



# ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

## 2023

CELEBRATING OUR COMMON AGENDA

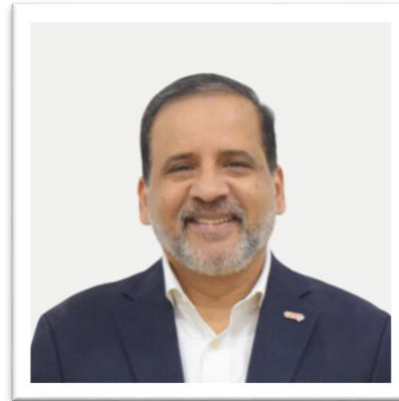
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## 1. Leadership Insights: Message from ICA-AP President and Regional Director



*Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav  
ICA-AP President*



*Mr. Balasubramanian Iyer  
ICA-AP Regional Director*

Dear Members,

We are excited to share with you the ICA Asia-Pacific Annual Activities Report for 2023, a year marked by significant achievements, dynamic regional activities, and a strengthened cooperative community across Asia and the Pacific.

In 2023, our highlight activity was the 16th Regional Assembly and the 11th Cooperative Forum in Manila. The Assembly, under the theme "Cooperatives: Our Common Agenda," showcased our collective dedication to a cooperative model that prioritizes human values and cooperation for a sustainable future. The fourth Asia-Pacific Cooperative Youth Summit in Sabah, themed "Cooperation for Sustainable Lifestyles," brought youthful energy into crucial sustainability discussions, underlining the role of youth in shaping a cooperative future.

The year also saw the launch of the ICA Asia Pacific Cooperative Excellence Awards, celebrating the Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society (ULCCS) Ltd. and Datuk Seri Dr. Abdul Fattah Abdullah for their outstanding contributions. The Dr. Mauritz Bonow Young Researcher Awards to Dr. Jiyun Jeon and Ms. Kristine Atendido, emphasized the importance of academic research in advancing cooperative ideals. The 2023 COOP Pitch winners—Muda Mudi Coop (Indonesia), Likas Vocational College (Malaysia), and Lamac Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Philippines)— underscored the vitality of innovation and sustainable solutions within our movement.

Our commemoration of global events like International Women's Day, International Youth Day, and the International Day of Cooperatives reinforced cooperatives' crucial role in promoting gender equality, digital inclusion, and sustainable development. The 25th anniversary of the ICA-AP Committee on Women highlighted the strides made towards gender inclusion and equality. Our membership expanded to 109 members with the addition of the Nepal Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperative Unions Ltd. (NEFSCUN) from Nepal, ESAF Swasraya Multi-State Agro Co-operative Society Ltd (ESMACO) from India, and One Cooperative Bank and ACDI Multipurpose Cooperative from the Philippines enriching our cooperative family across 28 countries.


Training initiatives and projects continued to bolster cooperative management and development, from agricultural cooperatives to rural women's capacity building. The Women Committee's Training

of Trainers program on “Climate Change and Action in Cooperatives” and our engagements in sustainable coffee chains, the B20 Task Force and an EU proposal for people-centered development mark our strides in education and policy advocacy. Seminars and workshops organized by our various committees, from the Malaysia Business Office's discussions on socio-economic barriers to the Youth Committee's focus on financial literacy, have fostered a deeper understanding and practical skills within our community. The ICA Asia-Pacific Research Committee's 17th Research Conference in Manila further explored cooperatives' role in social responsibility towards the 2030 Agenda.

Our partnerships with organizations like the Institute of Rural Management, Anand, ITforChange, and the Platform Cooperatives Consortium have fortified our network, driving us towards our shared goals with renewed vigor. We are immensely grateful for the support from ANGKASA, JCCU, ACFSMC, KRIBHCO, and all our members, whose collaboration and support have been pivotal to our success. We would also like to thank NCUI and cooperatives in India for their active engagement in the G20 working groups and their efforts to get cooperatives mentioned in the policy papers.

Looking ahead to 2024, we remain committed to advancing our cooperative principles and shared values. Your continuous support and dedication to the cooperative movement inspire us, and we eagerly anticipate what we will achieve together in the coming year.

Thank you for a remarkable 2023. Here's to an even more successful 2024!



Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav  
President



Balasubramanian Iyer  
Regional Director

## 2. Milestones of 2023

### Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders



*APCYS 4.0 Participants with YAB Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Ahmad Zahid bin Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia and YB Datuk Ewon Benedick, Minister of Entrepreneur and Cooperative Development of Malaysia at the Closing Ceremony*

In its efforts to encourage youth to adopt sustainable lifestyles, ICA-AP organized the fourth edition of the [Asia Pacific Cooperative Youth Summit \(APCYS 4.0\)](#) in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, from July 27 to 30. Themed "Cooperation for Sustainable Lifestyles," APCYS 4.0 was a collaborative effort between ICA-AP, its Committee on Youth Cooperation (ICYC) and the Malaysian National Cooperative Movement (ANGKASA).

The support from various Malaysian government bodies like the Ministry of Entrepreneur and Cooperatives Development (MECD) of Malaysia, the Malaysia Cooperative Societies Commission (SKM), the Sabah Tourism Board, the Ministry of Industrial Development & Entrepreneurship (MIDE, Sabah, Malaysia); national partners including the National Land Finance Co-op Society Limited; and international partners like the All-China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC), Krishak Bharti Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO, India), Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU, Japan) and Dot Cooperation (United Kingdom) resulted in the huge success of the event.

The summit attracted over 185 participants from 16 countries, fostering cross-cultural exchange and collaboration. During the Opening Ceremony, YB Datuk Ewon Benedick, Malaysia's Minister of Entrepreneur and Cooperative Development, emphasized the crucial role of youth in driving societal change and encouraged greater involvement of youth in cooperatives. During the Closing Ceremony YAB Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Ahmad Zahid bin Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, emphasized



*YB Datuk Ewon Benedick, Minister, MECD at the Opening Ceremony*

the significant role of youth participation in cooperatives. He outlined five compelling reasons for youth to pursue cooperative businesses - empowerment and ownership, skill development, entrepreneurial experience, community engagement, and networking and collaboration.

Participants engaged in activities like exploring the beautiful and culturally diverse region of Sabah, learning about youth-led sustainable initiatives, experiencing hands-on activities through community immersion, participating in the

Go Green Campaign, and networking with peers. The summit featured speakers from nine countries, plenary and breakout sessions, and a COOP Pitch competition to showcase innovative ideas.

### COOP Pitch

COOP Pitch, a prominent feature of the Summit, offered participants the chance to present cooperative business ideas tailored to address the needs of youth and communities in their respective countries. 11 finalist teams from 7 countries - India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, South Korea, and Vietnam – pitched their ideas live. The winners were Muda Mudi Coop from Indonesia with 1<sup>st</sup> position, followed by Likas Vocational College from Sabah, Malaysia, and Lamac Multi-Purpose Cooperative’s Coop Youth Planet from Cebu, the Philippines, securing the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> positions.

<p><b>Muda Mudi Coop, Indonesia</b></p>  <p>Team Members: Vastukencana Sih Gita Garudatama and Fadhila Kresna Diarsa</p>	<p>Muda Mudi Coop, a worker cooperative in East Java, Indonesia, specializes in ICT services like website creation, social media optimization, and IT system software provision. Their COOP Pitch focused on establishing a unit to become a leading manufacturer of wood pallets in Southeast Asia. They've developed a patented wood pallet formula using sugarcane and coconut shell waste, aiming to reduce coal consumption and benefit a wider segment of society in the alternative fuel market. With a mission to create a network of small pallet manufacturers, Muda Mudi Coop emerged as a young enterprise with significant environmental and social impact goals.</p>
<p><b>Likas Vocational College (Sabah, Malaysia)</b></p>  <p>Team Members: Mohammad Syafiq Mohd Yusri, Jiroryce Michael Chia, Nursari Hamid, and Nur Maisarah Balqis Jinno</p>	<p>Likas Vocational College pitched a cooperative aimed at revolutionizing the construction industry with its eco-paving blocks. The coop’s value proposition lies in offering eco paver bricks, an environmentally friendly alternative for construction projects. Crafted from recycled materials such as palm oil and tire waste, these paving blocks promote sustainability and waste reduction. The coop's mission goes beyond product creation; they aim to educate and inspire stakeholders about the significance of sustainable construction practices, targeting builders, architects, and consumers alike.</p>
<p><b>Lamac Multi-Purpose Cooperative’s (MPC) Coop Youth Planet (Cebu, the Philippines)</b></p>  <p>Team Members: Leo Lingel Tango-An Pañares and Marnel Encarquez Leones</p>	<p>The team pitched the CocoCycle idea, offering a comprehensive and innovative approach to the coconut industry. This initiative integrates fair-trade practices, waste-to-energy projects, and the creation of value-added products. CocoCycle aims to emerge as a prominent supplier of sustainable coconut-based goods, aiming for financial success while driving positive social change. By uplifting coconut farming communities and reducing its environmental impact, CocoCycle endeavors to create a sustainable and socially responsible business model.</p>

The winners received cash prizes worth USD 4,500 (first prize, USD 2,500; second prize, USD 1,500; and third prize, USD 1,000), guidance and mentorship support to further develop, validate and implement their cooperative ideas.



*Go Green Campaign 5.0*

### **Go Green Campaign**

In collaboration with ANGKASA's 1 million tree campaign, ICYC observed the [Go Green Campaign 5.0](#) (GGC) during the APCYS 4.0. The campaign, themed #BeatPlasticPollution, addressed the urgent global issue of plastic pollution, marking the first physical event since the pandemic.

Started in 2018, GGC encourages youth under 35 to engage in tree-planting and climate change awareness activities, highlighting the role of cooperatives in environmental sustainability. This year's focus on plastic pollution aimed to increase youth participation in tree planting, promote cooperatives' contributions to sustainable development, and instil long-term environmental commitment. Participants planted 261 tree saplings and conducted a beach clean-up, collecting 57 kilograms of waste in partnership with Trash Hero.

The summit showcased young cooperators' dedication to sustainability, emphasizing the collective responsibility to #BeatPlasticPollution through reduced plastic usage, recycling, and sustainable practices.



*Participants with the Trash Hero team after the beach clean-up*

Watch the APCYS 4.0 highlights [here](#).

## Assembly Insights: Steering Cooperative Progress



*16<sup>th</sup> ICA-AP Regional Assembly*

The [16<sup>th</sup> ICA-AP Regional Assembly](#) was held in Manila, Philippines from November 6 to 10. It was a week-long event hosted by the Philippines Cooperative Affiliates (PCA) under the aegis of the Philippines Cooperative movement after a gap of two decades. The Assembly, themed “Cooperatives: Our Common Agenda,” included events like the Cooperative Forum, Regional Board Meeting, and sessions by sectoral and thematic committees.

