

13th Meeting of ICA-AP Regional Assembly

Tehran : 29th November 2018

AGENDA NOTES



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Alliance
Asia and Pacific

13th MEETING OF ICA-AP REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Tehran: 29th November 2018 (09:00–16:00)

AGENDA NOTES

AGENDA ITEM 01 : OPENING REMARKS

Following the joint opening ceremony of Cooperative Forum and Regional Assembly on 28th November, the 13th meeting of ICA-AP Regional Assembly will be officially opened on 29th November. Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of ICA-Asia and Pacific will chair the ICA Regional Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 02 : APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Delegates will be requested to formally approve the Agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 03 : CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 12TH MEETING HELD IN NEW DELHI ON 18TH NOV. 2016

The Minutes of the 12th meeting of ICA Regional Assembly held in New Delhi (India) on 18th November 2016 (Annexure-1) was circulated to all the delegates and member organizations. No suggestions/observations/amendments have been received. The minutes may be confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM 04 : PERUSAL OF MINUTES OF ICA-AP REGIONAL BOARD MEETINGS SINCE LAST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Since the last Regional Assembly, four meetings (New Delhi, 18th Nov. 2016; Hanoi, 17th April 2017; Kuala Lumpur, 14th November 2017; and Kathmandu, 6th April 2018) of the Regional Board were held. The confirmed minutes of the four meetings are enclosed (Annexure-2). Necessary follow-up action on these minutes has already been taken. The delegates of the Regional Assembly may kindly peruse.

AGENDA ITEM 05 : ICA-AP FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2016 AND 2017

ICA-AP Financial Report for January to December 2016

Administration - January to December 2016

Description	2016	2016
(All amounts are in USD)	Budget	Actual
Income		
Subscription redistribution (50%)	3,93,390	4,08,247
Administrative contribution	38,000	24,827
Regional Assembly meeting revenue	55,000	35,423
Total income	4,86,390	4,68,497
Expenses		
Personnel	2,35,000	1,70,686
Travel	75,000	77,328
Premises and general office	29,090	35,521
Printing and distribution	7,000	1,963
IT and telecommunication	12,600	6,755
External services	34,500	44,608
Other expenses	3,200	342
Specific project	25,000	22,423
Regional Assembly meeting	35,000	34,483
Contribution to MBO	20,000	0
Total expenses	4,76,390	3,94,109
		74,388*
Membership fee: in line with estimates at the beginning of the year.		
Administrative contribution: ACFSMC, JCCU, MAFF-Japan (Reduced contribution from MAFF).		
Meeting revenue: Income earned through Regional Assembly planned in 2016 (Reduced registration fee).		
Personnel: Includes salary of ICA-AP staff on payroll and deputation. This year, from March, three staff were moved to the EU project; hence less expenditure		
Travel: Includes travel of RD to visit member countries, attend board meetings; staff travel on non-project related work. In addition, travel was paid for experts to attend women conference, youth summit and regional assembly.		
Premises and general office: Include cost share payment with Domus Trust for rent, office and equipment maintenance, utilities, insurance, stationery, books and periodicals.		
Printing and distribution: Amount set aside for printing of studies, newsletters and annual report.		
IT and telecommunication: Internet, phone, internet, and service contract.		
External services: Consultancy, audit fees and legal expenses.		
Other expenses: Contingency and miscellaneous.		
Specific project: Related to meeting/ seminars/ workshops in the region to promote coops. Expenditure was incurred for women conference, youth summit and regional assembly.		
Contribution to Malaysia Business Office: Annual contribution to meet MBO expenses. This amount has not been transferred.		

* Does not include 20% contribution to EU Project (March 2017)

EU project - March 2016 to February 2017

Description	2016	2016
	Budget	Actual
Personnel	1,82,371	75,054
Travel	35,615	15,365
Premises and general office	8,640	1,830
Other expenses	7,900	4,618
Specific project	53,070	2,575
Indirect costs	20,132	6,961
Total Expenses	3,07,728	1,06,403
<p>Personnel: we moved three existing staff to the EU project, still need to recruit a Research Officer and Communications Officer; interviews are underway.</p>		
<p>Travel: less because all staff not recruited and not all activities have started.</p>		
<p>Premises and general office:</p>		
<p>Other expenses: equipment and related</p>		
<p>Specific project: major projects such as mapping and legal framework have not started; expect to start from April 2017.</p>		

Malaysia Business office - January to December 2016

All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives, China - finance workshop, C2C (KL and China)	31,955
National Agricultural Cooperative Federation, Korea - workshop in Korea, training in Malaysia and C2C in China	28,094
Japanese Consumer Cooperative Union, Japan - consumer training, gender, youth and fair trade	52,225
Angkasa - administrative; payment made directly on program activities	2,223

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan - July 2015 to June 2016

Fostering Core leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives	3,07,955
Improving Capacity of Rural Women	1,17,658
Fostering Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of Agricultural Cooperatives	1,09,327
Follow up of ICA-Japan Training Courses	19,933
	5,54,873

ICA-AP Financial Report for January to December 2017

Administration - January to December 2017

Description	2017	2017
(All amounts are in USD)	Budget	Actual
Income		
Subscription redistribution (50%)	393,390	417,689
Administrative contribution	32,000	20,926
EU Indirect (7% of spend)	16,600	11,828
Total income	441,990	450,443
Expenses		
Personnel	160,000	147,205
Travel	65,000	63,324
Premises and general office	29,100	40,281
Printing and distribution	7,000	11,436
IT and telecommunication	14,000	6,584
External services	34,500	36,424
Other expenses	3,300	3,137
Specific project	40,000	965
Contribution to MBO	20,000	
Total expenses	372,900	309,356
		63,544*
Membership fee: the collection of subscriptions from earlier years and current year resulted in higher income.		
Administrative contribution: ACFSMC, JCCU, MAFF-Japan		
Meeting revenue: No Regional Assembly		
Personnel: Includes salary of ICA-AP staff on payroll and deputation.		
Travel: Includes travel of Regional Director to visit member countries, attend board meetings; staff travel on non-project related work. In addition, travel was paid for experts to attend Minister's conference, Kyrgyz Forum, and other events		
Premises and general office: Higher than budgeted because of office renovation work and cost of electricity. Also includes cost share payment with Domus Trust for rent, office and equipment maintenance, utilities, insurance, stationery, books and periodicals.		
Printing and distribution: Amount set aside for printing of studies, newsletters and annual report.		
IT and telecommunication: Internet, phone, internet, and service contract.		
External services: Consultancy, audit fees and legal expenses.		
Other expenses: Contingency and miscellaneous.		
Contribution to Malaysia Business: Annual contribution to meet MBO expenses. This amount has not been transferred.		

* Does not include 20% contribution to EU Project (March 2018)

EU Project - January to November 2017

Description	2017	2017
	Budget	Actual
Personnel	115,000	109,285
Travel	50,000	46,858
Premises and general office	8,184	540
Printing and distribution	5,000	
IT and telecommunication	7,645	6,660
Other expenses	1,320	
Specific Project**	50,000	5,632
Total expenses	237,149	168,975
Personnel: we moved three existing staff to the EU project. Added two new staff this year - Research Officer and Communications Officer		
Travel: in line with budget		
Premises and general office:		
Other expenses: equipment and related		
** Specific project: The EU year is from March to February. A major policy event was held in February 2018. The mapping and legal framework have not started.		

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan - July 2016 to June 2017

Fostering Core leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives	208,136
Improving Capacity of Rural Women	107,410
Fostering Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of Agricultural Cooperatives	86,703
Follow up of ICA-Japan Training Courses	20,060
Total	422,309
The above is the audited statement for the period July 2016 to June 2017. The MAFF training program is continuing for the period July 2017 to June 2018.	

Malaysia Business Office - January to December 2017

ACFSMC - China.	19,588
JCCU - Japan (Consumer, Gender and Youth)	41,546
NACF- Korea	6,709
ANGKASA - Malaysia	7,193

AGENDA ITEM 06 : ICA MEMBERSHIP SITUATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

The following 16 organizations have joined ICA since the last Regional Assembly in New Delhi (India) in November 2016.

1. Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Philippines.
2. Palestinian Agricultural Cooperative Union (PACU), Palestine.
3. Sharjah Cooperative Society (SCS), United Arab Emirates.
4. MASS-SPECC Cooperative Development Center, Philippines.
5. Nasinu Land Purchase & Housing Cooperative Limited, Fiji.
6. Nepal Multipurpose Central Cooperative Union Limited (NEMCCU), Nepal.
7. Japan Cooperative Alliance (JCA), Japan
8. Rah-e-roshd Cooperative Education Complex (CRC), Iran
9. Japan Coop Insurance Consumers' Cooperative Federation (JCIF), Japan.
10. Union of Labour Service Cooperative (ULSC), Philippines.
11. Heilongjiang Guhe Cooperative Association (GUHE), China.
12. Cooperatives Union of Kyrgyzstan (CUK), Kyrgyzstan.
13. Union of Housing Cooperatives in Palestine (PUHC), Palestine.
14. Jordan Cooperative Corporation (JCC), Jordan.
15. Central Union of state for Rural Production Coops of Iran (CURPC), Iran.
16. Aurora Integrated Multipurpose Cooperative (AIMCoop), Philippines.

The following four organizations have ceased to be members of ICA due to non-payment of subscription fee.

1. Cooperative Global Sourcing Limited (CGS), China
2. Cooperative Union of the Philippines (CUP), Philippines
3. National Fisheries Federation (NFF), Sri Lanka
4. Central Union of Iran Animal Farmers (CUIAF), Iran

The following six organizations have applied for membership of ICA.

1. Sri Lanka Coop Rural Banks Federation Limited (CRB), Sri Lanka.
2. First Isabela Cooperative Bank (FICO Bank), Philippines.
3. National Federation of People-based Cooperative Enterprises (InKUR), Indonesia.
4. Uralungal Labour Contract Coop Society Limited (ULCCS), India.
5. Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives (MCIC), Kiribati.
6. National Yuva Cooperative Society Limited (NYCS), India.

The current total ICA-Asia and Pacific membership is **104** organizations from **32** countries.

AGENDA ITEM 07 : APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO THE NAME OF ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY/CAMPUS COOPS TO ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVES IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (ICEI).

The regional committee on university/campus cooperative, set up as a sub-committee of the ICA-AP Consumer Committee in 1994, and as a full committee in 2008 during the 8th ICA-AP Regional Assembly in Hanoi (Vietnam), has the objective to promote the growth and development of coops in educational institutions (university/college/schools) in pursuance with the objectives of the ICA-AP.

During its 9th Annual meeting on November 12, 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, while the committee was addressing **Agenda item 4** on 'Any Other Business', newly inducted member from Palestine Ms. Abeer Qtairy raised a query to know what comprised of "university/campus" in the nomenclature of the Committee. Committee secretary pointed to article 2 of the Committee's Constitution that identified universities, colleges and high-schools as main stakeholders of the Committee. This was followed by a discussion led by chairperson Dr. Mohd. Azlan Yahya from ANGKASA (Malaysia) where Committee members deliberated on whether the Committee needed to be clearer in its nomenclature to convey its objectives, composition and purpose. Chairperson added that Malaysian 'campus cooperative movement' was restricted to schools which was also a beneficiary of the government's policy on school cooperatives. Members thereafter opined that the Committee could look at an amendment to the name of the Committee, in their next annual meeting. The relevant sections of the approved minutes of the 9th Annual meeting are placed below.

- a. This session began with Ms. Abeer Qtairy from ESDC (Palestine) raising a question on the difference between 'university cooperative' and 'campus cooperative' in the narrative of the Committee's mandates. Dr. Azlan stepped in to respond by stating that the Committee was representative of cooperative enterprises that were established to satisfy the needs of students on campus. *He further added that school cooperatives should be added to the terminology, or alternatively, the nomenclature of the Committee must be relooked at in the next meeting.*
- b. Dr. Maita representing Vice Chair, Dr. Furuta (Japan) mentioned that only a few high schools and secondary schools in Japan had cooperatives but agreed with Dr. Azlan that the nomenclature could be relooked, and that many a time university cooperatives and school cooperatives behaved similarly. *He said renaming and rebranding the Committee to include 'educational institutions' or 'student cooperation' will be in the best overall interest.*

Item 2 on the Agenda of the 10th Annual Meeting of the Committee on 4th October 2018 in Singapore, dealt with the proposed amendments to the Constitution including the one to change the nomenclature of the committee. The committee members in their wisdom and the background information in form of minutes of the 9th meeting, accepted the change in name from Committee on University/Campus Cooperatives to **ICA-AP Committee on Cooperatives in Educational Institutions** to sound more inclusive of its stakeholders. The amendment was made in the presence of Chairperson Dr. Mohd Azlan Yahya, and representative of Vice Chairperson Dr. Motoo Furuta along with members from India, Singapore, Pakistan, Palestine, South Korea, Secretary (ICA-AP) and co-secretary from the Philippines.

The elections to the office of the Committee that took place in the above mentioned 10th Annual meeting resulted in Dr. Azlan Yahya from ANGKASA (Malaysia) as Chairperson, Dr. Motoo Furuta from NFUCA (Japan) as Vice Chair and Mrs. Indira Panta from NCBL (Nepal) as Vice Chairperson for a term until 2020.

AGENDA ITEM 08 : APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF ICA-ASIA AND PACIFIC (Article-7, para-3) regarding Co-option of Chair of ICA-AP Women Committee to Regional Board

At the last Regional Assembly held in New Delhi on 18th November 2016, the following Agenda was discussed and approved.

AGENDA ITEM 09: CO-OPTION OF CHAIR OF ICA-AP WOMEN COMMITTEE TO REGIONAL BOARD

Mr. Balu informed the meeting that since 2012, the regional board has very limited representation of women on the board. Given the importance the region places on participation of women in cooperatives and representation of women in leadership position across all levels, including the board; the absence of women on the board is glaring. The AP region has active engagement of women co-operators and very active Women Committee.

The regional board meeting unanimously approved the co-option of Women's Committee Chair to the ICA-AP Regional Board without voting right. After brief discussions, the Regional Assembly unanimously approved the proposal.

This Change should be ratified by the ICA General Assembly and for this we must amend the Rules of ICA-Asia and Pacific (Article-7: Regional Board, para-3).

Existing Rule	Proposed Rule
A youth representative shall be co-opted to the Regional Board. The Asia and Pacific members of the ICA Board who are not members of the Regional Board, shall have the right to attend and speak at the Regional Board.	The Chair of the ICA-AP Committee on Youth and ICA-AP Committee on Women shall be co-opted to the ICA-AP Regional Board without voting right. The Asia and Pacific members of the ICA Board who are not members of the Regional Board, shall have the right to attend and speak at the Regional Board.

AGENDA ITEM 09 : UPDATE ON EUROPEAN UNION (EU) PROJECT

AGENDA ITEM 10 : STATUS OF ICA-AP MALAYSIA BUSINESS OFFICE

The activities of the Malaysian Business Office (MBO) are reported under ICA-AP activities.

AGENDA ITEM 11 : REPORTS FROM ICA-AP SECTORAL/ THEMATIC COMMITTEES

The Chairperson of the following ICA-AP Sectoral/Thematic Committees will present their report before the Regional Assembly.

