



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

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### **His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand**

The co-operative community mourns the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on October 13, 2016. Over the 70 years that King Adulyadej ruled Thailand, His Majesty carried out a myriad of royal duties for the benefit and well-being of the Thai people. The over 2,000 royally-initiated projects covering every region of the nation are mostly projects that aim at improving and enhancing the quality of life for the people of Thailand, managing resources and conserving the natural environment, and also strengthening the stability of the nation.

In Remembrance of His Majesty  
**King Bhumibol Adulyadej**  
1927 - 2016



Boosting the quality of life of the people through the operation of cooperatives in areas in accordance with His Majesty's royally-initiated projects could be said to have its beginnings since the establishment of Hoob Kapong Village. 10,000 rai of land in Khao Yai Subdistrict in Chaam District of Petchburi Province, which was originally a drought-stricken deteriorated area, was selected for the project. This sizeable area was separated from the location under the supervision of the Royal Forestry Department and allocated to farmers for their use but without rights to the property. Modern agricultural technology was employed to improve the condition and quality of the area making it appropriate for cultivation in accordance with the "cooperative village" concept. And this concept and its principles and philosophy were applied to increase economic and social development of which His Majesty once elaborated on as:

"...after a while they simply grouped together...they were able to enlist others and soon a farming group was working with a group of vegetable field owners...And I told that them this cooperative was beneficial and they were able to support one another..."

Hoob Kapong Village in Petchburi Province thus became the first model village in Thailand for the royally-initiated project for cooperative villages or agricultural cooperatives. And later on this cooperative village structure and approach were promoted and taught to locals living in the sites of royally-initiated projects. With the underlying philosophy of 'helping yourself and extending help to one another,' the aim of promoting the cooperative village approach was to encourage locals to group together.

[http://nwnt.prd.go.th/nnt\\_en/King87en/king30.html](http://nwnt.prd.go.th/nnt_en/King87en/king30.html)

The 9<sup>th</sup> Minister's Conference held in Bangkok in February 2012 was on the theme, "Enabling Cooperative Legal and Policy Environment for Sufficiency Economy." The philosophy of sufficiency economy propounded by His Excellency King Adulyadej reflects the co-operative values and principles in the spirit of sustainable development.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly and 9<sup>th</sup> Co-operative Forum

We are ten days away from the 12<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly and 9<sup>th</sup> Cooperative Forum in New Delhi! We look forward to welcoming you to the various events organized by the thematic and sectoral committees. The Chief Guest for the Assembly will be the Honorable Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, Mr. Radha Mohan Singh.

This year's Cooperative Forum at the Regional Assembly is dedicated to highlight the role cooperatives in the Asia Pacific region play in implementing SDGs and their role as builders of sustainability. SDG 2 is focused on ending hunger, achieving food security, and improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture. The Honorable Minister of Railways, Government of India, Mr. Suresh Prabhu will deliver the keynote address. [Indian Farmer Fertilizer Cooperatives Limited](#) (IFFCO) in India, as one of the largest cooperatives, not only in India but the world, is playing an important role in enabling farmers to prosper through timely supply of reliable, high quality agricultural inputs and services in an environmentally sustainable manner. IFFCO's Vision-2020 emphasizes on sustainable development through integrated resource management, financial inclusion, and advanced agriculture practices to empower farmers and rural India. [SANASA](#) in Sri Lanka is implementing the "Lassana Lanka" (Beautiful Sri Lanka) program as part of the "[Sri Lanka NEXT Blue-Green Economy](#)," to develop 10,000 sustainable villages by 2020. Co-operatives and governments need to partner to deliver on SDGs. The partnership could be actualized by government creating an enabling environment and through a balanced approach by cooperatives by following government's policies while safeguarding the values and principles of co-operatives. In the Philippines, the [Cooperative Development Authority](#) policies have helped create an enabling environment for co-operatives as evident in growth of co-operatives across the countries.

Co-operatives need to understand the trends to position themselves and to efficiently and effectively bring about changes. One trend that is visible is rapid aging of society and the need for elderly care. [Cooperatives in Singapore](#) have stepped up to meet the growing demand for services for the elderly by offering a range of services across different sectors, from employment and healthcare to tourism. At the other end of the demographic spectrum is the need to attract and include youth. The Government in Bhutan is encouraging co-operative model of business to reduce poverty, include youth and achieve sustainable development. Another trend that is visible is rapid changes and competition in job market due to globalization which has impacted the poor negatively. The initiatives by the [Uralungal Contract Labor Cooperative Society Limited](#) in organizing workers and laborers in cooperatives to compete in the open market is commendable. SDG 9 is focused on use of technology for benefit of all people. The [National Agriculture Cooperative Federation Limited](#), as one of the largest agriculture cooperatives in terms of business volume, benefit to members and contribution in the economy, has been experimenting with innovation in technology suitable to the cooperative business model and using it to promote the business management.