A special logo, inspired by the Philippines flag, was created, featuring symbols representing the country's provinces and iconic Jeepneys. There are cooperatives of Jeepney drivers in the Philippines. The design, a collaborative effort between ICA-AP and PCA, captured the essence of cooperation and the vibrant culture of the host country. More than 250 international delegates from 21 countries and around 285 delegates from the Philippines participated.

### **Board Meeting and Committee Activities**

Pre-events included the Regional Youth Workshop and the 17<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Research Conference. The Youth Workshop focused on strategizing activities for the youth committee and was concluded by signing the commitment to youth cooperativism. The research conference brought together academicians from the Asia Pacific region for mutual exchange aimed at promoting progress in Sustainable Development. The Dr. Mauritz Bonow Young Researchers Award was awarded to Dr. Jiyun Jeon from Korea (1<sup>st</sup> prize) and Ms. Kristine Atendido from the Philippines (2<sup>nd</sup> prize).

The Regional Board met on November 6 to discuss administrative issues and the budget and activities of 2024. The Board ratified the nomination of two new representatives, Mr. Alireza Banaeifar from Iran, and Mrs. Cao Xuan Thu Van from Vietnam.

On November 7, the thematic and sectoral committees convened for their statutory meetings and other activities. The Credit and Banking Committee deliberated on the state of financial cooperatives in member countries and organised a regional conference to discuss synergies between financial cooperatives and the SDGs. The Consumer Committee held a seminar with its global counterpart, the Consumer Committee Worldwide, to foster collaboration and plan future activities. It also held its 57<sup>th</sup> statutory meeting to review the activities of 2023 and plan for 2024. The Trade and Business Committee collaborated with the Network for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific (NEDAC) for a seminar to promote sustainable agricultural supply chains and foster partnerships among cooperatives within the region and hosted a Cooperative Trade Fair. The Women's Committee along with its statutory meeting, organised the 12<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Regional Women's Forum.



Having celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary a couple of months before, the forum marked the beginning of new discussions on the future of the committee and women cooperators in the region. The Education Committee finalized its strategic plan, while the Youth Committee held elections for its new office bearers.

### **11<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Cooperative Forum and Manila Resolution**



*Session on Diversity and Inclusion during 11<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Cooperative Forum*

On November 8, the joint opening ceremony of the 16<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly and [11<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Cooperative Forum](#) commenced with a Parade of Colours representing the 22 attending countries. Mr. Ariel Guarco, ICA President emphasized cooperatives as a model for solving global socio-economic challenges, while Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, ICA-AP President highlighted the theme 'Cooperatives: Our Common Agenda,' underscoring cooperatives' role in achieving SDGs. Under Secretary, Mr. Joseph Encabo, Chairperson, Cooperative Development Authority of the Philippines stressed cooperation for better lives globally, and Congressman Felimon M. Espares, a Coop NATCCO Party List

representative, outlined eight key areas for cooperative action to build their common agenda – Policy formulation, Inclusion, Networking, Alliance building, Democratic governance, Strategic vision, Advocacy, and Knowledge sharing.

The Cooperative Forum was enthusiastically participated by more than 600 attendees from 22 countries. With 16 speakers from 11 countries, the forum witnessed a thought-provoking plenary, three informative breakout sessions, and the adoption of the Manila Resolution. The discussions during the Forum delved into crucial topics such as cooperative identity, driving the climate agenda forward through cross-sector collaboration, empowering cooperatives by promoting diversity and inclusion and ensuring cooperatives' relevance by embracing disruptive technologies for sustainable growth.

It was exciting to hear Mr. Andrew Allimadi, Coordinator on Cooperative issues at the United Nations Department on Economic and Social Affairs speak about the resolution on cooperatives in social development calling for the proclamation of 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives.

The [Manila Resolution on “Cooperatives: Our Common Agenda”](#) urged cooperatives to preserve and promote their identity and called for updates to cooperative laws and policies in line with the universally accepted statement of cooperative identity. It emphasized cooperation with governments to tackle climate change and achieve sustainable development goals. The Resolution stressed on inclusive development, member participation, and technology access for cooperatives. It advocated for cooperative research and knowledge dissemination to sustain government support.

### **Asia Pacific Cooperative Excellence Awards**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly witnessed the inaugural Asia Pacific Cooperative Excellence Awards by the ICA-AP to honour outstanding individuals, cooperative organizations, and government ministries/ departments that have made remarkable contributions to the growth of cooperatives and significantly benefited the cooperative movement. This year, the awards were presented in two categories, enterprising cooperative and inspirational leader.



*Mr. Kishor Kumar receiving the Enterprising Cooperative Award on behalf of ULCCS Ltd.*



*Datuk Seri Dr. Abdul Fattah Abdullah receiving the Inspirational Cooperative Leader Award*

Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society (ULCCS) Limited from India, a 100-year-old primary workers' cooperative, emerged as the winner of the Enterprising Cooperative category. As one of the best diversified primary cooperatives globally, it has carved its niche in the Indian infrastructure sector and is committed to economic empowerment, social development, and environmental sustainability. Datuk Seri Dr. Abdul Fattah Abdullah from Malaysia won the awards in the Inspirational Cooperative Leader category for his advocacy and community initiatives promoting cooperative development and youth involvement. He is the Vice President of the ICA-AP Regional Board and the President of the ASEAN Cooperative Organization (ACO). Previously, he has served as a State Assemblyman.

More information about the winners can be found [here](#).

### **Regional Assembly**

At the statutory meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Assembly on November 9, a moment of silence was observed in memory of Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, a legendary cooperator from India whom we lost this year. Mr. Balasubramanian Iyer, ICA-AP Regional Director presented the 2023 activities report and updates on membership and finances since the last assembly in 2021, including updates from the Malaysia Business Office. The assembly ratified the merger of the ICA-AP Agriculture and Forestry Committees, forming the new Agriculture and Environment Committee.

The CICOPA-Asia and Pacific Network, established in November 2021, had its first meeting to discuss the potential of worker cooperatives in the region, with Mr. Osamu Nakano from Japan Workers' Cooperative Union (JWCU) presenting key updates. Thematic and sectoral committees provided updates from their seminars and meetings, and the Cooperative Forum's Drafting Committee presented the Manila Resolution.

Mr. Abdel Fattah Al-Shalabi, Director General of Jordan Cooperative Corporation (JCC) announced the 11<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference (APCMC) to be held in Jordan from April 28 to 30, 2024 and invited the cooperators for their enthusiastic participation. Additionally, an MoU was signed between the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) and ICA-AP to host the 2025 Regional Assembly in Sri Lanka. The day concluded with the ICA-AP solidarity night and farewell dinner, where delegates enjoyed music and dancing.

On November 10, the delegates to the Assembly had the opportunity to visit local cooperatives from different sectors like credit and saving, agriculture, consumer, multipurpose, and platform cooperatives. The 16<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly marked a significant reunion for members from the region, after a five-year gap from in-person gatherings. It provided a refreshing opportunity for collaboration, learning, and inspiration.

Rewatch the highlights of the assembly [here](#). The photos from various events can be found [here](#).

## Celebrating a Legacy: 25 Years of ICA-AP Committee on Women



*25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the ICA-AP Committee on Women in Japan*

The ICA-AP Committee on Women (Women's Committee) was established in 1998 in Seoul, South Korea, to promote gender inclusion and equality in cooperatives across the Asia-Pacific region. Its activities have been supported by JCCU since its inception.

### **The Journey So Far, Empowering Women – Key Initiatives**

Throughout the 1960s to the 1980s, the ICA-AP Regional Office focused on gender issues, organizing seminars and initiatives to promote women's participation and empowerment in cooperatives. In 1990, the Human Resources Development Project identified the need for gender inclusion, leading to surveys conducted in 14 countries to study gender integration in cooperatives. These studies at the country and regional levels were considered stepping stones to formulating gender policies and promoting activities in the region. In 1992, a Regional Consultation on Gender Integration and Women in Cooperative Development was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, followed by the Asia-Pacific Conference on Gender Planning in Cooperatives in Tokyo, Japan, in 1993. These events emphasized the importance of establishing gender equality policies in cooperatives.

The Fourth ICA World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, in 1995, adopted the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action to promote gender equality. It marked a significant turning point encouraging women cooperators in the region. In 1996, during the second ICA-AP Regional Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the proposal to create a regional women's committee was approved.

Subsequently, a pro-tem Regional Women's Committee was formed in February 1997 and discussions on bylaws were guided by ANGKASA. Subsequently, at the 4<sup>th</sup> APCMC, gender issues in cooperatives were addressed for the first time, resulting in a declaration advocating for women's full participation and leadership in cooperatives. Since then, these conferences have made recommendations on laws and policies to promote women's capacity development and gender integration in cooperatives, significantly impacting policymakers and stakeholders across the region.

Before the formal inception of the Committee, another landmark activity was organised, the first Regional Conference on the Status of Women in Cooperatives in Tagaytay, the Philippines, in May 1997. This conference resulted in the adoption of the 'Tagaytay Declaration' and 'Platform for Action,' emphasizing the need to increase women's participation in cooperative leadership. Since then, two iterations of the Tagaytay Conference have been organised in 2006 and 2016.

On 25 October 1998, during the third ICA-AP Regional Assembly in Seoul, South Korea, then known as the ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and the Pacific (ICA-RWC for Asia & Pacific) held its first statutory meeting. The meeting was attended by about 30 national committee members. Ms. Rahaiah Bahren from Malaysia was elected as the first Chairperson, and Ms. Hatsuko Omori from Japan and Ms. Rameshwari Ramchandra from Singapore were elected as Vice Chairpersons. To mark the establishment of the Committee, it was also decided to organise the Regional Women's Forum as an avenue to discuss the needs, challenges and issues faced by women cooperators and identify ways to address them.

From October 1998 to May 2023, the Committee has held 13 statutory meetings, 11 Regional Women's Forums, several workshops, conferences, and seminars; participated in 7 APCMCs; conducted 18 trainings of trainers; published 2 regional research studies on gender-disaggregated data in cooperatives, 2 manuals and 1 resource guide for trainings on women's leadership development. It has collaborated with international organisations such as the Swedish Cooperative Center (now known as the We Effect), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Asian Women in Cooperative Development Forum (AWCF), and several ICA member organizations in the Region.