1. ICA-AP Committee on Agriculture
2. *ICA-AP Committee on Consumer*
3. *ICA-AP Committee on Credit and Banking*
4. ICA-AP Committee on Forestry
5. ICA-AP Committee on HRD
6. *ICA-AP Committee on Research*
7. ICA-AP Committee on Trade and Business
8. *ICA-AP Committee on Women*
9. *ICA-AP Committee on Youth*
10. *ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus*

**AGENDA ITEM 12 : REPORT OF THE 10TH COOPERATIVE FORUM ON
"COOPERATIVES HELP ECONOMIES BECOME MORE
RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE"**

The 10th Cooperative Forum will be held on 28th November 2018 a day before the Regional Assembly. The Forum will have presentations by eminent cooperative experts and leaders on the theme, "**Cooperatives Help Economies Become More Resilient and Sustainable.**" The deliberations at the Forum will help delegates have a deeper insight into the most relevant and crucial contextual issues important to cooperatives. We expect around 125 international participants to attend the Cooperative Forum, besides many local participants.

A brief report will be presented at the Regional Assembly on 29th November by the Forum Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 13: ICA GLOBAL STRATEGY REVIEW AND PROCESS

AGENDA ITEM 14: ANY OTHER BUSINESS MATTERS

**AGENDA ITEM 15: CONSIDERATION OF VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT ICA-AP
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

AGENDA ITEM 16: CLOSING REMARKS

Annexure-1

MINUTES OF THE 12TH MEETING OF ICA-AP REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

New Delhi (India): 18th November 2016

AGENDA ITEM 01 : OPENING REMARKS

The joint opening ceremony of the 12th ICA-AP Regional Assembly and 9th Cooperative Forum was held at Hotel Ashok in the morning of 17th November 2016. The Cooperative Forum is a biennial event organized by ICA-AP in conjunction with the Regional Assembly. The Forum brings together stakeholders to assess progress, discuss challenges and arrive at decisions to strengthen cooperative enterprises as models of sustainable development. The opening ceremony was attended by over 700 delegates from India and the Asia-Pacific region. Mr. Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister for Railways, Government of India graced the occasion. Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of ICA-AP; Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of NCUI; Dr. U.S. Awasti, Managing Director of IFFCO; delivered their special addresses at the opening ceremony. Mr. Balasubramanian (Balu) Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP proposed a vote of thanks. Mr. Parshottam Rupala, Minister for State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare addressed the closing ceremony.

Following the deliberations of the ICA Regional Cooperative Forum, the 12th Meeting of ICA-AP Regional Assembly was held at Hotel Ashok in New Delhi on 18th November. 390 participants from 21 countries and two international organizations attended the Regional Assembly. The Assembly adopted several resolutions including strategic direction for the region, Declaration from the Cooperative Forum, support to the Japanese cooperative movement, and co-option of Chair of Women Committee to ICA-AP Regional Board.

Mr. **Li Chunsheng**, President, ICA-AP and Chairman of ICA-AP Regional Assembly opened the meeting and welcomed all the members and special invitees. He expressed his happiness at the participation of representatives from most of the member organizations' at the Regional Assembly. He thanked Mr. Charles Gould, ICA Director General for his presence and the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) for hosting the meeting in New Delhi.

AGENDA ITEM 02 : APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Li Chunsheng asked members if they had any comments on the Agenda. The Agenda, which was circulated at the meeting, was unanimously approved.

AGENDA ITEM 03 : CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 11TH MEETING HELD IN BALI ON 19TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Mr. Balu Iyer informed the meeting that the minutes of the 11th ICA-AP Regional Assembly held in Bali (Indonesia) on 19th September 2014 were circulated to all delegates/member organizations and no comments/suggestions/amendments were received. The minutes were confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM 04 : PERUSAL OF MINUTES OF ICA-AP REGIONAL BOARD MEETINGS SINCE LAST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Since last Regional Assembly, four meetings of the Regional Board were held. The confirmed minutes of the three meetings were circulated at the Regional Assembly. Necessary follow-up action on these minutes has already been taken. The delegates endorsed the minutes of the Regional Board.

AGENDA ITEM 05 : ICA-AP FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2014 AND 2015

Mr. Balu Iyer presented the ICA-AP financial report for the years 2014 to 2015. He informed the members that there was a surplus of US\$ 32,854 during 2014 and a small deficit of US\$ 3,478 in 2015. He informed the members that the region was on the right track in 2016 and hoped to have some surplus at the end of the year.

Mr. Balu further said that in 2016 we will have some income from the registration fee for the Regional Assembly. The administrative income is getting lower each year as the MAFF-Japan budget has been reducing (from a total budget of US\$ 830,000 in 2013-14 to US\$ 421,000 in 2016-17). The EU project will bring in some administration income as we can charge 7% of expense incurred as indirect cost. On the expense side, the Regional Office has stayed within budget. Some of the expenses relating to staff salaries, travel and administration have been shifted to the EU project.

Mr. Li said that Africa and America regions are in deficit and the financial situation of Asia-Pacific region was good and hoped it would be better in the coming years. He also said that we should encourage more members to join ICA in the future.

All members expressed happiness with regard to the performance and positive financial results of ICA-AP.

AGENDA ITEM 06 : ICA MEMBERSHIP SITUATION IN AP REGION

Mr. Balu Iyer informed the meeting that 13 organizations had joined ICA since the last Regional Assembly in Bali in September 2014. He said that two organizations had ceased to be members of ICA due to non-payment of subscription fee and two organizations from Israel had moved to European region with effect from 1st January 2016 as per global board decision. He also said that four organizations have applied for membership to ICA. The total ICA-AP membership was 94 organizations from 29 countries. He further said that though the membership is increasing, the subscription amount is not very high.

Mr. Balu said that we should try and increase membership in the Middle East and Central Asia and mentioned about his upcoming visit to Bahrain and UAE. He also mentioned that an event would be held in Central Asia in June where the youth, women and consumer committees would come together to show case the various activities of ICA-AP. He thanked the members for paying their subscription on time and requested those who had not paid their subscription to do so at the earliest. He further said that it is very important that the members pay their subscription on time so that we can plan our activities accordingly.

Mr. Li said that the membership situation in our region is okay. In future we should encourage more members from the Gulf and Middle East countries to join ICA.

The members appreciated the efforts made by ICA-AP in expanding the membership base of ICA in the Asia-Pacific region.

AGENDA ITEM 07 : APPROVAL OF ICA-AP STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2017-20

Mr. Balu Iyer informed the meeting that the current ICA-AP Strategic Plan runs till end of 2016. A new strategic plan for the period 2017 to 2020 needs to be prepared and put for approval to the Assembly. The strategy needs to be aligned with the ICA global strategy, recommendations from the regional consultations, and inputs from regional board members and staff. A visioning exercise was carried out with board members in Colombo on 16th June in which inputs provided by the board members (through their response to questions sent ahead of the meeting) were discussed and priority areas identified. Dr. Ganesh Prabhu, Professor Strategy from the Institute of Rural Management, Bangalore was the external consultant for the exercise.

Mr. Balu Iyer presented the proposed ICA-AP Strategic Plan for 2017-2020. He said that there will be changes in the Strategic Plan depending upon the global strategy which was still being worked on.

Mr. Adolfo Ibanez and Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong said that there were a number of activities and the region should prioritize key ones taking into account the resources available.

Mr. Kenki Maeda, speaking on behalf of Mr. Akira Banzai said that there should be more details on the activities to be carried out.

Dr. Bhagwati Prasad said that legal framework (legal reform) is a fundamental right to establish cooperatives, so it should be included in the strategic plan. He also said that ICA has got a law committee.

Mr. Ravindran said that the strategic plan includes broad objectives only and it should be broken into action plan.

Dr. Kiriwandeniya said that research and development should be included in the strategic plan, action plan should be sent to members, and case studies about the countries should be prepared.

Mr. Li suggested that we should implement the strategic plan step by step and year to year.

At the end the ICA-AP Strategic Plan for 2017-2020 was unanimously approved by the Regional Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 08 : ELECTION OF ICA-AP REGIONAL BOARD FOR 2016-20

Mr. Balu Iyer informed the meeting that the term of office of the current Regional Board will be over by November 2016. According to ICA-AP Rules, the Regional Assembly shall elect a maximum of eleven members to the Regional Board for the next four years.

The ICA-AP secretariat had written to member organizations to propose nominees for election to the Regional Board. Twelve nominations were received by the ICA-AP before the due date. The Regional Assembly shall elect eleven (11) board members including the President and two Vice Presidents at its meeting in New Delhi (India) on 18th November 2016.

He said that Vietnam (VCA) has withdrawn its nomination. Hence only 11 members were there and no election would be required if Regional Assembly agreed to ratify their names. After that the election of Vice Presidents and President would take place.

Mr. Balu Iyer informed the RA that the Regional Board has appointed an Election Committee comprising Mr. Charles Gould, Director General, ICA; Mr. Orlando R. Ravanera, Chairman, Cooperative Development Authority, Philippines; and Drs. Robby Tulus, former Regional Director, ICA-Asia and Pacific to conduct the elections. The Assembly unanimously approved the proposed three names to the Election Committee.

Mr. Charles Gould and Drs. Robby Tulus explained the election process (already approved by the Regional Board) to be followed during the elections.

Since there were only 11 candidates, the Regional Assembly unanimously decided not to have the election and ratified the following 11 members to the Regional Board.

Sl. #	Name of the Member	Country	Position/Organization
1	Mr. Li Chunsheng	China	Vice President, ACFSMC
2	Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav	India	Chairman, KRIBHCO & NCUI
3	Mr. A.M. Nurdin Halid	Indonesia	President, DEKOPIN
4	Mr. Alireza Gharagozlou	Iran	Deputy of Economic, ICC
5	Ms. Chitose Arai	Japan	Vice President, JCCU
6	Mr. Byeong Won Kim	Korea	Chairman, NACF
7	Dato Abdul Fattah Hj Abdullah	Malaysia	President, ANGKASA
8	Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal	Nepal	Chairman, NCF
9	Atty. Adolfo Ibanez	Philippines	Chairperson, NATCCO
10	Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong	Singapore	Chairman, SNCF
11	Mr. W. Lalith A. Peiris	Sri Lanka	President, NCC

Since there was only one candidate (Mr. Li Chunsheng) for President, Mr. Li Chunsheng from ACFSMC-China was unanimously elected as President of ICA-AP.

There were three names for Vice Presidents (Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav-India; Mr. H.A.M. Nurdin Halid-Indonesia; and Ms. Chitose Arai-Japan). The electronic voting was used for the first time for the election of Vice Presidents. Each eligible organization was provided with a secret password for voting. Drs. Robby Tulus with the help of Sethu Madhavan distributed the password in a sealed cover.

Immediately after the election, the Election Committee declared the results which were as follows.

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1. | Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav-India | : | 149 votes |
| 2. | Ms. Chitose Arai-Japan | : | 109 votes |
| 3. | Mr. H.A.M. Nurdin Halid-Indonesia | : | 58 votes |

As per the Election Procedures, Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav was declared the 1st Vice President and Ms. Chitose Arai as Vice President.

Mr. Li Chunsheng thanked the Regional Assembly for electing him as President and pledged to work efficiently in collaboration with the support of board members. The two Vice Presidents and board members also thanked the RA for electing them. Mr. Balu Iyer congratulated the newly elected board members and wished them best of luck.

The RA congratulated the members of the Election Committee for conducting the regional board elections very smoothly and in a professional manner.

AGENDA ITEM 09 : CO-OPTION OF CHAIR OF ICA-AP WOMEN COMMITTEE TO REGIONAL BOARD

Mr. Balu informed the meeting that since 2012, the regional board had very limited representation of women on the board. Given the importance the region places on participation of women in cooperatives and representation of women in leadership position across all levels, including the board; the absence of women on the board is glaring. The AP region has active engagement of women cooperators and very active Women Committee.

The regional board meeting unanimously approved the co-option of Women's Committee Chair to the ICA-AP Regional Board without voting right. After brief discussions, the Regional Assembly unanimously approved the proposal.

AGENDA ITEM 10 : APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVE RESEARCH

On behalf of the Research Committee, Mr. Balu Iyer informed the members about the reasons for the amendments to the Constitution of ICA-AP Committee on Cooperative Research. He said that research cuts across sectors; there are many colleges and universities which cannot become members of ICA because our membership is limited to member organizations. The Research Committee felt their outreach is limited and efforts need to be made to increase membership. The recommended changes allow for researchers and educational institutes to become associate members and open the possibility of the committee to raise resources.

The changes proposed by the Committee were unanimously approved by the Regional Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 11 : FORMATION OF ICA-AP COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND BUSINESS

Mr. Balu Iyer informed the meeting that we have been conducting workshops on Cooperative-to-Cooperative (C2C) Trade and lots of ideas are emerging (trade portal, directory for coop products, e-commerce, etc). For a more concerted action, it is necessary to have a Committee on Trade and Business.

The regional board approved the Constitution of the ICA-AP Committee on Trade and Business. After brief discussion, the Regional Assembly approved the constitution of ICA-AP Committee on Trade and Business.

AGENDA ITEM-12 : UPDATE ON EUROPEAN UNION (EU) PROEJCT

Mr. Balu Iyer informed the meeting that in March 2016, ICA and the European Commission signed a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) in Brussels for a global development program to benefit and advance the cooperative sector worldwide. Titled "Cooperatives in Development – people-centered businesses in action", the program is to run until 31 August 2020. The program is co-funded by the European Union as part of its commitment to support Civil Society Organizations active in development. The action will strengthen the ICA to build stronger global development policy coordination with the regions and countries. The action will improve the capacities and skills of all members of the ICA network for political dialogue and as a vehicle to obtain enabling environments for the cooperative movement. Political dialogue with governments, EU delegations and international institutions will aim at efficient monitoring of legislation, regulations and operational themes affecting cooperatives.

Mr. Balu also presented the eight key result areas and the work carried out from March to October 2016 for the benefit of the members.

Dr. Kiriwandeniya said that MOU with EU for specific project is important to some members in our region.

AGENDA ITEM 13 : STATUS OF ICA-AP MALAYSIA BUSINESS OFFICE

Mr. Balu informed the meeting that the Malaysia Business Office (MBO) has been active for close to three years now. The Office is fully functional and four seconded staff from All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives, Malaysian National Cooperative Movement (ANGKASA), Japanese Consumers Cooperative Union, and National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of Korea are in place.

The office has been registered as a Society, has an operational bank account and streamlined the visas for staff working at MBO.

The strategic objectives for the MBO are as follows:

- Increase business interactions and exchanges between co-operatives in the region;
- Promote 'Co-operative Trade' strategically by modes of fair trade and B-2-B platform through internet;
- Promote technical exchanges and assistance in IT technology in the forms of workshop and training;
- Transfer technical and managerial know-how especially in business areas of 'Resource Recycling' and 'Renewal Energy' business; and
- Promote cultural exchanges of youth co-operators in the region.

Mr. Balu also informed the members about the work done by the Malaysia Business Office (coordination with members re seminars/training courses, fair trade, c-2-c workshop, halal certification, and trade mission). The activities of the MBO are reported under ICA-AP activities.

Mr. Li said that ANGKASA is offering lot of assistance to MBO and he thanked them for this kind gesture.

AGENDA ITEM 14 : REPORTS FROM ICA-AP SECTORAL/THEMATIC COMMITTEES

Agriculture Committee: The 41st meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Agriculture was held on 16th November at Hotel Ashok, New Delhi. 10 members/observers from five countries attended the meeting.

The Chairman, Mr. Srinivasa Gowda, in his report, informed the meeting that 2016 was the "International Year of Pulses". India is having maximum area under pulses (30% of world area) but interestingly, the consumption is also on higher side. He appreciated the efforts of the International Cooperative Agricultural Organization (ICAO), who had organized a seminar on Smart Farming on 16th November.

The committee accepted the new names of members nominated by the National Cooperative Federation of Nepal (NCF). A couple of members from the Philippines also desired to become member of the committee.

The country background papers were presented by India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Nepal and the Philippines gave an overview of agricultural co-operatives in the country.