## People to People Trade - Dure Consumer Co-operative Federation

The fair trade producer group Mascobado Sugar from Negros, the Philippines visited the Dure Consumer's Co-operative Union in South Korea on 30 September 2016. Dure Consumer's Co-operative Union (DURE Coop) was established in 1997 and is one of the larger federation of Consumer Co-operatives in South Korea. They have 29 member co-ops with around 187,000 individual members nationwide. DURE Coop established its subsidiary trading Company, "APNet" in 2004 to run and promote fair trade adopting the principle of "People-to-People Trade." "People to People Trade" aims to; 1) Purchase reliable products at fair price, which ensures safety for producers, consumers and environment; and 2) Encourage the direct transactions and communication between the producers and consumers for mutual understanding. "People to People Trade" was started in late 1980s among several consumer co-ops and consumer's association in Japan. DURE Coop has carried out business with the Mascobado Sugar Producer in Philippines since the establishment of APNet.



The group of 2 producers and 6 delegates from the Mascobado trading partner was received by Ms. Hye Jung Kim, President and other officials of DURE Coop. The group visited the Pureun-Dure Consumers' Co-op, a member Co-op of DURE Coop. They observed how their products and items are displayed on the sales floor and received an explanation from the store manager. The group had an interactive exchange with the members of Pureun-Dure Consumers' Co-op at the "Fair-Trade Cafe" of that Co-op. During the exchange, one member asked producer group the motivation to go for organic farming as it involved the producers putting in more time and extra effort. The answer of the producer was that, "Producers tend to be more victims of pesticide pollution

directly than consumers. For us, organic farming protects all – our nature, us (the farmers), and our consumers from the harm”.

The face-to-face interaction helped to raise understanding between consumers and producers and to strengthen their relationship. DURE Co-op Union puts the priority on this type of exchange among their Fair trade business members. DURE Coop successfully organized the member study tour to Negros island from 19 – 22 October 2016.

### **Workshop to develop Malaysian Dairy Co-operatives, October 12-15, 2016.**

The workshop to develop Malaysia Dairy Co-operatives was designed to support and share the Korean livestock experience. The workshop was one of the follow-up items from the visit Angkasa delegates made to NACF's (Korea National Agriculture Cooperatives Federation) livestock business in May 2016. The Malaysian side was represented by 30 participants from Angkasa member organizations, government officers and cooperators; while the NACF side included cattle breed specialist, dairy consultant for feeding and a farmer. The experts from NACF have experience working together in Myanmar, Pakistan and Philippines; and they had recently completed a training program with the Ugandan government in relation to a US\$3.5million investment. NACF will export the best Korean cow semen with animal medicine to Uganda and its NACF specialists will be on hand to provide training.



*Participants of the workshop*

In the workshop, NACF speakers delivered lectures and shared their ideas and experiences. The breeding specialist advised the participants to focus on breeding improving their own cattle; the Feeding specialist demonstrated methods to calculate feed intake and efficient feeding; and the Korean farmer shared his experience in saving time and increasing the efficiency. The Malaysian participants were very impressed with the advanced stage of livestock development by NACF. They shared their plans to develop their cattle and dairy

program and had lots of questions to ask. such a specific experience how NACF has developed our cattle. Some local farmers who were initially reluctant to join were taken in and made positive efforts to learn the techniques.

The participants visited a dairy farm where a farmer was rearing 70 (of which 40 were lactating) cows. The NACF specialists checked the conditions of the cow, diagnose quality of feed and showed techniques of proper feeding, ways to identifying diseases, and maintaining the cattle. The specialist felt that in the short-term, it would be possible to increase production of milk by changing the quality and quantity of feed. In the long-term they felt that Malaysia would have to develop local variety of cows and breed them.

NACF gets requests from many governments (from Asia and Africa) to train their farmers who have experienced failures working with global companies. The companies signed on to consult, train and sell products; but ended up mainly selling their products. One of NACF's aim is to promote cooperative-to-cooperative collaboration and in this regard is looking for partners to work with. The Angkasa-NACF collaboration has the potential to match the skills and expertise of NACF with the willingness and resources of Angkasa to the benefit of farmers and members. Both organization expect the collaboration to yield good results and hope to formalize an agreement soon.

### **Regional Workshop on “Enhancing Role of Women in Co-operative Business”**

The Workshop on “Enhancing the Role of Women in Co-operative Business” was held from 27-29 September, 2016 in Korea in collaboration with our member iCOOP. The workshop site was iCOOP's Gurye Natural Dream Park located in the southern province of Jeolla-do; four hours by road from Seoul city. 22 cooperative leaders and officials from 8 countries including Korea, participated in the workshop. The workshop started with a presentation by Mr. Hang- Sik Oh, Management Director of the Park on its origins, growth and current activities. The park was set up to build linkage between the producers-suppliers and consumers. The USP of the Park is 'healthy-natural food' and “ethical consumption.” This attracts a lot of young consumers who are worried the content in the food they feed their children. iCOOP is able to assure them of the quality organic products from the Park. The coop is very much conscious about retaining and increasing their member base in the face of competition by open market. Following the presentation, there was a field visit to the processing centers in the park. Later in the afternoon, Ms.Inja Park, Chairperson of iCOOP made a presentation of iCOOP and its activities.



