



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

In This Edition

[What do Minister's think about Co-operatives?](#)

[Leaders from Asia Pacific present a joint vision in the role of co-operatives in pursuit of the SDGs](#)

[ICA-MAFF, Japan Training COurse on "Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives-2016"](#)

[National Cooperative Federation, Nepal-National Workshop on the theme "Cooperatives to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals"](#)

[World Cooperative Monitor](#)

[Research Conference- Co-operatives: The Key Solution Innovation](#)

[13th ICA-AP Regional Assembly](#)

[ICA-AP New Member](#)

[ICA-EU Partnership Program on Co-operatives in Development: People Centered Businesses in Action](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

What do Minister's think about Co-operatives?



Cooperative Delegates at the 10th ICA Asia Pacific Co-operatives Ministers' conference , Hanoi, Vietnam

We recently organized the 10th ICA Asia Pacific Co-operatives Ministers' conference in Hanoi from April 18 to 21. The Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference (APCMC) established in 1990 by the [International Cooperative Alliance Asia Pacific](#) (ICA-AP), is a quadrennial event to provide a platform for co-operatives and governments to discuss current and emerging issues and set a common agenda towards establishment of new forms of cooperation. The backdrop to the conference was the United Nations [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) that sets a course to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all by 2030. The 2030 Agenda explicitly recognizes co-operative enterprises as important players within the private sector to achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). Considering this, the 10th APCMC set the theme: "Visioning Ahead to 2030: Promoting Stronger Partnerships between Government and Co-operative Stakeholders in realizing the SDGs." The conference focused on issues that came out of Regional Consultations in Jakarta và Kathmandu and the Gulf Cooperative Council meeting - (a) Food Sovereignty – role of producers and consumers, (b) New Co-operative Approaches (Innovation), (c) Public-Private partnership, (d) Co-operatives and the Transition from the Informal into the Formal economy, and (e) Enabling Environment

(Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks).

So, what did the Ministers and representatives from Ministries say and commit? Read more at: <http://www.ica-ap.coop/icanarticles/what-do-minister%E2%80%99s-think-about-co-operatives>

Statements and presentations can be downloaded at: <http://www.ica-ap.coop/icaevents/10th-asia-pacific-ministers-conference>



Leaders from Asia Pacific present a joint vision in the role of co-operatives in pursuit of the SDGs

Ministers, high ranking diplomats, national government officials and co-operators from 25 countries came together to participate at the 10th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference from April 18 to 21, 2017 at Melia Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam. The theme of the conference was, "Visioning Ahead to 2030: Promoting Stronger Partnerships between Government and Co-operative Stakeholders in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)." The Participants adopted the [Draft Hanoi Asia Pacific Co-operative Minister's Resolution on Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in Realizing the SDGs](#) that calls on co-operatives in the Asia Pacific region to:

- Pledge to achieving the SDGs and report their progress at Co-ops for 2030 (<http://www.coopsfor2030.coop/en>) - campaign for cooperatives to learn more about the SDGs, commit to pledges to contribute to achieving the SDGs and report their progress.
- [High level Political Forum](#) – many countries in the Asia Pacific region have signed on to, "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven." Co-operatives will engage with stakeholders to reference work of cooperatives in helping achieve the SDGs.
- Devise instruments on care and social economy and strengthen linkages among cooperatives
- Undertake evidence based research, and
- Better serve the national co-operative movements in various geographical areas such as ASEAN and East Asia, Middle East and Central Asia, the Pacific Islands,

and SAARC.

The Hanoi resolution is a document in the making and was adopted in principle (and in draft) by the conference participants on 20 April 2017 and expects the ICA Asia and Pacific to report on the progress of implementation of action-steps during the ICA General Assembly in November 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The ICA-AP solicits comments and suggestions on the resolution. Feel free to write to balu.iyer@icaap.coop with your comments to be considered. The Resolution will be adopted in its complete version on the 2017 – International Day of Co-operatives.

The drafting committee comprised of Drs. Robby Tulus (former ICA-AP), Dr. Nandini Azad (ICNW- India), Mr. Suresh Pradhan (Ministry of Co-operatives and Poverty Alleviation, Nepal), Mr. P. Santosh Kumar (ICA-AP), Ms. Heira Hardiyanti (Researcher – Indonesia) and Ms. Nguyet Minh (VCA).