### 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

To commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Women's Committee created a special theme and tagline, "Gender Equality for a Brighter Future." It collaborated with JCCU to organise a celebratory event in Tokyo, Japan (hybrid) on September 19 which was attended by 169 delegates comprising the Committee members and upcoming women leaders in the cooperative sector from different countries, ICA-AP representatives, ICA members and cooperators from Japan, supporters and well-wishers of the Committee, advocates of gender equality from international organizations such as the UN Women and public officials from the Government of Japan.



*Ms. Kae Ishikawa, Director, UN Women Japan Liaison Office during her keynote speech*

Ms. Kae Ishikawa, Director of the UN Women Japan Liaison Office was invited as a keynote speaker who focused on 'SDG 5: Achieving Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in Asia and in the World'. She highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic, civil wars, armed conflicts, and climate change have slowed down the progress of SDG 5 globally. She underlined the importance of speed and sincerity in actions taken by advocates and promoters of gender equality around the world.

The event was symbolic as the Committee walked down memory lane and showcased significant moments and accomplishments realized over the last 25 years. A video capturing the journey can be watched [here](#). ICA-AP President Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav and other dignitaries shared their best wishes congratulating the Committee on this milestone; it received many compliments from its well-wishers which can be read in the [25th anniversary booklet](#). The booklet also covers the history and work of the Committee, case studies from members, and op-eds on gender equality in the past, today and in the future.

The event presented an avenue for Committee members to exhibit their interventions on gender equality and engage in enriching dialogue through various thematic presentations. Discussions focused on identifying priority areas for the Committee's future direction, including reservation for women in decision-making, promoting women's leadership, ensuring gender budgeting in cooperatives, involving and capacitating youth, and promoting gender-disaggregated data in cooperatives. Watch the event recording [here](#).

### 3. Contributing to Tomorrow - Policy and Advocacy

In 2023, the ICA-AP regional office was active in the policy advocacy arena. The focus was on emphasizing the importance of fair and decent work in the emerging gig economy, advocating within the B20 Task Force on Financial Inclusion and Value Chain the importance of cooperatives' people-centred model, and actively participating in consultations hosted by the Policy Forum on Development (PFD), which served as another platform to strengthen the partnership with the European Commission. These engagements underscored the commitment of the ICA-AP regional office to advocate for cooperatives and advance the interests of cooperatives in various policy arenas.

#### Policy Conclave on 'Gig and Platform Economy' in India



*Mr. Iyer, ICA-AP Regional Director during the session on 'Designing Social Welfare Initiatives for Gig and Platform Workers' at the Policy Conclave*

On January 25, NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), a think-tank of the Indian Government, which is leading the discussions on India's 'Emerging Gig and Platform Economy', organized a Policy Conclave and Consultation at the Indian School of Business (ISB), Punjab, India. It focused on three thematic sessions (i) Promoting Financial Inclusion for Gig and Platform Workers (ii) Promoting Digital, Financial & Entrepreneurial Skills for Women and Youth in the Platform Economy, and (iii) Designing Social Welfare Initiatives for Gig and Platform Workers.

ICA-AP Regional Director Mr. Balasubramanian Iyer participated as one of the speakers for the session on '[Designing Social Welfare Initiatives for Gig and Platform Workers.](#)' He emphasized the need for fair and decent work within the emerging and heterogeneous gig ecosystem, which has a massive potential to contribute to employment and the country's GDP. He acknowledged the benefits and flexibility that a freelancer or worker gets within the changing world of work and highlighted the need to address their issues of decent work, fair wages, provisioning social security, etc., through both policy interventions, and more importantly, through solutions such as collectivization. He spoke about the emerging form of platform cooperatives, highlighting some of the use cases of worker-owned platform cooperatives in the world operating efficiently in the services sector, and noted that the NITI Aayog's report had taken a limited view on the aspect of collectivization of workers within the gig economy.

The consultation was attended by senior state government officials in Punjab, NITI Aayog, and other stakeholders from the National Skill Development Council of India, private sector aggregation platforms, and trade union worker federations.

## G20 India and Cooperatives' Participation



*The Indian cooperative movement passing the baton to the Brazilian cooperative movement*

The G20 serves as an important forum for international economic cooperation and decision-making, comprising a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies. The G20 has been instrumental in addressing global financial crises, proposing reforms to foster growth and development, and formulating collective approaches to tackle international issues.

ICA as an umbrella apex body for cooperatives, recognizes their potential in promoting G20 agendas on sustainable and inclusive growth and advocates for cooperatives' inclusion in the G20's agenda. Cooperatives, rooted in principles of self-help and democracy, offer an alternative to traditional market models and are present across various sectors. Through the formation of the G20 Working Group, ICA facilitates dialogue among cooperative leaders to ensure their recognition in G20 discussions. The ICA and its members have been engaging with the G20 through various channels and their efforts have resulted in cooperatives being mentioned in the policy papers of the Business 20 (B20) and Civil Society (C20) taskforces in Australia (2014), Germany (2017), Japan (2019), Saudi Arabia (2020), and Italy (2021).

[India's G20 Presidency](#) in 2023 was held under the theme 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' which translates to "One Earth, One Family, and One Future." It aimed to drive change and transformation at a global level, especially amid various crises like food, energy, and security issues that have been worsened by geopolitical tensions and to find solutions to issues including restoring global growth, reinforcing climate action, and establishing a robust global health infrastructure.

Cooperatives in India, with NCUI in the lead, actively engaged in various priority areas across different engagement groups of the G20 presidency – B20, C20, Women 20 (W20), and Youth 20 (Y20). The ICA-AP office particularly contributed to the B20 task force on the [Inclusive Global Value Chains \(GVCs\) for Resilient Global Trade and Investment](#), and the efforts led to cooperatives getting a mention in the B20 policy outcome. The paper added Self-help groups and Cooperatives as a priority theme and noted, "Strengthening the primary cooperatives into the first touch points for providing financial services to the financially illiterate, economically backward, and geographically isolated segments of

society may help in achieving the target of doorstep banking and address the trust deficit in financial institutions. Cooperatives can help them pool their resources as well as provide training and financial literacy for the transition of low-income consumers from basic financial services like credit savings and insurance to more complex services like saving certificates, micro-SIPs, equities, bonds, etc. The cooperative structure also shields them from excessive risk and helps inculcate a culture of investment and wealth management at the bottom of the pyramid.”

The efforts by NCUI and its members led to cooperatives being mentioned for their contribution in several other outcome documents of the B20 Task Forces. The B20 urged G20 nations to recognize the importance of cooperatives and deploy policy levers to facilitate the participation of cooperative societies in global trade.

[The B20 policy paper on financial inclusion for economic empowerment](#) called on G20 governments to create a framework for collaborations between FinTechs and primary cooperatives to deliver financial services in a "phygital" mode, providing digital financial services at the last mile through agents, enterprises, and cooperatives within three years.

Cooperatives were also mentioned in the [Energy, Climate Change & Resource Efficiency taskforce paper](#), which recommends providing assistance and resources to MSMEs, including cooperatives and entrepreneurs, to facilitate their transition towards sustainable practices.

It's evident that cooperatives, with their extensive history and widespread global presence across different sectors of the economy, will continue to play a significant role in developing an inclusive and sustainable society.

## Policy Forum on Development



*Cooperators at the 10th Anniversary of PFD in Brussels*

The European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) and members of the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) after various consultations have adopted the Asia-Pacific Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme (“Asia-Pacific Regional Programme”, “Regional Programme”, or RMIP) 2021-2027, funded by the EU’s Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-GE). The regional programme establishes a set of strategic priorities to be pursued during the financial period of 7 years.

On March 6, DG INTPA and PFD organised a (virtual) consultation on the Asia-Pacific regional programme, which offered a platform for further discussions on the policy priorities pursued by the RMIP and the ways to engage civil society organisations (CSOs), local authorities (LAs), and other social partners in their implementation. ICA-AP Regional Office participated in this online consultation that discussed key priorities in the development of the water–energy nexus in the region and how CSOs could be better involved in the decision and implementation process. ICA-AP highlighted that it has been working closely with various structures under SAARC and ASEAN to give broader recognition to cooperatives in their policies. A dedicated roadmap for the promotion of cooperatives is a key priority area for more inclusive multilateralism. ICA-AP brings rich experiences from the grassroots as well as international forums to strengthen the capacity and engagement of coops, in partnership with local authorities, to mitigate climate-related risks and build resilience. This can be done by investing in green livelihoods, while fostering self-employment and promoting the dignity of labor, particularly of women, youth and the most vulnerable and marginalized sections of society.

Considering the important role that cooperatives play and the relevance of its views, ICA global and regional offices along with a couple of member organizations were invited for the [10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event of PFD](#), in Brussels from September 27 to 29. This was part of its consultations to capture the views of the multiple PFD stakeholders and other CSOs and LAs. Given the international context, the EU’s priorities, notably the Global Gateway, and the priorities of the PFD members, the overarching themes of the meeting were the need to address inequalities and shrinking civic space. The common thread was: “Multistakeholder partnerships for building a better future: The quest for equality and opening up civic space”. ICA-AP opined the EU Delegations should consider cooperatives as partners across all programmes and advocate for dedicated CSO allocations in all geographic programmes, including towards cooperatives. It reiterated that the EU should invest in local businesses, cooperatives, smallholder producers and family farmers in rural areas to help rural communities become catalysts of an inclusive and equitable rural transformation that, in turn, can support sustainable urbanization. ICA-AP also suggested that the EU should simplify the design and delivery of EU external assistance by lifting administrative and financial barriers for CSOs that cannot carry high risks and costs related to programming. This will allow CSOs and cooperatives to be better represented at the EU partner country level. The meeting was a good opportunity to connect with fellow participants, gain insights, and contribute to shaping the future of our partnership with the European Commission.



## 4. Amplifying Our Voice

The ICA-AP Regional Office continued to enhance the visibility of cooperatives and its engagement with members, partners, and cooperators through different avenues like the International Day of Cooperatives, Coop Colloquiums, COOP Dialogues, conferences and webinars around diverse themes, and its participation in activities organised by the cooperative movement.