The Chairman asked the members to send a Plan of proposed activities for the next two years to the Secretariat. Among the suggestions received were to have a panel of experts who could be hired by any member-country to train their farmers on modern techniques and arrangements for the training of farmers in each country. A proposal came to hold the next meeting of the committee in conjunction with the 2017 ICA General Assembly in Malaysia. The decision to hold the next meeting of the Committee was left to the Chairman and ICA Secretariat.

As the term of the office bearers of the committee was ending, a new election was held for the post of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the committee. Mr. Srinivasa Gowda from India and Dato' Hj. Aliasak Hj Ambia from Malaysia were elected unanimously as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the committee respectively.

Consumer Committee: The 50th meeting of ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and Pacific was held on 16th November. Five committee members and eight observers from six countries attended the meeting. The opening address was made by Mr. Amano Haruyoshi, Chairperson of the Committee while Ms. Yuki Nishimoto, Secretary of the Committee, presented the activity report since last meeting in Kuala Lumpur in 2015 and the activity plan for 2017. The committee members made presentations of their recent activities and business results, which were followed by active discussions.

The next committee meeting is scheduled to be held in Malaysia in conjunction with the 2017 ICA Global Assembly.

Following the committee meeting, a seminar was organized on the theme "Sustainable Supply Chain". The seminar was open to all attending the Assembly. Mr Devagiri Nihal, LEED Project Manager of ILO Country Office for Sri Lanka and the Maldives made a presentation on "The Labour Problem in Sri Lanka and Introduction of LEED Project". The LEED Project was started in 2011 to support the post war recovery in the affected area to bridge the North and the South of the country. The LEED project focuses on connecting the agriculture co-operatives producing paddy, fruits and vegetable and fishery co-operatives in the North with retailers in the South, and enabling steady access to retailers/wholesalers and ensuring stable income to the producers. As of 2016, 5,000 fruits and vegetable producer households were connected with 8 exporters, and earning \$2 million as total turnover each year.

Mr. Siva Devireddy, CEO of Gocoop, gave a lecture on "Sustainable Supply Chain –Experience of Gocoop". India is one of the major producers of hand-made textiles in the world, with over 24,000 small scale producer co-operatives/artisan groups. To reach customers, most of these co-ops/ groups go through middlemen. While the producers earn very little for their efforts the consumer pays three to five times the initial price. Gocoop, founded in 2011 enables these co-operatives and artisans to directly connect with consumers and bulk buyers through an online platform. They help to create a sound supply chain which reduces the role of middlemen, ensures stable income to producers, and brings down the price paid by the consumers.

Credit and Banking Committee : The 13th meeting of the ICA-AP on Credit & Banking and seminar on Cooperative Banks on Sustainable Development were held in the afternoon of 16th November. Mr. Sivadasan Nair, Chairman of Committee chaired the meeting which was attended by four members from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and India and sixteen observers.

Members from Sri Lanka, Nepal and India presented reports on the current scenario of cooperative banks and credit sector in their respective countries and shared the policy environment and best practices as well as constrains. Mr Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP joined the meeting and shared his experiences with different cooperative financial institutions. He said that credit and finance was the critical resources for co-operative enterprises across all sectors and institutions dealing with credit have an important role to play in sustainable development.

The Meeting recommended the following future activities/programs:

1. Asia Pacific Credit & Banking committee consolidate the membership base by sending invitation to all financial cooperatives which are members of ICA Asia Pacific and request them to nominate a representative to the committee.
2. ICA Asia Pacific may request member/financial co-operators to report on a quarterly basis, important development on banking & credit in their respective country. The Banking committee of ICA Asia Pacific to consolidate these reports and circulate through e-newsletter.
3. Core Group of eminent bankers and co-operator to review the development and changing scenario in Asia Pacific region on quarterly/half yearly basis.

Seminar : Two presentations were made during the seminar. The first was by Mr. K.K. Ravindran, MD of NAFCARD on "Cooperative Banks and Sustainable Development". He said that cooperative banks are integral part of economy and play a very important role in issues like, poverty reduction, gender equality, food security, food nutrition, conservation of forest, access to clean water and sanitation, energy, etc. All these are core components of sustainable development. The presentation was followed by Q&A and deliberations by SANSAsri Lanka and COBI-India role of cooperative financial institution in sustainable development.

The second presentation was by Mr Y.C. Nanda, Ex-chairman of NABARD who shared his experience of working with premier financial institution like RBI, NABARD and the significant role played by coop financial institutions in sustainable development.

HRD Committee: The 27th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) was held in the forenoon of 16th November. 16 members and 11 observers from seven countries (Bangladesh, India, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka) attended the meeting.

The Secretary informed the meeting that according to the Constitution (Article-6), "In the case of both Chairman and Vice Chairman not being present at the meeting, the Committee shall elect a Chairman from among the members present for conducting the particular meeting." The meeting unanimously elected Dr. Bhagwati Prasad, Vice Chairman of Cooperative House Building and Finance Corporation Limited, Lucknow, as interim Chairman to conduct the meeting.

The meeting was presided over by Dr. Bhagwati Prasad who thanked the members for electing him as interim Chairman and welcomed the members to the meeting.

Presentation of country reports on initiatives on HRD was made by the members from India (3), Iran and Sri Lanka.

Dr. Bhagwati Prasad thereafter introduced the topic of the Seminar "**HRD as a Tool for Improving Performance in Cooperatives**". He said HRD as a Tool for Improving Performance in Cooperatives is about the processes for making and implementing decisions in such manner that leads to achieving desired objectives.

Three presentations were made to highlight initiatives around HRD. These were, (a) Strengthening the Cooperative's Human Capital in Malaysia by Mr. Mohamad Rasydi bin Abd Rashid, Director, CCM, Eastern Zone, Cooperative College of Malaysia on behalf of Ms. Roziah Mohamed, Director of Community Development Center of Cooperative College of Malaysia; (b) HR for Excellence in Cooperatives by Mr. R.P. Singh, Director (HR & Legal), Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited; and (c) Elements of HRD and how they help in Skill Development and Capacity Building by Dr. Bhagwati Prasad, Vice Chairman, Cooperative House Building & Finance Corporation Limited, India.

Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP addressed the meeting after the presentations. He said that this Committee has an important role to play in building capacity and strengthening practices. He put the following points for the consideration of the Committee: (a) Enhance engagement across sectors; (b) Increase awareness of co-operatives; (c) Promote cooperative identity (.coop) and building image.

The meeting unanimously elected Mr. R.P. Singh, Director (HR & Legal), Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited as Chairman and Dr. Abdul Rahman Shaik, Director General of Cooperative College of Malaysia as Vice Chairman of the HRD Committee for the next four years.

The meeting authorized the Chairman to decide about the theme, venue and date of the next meeting in consultation with the ICA-AP.

Research Committee: The 11th Cooperative Research Conference was organized under the auspices of ICA-AP Research Committee on 15th November. The Conference theme was "Co-operatives and Sustainable Development." The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. G.N. Saxena, Chairman of the Committee who noted that while the members in the committee was increasing; there was need to increase representation from more countries. He mentioned that as his tenure with IFFCO was over, he will be relinquishing the Chairmanship of the Committee.

Prof. Akira Kurimoto, Vice-Chairman of the Research Committee felt happy that a good number of papers were submitted for the conference. He spoke on "what we have done and what we will do in the future". He narrated how the Research Committee for Asia Pacific got shaped and remembered

the development from first to the present Conference. Prof. Kurimoto reiterated the Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade and said that research could focus on participation, sustainability, capital, legal framework and identity. He informed about his association with the preparation of the "World Cooperative Monitor". He requested all the members to motivate and bring more researchers. He expressed the hope that there will be more number of papers in the future. Prof. Kurimoto invited Dr. Paranjothi, Professor from VAMNICOM, Pune to speak on the Conference theme.

Dr. Paranjothi, listed out the themes and focuses of the Conferences held from first to tenth. He said that the theme of the 11th Conference originated at Bali Conference and it got shaped subsequently. The paper proposals related to what cooperatives could do/were doing to (1) End poverty in all its forms; (2) Achieve gender equality; (3) Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth; (4) Reduce inequality within and among countries; (5) End hunger, achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture; (6) Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; and (7) Combat climate change and its impacts. A total of 61 abstracts were received; out of which 54 were selected to submit full papers. ICA-AP received 44 full papers and 33 papers would be presented.

There were parallel sessions in the following areas – Banking, Environment, Women Empowerment, Food Security, Marketing/Workers' Cooperatives and Leadership/ Law/Tribal and Health.

Dr. Saxena, Prof. Akira Kurimoto and Mr. Balu Iyer were present in the valedictory function. Dr. Saxena thanked all the presenters who have taken pains to prepare the paper and present in the Conference. Mr. Akira Kurimoto mentioned the papers presented were of high quality and researchers have put a lot of labour in preparation of papers. Mr. Balu Iyer appreciated all the paper presenters for their efforts in preparing the papers and presenting them in the Conference. He thanked all the sponsors for their support. He appreciated the young paper presenters and invited more number of young participants in future.

The Dr. Mauritz Bonow Young Researcher Award is a joint initiative of the ICA-AP and the ICA Domus Trust. The ICA Asia-Pacific (ICA-AP) regional office was established in New Delhi in 1960 to provide a voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and coordinated action for and about co-operatives in the region. The ICA Domus Trust was set up in recognition of the valuable contributions made by Dr. Mauritz Bonow. Best paper award for young researchers was announced for the first time. A sub-committee was set up during the 11th ICA-AP research conference to review and adjudicate the best research papers. The sub-committee consisted on Mr. Balu Iyer, Dr. G.N. Saxena and Prof. A Kurimoto. Two young researchers were selected for award. The First prize of US\$ 500 was awarded to Ms. Shefali Pardeshi, Research Officer at VAMNICOM for her paper on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, "A case of Lijjat Papad, Pune. The Second prize of US\$ 300 was awarded to Dr. Lucia Veronica Granados Martinez and co-author Silva, C. Ibarcena, R. from Peru for their paper, "Green microfinance for the base of the pyramid market: A cooperative response to address the needs of vulnerable population and climate change impacts in Peru.

Committee Meeting: Immediately after the Conference, the 3rd meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Cooperative Research was held. 17 members/observers from India, Japan, Nepal, Iran, and Japan attended the meeting. The following decisions were taken:

Strategy Base Paper 2017-2020: The draft strategy paper, which was prepared through discussion among office bearers and members, was presented to the committee by Dr. Yashavantha Dongre. He explained that the strategy of the committee in the coming years and until 2020 would be on expanding membership, attracting young researchers, fundraising, networking with other research organizations, publishing a dedicated research journal and developing researchers database and co-operative database. The draft was discussed in detail and unanimously accepted. It was also felt that the office bearers of the committee should devise plans to operationalise the strategy.

Amendments to the Constitution: After deliberations among members and office bearers through email, the amendments were proposed to the constitution of the committee. The proposed amendments were presented to the committee by Dr. T. Paranjothi. The committee felt that the amendments will further strengthen the working of the committee and hence unanimously ratified the amendments.

Election of office bearers: As per the amended constitution the office bearers included one Chairperson

and two Vice-Chairpersons. Dr. Saxena, the outgoing Chairperson proposed that given the vast experience and expertise of Prof. Akira Kurimoto, he should become the Chairperson of the Committee. All the members agreed to the proposal and Prof. Kurimoto was unanimously elected as Chairperson of the Committee. Dr. T. Paranjothi from India and Mr. Min Raj Kadel from Nepal were elected as Vice Chairpersons.

Date and Venue of the next meeting: It was decided that the date and venue of the meeting will be decided based on the date and venue of next regional assembly of ICA-AP. Further, Prof. Kurimoto informed that South Korea has come forward to host the next research conference during 2017. It was unanimously agreed that the office bearers, after consultation with the host organization, should fix the conference date and venue keeping in mind that the ICA Global Assembly will be held in Malaysia in November 2017.

Women's Committee: The Women's Committee was established in 1998. The objective of the Committee is to promote gender integration in cooperatives and increase participation of women at all levels in cooperatives, especially at leadership in the region.

The 10th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Women was held on 15th November in New Delhi. 11 members (out of 20 members) and 27 observers including officers of ICA-AP attended the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Ms. Mashako Shimbo, Chairperson of the Women's Committee. She extended a warm welcome to the members and the observers. The Secretary presented the activities carried out during 2016 - Tagaytay+20 Women Conference; Training of Trainers for Management Capacity Building of Women; Workshop for Enhancing the Role of Women in Cooperative Business; and the Regional Women's Forum. The members discussed and finalized the strategy of the Committee for 2017-20 and work plan for 2017.

The meeting elected Ms. Masako Shimbo from JCCU as Chairperson and Dr. Nandini Azad from NCUI as Vice Chair of the ICA-AP Committee on Women for the next four years.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held in Iran in 2018 in conjunction with the Regional Assembly.

The **9th ICA-AP Regional Women Forum** held on 16th November was attended by 60 men and women co-operators from 10 countries. The Forum is held biennially in conjunction with the Regional Assembly of the ICA-AP and the theme this time was: 'Women in Co-operatives: The Power to Act for a Sustainable Future.' Ms. Masako Shimbo, Chairperson of the Women's Committee and Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director welcomed the participants and laid out the framework for the forum. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of NCUI in his opening address stressed on the importance of women in cooperatives and highlighted the various programs being implemented by NCUI to enhance and strengthen women's participation in cooperative business. Mr. Charles Gould, Director General of ICA in his special address touched on the fact that cooperative enterprises are recognized as important players within the private sector to achieve the UN SDGs. He also mentioned about ICA's campaign, "Coops for 2030," where cooperatives can make their pledges to contribute to achieving SDGs and report on their progress.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Nandini Azad, Vice Chair of the Women Committee. Ms. Vasudha Mishra, Managing Director of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) in her keynote address shared information on various schemes for helping co-operatives, especially women co-operatives in India. The other speakers at the Forum were Ms. Eva Majurin, ILO; Ms. Jaya Arunachalam, Working Women's Forum, and Ms. Ruth Jacutin of NATCCO, Philippines. The Forum also held a group discussion and based on the proceedings, a set of recommendations/resolutions were drafted for further detailed discussion among the members

Youth Committee: The ICA-AP Committee on Youth Co-operation conducted its 9th annual meeting on 15th November. The Committee was set up in 2006 after functioning as a Sub-committee. The meeting was attended by eight members and chaired by Mr. Udaya Prabath from Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation Limited. He urged all Alliance members to nominate a maximum of two youth to the ICA-AP Youth Committee as well as to the Global Youth Network to express support

for youth in the co-operative movement. Updates was provided by COOPFED (Sri Lanka) on organizing its national youth committee, FISHCOPFED (India) training of 5,000 fishers, the Bhutan Youth Social Co-operative, and Nepal on co-operative sensitization programs. Nepal, Bhutan and India were identified by the Committee in its strategy to revitalize the youth co-operative movement in the south Asian region.

Members also made a proposal to look at an inter-governmental collaboration to promote youth and co-operatives. The proposal pitched to facilitate the participation of youth committee members at a short-term management training course organized at the Co-operative College of Malaysia. The committee decided to pursue the proposal and ascertain how this can be achieved. The new office bearers of the Committee will be elected in 2017.

The committee resolved to increase active participation, continue its online meetings, have more bilateral exchanges, come up with ideas on the theme and outcomes from the next Youth Summit, and participate in the global conference on university/campus co-operatives during ICA General Assembly in 2017 in Malaysia. The membership of the Committee comprises of 23 nominated representatives from 11 Countries

Forestry Committee: The 1st formal meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Forestry was held on 16th November. Eight members/observers from four countries (India, Korea, Nepal and Sri Lanka) attended the meeting.