ICA-MAFF, Japan Training Course on “Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives - 2016



Participants at the ICA-Japan training Course

The training course on “Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives-2016” was organized by ICA-AP, in Thailand and Japan between February 26 and April 11, 2017. The objective of the training program is to assist fostering of core leaders, who are expected to play leading roles in agricultural co-operatives and farmers’ groups. The training program was implemented by the ICA-AP with the collaboration of the Co-operative League of Thailand (CLT), Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kingdom of Thailand, and Institute for the Development of Agriculture Cooperation in Asia (IDACA), Tokyo (Japan). The Training Course was funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan.

The training course was formally inaugurated by Dr. Vinaroj Supsongsuk, Director General of CPD, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kingdom of Thailand, on February 27, 2017, at the CLT Training Centre, Bangkok, in the presence of Mr. Mongkalat Pukanat, Chairman of CLT, Mr. Takashi Inoue, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Thailand, Mr. Konno Masahiro, Executive Director, IDACA, and Mr. A.K. Taneja, Advisor, ICA-AP. There were 10 participants from 6 countries – Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, and Vietnam. The training course in Thailand was conducted at the CLT Training Centre, Bangkok and Co-operative Technology Transfer Centre 5 of the CPD at Korat (Nakhon Ratchasima Province). After completing the CLT/CPD Module in Thailand, the participants moved to IDACA on March 19, 2017 and remained in Japan till April 11. At the concluding session at IDACA on April 10, 2017, Mr. Konno Masahiro, Executive Director, IDACA & Mr. A.K. Taneja, Project Coordinator, ICA-AP, addressed the participants. Mr. Galey Tenzin, a participant from Bhutan, presented the vote of thanks on behalf of all the participants. The certificates of participation from the ICA as well as from IDACA were awarded to the participants at the end of the concluding session.



National Cooperative Federation, Nepal - National Workshop on the theme "Cooperatives to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals"



The National Cooperative Federation of Nepal (NCF/N), organized a National Workshop on the theme "Co-operatives for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" on the occasion of its 60th National Cooperative Day on April 1, 2017. About 350 cooperators, government officials, board and staff of various national federations participated in the workshop where two papers were presented regarding the SDGs and the role and space of cooperatives. The workshop was attended by the Minister of Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation Mr. Hridaya Ram Thani and the Secretary of the ministry, Mr. Rajendra Kishor Kshetri. Minister Mr. Thani, emphasizing the role of co-operatives said that cooperatives are the only agency that has reached to the grassroots levels of Nepal; he believed that co-operatives are the major actor to achieve the SDGs and to alleviate poverty.

The Regional Coordinator, Local Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP) of UNDP, Mr. Puspa Basnet presented a paper on "Sustainable Development Goals and Role of Cooperatives to achieve it." He mentioned the seventeen goals in the SDGs and working areas for co-operatives to achieve the SDGs. The second paper titled, "Cooperatives for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: Prospects, Challenges and Aspects to be Improved" was presented by Dr. Hari Krishna Upadhyay, Advisor of NCF/N and Chairman of CEAPRED. He pointed out that co-operatives can directly contribute to achieving almost all the goals of SDGs, except goals 3, 4, 13 and 15. He stated some of the challenges in front of cooperatives like - policy, law and bureaucratic, structural and technological and of adaptability in a changing scenario. Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada, former Governor and VC of National Planning Commission in his speech said that *no one should be left behind* is the main aim of SDGs. Cooperation, a form of social

capital is the base of prosperity, and is found only in cooperatives. He emphasized on mutual collaboration between the banking and the cooperative sector and the need to build a bridge between them to utilize the resources deposited in cooperatives. Six million individual members of co-operatives can't be compared with non-government organizations, he concluded.

The District Cooperative Unions of all over the country also observed the 60th National Cooperative Day with various activities such as Bagmati river cleaning program, workshops, debate on theme, exhibition, distribution of cloths and food items for senior citizens, plantation, rally etc. The excellent cooperative award for successful cooperative union and excellent cooperative business awards for cooperative societies for the year 2016 were also announced on the program.