### International Day of Cooperatives



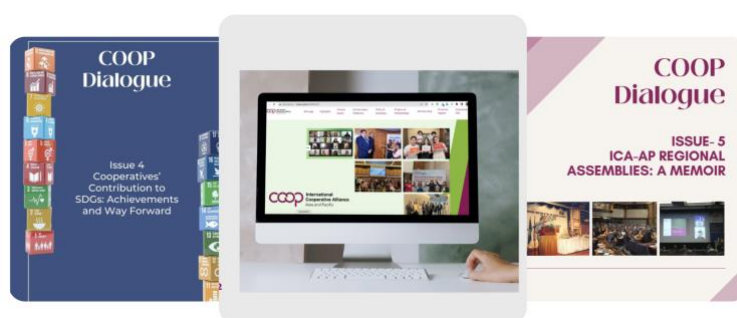
*CoopsDay 2023*

The [International Day of Cooperatives](#) (CoopsDay) was celebrated on July 1 under the theme 'Cooperatives: partners for accelerated sustainable development.' It was an opportunity for the cooperative fraternity to showcase how the cooperative way of working, inspired by cooperative values and principles, has been advancing the accomplishment of the SDGs.

The Regional Office published a dedicated CoopsDay website which featured the messages of the ICA-AP President and Regional Director and the ICA-AP position paper on this year's theme. Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, in his message, stressed that cooperatives in the Asia-Pacific region play a vital role in fostering sustainable development by providing livelihood opportunities to its members and enhancing their capacity by collaborating with governments and other stakeholders. He appealed to cooperators worldwide to join hands and help move forward to achieve our common goals. ICA-AP Regional Director Mr. Balasubramanian Iyer highlighted that cooperatives are essential partners for accelerated sustainable development and together, we can build a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future.

The [Regional Office position paper](#) articulated its commitment to promoting the role of cooperatives in achieving accelerated sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. It highlighted key areas where cooperatives can act as crucial partners for sustainable development, such as Poverty Alleviation and Economic Empowerment, Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture, Social Welfare and Health, Education and Skill Development, and Renewable Energy and Environmental Sustainability. Cooperatives are essential partners for accelerated sustainable development in the region. Through their participatory and inclusive business models, cooperatives empower individuals and communities, contribute to poverty reduction, promote food security, improve health outcomes, enhance education and skills, and drive renewable energy adoption.

## Publications



ICA-AP Publications

ICA-AP published its [2022 Annual Activities Report](#) (AAR) in April which highlighted the varied activities, projects, and events over the year. The 2022 AAR showcased our work with members to address climate change, platforms used to engage in conversation with them, avenues created to broaden reach and influence policy, and new partnerships that were forged to expand the scope of work.

Continuing the dialogue around relevant cooperative issues, ICA-AP released two editions of COOP Dialogue (CD), its biannual publication. CD4, focusing on [Cooperatives' Contribution to SDGs: Achievements and Way Forward](#) was released in conjunction with the 101<sup>st</sup> International Day of Cooperatives. It featured case studies of cooperatives' contribution to SDGs, reported the progress on the Coopsfor2030 pledges made by cooperatives in the Asia-Pacific region over the past 7 years, carried interviews with experts on the cooperatives and SDGs, and reinforced the fact that cooperatives contribute effectively towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and play a vital role in their nation's development. CD5 launched in December explored the journey of ICA-AP Regional Assemblies (RAs) since inception in 1995. ICA-AP RAs are a platform for cooperators in the Asia-Pacific region to share knowledge, experiences, and a shared vision for a better, more inclusive future. CD5 – [ICA-AP Regional Assemblies: A Memoir](#) featured first-hand perspectives of those who have been integral to the RAs' success - dedicated staff and passionate members. Through their eyes, CD5 showcased the evolution of the assembly and how it serves to catalyze change and amplify the voices of cooperatives. The interesting conversations with Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, ICA-AP President, and Ms. Sylvia Paraguya, CEO, NATCCO, presented their thoughts on the past, present, and future of the assembly.

### Coop Colloquiums

ICA-AP Committee on Cooperative Research (CCR) launched a series of COOP Colloquiums in the year 2022. Continuing their academic dialogue on issues that are relevant to cooperative education and research, the Committee organised four iterations this year.

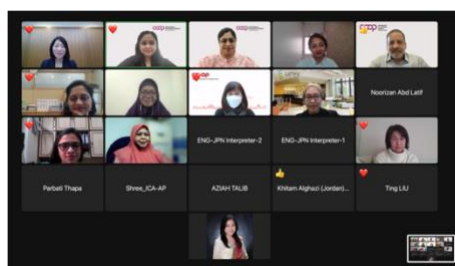
The 5<sup>th</sup> Colloquium held on April 21 focused on '[Promoting Inclusive and Quality Cooperative Education.](#)' The webinar was organized in collaboration with the Department of Cooperatives and Social Development, Polytechnic University of Philippines (PUP) and attended by 123 participants from 7 countries. PUP is a government educational institution; its Department of Cooperatives and Social Development offers a Bachelor of Science in Cooperatives (B.Sc. Coop) Program, a four-year bachelor's degree course to produce cooperative technopreneurs and provide human resources and manpower to the cooperative sector. Dr. Hilda San Gabriel, Chairperson of the Department made a presentation on its aim to deepen the understanding and appreciation of cooperative education and to promote the sector's significant contributions to national development particularly in the areas of poverty alleviation, community building, social justice, and economic growth.

The 6<sup>th</sup> COOP Colloquium, held on June 21, focused on the '[Mutual Value Measurement \(MVM\) Framework](#)'. It was held in collaboration with Australia's Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM) and Melbourne-based Monash Business School (MBS). Around 20 participants from 6 countries joined the webinar to learn about the nature and benefits of measuring and communicating the total value that a cooperative and mutual enterprise (CME) creates. Ms. Melina Morrison, CEO of BCCM, outlined their efforts to enhance the recognition of CMEs and their contributions to national development. BCCM, as a peak body, focuses on cooperative education, training, and research. Recognizing the challenge of accurately measuring the value of CMEs beyond financial metrics, BCCM collaborated with accounting researchers from MBS. Dr. Paul Thambar presented the MVM framework, developed with StateCover Mutual and twelve other CMEs. This framework enables CMEs to measure and communicate their holistic value, emphasizing social and governance aspects often overlooked by other frameworks like integrated reporting. BCCM's advocacy project aims to explore the policy and reporting implications of ESG for CMEs, while Dr. Thambar and his colleagues will further develop the MVM to provide 'a bridge' to ESG measurement and reporting.

The 7<sup>th</sup> iteration, held on August 18, focused on '[Fostering a Culture of Collaborative Youth Research](#).' It was held in line with the Changemakers20 Summit in partnership with India's Connecting Dreams Foundation and the US-based Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET). 28 participants from 5 countries joined the webinar. Changemaker20 was a five-day virtual Summit designed to bring together Young Changemakers from G20 countries and their partners, who are working to address pressing challenges in their respective regions. The colloquium was successful in bringing together cooperative advocates, practitioners, and young scholars from the G20 countries and beyond to inform them - particularly young opinion leaders and changemakers - about the nature and benefits of a cooperative enterprise. It created awareness about how cooperatives have been able to provide opportunities for youth in the academic context.

The 8<sup>th</sup> edition, held on December 18, focused on '[Cooperatives and Systems Innovation](#)' and was organized in collaboration with the Griffith Centre for Systems Innovation (GCSI), Griffith University. The colloquium discussed the role of cooperatives in addressing pressing global challenges such as climate crisis, inequality, and demographic shifts. The guest speakers, Dr. Sidsel Grimstad, Senior Lecturer at Griffith Centre for Systems Innovation (GCSI), Griffith University and Dr. Ingrid Burkett, Director, GCSI emphasized how cooperatives, guided by their principles, can innovate and drive positive change in economic, social, and environmental spheres and how they can maintain their identity while becoming more influential players in systems innovation and inspire broader structural changes. Key points included the need for cooperative federations to strengthen autonomy, enhance viability, and understand the conditions for innovation and competitiveness. They also highlighted the importance of creating awareness, scaling innovations, and securing capital to support cooperative initiatives.

## Conferences and Webinars



*IWD Virtual Lecture*

Commemorating International Women's Day (IWD), the ICA-AP Women's Committee organized a virtual lecture on March 7, themed "[DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality](#)." Divided into two parts, the lecture delved into the concepts of digital inclusion and safety for women in cooperative businesses. Ms. Anuradha Ganapathy, Research Associate at IT for Change emphasized the need to address power asymmetries and various inequalities to achieve digital inclusion, focusing on aspects like access, adoption,

participation, dividends, and decision-making. Ms. Malavika Rajkumar, Project Associate at IT for Change highlighted the shared responsibility of ensuring safety in digital spaces, discussing the blurring lines between private and public communication and the prevalence of online violence against women. The lecture underscored the importance of a multi-pronged approach involving individuals, organizations, and governments to protect women's rights and safety online.

Commemorating International Youth Day on August 16, the ICYC organized a webinar on the theme, "[Empowering Youth Through Green Skills: Pioneering the Way for a Sustainable Future.](#)" The webinar focused on green skills for youth, highlighted initiatives at the global and national levels and discussed relevant opportunities and challenges. It raised awareness of green skills and their relevance for achieving the SDGs while highlighting the central role of young people in the green transition. Ms. Justine Lynn C. Limocon from LAMAC Multipurpose Cooperative in the Philippines highlighted the active involvement of youth in creating innovative solutions for environmental challenges. Mr. Rendy Aditya Wachid, Chief Executive Officer, ParongPong RAW Lab, Indonesia discussed Entrepreneurship and Green Startups Among Youth. His presentation highlighted the entrepreneurial spirit thriving among young people and the significant role they play in creating a greener and more sustainable world.



*Session on Sustainable Forestry at the C-2-C Conference*

The ICA-AP Trade & Business Committee, in collaboration with the ASEAN Cooperative Organization (ACO) and ANGKASA, organized the [Cooperative to Cooperative \(C-2-C\) Trade & Business Conference](#) from August 22 to 23 in Malaysia. The program aimed to underscore the vital role of cooperatives in advancing SDGs 13 and 17, focusing on combating climate change and fostering sustainable partnerships. It sought to showcase successful cooperative partnerships across sectors such as clean energy, agriculture, forestry, transportation, and tourism, illustrating how cooperatives can effectively address climate change and

promote sustainability. The conference brought together 66 participants from 30 cooperatives across 12 countries, engaging in discussions on sustainable development challenges and climate change mitigation strategies. The sessions delved into topics like renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, forestry, and community development, emphasizing the importance of strategic planning and ethical business practices for environmental conservation. The buzz session explored the potential of cooperatives in advancing sustainable tourism for community development.

## ICA-AP Engagement Across International Forums

### Global Cooperative Innovation Summit

The second edition of the [Global Cooperative Innovation Summit](#) (GCIS) - "Act Now to Lead a Circular and Digital Future the Cooperators' Way" was held in Montreal from September 27 to 29. The themes collectively underscored the cooperative movement's ability to lead, embrace circularity, and thrive in the digital age. GCIS highlighted the cooperative principles that guide these endeavours, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and innovation in the quest towards a more sustainable, equitable, and digitally adept future. A key unveiling at GICS 2023 was the official launch of the International Coop Communities of Practice (ICCP) to exchange ideas, share one's successes, and possibly establish cooperative partnerships. ICA-AP collaborated with GCIS as an institutional partner.