The Interim Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Shigeyoshi Satoh, could not make it to attend the meeting. Therefore, the election of new Chairman and Vice Chairman was held in the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Seok Hyung Lee, CEO and Chairman of National Forestry Cooperative Federation of Korea and Mr. S.P. Singh, CEO of Indian Farm Forestry Development Cooperative Ltd. were elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee respectively. On assuming the post of Chairman, Mr. Seok Kyung Lee welcomed the delegates to India and wished them a comfortable stay. He informed the delegates that his organization is going to organize an Expo in Seoul in October 2017 and invited the delegates to attend. He said the expo would provide opportunity to exchange ideas between Korea and other countries to share experience of Forestry development with each other. He also expressed his desire to increase the membership of Forestry Committee in the near future.

After greetings and introduction, routine agenda of the meeting was taken up. Existing membership of the Committee was approved and secretariat was directed to take steps to increase the membership of the Committee. After a brief discussion, the draft constitution of the Committee was approved and ratified unanimously.

In addition, an overview of forestry development in India was presented by Mr. S.P. Singh and on Korea by Mr. Seok Hyung Lee. It was concluded that efforts should be made to increase the income of members of the farm forestry society by using the latest technology.

The Chairman invited members to send a Plan of proposed activities for the next two years to the Secretariat. A couple of proposals were given verbally, like exchange visits between member-countries. He also invited proposal to host the next meeting of the Committee and requested members to inform the Secretariat. A proposal came from the Chairman to hold the next meeting in conjunction with the Expo, being organized by NCF in Seoul in October 2017. Another view was to hold the next meeting in conjunction with the global General Assembly to be held in Malaysia next year. Decision to hold the next meeting of the committee was left to the Chairman and ICA Secretariat.

University/Campus Coops Committee: On 16 November, the National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) and the ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives (University Committee) jointly organized a knowledge sharing workshop on University/ Campus Co-operatives in SAARC nations on, "positioning campus co-operatives in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals." The idea of the workshop was given by late Dr. Dinesh, former Chief Executive of NCUI at the 7th annual meeting that was held in Bangkok (Thailand) in September 2015.

Case studies on co-operatives and student life on campuses were shared by Singapore National Co-

operative Federation, Metro Manila Consumer Co-operatives Ltd. (Philippines), University of Mysore (India), Japanese National Federation of University Co-operatives Association, University of Delhi (India). Dr. Daman Prakash, formerly at the ILO and the ICA-AP delivered the key note address where he asserted the importance of promoting co-operatives in university/campuses as well as in the education curriculum in SAARC nations. The workshop was attended by 50 participants from 10 countries and was facilitated by Dr. Yashwantha Dongre of the University of Mysore (India). Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director addressed the gathering and expressed support from the ICA-AP towards the revitalizing university/campus co-operatives in the SAARC nations.

The University Committee's 8th annual meeting on 15 November was attended by representatives from India, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore. A representative from Nepal was inducted as a new member. Observers from Iran, Sri Lanka were also present. The total strength of the Committee is 13 members from 11 countries. The meeting in New Delhi resulted in the election of the new office-bearers; Dr. Azlan Yahya representing ANGKASA (Malaysia) as Chairperson, and Dr. Motoo Furuta from the National Federation of University Co-operative Association (Japan) as the Vice Chairperson.

The Committee celebrated the 20th anniversary in September 2015, during the 7th annual meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand. A joint workshop with the Youth Committee on "moving ahead towards sustainable growth and development in the co-operative decade" was organized in collaboration with the Co-operative League of Thailand and the Thailand Consumer Co-operative Federation in University. The Committee saw opportunity in organizing a global conference on university/campus co-operatives during the ICA General Assembly in Malaysia in 2017 and decided to form an organizing team specifically to work on the theme, date, venue and resource speakers. Suggestions/Nominations for young speakers from the co-operative sector at the global general conference can be sent to santosh.kumar@icaap.coop

Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Industrial and Service Co-operatives

The ICA/EU Partnership program on co-operatives in development followed up its workshop on "work and co-operatives", through its *Stakeholders Meeting on Collective Entrepreneurship* organized in Kozhikode (India) in August this year with an open event on the sidelines of the 12th Regional Assembly. The event saw the participation of key stakeholders from the 'extended' Alliance membership and members of the civil society. Bruno Roelants and Hyungsik Eum of CICOPA, the ICA sectoral organization on industrial and service co-operatives, facilitated the workshop as knowledge partners. The Korean Federation of Workers Co-operatives and the Japanese Co-operative Workers Union presented case studies along with Labour Co-operative Unions from the Philippines and India. Iran Chamber of Co-operatives discussed the potential and stakeholder-commitment for co-operatives in their country and Robby Tulus, former ICA-AP Regional Director shared the nature of circumstances of workers movements and co-operatives in Indonesia for the consumption of over 30 participants present. Participants from India included the ULCCS, Action Aid India, Books for Change, and Kerala State Labour Co-operative Federation. The half-day workshop resulted in commitment from ICA-AP, the partnership program and CICOPA to develop thematic research projects and strategise the formation of network of representative from 'work and co-operatives'. Earlier in August, ICA-AP had a consultative engagement and meeting with ILO Sri Lanka office, SANASA Federation, National Federation of Handicrafts Co-operatives, Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation, National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka, and the EU Delegation for Sri Lanka and Maldives, in Colombo.

AGENDA ITEM 15 : REPORT OF THE 9TH COOPERATIVE FORUM ON COOPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA & PACIFIC

Dr. Robby Tulus, Chairman of the Drafting Committee, presented a brief report of the 9th Cooperative Forum on "Cooperatives for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific" held in New Delhi on 17th November.

The opening ceremony was attended by over 700 delegates from India and the region. Mr. Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Union

Minister for Railways, Government of India graced the occasion. Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of ICA-AP; Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of NCUI; Dr. U.S. Awasthi, Managing Director of IFFCO; delivered their special addresses at the opening ceremony. Mr. Balasubramanian (Balu) Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP proposed a vote of thanks. Mr. Parshottam Rupala, Minister for State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare addressed the closing ceremony.

The presentations at the Cooperative Forum showed the significant impact co-operatives in the Asia-Pacific region are having and showcased their Power to Act for a Sustainable Future. This was reflected in, building a co-operative country (Youth Social Coop- Bhutan), greening the country (SANASA-Sri Lanka), and creating the largest cooperative in the world by adhering to cooperative values and principles (IFFCO-India). The role of co-operatives was visible in responding to natural disasters (Nepal co-operative movement's response to earthquake), addressing emerging needs such as aging (SNCF-Singapore), adopting technological innovations (NACF-Korea) and building workers movement (ULCCS-India). The importance of working in partnership with governments to create a broad-based movement was evident in the efforts to transform co-operatives by aligning with national priorities (ANGKASA-Malaysia), policies to enable inclusive growth in co-operatives (CDA-Philippines) and supportive incentives to promote growth of co-operatives (ICC-Iran). The various committee events also showcased the role of cooperatives in achieving sustainable development. The Assembly unanimously adopted the following resolution.

Resolution of the 9th ICA-AP Cooperative Forum
Theme: Co-operatives: The Power to Act for a Sustainable Future
Adopted by ICA-AP members and stakeholders participating
on 17th November 2016 in New Delhi

Preamble

Having witnessed poverty, hunger, social injustice and gross inequalities in our culturally diverse and ecologically rich region;

Recognizing the growing inability of people to have access and control over their natural resources due to unsustainable exploitation and profiteering at the cost of the planet;

Having established the potential and the power of cooperatives to act in our world's collective pursuit to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the international community in 2015;

Taking into account the Declaration coming out the 3rd International Summit of Cooperatives in Quebec City (Canada); and

Appreciating the efforts of the ICA and its members in the Asia-Pacific region towards implementing the ICA Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade within the context of the SDGs;

Understanding that sustainability is regaining ecological integrity as opposed to strategy of unethical economic growth which has sacrificed mother earth and the people at all costs; and

Resolving among other things, to harness the power of cooperatives collectively to act towards an inclusive sustainable future;

We, the participants of the 9th Asia-Pacific Cooperative Forum, having met at the Convention Hall of the Hotel Ashok, New Delhi on 17th November 2016, commit to the following resolutions:

1. Ensure peace and harmony in nations by active practice and propagation of the cooperative model of enterprise in line with the ICA Statement on Cooperative Identity;
2. Enhance innovation in cooperatives by investing in education, training and research activities among members and relevant stakeholders of cooperatives;

3. Effect a paradigm shift in the response of cooperatives in the following areas:
 - Food-security and sovereignty;
 - Ecological integrity;
 - Renewable energy;
 - Gender mainstreaming towards 'equality';
 - Inclusion of youth for inter-generational sustainability;
 - Aid governments, bilateral and multilateral agencies towards elimination of poverty and inclusion of the impoverished into the mainstream development process;
 - Collaborate with policy makers and legislators, in line with ILO recommendation 193 and the overall ICA strategy for cooperative development, to create and maintain an enabling environment for a sustainable cooperative movement;
 - To positively explore and impact the global business community with growth and development of the cooperative enterprise; and
 - Continue to provide substantial support to members and their community suffering from ecological as well as man-made disasters and enhance individual as well as institutional capacities to cope with disasters, be better prepared, and mitigate related risks.

4. Implement the following recommendations made during the technical sessions of the 9th Cooperative Forum:
 - Provide support to the global cooperative movement to enhance cooperative membership from 1 billion to 2 billion members by 2030;
 - Pledge to contribute to achieving the SDGs and report their progress at www.coopsfor2030.coop;
 - Enhance capacities of cooperatives through effective study, research, monitoring and evaluation in areas suggested by Alliance members;
 - Revisit the relationship of national and regional movements with governments and regional associations of nations, in the interest of our concern for the community and development at large, and advocate with governments in support of the cooperative movement;
 - Pursue the principle of cooperation among cooperatives to enhance business and deepen the network and broaden opportunities by making use of electronic platforms;
 - Collectively address new demographic changes in Asia Pacific such as the 'youth bulge' in South Asia and 'aging populace' in countries like Japan, Singapore, etc. through knowledge exchange and trainings;
 - Bring government policies on skills development and entrepreneurship closer to cooperative movements in order to benefit from national development strategies and funds;
 - Adopt, align and promote the cooperative identity (www.identity.coop), our symbol of collective identity which differentiates us from other forms of business.

5. Increase the confidence of people in cooperatives as partners in development and growth of societies and economies by increasing transparency, honesty and integrity while upholding the cooperative values and principles.

Closing Statement: In a world dominated by big business, where economic control is in the hands of a few; where money is used to make more money, with utter disregard to the dignity of

the people and the integrity of the environment; a paradigm shift has begun through cooperatives with their power to act for a sustainable future. We fully understand that the road ahead will be long and the climb will be steep, but we will certainly get there through our oneness and commitment because we firmly believe the DNA of cooperatives has come of age which is members-owned, value-based and sustainable enterprises.

AGENDA ITEM 16 : ANY OTHER BUSINESS MATTERS

Mr. Banzai made the following statement on the recent move of the Japanese Government to attack the agricultural cooperative movement in Japan.

"I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about the recent attempt in Japan to try to demutualize agricultural cooperatives in Japan and I hope you can share our sense of crisis through my report.

About three years ago, there was a similar move in Japan where the government wanted to dismantle multi-purpose agricultural cooperatives in Japan. When that happened, the ICA global board was very supportive to our fight against the move. The ICA global board sent a delegation to Japan and also supported us in organizing seminars. In June 2014, the ICA issued a statement saying that the Japanese government's move totally ignored the cooperative values and principles. At that time, many member organizations from the Asia-Pacific region were very supportive to us as well. We received kind letters of support from member organizations of China, India, Korea, Mongolia, etc. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all again for the support that you gave us.

As a result of all your support, when the Japanese Government announced its official policy in June 2014, they still wanted the credit business of the multi-purpose agricultural cooperatives to be separated and transferred out and they still wanted to see agricultural cooperatives' status to be converted to limited companies, but they did not make it compulsory in the policy. They left it to members to decide. On our part, under the amended agricultural cooperative law that came into effect in April 2016, agricultural cooperatives have been actively promoting their own business reform.

However, just last week, on 11 November, the advisory council to the prime minister, the Regulatory Reform Promoting Council, issued a new draft recommendation for further reform of agricultural cooperatives.

In the new recommendation, they want Zen-Noh, the national federation of economic business of agricultural cooperatives, to stop their joint purchase business. They also want Zen-Noh to convert their marketing business from consignment sales to purchase sales. They want these to be compulsory. The recommendation also says that, if there is no progress, they want the government to set up a new organization (second Zen-Noh).

The recommendation further says that the credit business of multi-purpose agricultural cooperatives should be transferred to the NORINCHUKIN Bank, which is the national federation of credit business of agricultural cooperatives. The recommendation wants to see a reduction in the number of the agricultural cooperatives engaged in credit business to half of the current number in the coming three years. All these proposals are unfair interference to private organizations such as agricultural cooperatives and they go totally against the cooperative principle about autonomy and independence.

This draft recommendation is still a draft of the advisory council and will be studied by the ruling parties. We will also have a chance to express our views representing agricultural cooperatives, before the government makes its final decision at the end of this month, November 2016. Having very grave sense of crisis, JA-ZENCHU will work with other cooperatives in Japan to express strong opposition to these proposals. At the same time we are implementing our own business reform and organizational reform.

We would like to inform this development in Japan to the ICA global board as well to share our experiences with cooperators around the world. I hope you continue to give us understanding and support."

The Regional Assembly fully expressed its support to the Japanese Cooperative Movement and approved the following resolution.

"We, cooperators, participating in the 12th Regional Assembly of the International Cooperative Alliance-Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) in New Delhi on 18th November 2016 express our deep concern on the

Japanese Government's move that may interfere with the autonomy and independence of cooperatives and express our strong support for the Japanese Cooperative Movement."

Mr. Takaaki Fujiwara, President of Hew Coop Japan and Chairperson of Asia Pacific Health Cooperative Organization (APHCO) made the following statement on the ICA subscription issue.

1. The 2030 UN Development Agenda (SDGs) was adopted at the UN General Assembly of September 2015. In its Goal 3, it defines to "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages".
2. ICA promotes "Coops for 2030" campaign for ICA member co-operatives to learn more about the Sustainable Development Goals, commit to pledges to contribute to achieving the SDGs, and report their progress.
3. Health cooperatives in Asia play an important role in the health sector and have a potential ability to contribute to the UNSDGs.
4. Health cooperatives in Asia formed the APHCO (Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organization) and APHCO conducts its activities within the region. Currently, APHCO is not an ICA specialized Committee because there are APHCO members that are not able to afford the ICA membership fee.
5. If ICA increases the number of its members in health sector, ICA will be able to increase the contribution to SDGs.
6. Therefore, APHCO requests ICA to lower the bottom limit of the ICA subscription formula so that any cooperatives would be able to become an ICA member.

AGENDA ITEM 17 : CONSIDERATION OF VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT ICA-AP REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Alireza Gharagozlou, Vice President, Economic and International Affairs of Iran Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC) offered to host the 2016 Regional Assembly in Iran. He extended a warm welcome to the delegates to attend the RA in Iran in 2018. He also thanked NCUI for their kind hospitality.

The meeting unanimously accepted the offer of Iran Central Chamber of Co-operatives (ICC) to host the Regional Assembly in 2018. The dates and venue would be decided in consultation with ICC. The RA thanked ICC for agreeing to host the Regional Assembly ICA-AP in 2018.

AGENDA ITEM 15 : CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Li Chunsheng thanked the members for attending the meeting. He appreciated the excellent arrangements made by NCUI for the meetings in New Delhi.