World Cooperative Monitor

The World Co-operative Monitor, published by the International Co-operative Alliance in conjunction with our scientific partner, Euricse, has become the premier source of annual data on the size of the co-operative economy. It has become a crucial resource for raising the co-operative profile and impact with policymakers, industry professionals and the public at large. It is also an important tool for researchers around the globe. We are reaching out to **co-operatives of all sizes, across sectors and regions** to expand the coverage of the database. Please take the short amount of time needed to **enter your co-operative's details for the 2017 edition of the Monitor**. Federations and supporters of co-operatives are encouraged to mobilise the co-operatives in their membership and network to complete the survey. The 2017 survey is available in many different languages online: <http://survey.euricse.eu/index.php/91227/lang-en>

The findings from the World Co-operative Monitor, which will include a special section on impact of the co-operative movement in South East Asia, will be presented at the Alliance conference in Malaysia in November.

If you wish to receive the survey by email or an excel sheet to input data on many co-operatives, please contact Ilana Gotz at ilana.gotz@euricse.eu.



Research Conference – Co-operatives: The Key Solution for Social Innovation

The 12th ICA-AP Committee on Cooperative Research conference will be held from November 11 to 12, 2017 in Seoul, South Korea. The conference is organized in collaboration with the Department of Management of Cooperatives, Graduate School in Sungkonghoe University. The theme of the conference is, “Co-operatives: *The key solution for Social Innovation.*” Details of the “Call for Papers” can be found here <http://www.ica-ap.coop/icanews/12th-ica-ap-regional-cooperative-research-conference>

The Research Committee is happy to announce that two best paper awards will be awarded to young researchers (not over 35 years of age) presenting their papers in the conference.

The conference will be attended by all participants on self-financing basis.

Abstracts of the papers in the prescribed format should reach Mr. Ashok Kumar Taneja, Secretary, ICA-AP Research Committee at taneja@icaroap.coop on or before July 28, 2017.



13th ICA-AP Regional Assembly



We are happy to announce that the 13th ICA-AP Regional Assembly will be held in Iran in 2018. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between by Mr. Alireza Gharagozlou, Vice President and ICA-AP Regional Board member on behalf of Mr. Bahman Abdollahi, President, Iran Central Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC) and Mr. Balasubramanian Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP on April 21 during the 10th ICA-AP Co-operative Minister's Conference in Hanoi. The dates of the Assembly will be confirmed in the coming weeks.



ICA-AP welcomes its newest member – MASS-SPECC



MASS-SPECC Cooperative Development Center (MASS-SPECC, <http://mass-specc.coop>) from the Mindanao in Philippines is a regional co-operative federation. Their

membership consists of primary co-operatives, some secondary co-operative members and associations for co-operatives. MASS-SPECC's purpose is to carry out promotional, educational training, audit and advisory work for co-operatives and self-help groups. It serves as an information bureau for study, research and programs. They develop and provide economic services in the areas of cooperative financing services including restaurants, catering, lease of office spaces, display center, travel and tours; information and communication technology services, electronic financial services, call center, ATM, fund transfers, mobile phones, internet, community property development, agricultural and consumer product marketing, inter-coop trading, agro-processing, health services, transportation, insurances, printing press, legal services. MASS-SPECC has joined as a full member.

The current total membership of ICA-AP is 96 members from 30 countries.



ICA-EU Partnership Program on Co-operatives in Development: People Centered Businesses in Action

Consultation on Co-operatives with youth-representatives in New Delhi



A group of students and teachers from the Jesus and Mary College (JMC) and the Shri

Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) visited the Regional office on April 28 to discuss ways to enhance youth inclusion and participation in the co-operative sector. Balu Iyer, Regional Director began by asking the question – do youth need co-operatives or does the co-operative sector need more youth? The awareness among youth about the co-operative model is low and there is need for co-operatives to step up their outreach to youth. The students were shown the video – [working together for a co-operative future](#) produced by CICOPA and a presentation on the organizational structure of the ICA-AP and its recent work on youth inclusion in co-operatives. The discussion that followed touch on the character and scope of the co-operative sector and its practice in India and relevance of the model to youth. The students decided to work as an incubating group that will look poll students in their respective campuses, identify needs and come up with ideas to engage youth. The Partnership aims to develop co-operative development tools that can be applied in engaging youth in campuses.