### Empowering the 'Roots of Resilience': Highlights from the 3-day Global PCC 2023 Conference

The [3-day Global Platform Cooperativism Consortium \(PCC\) 2023 conference](#) was held in Kerala, India from November 30 to December 2. Themed 'Roots of Resilience - Building Platform Cooperatives for

Sustainable and Feminist Local Economies,' the conference was co-organised by the Platform Cooperativism Consortium (PCC) at the New School, New York, USA; IT for Change, the IT & policy focused think-tank based out of Bangalore, India; and the Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC), Government of Kerala.



*Mr. Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP during the panel at PCC Conference*

Mr. Balasubramanian Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP, participated as a panellist to discuss about 'Public Policy for A Just Digital India.' He explained how the Digital India model has boosted the use of digital services nationwide, especially for cooperatives. He opined that the ongoing digitalization of PACS and cooperatives and involving them in the Government e-marketplace (GeM) would help them capitalize on the digital transformation in India. Other staff from the ICA-AP participated actively in the panel discussions and community lab sessions that were organised on the sidelines of the conference. Community labs saw participation from a mix of experts, practitioners and cooperative researchers to discuss challenges faced by

platform cooperatives in the Global South and brainstorm their solutions. The conference concluded with the unveiling of the '[Thiruvananthapuram Declaration](#),' which outlines a clear path for the global platform cooperative movement.

### **Consultation and Regional Workshop on New National Cooperation Policy 2023 - Northern & Central Zone**

ICA-AP participated in a [consultation](#) as part of the Regional Workshop on the New National Cooperation Policy (NCP) 2023 of India, held on November 21. It was organised by the NCP Secretariat in collaboration with the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM), Pune, and held at Laxmanrao Inamdar National Academy for Cooperative Research and Development (LINAC), Gurugram. The event aimed to enlighten stakeholders about the vision and provisions of the new NCP and discuss feedback on the draft national policy document. The policy seeks to achieve "Sahkar se Samridhi" (Prosperity through Cooperation) by fortifying the cooperative movement in the country through collaboration. The regional workshops were designed to provide insights into the drafting process and the policy's approach. The ICA-AP regional office participated in the consultation and provided several inputs including global best practices, assessing adherence to cooperative identity, use of technology by cooperatives, promotion of youth entrepreneurship, diversification into sunrise sectors and priority lending to sustainable financing by cooperatives.

### **My E-Haat Conclave**

"My E-Haat" is an initiative by the HCL Foundation aimed at strengthening the handicraft value chain and empowering artisans in India. It operates through an online platform where artisans can directly showcase and sell their products, eliminating intermediaries and ensuring better profits. A national-level event, [My E-Haat Conclave](#), brought together stakeholders to address challenges faced by artisans and women entrepreneurs. Panel discussions highlighted the role of collaboration and cooperative models in enhancing artisans' capabilities and connecting them to wider markets. Cooperatives are recognized for their vital role in promoting inclusive and sustainable development, as seen in UNESCO's acknowledgement of their significance in preserving traditional arts. Internationally, examples like the Arctic Cooperative in Canada, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Cooperative in Australia, COWHED in the Philippines, and the Anou Cooperative in Morocco illustrate the effectiveness of artisan cooperatives in supporting indigenous communities. ICA-AP presented these examples as a panellist for one of the sessions. My E-Haat represents an innovative approach to

empowering artisans through technology, collaboration, and cooperative models, with the potential to transform lives and preserve cultural heritage.

### **Keraleeyam 2023**

[Keraleeyam 2023](#), organised on November 4 by the State Government of Kerala (in India), served as a platform for reimagining cooperation in the state and celebrating the essence of Kerala. Mr. Ganesh Gopal, Lead – Entrepreneurship Development at ICA-AP delivered a talk titled ‘Reimagining Cooperation in Kerala.’ The discussion delved into the rich history and evolving role of cooperatives in Kerala, addressing current challenges and charting a course for cooperative innovation. Kerala's cooperative sector has seen remarkable growth, with over 14,000 societies and 10 million members. While credit cooperation remains strong, there's a need to diversify into value-added products like food processing and electronics, leveraging the state's strengths. Challenges include limited land, brain drain, and unemployment, yet cooperatives have shown resilience, especially during crises like COVID-19 by providing essential services. The seminar highlighted global cooperative models like the Emilian and Mondragon models, emphasizing the importance of global exchanges. Keraleeyam 2023's seminar facilitated a dialogue on adapting cooperative models to Kerala's evolving socio-economic landscape for a brighter future.

### **4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Youth Summit**



*Participants at 4th ASEAN-India Youth Summit*

To commemorate 30 years of the ASEAN-India relationship, the Government of India in collaboration with the India Foundation and the ASEAN Foundation hosted the [4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Youth Summit](#) from February 12 to 15 in Hyderabad. The theme for the Summit was “Strengthening ASEAN – India Partnership in the Indo-Pacific.”

Around 100 youth from the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and 75 from India gathered to explore new initiatives to enhance ASEAN and India's physical, economic, digital, and socio-cultural connectivity to strengthen the ASEAN-India

Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The delegates came from diverse backgrounds including politics, media, think tanks, education, business, and science and technology. Mr. Mohit Dave, Head - Partnerships & Resource Mobilisation at ICA-AP participated in the Summit to help create a shared vision for wider regional partnerships across cooperative-related issues. ICA has around 40 members and partners in India and ASEAN countries working across various sectors such as youth & education, financial inclusion, climate change, skills development etc. In the recent past, ICA-AP has contributed to the action plan of the ASEAN roadmap to enhance the role of agricultural cooperatives in the agricultural global value chain.

The confluence of youth leaders from India and the ten ASEAN countries - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam led to a shared understanding of the current challenges and the necessary actions to strengthen partnerships in all dimensions within the region. ICA-AP would continue its engagements in the ASEAN and see how cooperatives can contribute and support such cross-border initiatives, especially in terms of capacity building, knowledge transfer and outreach.

## 5. Developing Capacities in Cooperatives

The ICA-AP was actively engaged in capacity-building initiatives across the Asia-Pacific region, to empower its members and stakeholders. These initiatives encompassed diverse themes and approaches to address the evolving needs and challenges faced by cooperatives in the region.

### ICA-MAFF Capacity Building Project

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan continued its collaboration with the ICA through its Asia-Pacific Regional Office (ICA-AP) to implement the Capacity Building Project for Agricultural Cooperative Sector in Asia and Africa (CBC Project in AA) in FY2023 of Japan.

### ICA-MAFF (Japan) Women Training Course



*Participants at the Closing Ceremony of the Training Course in Japan*

As part of this, the training course on [Capacity Building of Rural Women on Their Roles for Vitalization of Rural Economy](#) was held in Thailand and Japan from August 22 to September 14. Seven trainees from seven countries India, Kiribati, Malaysia, Nepal, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam participated in the course. This was divided into two parts, Part 1 was conducted with the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) in Bangkok from August 22 to 31 and Part 2 was conducted with the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA-Japan) in Tokyo from September 1 to 14. Part I covered learning visits to cooperatives and observation of activities conducted for and by rural women. The participants learnt about the

cooperative movement in Thailand and the auditing processes for cooperatives implemented by the Cooperative Auditing Department. Field visits were organised to introduce participants to food & beverage cooperatives, credit unions, and agriculture cooperatives. Part II was a combination of onsite lectures and learning visits to JA cooperatives in Nagano prefecture, Japan. The trainees were able to observe the distribution channels agriculture cooperatives and some incorporated these learnings in their action plans. The course covered lectures on human resource development and leadership management which the trainees found very useful. The participants prepared and finalised their action plans in consultation with IDACA and ICA-AP which they presented towards the end and were awarded certificates of participation.

### ICA-MAFF (Japan) Follow-up Program

The trainings, funded by MAFF, Government of Japan, have a component of follow-up, through visits and surveys. The follow-up is important to understand how the participants have implemented their action plans and the issues they have encountered. The follow-up also provides the organizers guidance for planning future year activities.

ICA and IDACA surveyed participants from the Asia and Africa regions, who attended the training courses in 2019, 2020, and 2021. The questionnaire was sent to 96 participants from 16 Asian countries and 11 African countries. In addition, the follow-up visits to two countries, India, and Vietnam, were conducted. In India, the follow-up was held in a physical mode on March 13 to 14. The NCUI hosted the event and five ex-participants from different courses attended and presented their action plans. The follow-up for Vietnam consisted of an assessment of the completed questionnaires and an online meeting on April 24. It included a video presentation by the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) and a presentation of the action plans by the five participants.

Three separate webinars were held on April 28, May 2, and May 8 with 45 ex-participants, who answered the survey from each of the training programs on the Fostering Leaders course, Food Value Chain/Marketing Course, and Women Leaders Course respectively. The participants shared their progress, challenges faced during implementation, and the reasons for their action plans being cancelled.

### SuPER WE Coffee Project

ICA-AP is working in a consortium led by CARE France to implement the SuPER WE Coffee project - Sustainable Production and Ethic Responsible & Women Empowered Coffee value chains in Lao PDR. The project aims to promote a more sustainable and circular economy by focusing on the improvement of coffee production by smallholder farmers.

400 coffee farmers from 15 target villages in the Dakcheung district are direct beneficiaries of the project. Additionally, the project aims to impact the lives of 12,000 people in the district, who rely on coffee production for their livelihoods. By conducting replication and dissemination events with government ministries and stakeholders, the project is expected to positively impact the lives of 20,000 smallholder families making a living from coffee production and over 300,000 people employed in the coffee industry across the country.

Starting from an analysis of the data collected through a survey of the producer groups, the project team contributed to the participatory assessment report to highlight the organizational capacities, gaps, and needs of the coffee producers' groups. ICA-AP's components are providing training of trainers, capacity-building programs, and developing the curriculum.



*ToT organised at Dak Cheung district*

ICA-AP along with other consortium partners and the ILO organised a [Training of Trainers \(ToT\)](#) from November 21 to 28. The ToT aimed at equipping four facilitators with the necessary skills, curriculum, and material for training and empowering coffee farmers to better understand and adopt cooperatives within the Dak Cheung district. The trained facilitators equipped with the training material translated to Laotian, will be able to organise, disseminate key information and support farmers in the coming months to organize into cooperatives. ICA-AP engaged Dr. Sagar Wadkar, a technical expert on cooperatives and agri-extension to conceptualise and plan capacity-building and training activities related to

strengthening women-empowered coffee value chains. With a tailored curriculum, the 6-day course covered diverse themes, including an introduction to the project, cooperative identity, history, and regulation, cooperative attitudes, relationships and organisational models, cooperative business models, and gender equality and leadership. A field visit was included to enhance the training's practical application.