Mr. Balu Iyer said that a total of 14 different meetings were held in New Delhi from 15th to 18th November. He thanked NCUI for making excellent arrangements and their kind hospitality.

The RA proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Balu Iyer and his staff for carrying out the ICA-AP's work with success. The RA also thanked Mr. Charles Gould, ICA Director General for coming and spending his valuable time.

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

Annexure - 2

Minutes of ICA-AP Regional Board Meetings held since last Regional Assembly

Minutes of the ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting {1}

New Delhi: 18th November 2016

The first meeting of the newly re-constituted ICA-AP Regional Board was held at the convention hall of Hotel Ashok in New Delhi on Friday, 18th November 2016 from 18:00 to 18:45 hours. Following members attended the meeting.

01. Mr. Li Chunsheng, ACFSMC, China – Chairperson
02. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, NCUI, India - Vice Chair
03. Ms. Chitose Arai, JCCU, Japan – Vice Chair
04. Mr. Agung Sudjatmoko, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Alternate Member
05. Mr. Alireza Gharagozlou, ICC, Iran - Member
06. Mr. Byeong Won Kim, NACF, Korea – Member
07. Dato Abdul Fattah Abdullah, ANGKASA, Malaysia – Member
08. Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, NCF, Nepal – Member
09. Mr. Adolfo A. Ibanez, NATCCO, Philippines – Member
10. Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong, SNCF, Singapore – Member
11. Ms. Masako Shimbo, Chairperson, ICA-AP Committee on Women
12. Ms. Xiaohong Zhang, ACFSMC, China – Interpreter
13. Mr. N. Satyanarayana, NCUI, India – Observer
14. Mr. Ved Prakash Setia, NCUI, India – Observer
15. Mr. H. Amano, JCCU, Japan – Observer
16. Ms. Kanako Miyazawa, JCCU, Japan – Observer
17. Mr. Gwangseog Hong, NACF, Korea – Observer
18. Mr. Charles Gould, Director General, ICA, Brussels
19. Mr. Balu Iyer, RD, ICA-AP, New Delhi.
20. Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, ICA-AP, New Delhi

Absent: Mr. W. Lalith A. Peiris, NCC, Sri Lanka - Member
Dr. Sukesh Zamwar, BUCCS, India – Youth Representative

Agenda Item-01 : Opening Remarks

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Li Chunsheng, Chairman of the ICA-AP Regional Board. Mr. Li Chunsheng extended a warm welcome to the new board members and expressed his desire to see that the board could work in a united manner for the development of the region. He was happy to see that two women, the new Vice Chair, Ms. Chitose Arai and the Chair of the ICA-AP Women Committee, Ms. Masako Shimbo were on the board.

Agenda Item-02 : Member Introduction

The new board members introduced themselves, expressed their happiness to serve on the Committee and listed some of their priorities for the region – implement strategic plan, prioritize key activities, subscription redistribution, income and expense, and impact of training.

Agenda Item-03 : ICA Global Strategy

Mr. Charles Gould, Director General of ICA congratulated the new board members and wished them a successful tenure. He highlighted the challenges of a member-based organization that relied mainly on subscription and the need to have diversified funding sources. While the Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade provided the vision, there was need for a strategic direction. The ICA Global Board at its meeting in Quebec discussed the proposed global strategy and asked management to come up with an operational plan. Mr. Gould said that we create structures and try to do a lot. We need to be closely tuned to member needs, ensure resources are effectively used, and functions can be efficiently carried out. This means that we need to relook at our governance, structure and finance and ensure we can meet member needs and good stewards of the responsibility assigned to us. He requested that a copy of the ICA strategy be shared with all the board members.

Agenda Item-04 : Date and Place of Next Meeting

It was decided to hold the next Regional Board meeting in Hanoi (Vietnam) in conjunction with the 10th Ministers' Conference (April 18-21, 2017). The exact date and time will be communicated in due course.

Agenda Item-05 : Closing Remarks

Mr. Li Chunsheng thanked the members for joining the meeting and looked forward to working with them. He also congratulated Dr. Yadav and thanked him and the National Cooperative Union of India for hosting the meeting and the hospitalities extended.

Mr. Balu also welcomed the new board and expressed his desire to work closely with them.

Minutes of the ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting {2}

Hanoi: 17th April 2017

The meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held at Melia Hotel in Hanoi on Monday, 17th April 2017 from 14:00 to 17:30 hours. Following members attended the meeting:

- 01 Mr. Li Chunsheng, ACFSMC, China – Chairperson
- 02 Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, NCUI, India - Vice Chair
- 03 Ms. Chitose Arai, JCCU, Japan – Vice Chair
- 04 Mr. Agung Sudjatmoko, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Alternate Member
- 05 Mr. Alireza Gharagozlou, ICA, Iran – Member
- 06 Mr. Heo Sik, NACF, Korea – Alternate Member
- 07 Mr. Mutadho Bin Bahri, ANGKASA, Malaysia – Alternate Member
- 08 Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, NCF, Nepal – Member
- 09 Mr. Adolfo A. Ibanez, NATCCO, Philippines – Member
- 10 Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong, SNCF, Singapore – Member
- 11 Dr. Nandini Azad, Vice Chair, ICA-AP Women Committee
- 12 Ms. Xiaohong Zhang, ACFSMC, China – Observer
- 13 Ms. Cao Wei, ACFSMC, China – Interpreter
- 14 Ms. Mr. N. Satyanarayana, NCUI, India – Observer
- 15 Mr. Ilham Nasai, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Observer
- 16 Mr. Haruyoshi Amano, JCCU, Japan – Observer
- 17 Ms. Kanako Miyazawa, JCCU, Japan – Observer
- 18 Mr. Lee Sam Seob, NACF, Korea – Observer
- 19 Mr. Chae Soo Byeong, NACF, Korea – Observer
- 20 Mr. Kamarudin bin Ismail, ANGKASA, Malaysia – Observe
- 21 Mr. Nasir Khan Yahaya, ANGKASA, Malaysia – Observer
- 22 Mr. Charles Gould, Director General, ICA – Special Invitee
- 23 Dr. Martin Lowery, ICA Global Board Member – Special Invitee
- 24 Mr. Kang Sungjoon, ICA-AP MBO, Malaysia – Observer
- 25 Mr. Kim Sangmin, ICA-AP MBO, Malaysia – Observer
- 26 Mr. Balu Iyer, RD, ICA-AP, New Delhi.
- 27 Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, ICA-AP, New Delhi
- 28 Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, ICA-AP, New Delhi

Absent: Mr. W. Lalith A. Peiris, NCC, Sri Lanka – Member
Sukesh Zamwar, BUCCS, India – Youth Representative

Agenda Item-01 : Opening Remarks

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Li Chunsheng, Chairman of the ICA-AP Regional Board. Mr. Li Chunsheng extended a warm welcome to the members to Hanoi and thanked them for attending the meeting. He specially thanked Mr. Charles Gould, Director General, ICA and Dr. Martin Lowery, ICA global board member for attending the meeting. He also thanked the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) for hosting the meeting in Hanoi.

Mr. Vo Kim Cu, President of VCA, welcomed the members on behalf of the Vietnam cooperative movement. He said that "I am very happy to inform you that all arrangements have been made for the ministers' conference. We also got support from the government and they are also interested in the conference. We are also arranging some side events in conjunction with the conference – trade fair with over 300 booths from all the provinces in Vietnam and some internationally, near our hotel from 18-21 April. Tomorrow evening we are inviting you all to the opening ceremony of the trade fair. On 21st we will be visiting the Bat Trang traditional ceramic village and Van Phuc silk traditional village. I am much honored to invite you all to the side events. After the board meeting, I would like to invite you to the super market run by the Union of VCA. If you need any help from our side during your stay, please do not hesitate to contact us." He apologized for any lapses in arrangement and wished the members a pleasant and comfortable stay in Hanoi.

Agenda Item-02 : Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Li Chunsheng invited views and comments on the Agenda. There were none and the Agenda was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item-03 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Meeting held in New Delhi on 15th and 18th November 2016

Mr. Balu Iyer informed the meeting that the minutes of the Regional Board meeting held in New Delhi (India) on 15th and 18th November 2016 were circulated to the members.

Mr. Li Chunsheng invited comments from the members on the minutes. The minutes were unanimously confirmed.

Agenda Item-04 : ICA-AP Activities Report for October 2016 to Feb 2017

Mr. Balu Iyer thanked the members for taking their valuable time to be in Hanoi for the board meeting and to VCA for making all the arrangements. He mentioned the events that would take place over the next four days and requested members to refer to the Ministers Conference brochure. The focus of the Conference would be on the Sustainable Development Goals. Mr. Balu then presented the ICA-AP Activities Report for the period October to February 2017. He made special mention about the Workshop to develop Malaysian dairy cooperatives (MBO activity); 12th Regional Assembly and 9th Cooperative Forum; ASEAN Cooperative Business Forum Workshop (Philippines-EU); Sub-regional Cooperative Development Meeting (Jordan-EU); 2016 Annual Activities Report; Gender Study Report; Co-opting the Chair of Women Committee to the Regional Board; Electing a woman Vice President to the Regional Board; and Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference. He thanked the members for hosting various activities in the region.

Mr. Li said that about 19 different activities have been carried out by the regional office. He thanked the Regional Director and his staff for carrying out many important activities during this period.

Mr. Nasir Khan wanted to know the feedback of the resolution on Solidarity with the Japanese Cooperative Movement.

Mr. Balu informed the meeting that following the Regional Assembly, JA ZENCHU took the Resolution to the Government of Japan and some of the proposals the government was proposing have been delayed for the time being.

Dr. Martin Lowery said that some of the functions are being taken out from JA ZENCHU. It will be an Association of Agricultural Cooperatives; this is what the government wants.

Ms. Chitose Arai said that after the New Delhi Regional Assembly, the JJC came up with a strong proposal. "I would like to thank the members for the strong support to the Resolution. There are no major changes made so far. However, the basic condition as agricultural cooperatives will be maintained and there will be autonomy. JJC will continue to support the agricultural cooperatives. I need the continued support of ICA and the board."

Agenda Item-05 : ICA-AP Financial Report for 1st January to 31st December 2016

Mr. Balu presented the ICA-AP Financial Report for the period 1st January to 31st December 2016. There was a surplus of USD 74,388. However, this figure is tentative, pending the ongoing audit. Three staff members have

been moved to EU project and this resulted in reduced expenditure on salary on the administrative side. Two staff members have been interviewed for the EU project and they will be joining ICA-AP soon. He said that administrative income is getting lower each year as the MAFF-Japan support is reducing given the cut back from the Japanese government. To encourage more members to participate at the Regional Assembly, a tiered system of registration fee was introduced based on World Bank Country Income Index (WBCII).

We underspent on the EU budget as we did not recruit all staff and some activities were moved to the second year. The budget for 2016 was Euro 307,728 and we spent Euro 106,403. As per project agreement, for every dollar spent, the EU will reimburse 80%; ICA needs to raise the remaining 20%.

Mr. Li said that we should encourage more members to join ICA and trade between coops should be increased in the future.

Agenda Item-06 : ICA-AP Membership Situation

Mr. Balu Iyer informed the meeting that since the last board meeting in New Delhi, five organizations: (a) Palestinian Agricultural Cooperative Union (PACU), Palestine; (b) Sharjah Cooperative Society (SCS) in UAE; (c) Nasinu Land Purchase & Housing Cooperative Limited (NLPHCL), Fiji; (d) Nepal Multipurpose Central Cooperative Union Limited (NEMCCU), Nepal; and (e) Japan Cooperative General Research Institute (JC-Soken), Japan have been admitted into ICA. The following three organizations have been admitted, but not paid their first subscription fee: (a) MASS-SPECC Cooperative Development Center (MASS-SPECC), Philippines; (b) Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Philippines; and (c) National Labour Cooperatives Federation of India Limited (NLCF), India. The following two organizations – Cooperative Global Sourcing Limited (CGS), China; and Cooperative Union of the Philippines (CUP) are ceased to be members of ICA due to non-payment of subscription fee. The current total ICA-Asia and Pacific membership is **95** organizations from **30** countries.

Mr. Balu said that we should try and increase membership in the Middle East and Central Asia. He mentioned that a conference will be held in Kyrgyzstan in June where the youth, women and consumer committees would come together to show case the various activities of ICA-AP. The other region is Pacific islands. One of our members in Australia attended the meeting organized by Vanuatu in 2016. Vanuatu is looking at revising their policy for cooperatives. He requested Board members who know of organizations interested in becoming ICA member to send their contact information to the regional office.

Mr. Balu further said that retention of members is an ongoing concern for the office. He also said that Africa and Asia-Pacific region should work together.

He thanked the members for paying their subscription on time and requested those who have not paid their subscription to do so at the earliest. He further said that it is very important that the members pay their subscription on time so that we can plan our activities accordingly.

Mr. Li said that the membership situation in our region is okay. In future, we should encourage more members from the Gulf and Middle East countries to join ICA.

Agenda Item-07 : Update on European Union (EU) Project

Mr. Balu informed the meeting that in March 2016, ICA and the European Commission signed a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) in Brussels for a global development program to benefit and advance the cooperative sector worldwide. Titled "Cooperatives in Development – people-centered businesses in action", the program is to run until 31 August 2020. The program is co-funded by the European Union as part of its commitment to support Civil Society Organizations active in development. The action will strengthen the ICA to build stronger global development policy coordination with the regions and countries. The action will improve the capacities and skills of all members of the ICA network for political dialogue and as a vehicle to obtain enabling environments for the cooperative movement. Political dialogue with governments, EU delegations and international institutions will aim at efficient monitoring of legislation, regulations and operational themes affecting cooperatives.

Mr. Santosh Kumar presented the 2016 status report and action plan for two years (2017 and 2018) for the benefit of the members. His presentation covered the following: Elements of the partnership; Result areas; Member engagement and benefit; Year 1 (2016-2017) activities; Strategic priorities; and Plan of action – 2017-2018. The key points of his presentation were as follows.

- A. Institutional Strengthening (staff + members + staff of the members), Networking among development actors and a Joint Visibility for the Alliance - are the three main agendas of the ICA-EU Program. Understanding our members and their various activities in detail is one key work areas to be focused on.
- B. A four-pronged Approach of - INFORM, ENGAGE, BUILD and COMMIT is being implemented to carry out the strategic priorities of the EU Program and the first three among the priorities are:
 1. PARTICIPATION in achieving the SDGs;
 2. Actively promote youth inclusion and cooperation in the Alliance; and
 3. Understanding the ownership models in workers led cooperatives.
- C. Action on Knowledge Sharing, youth & policy, coop networking dominated the 1st year activities. The 2nd year will look at engaging more with members and partner countries strategize action and research on three priority areas.

Agenda Item-08 : Update from Women Committee

Dr. Nandini Azad, Vice Chair of the Women Committee, presented a report on activities carried out by the Committee during 2016. The main activities carried out in 2016 were: meeting of the office bearers, workshop for enhancing role of women in cooperative business, Tagatay+20 women conference, training of trainers for building management capacity of women; Regional women's forum; and newsletter and reports. She also presented the activity plan for 2017.

Agenda Item-09 : Term Limit for ICA-AP President

Mr. Balu Iyer said that at the Regional Board meeting held in Bali on 16th September 2014 the term limit for ICA-AP President and election procedures were discussed. Following which, a Working Group comprising of Mr. Li Chunsheng, Mr. Nurdin Halid, Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav and Mr. Balu Iyer was set up to consider the proposals and make recommendations to the Regional Board. These were discussed at the Regional Board meeting in Singapore on 29th March 2015. Given the importance of the issues, the Board felt it was necessary to get the opinion of all members to help them make an informed decision.