*Participants of the Regional workshop on "Enhancing Role of Women in Co-operative business"*

Day 2 started with a presentation by Ms. Park on the theme, "Enhancing the Role of Women in Cooperative Business," that covered the situation of women's participation in co-operatives, the legal and policy environment, and initiatives by coops and by the Korean government. Mr. Balu Iyer made a presentation on the "ICA Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade" in the context of promoting inclusive growth in cooperatives. Ms. Savitri Singh introduced the gender mainstreaming projects and activities of ICA-AP and discussed the situation of women in Cooperatives in Asia and Pacific. The introductory session was followed by well-defined country paper presentation by the participants focusing on core issues around gender mainstreaming initiatives and business success stories. The participants were divided into two group to discuss the topic: How to enhance women's participation in mixed cooperatives - issues and challenges.

On Day 3, the participants visited the store of Nawwon Coop, a member co-operative of iCoop. This was followed by presentation of the recommendations from the group discussions. The consultations during the workshop focused on co-operative endeavour to promote women's interests for gender mainstreaming in co-operative businesses.

## **Co-operative enterprises announce 7% growth figure and a combined turnover of USD \$2.53tn**

The world's largest 300 co-operatives and mutuals have grown their turnover by 7.20% to USD \$2.53tn (2,533.1bn), according to the 2016 edition of the World Co-operative Monitor (WCM). The findings were presented at the International Summit of Cooperatives in Quebec.

The Monitor refers to data from 2014, which was collected from various sources, such as national rankings, sector rankings, existing databases containing financial data, annual reports and questionnaires. The database for this edition contains information on 2,370 co-operatives from 63 countries. Of these, 1420 co-operatives from across 52 countries have a turnover of over USD \$100m.

The top five co-operatives by turnover are: Crédit Agricole (USD \$90.21bn), a network of co-operative banks from France; BVR (USD \$70.05bn), Germany's national association of co-operative banks; Groupe BPCE (USD 68.96bn), also a network of co-operative banks from France; insurer NH Nonghyup (USD 63.96bn), an extension of the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation's financial operation from the Republic of Korea; and State Farm (USD \$63.73bn), a mutual from the USA. There were 34 co-operatives from the Asia Pacific region in the top 300. The countries included Australia (3), India (1), Malaysia (1), Japan (18), New Zealand (5), Republic of Korea (3), Saudi Arabia (1), and Singapore (2).

The Monitor also lists rankings by turnover based on the ratio to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, relating the turnover of the co-operative to the purchasing power of the country in which it operates. In this ranking, which highlights the relevance of co-operatives in their countries, NH Nonghyup comes first, followed by Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), Crédit Agricole, health co-op Unimed of Brazil and Groupe BPCE.

The top 300 co-operatives come from 25 countries and have a combined turnover of USD \$2.53 trillion (2,533bn), an increase of 7.20% from the USD \$2.36tn reported in last year's monitor. Over 32% of these operate in agriculture, 39% in insurance, 19% in wholesale and retail trade and 6% in banking and financial services. Some of the top 300 co-ops are also active in the health and social care sector (1%), the industry sector (2%) and other services and activities. A new feature in this year's monitor is a chapter dedicated to exploring co-operative capital. The chapter focuses on analyzing the capital structure of the world's largest co-operatives. [Download the executive summary from www.monitor.coop](http://www.monitor.coop)



## EU section



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### **Global Co-operative Development Platform launched by ICA-EU Partnership**

The ICA and the U.S. Overseas Co-operative Development Council (OCDC) co-organized the pre-summit event on 'Co-operatives and Mutuals in International Development - How can we do more and better together?' on October 10, within the frame of the International Summit of Co-operatives 2016 and part of the ICA-EU partnership activities. The Global Co-operative Development Platform (GCDP) was launched in the presence of Dame Pauline Green who also facilitated the pre-Summit event. The objective of the event was to bring together co-operative members and stakeholders at an international level to share achievements, identify courses of action and facilitate collaboration to foster partnerships. The Co-operatives Europe Development Platform (CEDP) has been recognized at the EU level and was instrumental in the creation of the GCDP. The platform will help various regional networks of development organizations to connect in the interest of co-operatives in development. According to Dame Pauline Green: "A Global Co-operative Development Platform does not have the aim to become a development agency, but (is) to strengthen collaboration between co-operative development organizations and raise visibility and knowledge about the role co-operatives play in international development. From the Asia Pacific region, there was representation from the Regional Office, the National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Co-operatives, the Economic and Social Development Council of Palestine, and the National Agricultural Co-operatives Central Federation Limited, Nepal.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

1. 12<sup>th</sup> ICA-AP Regional Assembly, India, November 15-19, 2016
2. 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Cooperative Business Forum, November 28 - December 1, 2016
3. ICA-COOPFED Workshop on Development of Consumer Cooperatives in Sri Lanka, December 7-8, 2016
4. ICA-JAPAN Training Course on "Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives, February 26 – April 11, 2017
5. 10<sup>th</sup> Minister's Conference, Hanoi, April 18-21, 2017
6. ICA General Assembly, Malaysia, November 14-17, 2017