### Pilot Training of Trainers on Climate Change and Action for Women Cooperators

The ICA-AP Committee on Women is focusing on climate change as a priority area to build the capacity of women cooperators in the Asia and Pacific. In 2022, it partnered with the National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) in the Philippines to develop a customized training manual to be used as an important knowledge tool.





*Participants at the Opening Ceremony of the Climate Change and Action ToT*

This year, the Committee organized a [pilot training of trainers](#) in Hanoi, Vietnam from May 17-19 in partnership with VCA and NATCCO to test the draft manual and training methodology. 12 women from 12 different Provincial Cooperative Alliances (PCAs) under VCA attended the training. These women were staff from PCAs whose role is to conduct training at the province level, provide consultancy and advisory services to local cooperatives, and policy-making. The participants found the manual very comprehensive and useful and shared some feedback like including more case studies or country-based examples of different actions taken by cooperatives. Their feedback was useful in further improving the manual.

### Empowering Youth in Cooperatives with Financial Literacy Program

Intending to equip young cooperative members from the Asia-Pacific region with essential financial management skills, the ICYC organized a webinar on [‘Financial Literacy for Youth in Cooperatives: Empowering Youth from the Asia-Pacific’](#) on March 22. With 30 participants from 10 countries in attendance, the event covered topics such as budgeting, investing, and financial reporting.

Ms. Caramel Rowena, Strategic Communication officer from MASS-SPECC, Philippines and Mr. Anurag Dang, Secretary of NCUI Youth Committee provided valuable insights during the webinar. Ms. Rowena emphasized the importance of financial literacy for youth in cooperatives, and discussed budgeting techniques and investment strategies. Mr. Dang highlighted the role of loans and interest in cooperative finance, stressing the significance of maintaining accurate accounting records and financial reporting to ensure transparency and accountability.

The ICYC intends to continue empowering young cooperators with financial literacy skills, contributing to the growth and development of the cooperative movement in the region.

### Training Programs and Workshops on Consumer Cooperatives

The ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific (ICA-AP Consumer Committee) and JCCU held the [ICA-AP Training Program for Managers of Consumer Coops 2023](#) from July 19 to 30 in Japan. The training program has been held every year since 1991 except for 2020 to 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



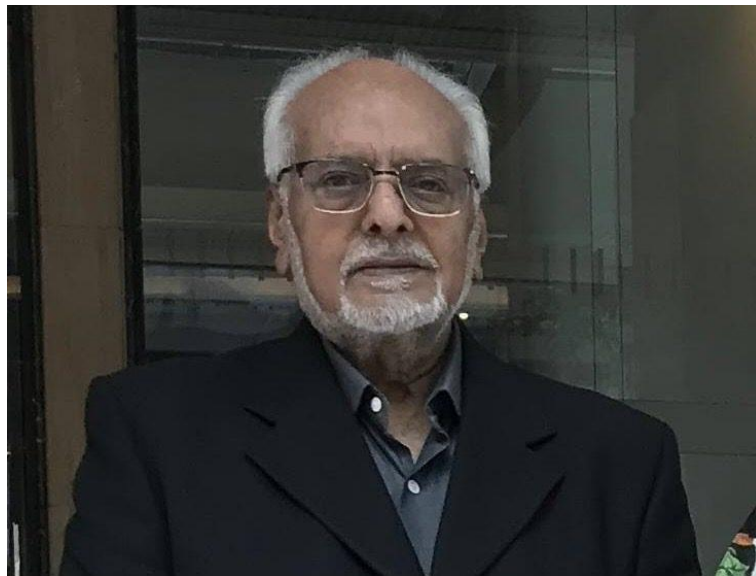
*Participants at a Consumer Coop Store*

This year, five managers from consumer cooperatives in Nepal, the Philippines, Vietnam, Korea, and Malaysia participated in the training. Through lectures and tours at various locations, including headquarters, stores, factories, and logistic centers of Japanese consumer coops, the training focused on running businesses sustainably in the post-pandemic period. Participants visited the JCCU headquarters and Co-opdeli Group, learning about Japanese consumer co-ops, CO • OP Brand products, environmental sustainability policies, and logistic systems. At Miyagi Co-op in Sendai, they learned about IT and marketing strategies, member activities, and environmental initiatives. Additionally, they explored new store concepts and strategies at the FamilyMart + COOP store. The program concluded with participants presenting their learnings and receiving certificates, pledging to share their experiences with their respective co-ops.

The Consumer Committee organised a [Regional Workshop for Leaders of Consumer Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific 2023 in South Korea](#) in collaboration with iCOOP Korea from October 16 to 20. Themed "Sustainable Co-operative Development and Adaptation of the Cooperative Identities," it was attended by 18 delegates from 8 countries including Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, and Vietnam. The participants visited the Goesan Natural Dream Park and facilities operated by iCOOP to learn the business model and activities of iCOOP Korea. Ms. Gwibok Oh, Managing Director, shared insights on the potential of cooperatives in meeting the needs of today's society while putting cooperative identity into practice.

Field trips to iCOOP-operated facilities were organised to showcase brand product production and efforts towards healthier lifestyles. Participants joined the iN Natural Dream 2023 International Symposium where they presented how cooperatives in their countries tackle global challenges and deliberated upon sustainable cooperative development and adapting cooperative identity. They visited the Suwon Community Center of iCOOP in Seoul to enjoy some yoga and shopping. The workshop was a valuable opportunity for the participants to witness the practical implementation of cooperative values and sustainable cooperative movements.

## 6. In Memoriam: Shri. B.S. Vishwanathan



*Late Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan*

This year, we lost a cooperative stalwart, Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan. Born on January 6, 1934, in Tirthahalli, a town in Karnataka, India, he left a lasting mark on the cooperative sector.

Mr. Vishwanathan's legacy is distinguished by his exemplary service. He was elected as the Chairperson of the first ICA-AP Regional Assembly held in New Delhi in 1995, a role he fulfilled with excellence. Over 27 years, he represented India in various capacities within the ICA, contributing significantly to its mission.

He held varied positions such as President of the National Cooperative Union of India for 14 years and leadership roles in the National Cooperative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd., among many others. His commitment extended beyond borders, as he served as a Board Member of the International Raiffeisen Union for 27 long years.

The cooperative community deeply mourns his passing, recognizing his invaluable contributions and unwavering dedication to the cooperative movement.

## 7. Welcoming New Members

We welcomed four new members to our cooperative family: the Nepal Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperative Unions Ltd. (NEFSCUN) from Nepal, ESAF Swasraya Multi-State Agro Co-operative Society Ltd (ESMACO) from India, and One Cooperative Bank (One CB) and ACDI Multipurpose Cooperative (ACDI MPC) from the Philippines.



[NEFSCUN](#), the national apex organization of Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS) and their District Unions (DUs), is dedicated to developing, promoting, and enhancing its member organizations. They support SACCOS and DUs in fulfilling their goal of uplifting the financial, social, and cultural aspirations of individual members within their communities, adhering to international credit union principles.



[ESMACO](#) is a national cooperative comprising of social enterprises. They offer financial services to enhance sustainable livelihoods and economic development. Acting as a business correspondent for ESAF Small Finance Bank, Ltd., they oversee micro-banking activities and agency networks in rural areas. They conduct skill training for rural youth and women. Through their Cooperative Facility Management Services vertical, ESMACO employs half a million individuals in housekeeping and livelihood support activities. As an agro cooperative, they focus on community farming, organic cultivation, and capacity building for farmer-producer organizations.

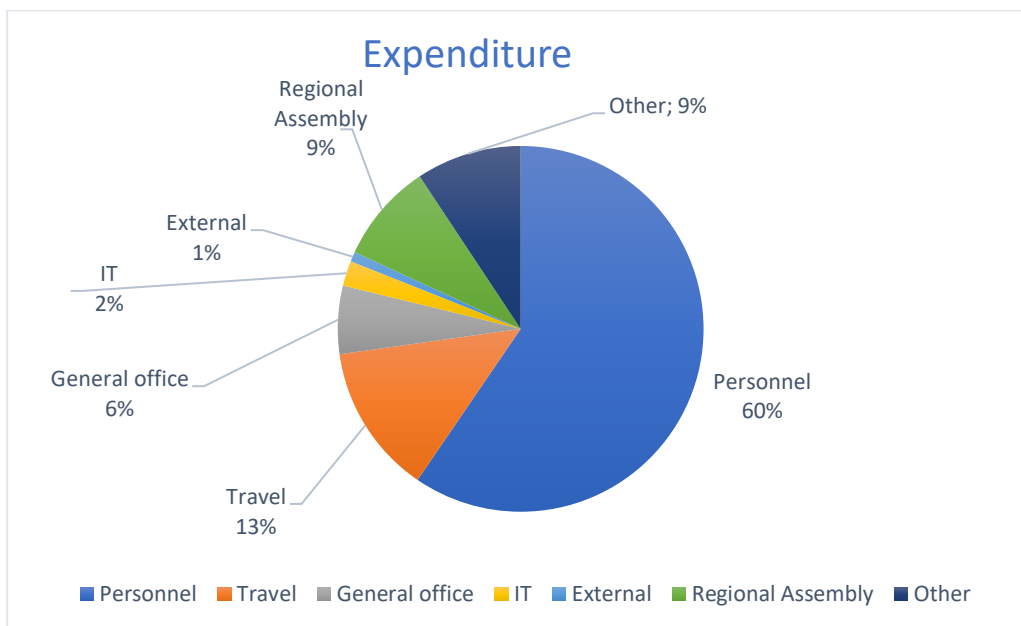
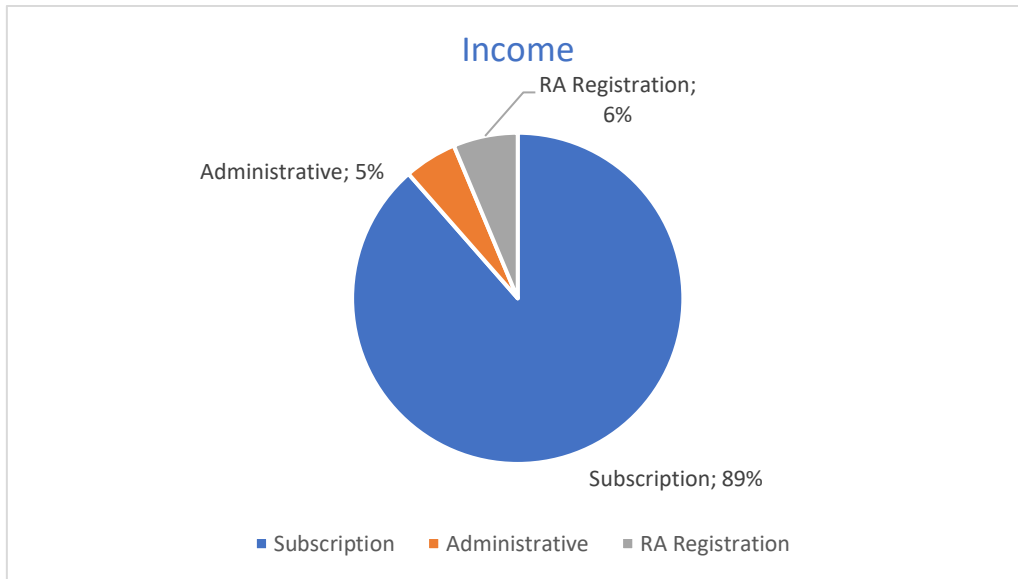