The Regional Office prepared a draft questionnaire that was discussed by the Working Group at its meeting in Nantong (China) in June 2015. In this meeting, it was decided to focus the questionnaire on term limit of the President. Accordingly, the questionnaire was sent to 71 members in July 2015 and responses received from 65 members (92%).

At the regional board meeting in Antalya on 9th November 2016 the response was discussed, but no decision was made on the term limit of ICA-AP President. Later in his letter dated 15th March 2016, Mr. Li Chunsheng proposed that the Board leave the issue of term limit of ICA-AP President to a decision of our new Board after the 2016 elections.

Mr. Balu said that the issue was now being put in front of the newly appointed Board to consider and take a decision.

Mr. Li said that this is a very old issue. There is no mention about term limit in ICA rules. If we make this change, it will affect the global board also.

Mr. Heo Sik said that he is attending the meeting on behalf of Mr. Kim. He said that the ICA-AP President should have good qualifications and be able to collect more resources; bring more members to the organization; represent the region in the global board; and democratically controlled. So, there should not be any term limit for ICA-AP President.

Dr. Yadav said that as per the summary of election questionnaire-response sheet, 57 members out of 64 are supporting term limit. So, there should be term limit for ICA-AP President.

Mr. Adolfo said that "Mr. Li is very effective. Eight years is sufficient. So, I support the term of ICA-AP President for two terms."

Mr. Alireza said that term limit should not be country specific and it should be individual specific. The result of the summary of election questionnaire is very clear. There should be term limit for ICA-AP President.

Ms. Chitose said that most able and suitable candidate should be elected. Overwhelming response is for term limit, but no consensus among the board members. ICA global should have clear rules and start a process to frame clear rules.

Mr. Nasir Khan said that "ANGKASA is a democratic and autonomous organization and our rules do not prohibit the members to get elected again. Our rules are going to change soon and if term limit is fixed by ICA-AP, it may have a bearing on our rules."

Mr. Li said that he is willing to give up the post, if the members take a final decision on the term limit. Since there was no consensus, he requested RD to come up with some proposals which would be acceptable to all members.

Agenda Item-10 : Consultation on ICA Strategic Plan for 2017-2020

Mr. Balu said that the ICA Strategic Plan developed and approved for consultation by the board of ICA at its meeting March was circulated among the members. The global board would like to engage the global cooperative system in a robust consultation process to further develop this plan in the lead up to the General Assembly later this year. The Questionnaire with guidance was also circulated.

Mr. Charles Gould said that he had given a brief at the Regional Assembly in New Delhi. He said that at its meeting in Brazil in March 2017, the Board agreed on concise next steps, and assigned different components of the plan to varying groups for further study, proposal and implementation. Some steps will take time. Some require careful consideration and consultation. Others can and should be implemented swiftly to strengthen the association's financial position.

Core purpose: The ICA units, promotes, and develops the global cooperative movement. It is the voice of the global cooperative movement.

He touched upon the following issues as next steps: (a) Membership; (b) Primary Cooperative Engagement; (c) Financial Management; (d) Communications; and (e) Governance.

He said the board members will be receiving a letter from ICA and ICA-AP President soon. He requested the members to send the filled-up Questionnaire to ICA on or before 31st May 2017.

Agenda Item-11 : Other Business Matters Arising

Mr. Alireza from ICC-Iran made the following proposals for the consideration of ICA-AP for 2017 and 2018.

1. E-Coop Business Model: e-voting; e-organizational chart; e-funding; e-accounting; e-supply chain management; and e-arbitration;
2. Inter-Coop Relation: business matchmaking; and on-line exhibiting products and services of the cooperatives;
3. More Members: attention to the areas having good potentials of the cooperatives;
4. Global Branding: increase activities on social networks; make an attractive content; and promote .coop domain and .coop marquee; and
5. Cooperation between ICA-AP and CACCI (?): connections between corresponding organizations; and regional joint committee.

Agenda Item-12 : Date and Place of Next Meeting

It was decided to hold the next Regional Board meeting in Malaysia in conjunction with the ICA Global Conference and General Assembly in November 2017. The exact date and time will be communicated in due course.

Agenda Item-13 : Closing Remarks

Mr. Li Chunsheng thanked the members for their kind support in conducting the meeting very smoothly. He also thanked Mr. Vo Kim Cu and the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance for hosting the meeting.

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

Minutes of the ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting {3}

Kuala Lumpur: 14th November 2017

The meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held at Sunway Resort Hotel and Spa in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) on Tuesday, 14th November 2017 from 14:00 to 17:30 hours. Following members attended the meeting:

- 01 Mr. Li Chunsheng, ACFSMC, China – Chairperson
- 02 Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, NCUI, India - Vice Chair
- 03 Ms. Chitose Arai, JCCU, Japan – Vice Chair
- 04 Drs. H. Mohamad Sukri, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Alternate Member
- 05 Mr. Alireza Gharagozlou, ICC, Iran – Member
- 06 Mr. Ki-hoon Kim, NACF, Korea – Alternate Member
- 07 Dato Hj. Abdul Fattah Hj. Abdullah, ANGKASA – Member
- 08 Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, NCF, Nepal – Member
- 09 Mr. Efron M. Bravo, NATCCO, Philippines – Member
- 10 Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong, SNCF, Singapore – Member
- 11 Mr. W. Lalith A. Peiris, NCC, Sri Lanka – Member
- 12 Dr. Nandini Azad, Chair, ICA-AP Women Committee
- 13 Dr. Sukesh Zamwar, Chair, ICA-AP Youth Committee (outgoing)
- 14 Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur, Chair, ICA-AP Youth Committee (incoming)
- 15 Ms. Xiaohong Zhang, ACFSMC, China – Observer
- 16 Ms. Lin Yueyue, ACFSMC, China – Interpreter
- 17 Mr. N. Satyanarayana, NCUI, India – Observer
- 18 Dr. Sunil Kumar Singh, KRIBHCO, India – Observer
- 19 Mr. Ilham Nasal, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Observer
- 20 Mr. Insanial Burhamzam, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Observer
21. Mr. Eiichi Honda, JCCU, Japan - Observer
22. Mr. Haruyoshi Amano, JCCU, Japan – Observer
23. Ms. Kanako Miyazawa, JCCU, Japan – Observer
24. Mr. Kamarudin Ismail, ANGKASA, Malaysia - Observer
25. Mr. Shaharuddin Mohamed, ANGKASA, Malaysia – Observer
26. Mr. Mutadho Bin Bahri, ANGKASA, Malaysia, - Observer
27. Mr. Nasir Khan Yahaya, ANGKASA, Malaysia – Observer
28. Ms. Dolly Goh, SNCF, Singapore – Observer
29. Dr. Asanka Thilakarathna, NCC, Sri Lanka - Observer
30. Mr. Balu Iyer, RD, ICA-AP, New Delhi.
31. Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, ICA-AP, New Delhi
32. Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, ICA-AP, New Delhi

Agenda Item-01 : Opening Remarks

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Li Chunsheng, Chairman of the ICA-AP Regional Board. Mr. Li extended a warm welcome to the members to Malaysia and thanked them for attending the meeting. He thanked ANGKASA for hosting the meeting in Malaysia.

Dato Hj. Abdul Fattah Hj. Abdullah, President of ANGKASA, welcomed the members on behalf of the Malaysian cooperative movement. He thanked ICA-AP for holding the board meeting in Malaysia in conjunction with the ICA Global Conference and General Assembly. He wished the members a pleasant and comfortable stay in Malaysia.

Agenda Item-02 : Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Li Chunsheng invited views and comments on the Agenda. There were none and the Agenda was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item-03 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Meeting held in Hanoi (Vietnam) on 17th April 2017

Mr. Balu Iyer informed the meeting that the minutes of the Regional Board meeting held in Hanoi (Vietnam) on 17th April 2017 were circulated to the members.

Mr. Li Chunsheng invited comments from the members on the minutes. There were none and the minutes were unanimously confirmed.

Agenda Item-04 : Ratification of new Member from Philippines (Mr. Efren M. Bravo, Chairperson, NATCCO)

Mr. Balu Iyer informed the meeting that NATCCO had nominated their current Chairperson Mr. Efren M. Bravo in place of Atty. Adolfo Ibanez. He said that Mr. Bravo is one of the seasoned leaders in the Philippines, having sat in various cooperative organizations as board of director and chairperson. The meeting unanimously ratified the new member from the Philippines.

Mr. Efren M. Bravo thanked the Regional Board for ratifying his name. He said that "I am honoured to be a member of the regional board. I am replacing Atty. Adolfo Ibanez and he is still a member of the NATCCO Board. I am looking forward to a stronger cooperation with board members in our region".

Agenda Item-05 : ICA-AP Activities Report for March to September 2017

Mr. Balu Iyer said that the day we were meeting is historic as it marked the 57th anniversary of ICA-AP creation! The present board was also marking its one-year anniversary. He thanked ANGKASA for making all the arrangements and the members for taking their valuable time to be in Malaysia for the board meeting. He further said that there is a big contingent from Asia-Pacific contesting in the global board election on 17th November.

Mr. Balu then presented the ICA-AP Activities Report for the period March to September 2017. He said the details of the activities carried out are given in the Agenda Notes and highlighted the following six activities – (a) 10th Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference in Hanoi; (b) International Cooperative Day in Kyrgyzstan; (c) Training programs with MAFF, NACF, ACFSMC; (d) Consumer, Women, Youth, Trade Committee related events; (e) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) related events; and (f) ICA-EU Partnership Project. He thanked members who helped in hosting the various activities in the region.

He mentioned that one representative of our board, Dr. Nandini Azad, had attended the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York on 14th July. Eight countries from our region (Australia, Bhutan, Palestine, Singapore, Sri Lanka, UAE and Vietnam) would be submitting their Voluntary National Reviews on the implementation of SDGs to the HLPF and requested the members to contact the focal points in the concerned ministries and see that 'cooperatives' are included in their VNR. He said that "I visited the Focal Point for SDGs in Singapore with our members and informed him what we are doing."

Mr. Badal said that in January 2017, NCF held a big program on SDGs that was attended by around 400 persons.

Mr. Alireza said that AP region is the best region with regard to training programs and finance.

Agenda Item-06 : ICA-AP Financial Report for 1st January to 30th June 2017

Mr. Balu presented the ICA-AP Financial Report for the period 1st January to 30th June 2017. He informed the meeting that the youth summit and the women CEO workshop planned for this year has been postponed to next year. That is why there is a drop-in expenditure. He further said that the EU project is up to March and we are managing the budget very well with regard to person and administrative expenses.

Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong said that AP region is doing well, and he congratulated RD for this. He further said that ICA Strategic Plan deals with 5 items. Primary cooperative engagement; and Communications are being considered.

Mr. Balu said that we have launched two new communications initiatives, Co-op Mic and Coops Speak. Co-op Mic is a platform where experts, entrepreneurs and friends of the cooperative movement, share their experiences, ideas and thoughts on mainstreaming cooperatives within the development discourse. The format of Co-op mic involves an hour-long talk to an audience in New Delhi followed by Q & A; it is also aired live using Facebook to an online audience. Coops Speak uses social media platform to connect a leader from the global co-operative movement with members and supporters of co-operatives and give them the opportunity to pose questions. He requested the members to forward suitable names to ICA-AP, if they have.

He said that through the Malaysia Business Office (MBO) we are trying to get C2C business increased between NACF and ANGKASA.

Dr. Sukesh Zamwar as the outgoing Chair of the Youth Committee said that the budget for youth related activities should be increased.

Mr. Balu said that we need more ideas as we have members who are willing to support good activities.

Agenda Item-07 : ICA-AP Membership Situation

Mr. Balu Iyer informed the meeting that since the last board meeting in Hanoi, four organizations: (a) Union of Labour Service Cooperative (ULSC), Philippines; (b) Japan Coop Insurance Consumer Cooperative Federation (JCIF), Japan; (c) MASS-SPECC Cooperative Development Center (MASS-SPECC), Philippines; and (d) Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Philippines have joined ICA. The following two organizations – Central Union of Iran Animal Farmers (CUIAF), Iran; and National Fisheries Federation (NFF), Sri Lanka - ceased to be members due to non-payment of subscription fee. Heilongjiang Guhe Cooperative Association (GUHE), China has applied for the membership of ICA. The current total ICA-Asia and Pacific membership is **97** organizations from **30** countries.

Mr. Balu further said that retention of members is an ongoing concern for the office. He mentioned two reasons for withdrawal – one, financial difficulty and two, did not get much value from being a member. We would like to get ideas on how we can overcome these problems. He said that we can do more in the Central Asian countries through the Agricultural Committee and Consumer Committee. He requested board members who know of organizations interested in becoming ICA member to send their contact information to the secretariat.

Mr. Li said that in 2014 we had only 85 members and in 2017 we have 97 members. It is a steady increase.

Mr. Alireza Gharagozlou said that they have three provinces speaking Arab. ICC is willing to send one staff to get new members from this region. However, first communication should go from ICA and follow-up will be done by ICC.

Mr. Balu thanked the members for paying their subscription on time and requested those who had not paid theirs to do so at the earliest. He further said that it is very important that the members pay their subscription on time so that we can carry out our planned activities on time.

Agenda Item-08 : ICA-AP Activity Plan for 2018

Mr. Balu Iyer presented the ICA-AP Activity Plan for 2018. He said that some activities are based on the needs of the region and some are routine activities. The activities under the EU project have been designed in such a way to include all the sub-regions (Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia, South East Asia, and Pacific).

The important activities to be carried out in 2018 are: Women CEO Summit in China in April; Youth Summit in the Philippines in July/August; Regional Assembly in Iran in November; and various training programs supported by MAFF, JCCU, ACFSMC, NACF, and ANGKASA.

Ms. Chitose Arai said that activity number six should be deleted from the Activity Plan. Mr. Balu said that Mr. Kang had informed him about it, but the documents were sent out earlier.

After brief discussion, the activity plan for 2018 was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item-09 : ICA-AP Budget for 2018

Mr. Balu Iyer presented the ICA AP budget for 2018 and said that the activity details should be synchronized with the budget. He said that the income is taken based on estimation of subscription at the beginning of the year and actual reflects the amount received. Also, there will be variation in the exchange rate. The subscription income for 2018 has been kept at the same level as 2017. Though we are increasing members, the subscription income coming in is low as these are small organizations. He mentioned that the administrative income is getting smaller each year as the MAFF-Japan budget has been reducing. The EU project will bring in some administrative income as we can charge 7% of expense incurred as indirect cost.

On the expense side, the regional office has stayed within the amount of previous years. Some of the expenses relating to staff, travel and administration have been shifted to the EU project. The number of activities proposed for 2018 is higher than previous years and we should end the year with some surplus. After brief discussion, the budget was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item-10 : Update on European Union (EU) Project

Mr. Balu Iyer informed the meeting that in March 2016, ICA and the European Commission signed a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) in Brussels for a global development program to benefit and advance the cooperative sector worldwide. Titled "Cooperatives in Development – people-centered businesses in action", the program is to run until 31 August 2020. The program is co-funded by the European Union as part of its commitment to support Civil Society Organizations active in development. The action will strengthen the ICA to build stronger global development policy coordination with the regions and countries. The action will improve the capacities and skills of all members of the ICA network for political dialogue and as a vehicle to obtain enabling environments for the cooperative movement. Political dialogue with governments, EU delegations and international institutions will aim at efficient monitoring of legislation, regulations and operational themes affecting cooperatives.

Mr. Santosh Kumar made a Powerpoint presentation on the present status of the project. He said that ICA-EU Partnership on Cooperatives in Development involves all Alliance regional staff and is coordinated by a Unit in Brussels. The partnership makes it possible for this international unit to work in harmony and enhance capacities and skills of members and staff towards cooperative development through its five result areas – research, communications, policy, finance and management. In a nutshell, it strengthens the Alliance; contributes to international development as one movement; and ensures visibility.

