



**International
Co-operative
Alliance**
Asia and Pacific

Welcome to ICA-AP Newsletter

This is our inaugural monthly newsletter and we are very excited to launch it. The newsletter will feature activities that have been carried out during the month and upcoming activities. We will also feature stories from our members and interesting news relating to cooperatives. In case you would like us to highlight your activities or upcoming events, please send us an email at info@icaroop.coop

Against all odds - Women Cooperatives in Palestine

There was muted excitement in the group as we set out to visit women cooperatives in the West Bank of Palestine. The previous day at the workshop on *Enhancing Role of Women in Co-operative Business* organized by the International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), WeEffect and the Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine (ESDC), we were given statistics on women that were not wholly optimistic. While women comprised 49.2% of total population in Palestine their number in the labor force was just 19.4%. The unemployment among women was 38.9% and that among women with 13 years of education or more was 48.7%. Read more at: [Against all odds- Women Cooperatives in Palestine](#)

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Second data study on status and participation of women and men in cooperatives

The questionnaire for the **second data study** on status and participation of women and men in co-operatives was sent out to all members. The study will look at the state of affairs as it relates to participation of women and their role in decision-making in co-operatives and provide data on the changes that have happened on status of women since the information was last collected in the first data study, *Engendering Database in Co-operatives* in 2005. In February 2016, ICA-AP will hold the **third Regional Conference in Tagatay** to review the situation 10 years after the second conference and look ahead to see how gender mainstreaming can be further consolidated in cooperatives. *The conference will also make recommendations to the 10th Ministers Conference in Jakarta in April 2016.*

Youth and University/ Campus committee meetings

Over a hundred youth participants representing twelve countries gathered in Bangkok from September 17 to 19 to work and strategize on *moving towards a sustainable Growth and Development in the co-operative Decade, #coops2020*. The Asia Pacific Workshop on Youth and Campus Co-operatives was hosted by the Co-operative League of Thailand and the Thailand Consumer Cooperative Federation in Universities. The discussions at the workshop focused on the role of university cooperatives in *ethical Consumption, career development and financial literacy*. The keynote address was delivered Mr. Matthieu Cognac, Youth employment specialist from the ILO (Bangkok office) and a special address by Mr. Aditya Yadav, ICA Global Board member. A Special session was conducted by Prof. Yashvantha Dongre, Dean (Commerce), Mysore University on the Guidance notes issued by the ICA in April, 2015. The workshop was inaugurated on September 17, 2015 in the presence of the Dr. Kouk Donsumran, Chairman, CLT, Prof. Motoo Furtua (NFUCA) and Dr. Sukesh Zamwar (BUCCS), Chairpersons of ICA AP Committees on University/Campus Cooperatives (ICUC) and Youth Cooperation (ICYC) respectively. The youth were taken on field visit to the campus cooperatives at the Chulalongkorn and Kasetsart Universities during the workshop. Pictures and videos can be found on [Youth Coop on Facebook](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regional Consultation for ASEAN+ countries, October 1-2, 2015, Jakarta, Indonesia

Regional Board Meeting, November 9, Antalya, Turkey

Consumer Committee Annual Meeting, December 1, 2015, Malaysia

FairTrade and Halal seminar, December 2, 2015, Malaysia

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