[One CB](#) is the largest cooperative bank in the Philippines, formed through the consolidation of Metro South Cooperative Bank (MSCB), Consolidated Cooperative Bank (CCB), and Bataan Cooperative Bank (BCB). Serving primary cooperatives and individuals directly, it offers comprehensive banking, savings, financial, and credit services tailored for cooperatives and their members.



[ACDI MPC](#) is an institutional cooperative serving members from the entire Armed Services of the Philippines (AFP) and other uniformed personnel, including active service, retirees, and civilian employees. Their primary services are savings and lending, and they also have a flying school, a tour agency, agriculture production and retail (dairy, rice, imports/exports), and insurance. They are the largest cooperative in the country and were recognised as the Most Outstanding large cooperative by the Cooperative Development Authority.

## 8. Financial Report



## 9. Annexures

### 2023 at a Glance - Calendar of Activities

#	Activity	Venue	Month
1	Women's Committee Office Bearers Meet	New Delhi, India	January
2	ICA-MAFF (Japan) Training Course on Strengthening Management and Development of Agricultural Cooperatives and Farmers' Organizations in Asia and the Pacific-2022	Online	February-March
3	International Women's Day Virtual Lecture on DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality	Online	March
4	Webinar: Key Takeaways from the Committees' Workshops and Training Programs	Online	March
5	ICA-MBO Webinar: Women in Cooperatives: Embrace Equity	Online	March
6	ICYC Webinar: Financial Literacy for Youth in Cooperatives: Empowering Youth from the Asia-Pacific	Online	March
7	PFD Virtual Consultation on the Asia-Pacific Regional Programme	Online	March
8	Coop Colloquium: Promoting Inclusive and Quality Cooperative Education	Online	April
9	ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting	Kathmandu, Nepal	April
10	Pilot Training of Trainers on Climate Change and Action for Women Cooperators	Hanoi, Vietnam	May
11	Coop Colloquium: Mutual Value Measurement Framework	Online	June
12	Asia Pacific Cooperative Youth Summit (APCYS 4.0)	Sabah, Malaysia	July
13	Go Green Campaign 5.0	Sabah, Malaysia	July
14	ICA-AP Training Program for Managers of Consumer Coops 2023	Tokyo, Japan	July
15	ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting	Genting Highlands, Malaysia	August
16	Cooperative-2-Cooperative Trade & Business Conference for Sustainable Development and Climate Action	Genting Highlands, Malaysia	August
17	ICA-AP Trade & Business Committee Meeting	Genting Highlands, Malaysia	August
18	ICA-MAFF (Japan) Training Course on Capacity Building of Rural Women on Their Roles for Vitalization of Rural Economy in the Financial Year 2023	Bangkok, Thailand and Tokyo, Japan	August-September
19	COOP Colloquium: Fostering a Culture of Collaborative Youth Research	Online	August
20	ICYC Webinar on International Youth Day Webinar: Empowering Youth Through Green Skills	Online	August

<b>21</b>	25th Anniversary Celebration of ICA-AP Committee on Women	Tokyo, Japan	September
<b>22</b>	Policy Forum on Development (10th Anniversary)	Brussels	September
<b>23</b>	ICA Regional Workshop for Leaders of Consumer Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific in South Korea	South Korea	October
<b>24</b>	16th ICA-AP Regional Assembly	Manila, Philippines	November
<b>25</b>	11th Asia Pacific Cooperative Forum on 'Cooperatives: Our Common Agenda'	Manila, Philippines	November
<b>26</b>	ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting	Manila, Philippines	November
<b>27</b>	ICYC Regional Youth Workshop	Manila, Philippines	November
<b>28</b>	ICYC 16th Annual Plenary Meeting	Manila, Philippines	November
<b>29</b>	17th ICA Asia-Pacific Research Conference & Research Committee Meeting	Manila, Philippines	November
<b>30</b>	Asia Pacific Regional Women's Forum on 'Women Cooperators in the Future'	Manila, Philippines	November
<b>31</b>	ICA-AP Women's Committee Meeting	Manila, Philippines	November
<b>32</b>	Seminar: Enhancing Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains through Partnership among Cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific	Manila, Philippines	November
<b>33</b>	ICA-AP Trade and Business Committee Meeting	Manila, Philippines	November
<b>34</b>	57th Meeting of the ICA-AP Consumer Committee	Manila, Philippines	November
<b>35</b>	Collaboration Seminar 2023 with Consumer Co-operative Worldwide	Manila, Philippines	November
<b>36</b>	Regional Conference on Credit & Banking Cooperatives & Committee Meeting	Manila, Philippines	November
<b>37</b>	ICA-AP Credit & Banking Committee Meeting	Manila, Philippines	November
<b>38</b>	15th Annual Statutory Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on Cooperatives in Educational Institutions	Manila, Philippines	November
<b>39</b>	Brainstorming Meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Agriculture and Environment	Manila, Philippines	November
<b>40</b>	Coop Colloquium: Cooperatives and Systems Innovation	Online	December

## ICA-AP Sectoral and Thematic Committees

ICA-AP has 9 regional thematic and sectoral committees.

<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>Office Title</b>	<b>Name and Organisation</b>
<b>ICA-AP Committee on Agriculture and Environment</b>	Chairperson	
	Vice-Chairperson	
	Secretary	
<b>ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Cooperation</b>	Acting Chairperson	Ms. Jeong-Hee Kim, iCOOP, Korea
	Vice-Chairperson	Dr. Mohd Azlan Yahya, Malaysian National Cooperative Movement (ANGKASA), Malaysia
	Secretary	Ms. Itsumi Hishinuma, Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU), Japan
<b>ICA-AP Committee on Cooperative Research</b>	Chairperson	Dr. Yashvantha Dongre, University of Mysore, India
	Vice-Chairperson	Dr. Sidsel Grimstad, University of Newcastle, Australia
	Vice-Chairperson	Dr. Eunju Choi, iCOOP Cooperative Institute, Korea
	Secretary	Mr. Mohit Dave, ICA-AP
<b>ICA-AP Committee on Credit and Banking</b>	Chairperson	Mr. K.K. Ravindran, National Cooperative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd. (NAFCARD), India
	Vice-Chairperson	Dato' Haji Che Mohd. Shukree Che Isa, Malaysian National Cooperative Movement (ANGKASA), Malaysia
	Vice-Chairperson	Mr. Rahul Calayan Jr, Network Consolidated Cooperative Bank (NCCB), Philippines
	Secretary	Mr. Kulbhushan Kukreja, ICA-AP
<b>ICA-AP Committee on Cooperatives in Educational Institutions</b>	Chairperson	Dr. Haji Mohd. Azlan Yahya, Malaysian National Cooperative Movement (ANGKASA), Malaysia
	Vice-Chairperson	Mr. Ichiro Nakamori, National Federation of University Cooperatives (NFUCA), Japan
	Vice-Chairperson	Dr. Malika Kumar, National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), India
	Secretary	Mr. Ganesh Gopal, ICA-AP
	Co-Secretary	Dr. Yashvantha Dongre, University of Mysore, India
	Co-Secretary	Ms. Zenaida Diola, Metro Manila Federation of Consumers Cooperatives (MMFCC), the Philippines
<b>ICA-AP Committee on Human Resource Development</b>	Chairperson	
	Vice-Chairperson	
	Secretary	



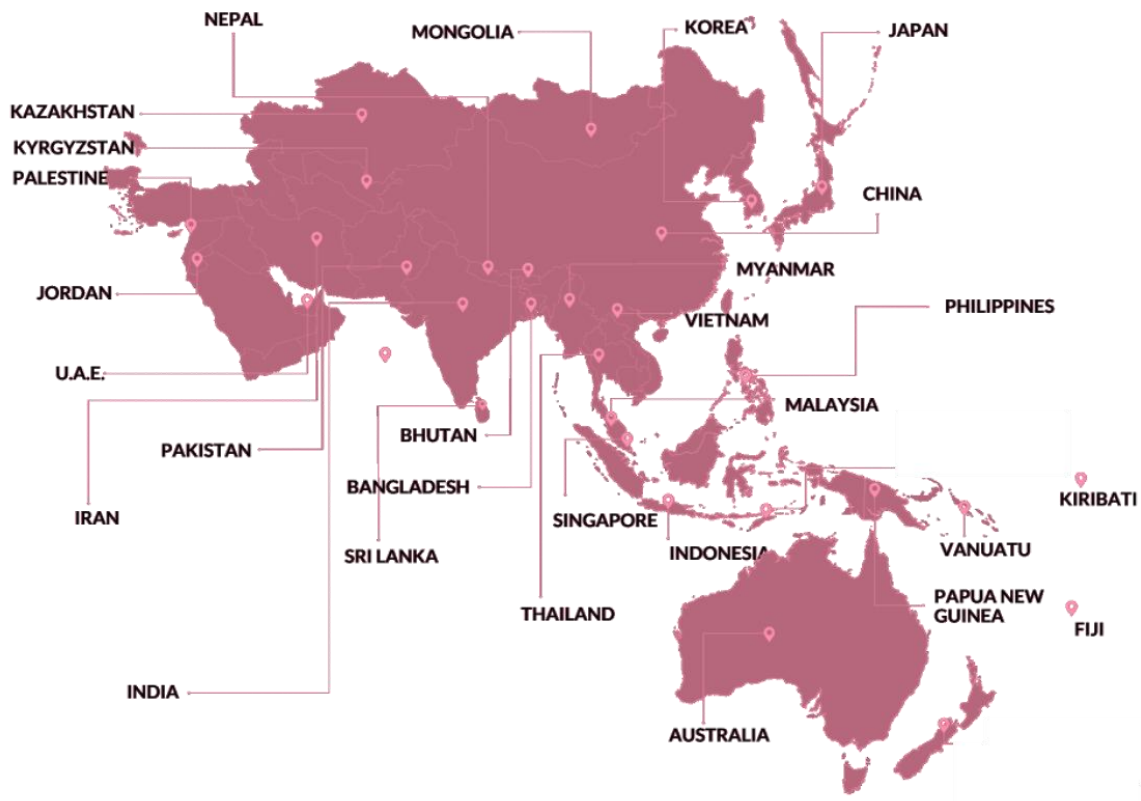
<b>ICA-AP Committee on Trade &amp; Business</b>	Chairperson  Vice-Chairperson  Secretary	Datuk Seri Dr. Abdul Fattah Haji Abdullah, Malaysian National Cooperative Movement (ANGKASA), Malaysia Mr. Gyan Bahadur Tamang, National Cooperative Bank Limited (NCBL), Nepal Ms. Wan Azwati Wan Mohamed, Malaysian National Cooperative Movement (ANGKASA), Malaysia
<b>ICA-AP Committee on Women</b>	Chairperson  Vice-Chairperson  Secretary	Ms. Chitose Arai, Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU), Japan Ms. Priti Patel, National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), India Ms. Simren Singh, ICA-AP
<b>ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation</b>	Chairperson  Vice-Chairperson  Secretary	Ms. Dulce Saquilayan Bustamante, Union of Legitimate Service Contracting Cooperatives (ULSCC), Philippines Ms. Gelizabeth Cabuhat, 1 Cooperative Insurance System of the Philippines (1CISP) Mr. Shree Padmanabhan, ICA-AP