He said that a four-pronged Approach - INFORM, ENGAGE, BUILD and COMMIT is being implemented to carry out the three strategic priorities of the EU Program - (a) Participation in achieving the SDGs; (b) Youth Cooperation; and (c) Work and Ownership in Cooperatives. He also presented the review of strategic priorities and Plan of Action for 2018.

Agenda Item-11 : Term Limit for ICA-AP President

Mr. Balu Iyer said that there was no consensus on the issue of term limit for ICA-AP President at the board meeting held on 17th April 2017 in Hanoi. Mr. Li Chunsheng requested the Regional Director (RD) to come up with proposals which would be acceptable to all members. RD sent out a letter on 15th May 2017 to all board members in this regard.

He further said that while the survey of members can be used as a benchmark, the board needs to take an informed decision based on the practice at the global and regional levels. The process followed to elect the President and board members varies across the region and we can set our rules based on conditions in the region. The board should vote on two questions – (1) Should there be a term limit - yes or no; and (2) If the answer is yes, the number of terms.

Dr. Yadav said that this issue is pending for a long time. As per the survey, 57 members out of 64 were supporting term limit, but the Board could not take a decision. So, the Board should take a final decision in this meeting.

Mr. Li suggested that the members should clearly consider this important issue and come out with their response on this long pending matter. He requested the board members to come up with 'yes' or 'no' answer to this pending issue.

All the board members, except Dr. Yadav, and Ms. Chitose Arai felt that there was no need for term limit for ICA-AP President.

Dr. Yadav said that we should close this issue now.

Mr. Li said that "at the last board meeting I had told the members that next year I may be moving to the CPCC. If it happens, the new President should come from the present board except me. One day I hope one woman can lead the board better than me."

Agenda Item-12 : 13th ICA-AP Regional Assembly and Related Events, Tehran, Iran, 26-30 November 2018

Mr. Alireza made a PowerPoint presentation on the subject. He informed the meeting that the 13th ICA-AP Regional Assembly and related events would be held from 26th to 30th November 2018 in IRIB International Conference Center (IICC) in Tehran, Iran. The IICC has got all the modern facilities. He also mentioned that the nearest hotels to IICC are Parsian Esteghlal International Hotel and Parsian Azadi International Hotel.

Mr. Alireza said that Iran is safe from the security point of view and all delegates would be granted e-visa. He further said that weather in November in Tehran would be little bit cold and woollen clothes would be required. Mr. Balu said that we have got some concerns, but we will track of it.

Agenda Item-13 : Updates from Women and Youth Committees

Dr. Nandini Azad, Chair of the Women Committee, made a PowerPoint presentation on activities carried out by the Committee during 2017. These included: Office bearers meeting and seminar, Japan; Training of trainers (TOT) on management capacity building, Bhutan; evaluation of the impact of training and workshop (on going); publication of newsletter and activity report; and publication and dissemination of 2015 Data Study and the Tagatay+20 women conference. She also presented the forthcoming activities – Office bearers meeting in Malaysia; Regional Workshop on Enhancing the role of women in cooperative business in Nepal; and Asia-Pacific workshop on Re-work, re-image and re-shape: Advancing women CEOs in cooperatives in China in 2018.

Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong congratulated Dr. Nandini Azad for her excellent presentation and said that the achievements were commendable.

Ms. Chitose Arai said that JCCU has been providing continuous financial support to ICA-AP and we are happy to say that the Women's Committee is doing well. We are also happy to continue this support.

Youth Committee

Dr. Sukesh presented the key achievements of the Youth Committee from July 2013 to November 2017 - Asia Pacific Youth Forum in Buldhana (India) in 2013; the term 'cooperatives' was included in the Colombo Declaration on Youth in paragraph 27 under full employment and entrepreneurship in 2014; First joint workshop of Youth Committee and University/Campus Cooperatives Committee on SDGs in Bangkok in 2015; Asia-Pacific Youth Summit in Bali in 2016; and Joint workshop on Enhancing Participation of Youth in Campus Cooperatives in Malaysia in 2017. He wished the new office-bears all success in the coming years and promised his services whenever it was needed.

Mr. Balu Iyer informed the meeting that Dr. Sukesh Zamwar will be stepping down as the Chair of ICA-AP Youth Committee after 4.5 years. Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur from Pakistan has been elected as Chair of the Youth Committee at its meeting held on 12th November in Malaysia. He said that youth committee has become very vibrant during the tenure of Dr. Sukesh. The members thanked Dr. Sukesh for his contribution to the Youth Committee and the Board. As a token of appreciation, a memento was presented to him by Mr. Balu Iyer on behalf of ICA-AP.

Dr. Sukesh thanked the board members for the support and guidance given by them during the last 4.5 years in carrying out the activities of the Youth Committee.

Mr. Ahsan Ali thanked the Chair for allowing him to speak a few words. He said that "I have been involved in the movement since 2007. After 10 years I am on the board as Chair of the Youth Committee. Thank you for welcoming me to this board."

Agenda Item-14 : Other Business Matters Arising

Mr. Balu Iyer informed that there are 24 candidates contesting for the global board election. From the Asia-Pacific region there are eight candidates. All board members should support the candidates from our region and seek further support from other regions. He wished more members from our region win the board election on 17th November.

Agenda Item-15 : Date and Place of Next Meeting

On the invitation of Mr. Badal, it was decided to hold the next Regional Board meeting in Nepal on 6-7 April 2018.

Agenda Item-16 : Closing Remarks

Mr. Li Chunsheng thanked the members for their kind support in conducting the meeting very smoothly. He also thanked Dato Hj. Abdul Fattah Hj. Abdullah and ANGKASA for hosting the meeting.

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

Minutes of the ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting {4}

Kathmandu (Nepal): 6th April 2018

The meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held at Soaltee Crowne Plaza Hotel in Kathmandu (Nepal) on Friday, 6th April 2018 from 09:00 to 13:30 hours. Following members attended the meeting:

- 01 Mr. Li Chunsheng, ACFSMC, China – Chairperson
- 02 Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, NCUI, India - Vice Chair
- 03 Ms. Chitose Arai, JCCU, Japan – Vice Chair
- 04 Mr. Insanial Burhamzah, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Alternate Member
- 05 Dr. Mohammad Ali Zeyghami, ICC, Iran – Alternate Member
- 06 Mr. Kyongwon Lee, NACF, Korea – Alternate Member
- 07 Dato Hj. Abdul Fattah Hj. Abdullah, ANGKASA – Member
- 08 Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, NCF, Nepal – Member
- 09 Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong, SNCF, Singapore – Member
- 10 Mr. W. Lalith A. Peiris, NCC, Sri Lanka – Member
- 11 Dr. Nandini Azad, Chair, ICA-AP Women Committee
- 12 Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur, Chair, ICA-AP Youth Committee
- 13 Ms. Xiaohong Zhang, ACFSMC, China – Observer
- 14 Mr. Dr. Bijender Singh, NCUI/NCCF, India – Observer
- 15 Mr. Ilham Nasai, DEKOPIN, Indonesia – Observer
- 16 Mr. Aiiреза Banaeifar, ICC, Iran – Observer
- 17 Mr. Haruyoshi Amano, JCCU, Japan – Observer
- 18 Ms. Kanako Miyazawa, JCCU, Japan – Observer
- 19 Mr. Soobyeong Chae, NACF, Korea – Observer
- 20 Mr. Nasir Khan Yahaya, ANGKASA, Malaysia – Observer
- 21 Mr. Shaharudin Mohamed, ANGKASA, Malaysia – Observer
- 22 Ms. Om Devi Malla, ICA global board member – Observer
- 23 Mr. Suresh Thapa, NCF, Nepal – Observer
- 24 Dr. Asanka Thilakarathna, NCC, Sri Lanka – Observer
- 25 Mr. Ariel Guarco, President, ICA – Special Invitee
- 26 Mr. Balu Iyer, RD, ICA-AP, New Delhi.
- 27 Ms. Anam Mittra, ICA-AP, New Delhi
- 28 Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, ICA-AP, New Delhi

Absent: Mr. Efren M. Bravo, NATCCO, Philippines – Member

Agenda Item-01 : Opening Remarks

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Li Chunsheng, Chairman of the ICA-AP Regional Board. Mr. Li thanked the Nepal Cooperative Federation (NCF) for hosting the meeting and extended a warm welcome to the members. He extended a special thanks to Mr. Ariel Guarco, President of ICA, for taking the time to join the board meeting. Mr. Li informed that Mr. Efren Bravo, board member from the Philippines had conveyed his regrets due to prior commitments.

Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, Chairman of NCF, welcomed the members on behalf of the Nepal cooperative movement. He thanked ICA-AP for holding the board meeting in Nepal in conjunction with the 2nd Cooperative Congress. He was pleased that some board members could attend the Congress which was centered around co-operatives and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He said that there was need for co-operatives to work hard and show their impact. He requested the members not be deterred by the pollution and take the time to visit Pokhara and other places in Nepal. He extended an invitation to the President and board members to visit the new NCF office building and the National Cooperative Bank. He wished the board meeting would be fruitful and hoped the members would have a pleasant and comfortable stay in Nepal.

Agenda Item-02 : Remarks by ICA President Ariel Guarco

Mr. Ariel Guarco, President of ICA said that he was delighted to participate, for the first time and as President of ICA, in the board meeting of ICA-AP. In his opening remarks he said that ICA attaches importance to the complementarities and synergies with all its regions and sectors as it respects and values the full range of its differences and derives its unity and strength based on the diversity. This vision together with its bottom-up

approach are closely linked to the ICA's role and influence in the world and to the Statement on the Cooperative Identity.

The role of the regions is essential, notably in the promotion of harmonized and sustainable cooperative development and in addressing membership related issues (interaction with members and identification of potential new members). As the foundation of democratic governance, the global board is intended as a place for interaction, dialogue, understanding, inspiration, commitment and creativity for all the ICA bodies.

He added that the interests of the Asia-Pacific region are well represented in the global board with the presence of ICA-AP President Li Chunsheng, Ms. Om Devi Malla, Mr. Toru Nakaya, Mr. Kamarudin Ismail, Mr. Aditya Yadav, Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong and Mr. Byeong Won Kim. In this capacity they are actively involved in collective decision-making. The board of directors will have a very important role in the next four years as they will be responsible for the ICA strategy formulation, its implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

There have been significant changes in the global context - The UN SDGs were adopted; governments committed themselves to reducing the causes of climate change; citizens voted against austerity; global trade agreements were negotiated and/or reconsidered; migration caused socio-economic strain; nationalism rose; conflicts continued or erupted around the world.

In November 2017, the general assembly gave the newly elected board of directors the mandate to revise the strategy expressed in the Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade, with a view towards 2030. Working in close collaboration with the regions and sectors and in consultation with the entire ICA membership, the goal will be to propose a new, people-centered path for globalization with importance given to cooperative action. The various bodies of the ICA will strengthen their combined action to the service of co-operatives and their national structures.

The newly elected board of directors in their meeting in January 2018 decided to initiate an assessment of the Blueprint to determine what has been done, progress in meeting the objectives set and to determine what is still missing. The board of directors needs to have a strong vision and a thorough understanding of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the context in which the ICA is operating. We face today an environment of transformation, which we see reflected in the cooperative movement; this must be reflected in the ICA if we are to maximize the opportunities in front of us. In this new environment, the current organizational processes of the ICA may no longer be as effective as they need to be in order to meet these opportunities and serve the needs of members.

The board of directors will meet in Paris on 9-10 April 2018 to examine the survey findings and to take steps to develop strategic objectives of the ICA, identify bold priorities and targeted actions. So far, 54% of members from 81 countries have responded to the survey. All sectors and regions are represented in a significant way. The survey was designed to assess the performance of the ICA and structured around major development issues such as governance, membership, participation, cooperative development, international cooperation, finance, communications, identify, visibility, statistics, advocacy, lobbying, legislations, the new generation, the gender equality, etc. At this time, he did not want to present an analysis of the survey findings.

The ICA board of directors adopted a bottom-up approach, ensuring full consultation at the field level with regional and sectoral members as to their priorities and plans. By doing so, the ICA will be able to set out a series of clear objectives for bolstering its ability to meet its members' needs and aspirations. Now is the time for new ambitions, but they should be established all together

By fulfilling its duty to consult, the board of directors also ensured that its proposals will be both realistic and creative while respecting the immense diversity and wealth of the cooperative model and keeping in mind the cooperative principles and values. The magic of the cooperative movement he said is precisely its ability to continue idealism and pragmatism, its ability to balance dream and sense of the tangible, its ability to associate the desirable and the possible. After all, the cooperative movement is just a human adventure which bestows it a powerful and irrepressible force.

Mr. Guarco expressed his satisfaction at the harmony and cooperation prevailing between ICA and the Asia-Pacific region. He saw this as a good omen for the important discussions ahead about the new strategic plan for the decade 2020-2030. He congratulated the board for their excellent work and commitment and wished everyone one a successful board meeting.

Agenda Item-03 : Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Li Chunsheng invited views and comments on the Agenda. There were none and the Agenda was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item-04 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Meeting held in Malaysia on 14th November 2017

Mr. Balu Iyer informed the meeting that the minutes of the Regional Board meeting held in Malaysia on 14th November 2017 were circulated to the members.

Mr. Li Chunsheng invited comments from the members on the minutes. Ms. Chitose Arai suggested the following change under Agenda Item-11: Term Limit for ICA-AP President. The 5th para under this agenda should read as "All the board members, except Dr. Yadav and Ms. Chitose Arai, felt that there was no need for term limit for ICA-AP President".

With the above change, the minutes were unanimously confirmed.

Agenda Item-05 : ICA-AP Activities Report for October 2017 to Feb.2018

Mr. Balu Iyer thanked Mr. Badal and ICA members in Nepal for hosting the meeting. He said that the 2nd cooperative congress discussed the SDGs which is very relevant to ICA. Nepal's 2017 Voluntary National Review Report on the implementation of the SDGs has recognized the role played by co-operatives. The government of Nepal is supportive of co-operatives and this was reiterated by the Finance Minister and the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reforms and Co-operatives at the 2nd Congress. The international community in Nepal is also strongly committed to the development of co-operatives. He congratulated the Nepal cooperative movement for its many achievements.

Mr. Iyer then presented the ICA-AP Activities Report for the period October 2017 to February 2018; in particular he highlighted the following six activities:

- (a) ICA-MAFF Government of Japan training course on Fostering and Improving Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Africa - this is the first time it was held for participants from Africa and it took considerable time and effort in terms of consultation and discussions to get the correct participants.
- (b) 12th Cooperative Research Conference in Seoul was well attended; 27 papers were presented in six sessions. The Dr. Mauritz Bonow Young Researcher Award was presented to two young researchers. This award was started in 2016.
- (c) ICA General Assembly in Malaysia – the AP region held series of events – board meeting, youth committee meeting, university/campus committee meeting, etc.
- (d) SDG-5 Regional workshop on Enhancing the role of Women in Cooperative Business in Nepal – the workshop passed a resolution for 33% reservation for women in board and senior management position.
- (e) Result-Oriented Monitoring of the ICA-EU Project – a consultant appointed by EU visited the regional office from 5-7 December and met with staff and selected members (through Skype). The report was released in January and was positive of the work done by the AP region in terms of engagement with members (Nepal being one) and the number of activities carried out. Overall the EU project is going well.
- (f) Asia-Pacific Cooperative Development Conference (February) - The three areas covered were – SDGs; youth inclusion; and 'work' and 'ownership' structures in cooperatives. The conference was well attended and had strong support from members in Sri Lanka.

