, No. 411, Srinakarin Rd., Suanluang, Bangkok 10250, Thailand Email ranjith@aaccu.coop Tel: (66)-2-7044253-54 Fax: (66)-2-7044255

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Mr Chuljong LEE, President (angkstth@hanmail.net)

Mr. Changhwan LEE, Communication coordinator (lch@wtco.kr)

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Philippines

CDA accredits NATCCO Training Group

QUEZON CITY - NATCCO's Education, certified by the Co-operative "Accredited Training Provider".

For accreditation, co-operatives and Certificate of Good Standing issued by basic information like name, address, services, historical profile of affiliations, list of officers and the Co-operative Annual Performance statements of the immediate

Source: <http://www.natcco.coop>



Meeting in progress

Training, Consultancy Group has been Development Authority (CDA) as an

federations are required to submit to the CDA, an organizational profile, contact details, a list of programs and co-operative training conducted, trainers with individual profiles, and Report and audited financial preceding year.

New Zealand

1. New Zealand co-op education seminar



The seminar in progress

With attendees arriving from as far away as Bangkok, over 50 people from more than 20 co-ops descended on Wellington, New Zealand at the end of August for a two day seminar. Speakers came from Canada and Western Australia as well as New Zealand to talk on "The Evolving Nature of Governance and Capital in Co-operative and Mutual Business".

"The seminar was excellent," said CBH director Wally Newman who came from Newdegate, Western Australia. He further said that he will recommend his board for sending two persons every year."

2. Announcement: Conference

The UN has declared 2012 to be International Year of Co-operatives. As part of the New Zealand celebrations of this International Year, the NZASCM will be organising an international conference on co-operative research on June 21, 22 and 23, 2012 at Victoria University of Wellington entitled "Building A Better World: The Role of Co-operatives and Mutuals in Society".

The NZASCM will be formally launched at this conference,

which is being organised together with the School of Economics and Finance, Victoria University of Wellington and the New Zealand Co-operatives Association.

The conference website can be found at: <http://nzascsm.coop>

**NEW ZEALAND
ASSOCIATION
FOR THE STUDY
COOPERATIVE
AND MUTUA**

Feedback

A Letter from China



Dear Mr. Taneja (ICA-AP),

More than pleasant to hear from you!

The training program is one of the most important experience of mine that changes my perspective and my way of thinking. Though I can tell its value when it is in progress, I appreciate more when I came

back and resume my work.

I shared many ideas I learnt with my colleagues, especially when I make a plan for a similar workshop for cooperative managers. The most important part I got during the ICA Training Course, if I can say so, is that I know more as to how to gain competitive advantage by using co-operative principles in a competitive environment. I learnt how to use time and more efficiently in Prof. Bhatt's Project Management, a better understanding of value addition from

Prof. Raju, and many more in IRMA. ANGKASA showed me truly Malaysia and truly Asia. The only sorry thing in IDACA: that so many victims in the earth quake, but Japanese people impressed me much with their resilience and persistence facing an overwhelming disaster. The textbook practices in co-op management from JA and the state-of-the-art board and lodging in IDACA deserves many thanks.

I am lucky that I met with so many great speakers and nice men (and women of course). I appreciate this training course and hope more participants from ACFSMC can be as lucky as me.

My best wishes to you, ICA-ROAP, IDACA as well as ANGKASA!

Mr. Xu Mingfeng

All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives, Beijing China