## ICA-AP Board Members

#	Name	Profile	Country	Position on ICA-AP Board
1	Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav	Chairman, Krishak Bharti Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO)	India	President
2	Mr. Cai Zhenhong	Vice-President, All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Coops (ACFSMC)	China	Vice-President
3	Datuk Seri Dr. Abdul Fattah Abdullah	Chairperson, Malaysian National Cooperative Movement (ANGKASA)	Malaysia	Vice-President
4	Ms. Natalie Browning	Director and Deputy Chairperson, Cooperative Bulk Handling Ltd. (CBH Group)	Australia	Member
5	Mr. Alireza Banaeifar	Deputy of International Affairs, Iran Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC)	Iran	Member
6	Ms. Chitose Arai	Vice President, Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU) and Chairperson, ICA-AP Committee on Women	Japan	Member
7	Mr. Sung-hee Lee	Chairman, National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF), Korea	Korea	Member
8	Mr. Min Raj Kadel	Chairman, National Cooperative Federation of Nepal (NCFN)	Nepal	Member
9	Atty. Maria Corazon S. Montallana	Chairperson, National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO)	Philippines	Member
10	Mr. G.D. Sarath Weerasiri	Chairman, National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL)	Sri Lanka	Member
11	Mrs. Cao Xuan Thu Van	President, Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA)	Vietnam	Member
12	Ms. Dulce Bustamante	Chairperson, ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation (ICYC)	Philippines	Member

## The ICA-AP Network – 2023 Members’ Directory

ICA-AP had 109 members from 28 countries.



AUSTRALIA	01	Capricorn Society Limited (CSL)
	02	Cooperative Bulk Handling Ltd. (CBH Group)
	03	Business Council of Cooperatives and Mutuels (BCCM)
BANGLADESH	04	National Co-operative Union of Bangladesh
	05	Bangladesh Samabaya Bank Limited (BSBL)
BHUTAN	06	Department of Agricultural Marketing & Coops (DAMC)
CHINA	07	All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Coops (ACFSMC)
	08	All China Federation of Handicraft & Industrial Coops (ACFHIC)
	09	International Committee for the Promotion of Chinese Industrial Co-operatives (ICCIC)
	10	Jiangsu Supply and Marketing General Cooperative (JSMGC)
	11	Fujian Federation of Supply & Marketing Coops (Fujian Coop)
FIJI	12	Department of Cooperative Business (DCB) Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism
INDIA	13	National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI)
	14	Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO)

	15	Buldana Urban Cooperative Credit Society (BUCCS)
	16	Cooperative House Building & Finance Corporation Ltd-CHBFC
	17	Indian Farm Forestry Development Coop Ltd. (IFFDC)
	18	Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO)
	19	National Agricultural Coop Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)
	20	National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd (NAFCARD)
	21	National Coop Development Corporation (NCDC)
	22	National Federation of Fishers Coops Ltd (FISHCOPFED)
	23	National Federation of State Coop Banks Ltd. (NAFSCOB)
	24	National Federation of Farmers Procurement, Processing & Retailing Coops of India Limited (NACOF)
	25	National Yuva Co-operative Society Ltd. (NYCS)
	26	Uralungal Labour Contract Coop Society Ltd. (ULCCS)
	27	Tirumalla Tirupati Multi-State Coop Credit Society (TTMSCC)
	28	Centre for Cooperatives and Livelihoods – Autonomous (CCL) Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA)
	29	The Tamil Nadu Small Tea Growers ICTFs Federation Ltd. (INDCOSERVE)
	30	ESAF Swasraya Multi-State Agro Cooperative Society Limited (ESMACO)
INDONESIA	30	National Federation of People-based Coop Enterprises (INKUR)
IRAN	31	Iran Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC)
	32	Central Union of Rural & Agricultural Coops of Iran (CURACI)
	33	Iran Oilseeds & Vegetable Oil Processing Factories Cooperative (FARDA Coop)
	34	Pishgaman Cooperative Union (PCU)
	35	Tose'e Ta'avon Bank (T.T. Bank)
	36	Rah-e-roshd Cooperative Educational Complex (RCEC)
	37	Taavon Insurance Company (TIC)
JAPAN	38	Central Union of Agricultural Coops (JA-ZENCHU)
	39	Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (JCCU)
	40	IE-NO-HIKARI Association (Association for Education & Publications on Agril Coops)
	41	Japan Cooperative Insurance Association Inc. (JCIA)
	42	Japanese Workers' Cooperative Union (JWCU)
	43	Japanese Health and Welfare Coop Federation (HeW Coop)
	44	National Association of Labour Banks (NALB)
	45	National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations (ZEN-NOH)
	46	National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Association (JF-ZENGYOREN)
	47	National Federation of Forest Owners' Cooperative Associations (ZENMORI-REN)
	48	National Federation of University Coop Associations (NFUCA)
	49	National Federation of Workers and Consumers Kyosai

		Cooperatives (Kokumin Kyosai Coop-ZENROSAI)
	50	National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives (ZENKYOREN)
	51	The Japan Agricultural News (Nihon-Nogyo-Shimbun)
	52	The Norinchukin Bank (Central Coop Bank for Agriculture & Forestry)
	53	Japan Cooperative Alliance (JCA)
	54	Japan Coop Insurance Consumers' Coop Federation (JCIF)
JORDAN	55	Jordan Cooperative Corporation (JCC)
	56	Educational Cooperative Union of Limited Liability (ECU)
	57	Cooperative Association for Development & Finance (CADF)
KAZAKHSTAN	58	Union of Consumer Cooperation of the Rep. of Kazakhstan (UCCRK)
KIRIBATI	59	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives (MCIC)
KOREA	60	National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF)
	61	iCOOP
	62	Korean Federation of Community Credit Coops (KFCCC)
	63	Korean National Federation of Fisheries Coops (KNFFC)
	64	National Credit Union Federation of Korea (NACUFOK)
	65	National Forestry Cooperatives Federation (NFCF)
	66	Korea Cooperative Solidarity (KCS)
KYRGYZSTAN	67	Cooperatives Union of Kyrgyzstan (CUK)
MALAYSIA	68	Malaysian National Cooperative Movement (ANGKASA)
	69	National Land Finance Cooperative Society Ltd. (NLFCS)
	70	Cooperative Institute of Malaysia (CIM)
MONGOLIA	71	Mongolian National Cooperative Alliance (MNCA)
	72	National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Coops-NAMAC
MYANMAR	73	Central Cooperative Society Limited (CCS)
NEPAL	74	National Cooperative Federation of Nepal (NCFN)
	75	Nepal Agricultural Coop Central Federation Ltd. (NACCF)
	76	National Cooperative Bank Limited (NCBL)
	77	National Cooperative Development Board (NCDB)
	78	Nepal Multipurpose Central Coop Union Ltd. (NEMCCU)
	79	Nepal Federation of Savings and Credit Co-operatives Union (NEFSCUN)
PAKISTAN	80	Karachi Coop Housing Societies Union Ltd. (KCHSU)
PALESTINE	81	Economic & Social Development Center of Palestine (ESDC)
	82	Palestinian Agricultural Cooperative Union (PACU)
	83	Union of Housing Cooperatives in Palestine (PUHC)
	84	<i>Cooperative Work Agency (CWA)</i>

PAPUA NEW GUINEA	85	Office of Cooperative Societies (OCS-PNG)
PHILIPPINES	86	National Confederation of Coops Inc. (NATCCO)
	87	VICTO National Coop Federation & Development Center (VICTO National)
	88	Federation of Peoples' Sustainable Development Coop (FPSDC)
	89	MASS-SPECC Coop Development Center (MASS-SPECC)
	90	Union of Legitimate Service Contracting Coops (ULSCC)
	91	Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
	92	Aurora Integrated Multipurpose Cooperative (AIMCoop)
	93	One Cooperative Bank (OCB)
	94	1 Cooperative Insurance System of the Philippines Life and General Insurance (1CISP)
	95	CLIMBS Life and General Insurance Cooperative (CLIMBS)
96	Network Consolidated Cooperative Bank (NCCB)	
97	ACDI Multipurpose Cooperative (ACDI MPC)	
SINGAPORE	99	Singapore National Cooperative Federation Ltd. (SNCF)
SRI LANKA	100	National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL)
	101	SANASA Federation Limited
	102	National Institute of Cooperative Development (NICD)
	103	Department of Co-operative Development (DCD)
	104	Matara District Cooperative Hospital Society Ltd. (MDCHS)
THAILAND	105	Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT)
	106	Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU)
U.A.E	107	Emirates Community Empowerment (ECE)
VANUATU	108	Office of Registrar of Cooperatives and Business Development Services (ORCBDS)
VIETNAM	109	Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA)



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