GRI – CII Event to Mark the launch of SDG [Agenda 2030] - Focus on Partnerships in South Asia

At the inaugural event for the SDGs Agenda 2030 South Asia held on 27th April in New Delhi, the overarching theme was to find ways for businesses to contribute and help countries in achieving the SDGs. For ICA-AP, this was an important event vis-à-vis our ongoing project with the European Union, where we are focusing on making cooperatives agents of sustainable development. The event was jointly organized by GRI, South Asia and CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, aims to help define and promote the business contribution to SDGs; tackle the challenges of reporting on SDGs; and allow companies to demonstrate their leadership.

Since a core theme of the event was also on reporting data on sustainability by the corporates, the relevance of ‘big data’ and its essential requirement in any small or large scale program was reinforced. Apart from reliable data, Mr. Pietro Bertazzi, Deputy Director, GRI, spoke of the need for including and building on ‘collective local experiences’ of the countries in the South Asian context. Mr. Shantanu Roy from GAIL (India) Limited proposed an interesting phrase of ‘sustainability soldiers’, who labor through the process despite emerging with wounds of failure or other forms of resistance, which may distract us from our goal of sustainability. His Excellency Mr. Janis Björn Kanavin, Special Envoy for

Responsible Business in Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, threw light on how it's the medium and small businesses in any economy that build people's lives and shape their surroundings. He spoke of the importance of recognizing the supply/value chain of businesses with the larger communities. His thoughts resonated quite well with us, as those are the core values of any cooperative business. Professor S. Peppin, Academic Dean of the Xavier School of Sustainability, Bhubaneswar, reminded everyone on importance of quality education on the goals, and the role of students and youth in achieving them. The panelists agreed on the private sector making sustainability interventions beginning at the school level if the youth were to be truly integrated in the process of reaching the goals. Co-operative enterprises and their network in south Asia are well positioned to contribute and report on activities positively affecting the SDGs. The Partnership and the recently concluded 10th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference (Hanoi, Vietnam) give the ICA-AP and its members a unique opportunity to underscore the co-operative way of doing business that has 'sustainability' at its core.



The banner features the ICA-AP logo on the left, which consists of stylized letters 'i', 'c', 'o', 'o', 'p' in red and blue. To the right of the logo, the text reads: 'International Co-operative Alliance', 'Global Conference and General Assembly', 'Co-operatives: Putting People at the Centre of Development', and '13-17 November 2017 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia'. At the bottom, there is a photograph of several men in traditional Malay attire (kacik and songkok) standing behind a podium. A purple circular graphic in the bottom right corner contains the website address 'www.malaysia2017.coop'.

International Co-operative Alliance
**Global Conference
and General Assembly**
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13-17 November 2017 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

www.malaysia2017.coop

Register for the global
 Marque and
a .coop domain name at
www.identity.coop

UPCOMING EVENTS

May, 2017

- UN sponsored - Capacity-Building Workshop - Cooperatives Evidence Based Policies and 2030 Agenda: Building Capacity to Produce and Analyze Relevant Data. Bangkok, May 23 to 25, 2017 at ESCAP
- Coop Round table – Video discussion on Co-operative Identity Statement – New Delhi (details awaited)
- 40th year celebrations, NATTCO, Manila, Philippines, May 25

June, 2017

- ICA-AP / ACFSMC Workshop on - “Co-operative Financial Services and Rural Development,” Hangzhou, China, June 12-16, 2017
- Workshop on Development of Co-operatives in Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, June 29-July 2, 2017

October, 2017

- Development Seminar – ICA-AP, MNCA, NAMAC, Brazilian Cooperatives, October 23-26 (tbc)

November, 2017

- 12th ICA-AP Cooperative Research Conference, “COOPERATIVES: *The key solution for Social Innovation.*” Organized with the graduate School of Cooperative Management, Sungkonghoe University, November 11-12, 2017. Abstracts should reach Mr. Ashok Kumar Taneja, Secretary, ICA-AP Research Committee at taneja@icaroap.coop on or before July 28, 2017.
- ICA Global Assembly, Kuala Lumpur, November 14-17, 2017



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