Ms. Nandini Azad said that 30-50 percent reservation for women was approved at the 10th Ministers Conference held in Vietnam in April 2017 and this should be kept in mind while preparing the Sri Lanka report.

Mr. Badal said that the SDG-5 workshop was well attended, and he was there to witness it. He is going to produce the results of the Conference in his magazine which will be in Nepali.

Mr. Balu Iyer informed the board members that Mr. Badal has written a book on SDGs, which was also in Nepali.

Agenda Item-06 : ICA-AP Financial Report for 1 January to 31 December 2017

Mr. Balu Iyer presented the ICA-AP Financial Report for the period 1st January to 31st December 2017. There was a surplus of USD 63,544. He said that administrative income is getting lower each year as the MAFF-Japan

support is reducing given the cut back in overseas aid from the Japanese government. Earlier the MAFF budget was around 1 million USD, now it is around USD 400,000. To some extent, the loss in administrative income is compensated from EU project; but it is not commensurate to the income secured from the MAFF project.

The EU budget for 2017 was Euro 237,149 and we spent Euro 168,975 until December. As per project agreement, for every euro spent, the EU will reimburse 80% and ICA needs to raise the remaining 20%. A part of the surplus of USD 63, 544 will go to EU project and will result in a net smaller surplus.

Mr. Li commented that the financial situation of the region was very good when compared to other regions. This is because of the financial support from our members (JCCU, NACF, ACFSMC, ANGKASA, and others) and the hard work of RD and other staff.

Agenda Item-07 : Revised ICA-AP Activity Plan for 2018

Mr. Balu Iyer presented the revised ICA-AP Activity Plan for 2018. He said that some activities are based on the needs of the region and some are routine activities. The activities under the EU project have been designed in such a way to include all the sub-regions (Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia, South East Asia, and Pacific). Mr. Balu further said that our region is strong because of our members support and he thanked them for that. The important activities to be carried out in 2018 are: Asia-Pacific Cooperative Development Conference in Sri Lanka; Women CEO Workshop in China in April; Work and Ownership in Cooperatives in Kerala in collaboration with ILO, IIM, TISS and ULCCS; SDG 12 – Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns in April; Engagement with ASEAN in June in collaboration with ICA-EU, ACO and CoopsEurope; Capacity Building of Federation in Pacific Islands in July; Second Youth Summit in the Philippines in August; Enhancing Engagement in Central Asia (Kazakhstan) in collaboration with CCW and JCCU in September; Regional Assembly in Iran in November; and various ongoing training programs supported by MAFF, JCCU, ACFSMC, NACF, and ANGKASA.

Mr. Li said that around 64 activities are listed in the plan till December. He said that we should ensure the activities have quality and substance. We should also focus on activities which promote business. While honey business is very good, it is difficult to export. With the EU project activities women can get more empowered with the support of member organizations.

Mr. Alireza said that ICC tried to have a MoU signed with NCUI in February during the visit of their President to India. However, this did not materialize.

Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong said that we should look at a digital portal to post information about products of members. He said that in Singapore they have prepared a list of cooperatives in Singapore and know their interest.

Mr. Ilham said that a digital portal is a good idea and agreed with the suggestion of Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong.

Ms. Nandini Azad suggested a portal for silk marketing since the workers are not getting reasonable wages.

Mr. Shaharudin Mohamed said that he would like to lead the platform and willing to work in collaboration with ICA-AP and MBO. We will start the registry of cooperatives since the MBO is there.

Mr. Balu Iyer said that when he joined in 2014 there was discussion around the development of a portal. E-commerce is important and many of our member countries (Korea, China, Malaysia, India) have their own platform. In China there is planning to have an international section in their portal. Malaysia has developed more dynamic platform. Many members have developed bilateral relationships. We will look at what Singapore has done. The regional office and trade and business committee can work together and find a solution.

Agenda Item-08 : ICA-AP Membership Situation

Mr. Balu Iyer informed the meeting that since the last board meeting in Malaysia, four organizations: (a) Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Philippines; (b) Heilongjiang Guhe Cooperative Association (GUHE), China; (c) Cooperative Union of Kyrgyzstan (CUK); and (d) Jordan Cooperative Corporation (JCC), Jordan have joined ICA. The following four organizations have been admitted into the membership of ICA, but not yet paid their subscription fees. (1) Rah-e-roshd Cooperative Educational Complex (CR), Iran; (2) Palestinian Cooperative Institute (PCI), Palestine; (3) Palestinian Union of Housing Cooperatives (PUHC), Palestine; and (4) Central Organization for Rural Production Coops of Iran (CURPC), Iran. Aurora Integrated Multipurpose Cooperative (AIMCOOP), Philippines has applied for the membership of ICA. The current total ICA-Asia and Pacific membership is **100** organizations from **32** countries.

Mr. Balu said that retention of members is an ongoing concern for the office. He mentioned two reasons for withdrawal – one, financial difficulty and two, did not get much value from being a member. We would like to get ideas on how we can overcome these problems. He said that we can do more in the Central Asian countries through the Agricultural Committee and Consumer Committee. He requested board members who know of organizations interested in becoming ICA member to send their contact information to the secretariat.

On a query from Mr. Peiris, Mr. Balu said that existing members in a country are consulted before admitting a new member.

Mr. Li commented that the membership situation in our region is very good in comparison with other regions. The number is increasing steadily.

Mr. Balu thanked the members for paying their subscription on time and requested those who had not paid theirs to do so at the earliest. He further said that it is very important that the members pay their subscription on time so that we can carry out our planned activities on time.

Agenda Item-09 : Update on European Union (EU) Project

Ms. Anam Mittra informed the meeting that in March 2016, ICA and the European Commission signed a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) in Brussels for a global development program to benefit and advance the cooperative sector worldwide. Titled "Cooperatives in Development – people-centered businesses in action", the program is to run until 31 August 2020. The program is co-funded by the European Union as part of its commitment to support Civil Society Organizations active in development. The action will strengthen the ICA to build stronger global development policy coordination with the regions and countries. The action will improve the capacities and skills of all members of the ICA network for political dialogue and as a vehicle to obtain enabling environments for the cooperative movement. Political dialogue with governments, EU delegations and international institutions will aim at efficient monitoring of legislation, regulations and operational themes affecting cooperatives.

ICA-EU Partnership on Cooperatives in Development involves all Alliance regional staff and is coordinated by the Coordination Unit in Brussels. The partnership makes it possible for this international unit to work in harmony and enhance capacities and skills of members and staff towards cooperative development through five result areas – research, communications, policy, finance and management. In a nutshell, it strengthens the Alliance; contributes to international development as one movement; and ensures visibility.

She said that a four-pronged Approach - INFORM, ENGAGE, BUILD and COMMIT is being implemented to carry out the three strategic priorities of the EU Program - (a) Participation in achieving the SDGs; (b) Youth Cooperation; and (c) Work and Ownership in Cooperatives.

She presented the activities carried out up to March and the following five important activities planned for 2018-19 - (a) Workshop on Advancing Women CEOs in Cooperatives, China, April; (b) Conference on the Changing World of Work and Coop-a-thon (Cooperatives + Hackathon), Kerala, April; (c) Establishing and Strengthening Federations in Pacific Islands, Vanuatu, July; (d) Young Development Professionals Meeting, New Delhi, August; and (e) Asia-Pacific Cooperative Youth Summit, Philippines, August.

Agenda Item-10 : Updates from Women and Youth Committees

Women Committee: Dr. Nandini Azad, Chair of the Women Committee, made a PowerPoint presentation on objectives/functions and activities carried out by the Committee in 2017. The main activities were - Office bearers meeting and seminar in Japan; training of trainers (TOT) on management capacity building in Bhutan; SDG-5 Regional workshop on Enhancing the role of Women in Cooperative Business in Nepal; follow-up of the impact of training and workshop (on going); publication of newsletter and activity report; publication and dissemination of 2015 Data Study and the Tagatay+20 women conference; and Vice Chairperson on the ICA delegation to the UN Commission on status of women in New York in March 2018.

She also presented the forthcoming activities:

- Workshop on Re-work Re-imagine and Re-shape: Advancing Women CEOs in Cooperatives in China from 17-19 April. This is the first time ICA-AP is organizing a workshop for women chief executive officers in co-operatives. The workshop is designed to address issues around status of women CEOs in cooperatives and how to advance their numbers;
- Office bearers meeting in Nepal on 6th April;

- Exposure and Networking Program for enhancing role of women in cooperative business; Training of Trainers in Maldives (tentative); and
- Communication Outreach–International; Women’s Day, International Day of Cooperatives; and Publication of Newsletter and Activity Report.

Dr. Nandini Azad informed the meeting that they will be writing to the members to apply the recommendations of the Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers Conference in their countries. She also informed the meeting the Ms. Anam Mittra is the new Secretary of Women Committee from December 2017.

Youth Committee: Mr. Ahsan Ali thanked the Chair for allowing him to speak a few words. He said that “I have been involved in the movement since 2007. After 10 years, I am on the board as Chair of the Youth Committee”. He made a PowerPoint presentation which included the following:

- New term office bearers and members;
- Three major goals for the Committee (2017-2021);
- Opportunities to increase the pool of members for the ICYC by developing a multilateral program for the youth;
- Adding one million new cooperators to the map by creating campus cooperatives in South Asia;
- Recent progress (Nepal youth report: financial literacy program and possible replication, new website launch, pre-action plan, and formulating strategies); and
- SWOT analysis.

He requested the Women Committee for its assistance, since youth involves both men and women.

Mr. Alireza said that we have to follow-up each committee and increase participation of women and youth.

Mr. Li said that it is the responsibility of our co-operatives to enable the youth to hold higher position for future leadership.

Mr. Li launched the new website of Youth Committee by touching a button. The new website is user friendly, simplified for the user as well as back-end work for members, and formatted for multiple devices. The board members appreciated the new website.

Mr. Ahsan Ali also circulated a paper entitled Employee Exchange/Internship Program for Youth Cooperators. In this paper the following were included – overview, goals specifications, milestones, and what we need from the cooperative companies/ institutions.

Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong said that this is a good proposal, but who is going to support it? One option is to work with the universities with certain level of funding. 35 co-operatives in Top 300 of the World Cooperative Monitor come from Asia-Pacific region. First, we should start from these 35 cooperatives.

Mr. Balu Iyer said that we started working with students in India (ULCCS in Kerala and Xavier Institute of Management in Odisha). We want to explore this with other neighboring countries. We have to see how we can move forward.

Mr. Li suggested to continue with what we are doing and share the requirements and funding with regional office.

Agenda Item-11 : 13th ICA-AP Regional Assembly and Related Events, Tehran, Iran, 26-30 November 2018

First, Mr. Alireza thanked NCF for the warm welcome and good hospitality extended to the board members. Through a PowerPoint presentation he informed the meeting that the 13th ICA-AP Regional Assembly and related events would be held from 26th to 30th November 2018 in Tehran, Iran. The two hotels identified by ICC are Parsian Esteghlal International Hotel and Parsian Azadi International Hotel. The distance between these two hotels is only three minutes by walk. Since the new year in Iran starts in April, the negotiated hotel rates will be available only by end of April. He further said that Iran is safe from the security point of view and all delegates would be granted e-visa.

Mr. Balu Iyer said that few members have expressed some concerns about their participation. When they visit Iran, their present visa to the USA will become invalid and they must get a fresh visa which will take more time

and scrutiny. He said that members can get a visa to Iran without any problem; but, how it will affect the members travel to other countries is not to be placed on ICC.

Mr. Ahsan Ali said that they need three months' notice to get Iran visa. Also, there is a problem with advance payment. So, payment on arrival to specific countries should be considered.

Mr. Alireza said that many business persons are coming to Iran. We can help them to use Dollars if they have a problem with credit card.

Ms. Chitose Arai said that "I would like to thank the cooperatives in Iran for the success of the regional assembly in Iran. Mr. Balu has already got some concerns about Japan. Since I have to travel to USA very frequently, we will not be able to attend the regional assembly".

Mr. Balu informed the meeting that we have developed a website for the regional assembly. Since the website is ready, people can start the registering early. He explained the registration fee proposed by the Secretariat and the same was unanimously approved.

Mr. Li said that "lot of work has been done by ICC. I really hope more members will participate in the regional assembly".

Mr. Balu Iyer said that if there is any problem with a country, they can contact ICC directly to sort out their problems.

Agenda Item-12 : Other Business Matters Arising

Dato Abdul Fattah presented the following resolution for the support of the regional board members.

"Referring to the issue raised at ICA's board of directors meeting in Brussels on 18-19 January 2018 on European Union (EU) resolutions to reduce and further restrict the use of palm oil in the production of biofuels by 2021;

ANGKASA hereby suggests that ICA-AP send an official letter to the ICA global board as a protest the resolutions.

"Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand are major palm oil producers in the world. The palm oil industry in Malaysia provides livelihood for over one million people including 300,000 smallholders many of which are cooperatives. It is important to note that demand for palm oil from EU for biofuel purposes is 2.8 million tons in which Malaysia supplies 600,000 tons and Indonesia supplies 2 million tons (source BERNAMA).

Therefore, the EU's resolutions will automatically and severely affect the Malaysian cooperative members and millions other cooperators in the respected countries.

On the issue of sustainable development raised during the meeting, Malaysia through the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities has mandated that palm oil producers and manufacturers to have Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) certificates by 2019.

The MSPO certification aims to ensure palm oil plantations (independence and organized smallholders) and all related activities (palm oil processing facility), are based on seven principles. The seven principles which includes: (a) Addressing management commitment and responsibility; (b) Transparency; (c) Compliance with legal requirements; (d) Social responsibility; (e) Health; (f) Safety; and (g) Employment conditions.

ANGKASA and Malaysian Government agree that the resolutions are not about sustainability or deforestation issues but more on discrimination and protectionism against the palm oil industry".

The board members unanimously supported the resolution moved by ANGKASA.

Mr. Alireza made a PowerPoint presentation on International Exhibition of Building and Construction Industry (IranConfair). Last year it was held from 12-15 August 2017. 90% income of ICC comes from this exhibition. He requested ICA members that ICC can hold this exhibition in their respective countries and the profit goes to that country. This will be an additional income to them.

Mr. Badal informed the meeting that there are no housing cooperatives in Nepal so far. We want to learn more from this exhibition.

Ms. Chitose Arai informed the meeting that collaboration among Japanese cooperatives have been undertaken through the Japan Joint Committee of Cooperatives (JJC) since its establishment in 1956. To further promote further collaboration, the JJC was reorganized into the **Japan Cooperative Alliance** (JCA) on 1st April 2018. In Japan cooperatives operate in diverse areas and have a total membership of 65 million. The JCA will consolidate capacities across Japan and facilitate collaboration between cooperatives with the aim of solving social issues.

Agenda Item-13 : Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next Regional Board meeting will be held in Iran on 26th November 2018 in conjunction with the 13th ICA-AP Regional Assembly.

Agenda Item-14 : Closing Remarks

Mr. Li Chunsheng thanked the members for their kind support in the smooth conduct of the meeting. He also thanked Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal and NCF for hosting the meeting and the excellent arrangements.

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

ICA Co-operative Identity Statement

DEFINITION

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

VALUES

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

PRINCIPLES

The Principles of Co-operation are guidelines by which Co-operatives put their values into practice.

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

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

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

Fourth Principle: Autonomy and Independence: Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their Co-operative autonomy.

Fifth Principle: Education, Training and Information: Co-operative provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees, so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their Co-operatives. They inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of Co-operation.

Sixth Principle: Co-operation among Co-operatives: Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the Co-operative Movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Seventh Principle: Concern for the Community: Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.