

International Co-operative Alliance Asia-Pacific E-Newsletter



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2017 International Day of Co-operatives Celebrations

The theme of the 2017 International Day of Co-operatives was 'Inclusion.' Below is a report of celebrations from some of our members.

The National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) organized a symposium on the theme, 'Co-operatives ensure no-one is left behind' which was attended by a large number of co-operators as well as young people. The chief guest, Mr. Harvinder Kalyan, Chairman of the Haryana State Co-operative Supply & Marketing Federation Limited called upon the youth to play an active role in cooperatives and encouraged them to

show their entrepreneurial capabilities by starting small-scale co-operative ventures. Apart from the symposium, NCUI also organized a Children's Painting contest. Children in the age group of 6-15 years were invited to paint on any of the following themes - agriculture, farming, nature, people, and families. The pictures will be sent to IE-NOHIKARI Association of Japan for the '25th annual world children's picture contest'.



iCOOP KOREA, organized/ took part in a series of events starting on June 20 and culminating on July 2. On June 20, they held a forum on 'Diagnosis of the Business Environment and Future Strategy of the Korean Consumer Co-operatives in the Low Growth Era.' From June 30 to July 2, they took part in a Co-operative Fair 2017 co-hosted by the Ministry of Strategy and Finance and the Small and Medium Business Administration in KINTEX, Ilsan. Mr. KIM Dongyeon, the Deputy prime minister for economic affairs speaking at the opening said, "The

government will strive to improve the financial support system providing the fund for only co-operatives, and to actively purchase co-operative products in the public sector.” To fulfill the message of the 2017 IDC, iCOOP KOREA initiated the ‘Seed Research Support Project for Research on Social Economy’ to support researchers of small co-operatives and social economy organizations who usually find it difficult to get resources. iCOOP brought together members to exchange the ideas on ‘inclusion.’ More information can be

found at: http://icoop.coop/?faq=one-step-forward-better-co-operatives-icoop-korea-celebrates-international-day-co-operatives_201707&ckattempt=1



The Co-operative Union of Kyrgyzstan organized a special event to observe the day in the Issyk-Kul Lake region where a number of their members are located. It was also to honour the international delegation (Afghanistan, India, Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkey) attending the Forum organized by ICA-AP in Bishkek. Women and men in traditional dresses gathered in the open and sang songs and played instruments. The Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA) translated the special message of the ICA and sent it to the central and provincial media outlets and to relevant organizations to propagate the day. VCA and its 63 Provincial Co-operative Alliances organized meetings and hung banners to commemorate the day.

ICA-AP Members at the HLPF in New York

By being sources of decent work, spaces for democracy and peace building, and an economic force (the top 300 cooperatives alone generate 2.5 trillion USD in annual turnover, more than the GDP of France), co-operatives are truly a partner in transforming our world.

How exactly are these people-centred, values-based enterprises helping to eradicate poverty and promote prosperity? How are they reaching those most at risk for being left behind? And what can governments, civil society, and the UN system do better to support co-operatives in their mission to build a better world?

To answer these questions and share co-operative solutions for inclusive development, the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) hosted an event on 14th July to celebrate the International Day of Cooperatives at the United Nations in New York during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The event featured speakers from COPAC's membership, invited co-operators, and a few Permanent

Representatives to the UN. The participants were invited to engage in an interactive discussion with the speakers and to enjoy the debut of COPAC's video 'Co-operatives Ensure No One is Left Behind'. Among the panellists were, Mr. Hiromi Katsumata, Senior Managing Director of the Japan-Cooperative General Research Institute and Dr. Nandini Azad, President Indian Co-operative Network for Women and officiating Chairperson of ICA-AP's Women's Committee.

His Excellency Hiroshi Minami, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, said that 'cooperatives are one of the best-kept secrets in the SDG toolbox', and shared the wide reach and impact of the cooperative movement in Japan, in the region, and worldwide. He lauded the cooperative movement for its willingness to partner to achieve the SDGs.



Mr. Hiromi Katsumata spoke about the work of Japanese co-operatives in relation to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 14, 15, and 17. He described how cooperatives from all sectors in Japan collaborate to better serve their members and to promote prosperity in their communities. He highlighted the importance of cooperatives in providing safe food, addressing the growing gap between rich and poor, and caring for a rapidly aging population. Dr. Nandini Azad in her remarks mentioned that SDGs and women (in regard to co-operatives) were an absolute breakthrough where investing in women and gender equality is seen at the core for growth, peace, prosperity and poverty reduction. She said that the meeting on co-operatives at the HLPF showed that co-operatives were an ideal mechanism for women as they focused on democracy, participation as well as the socio-economic features. She spoke in detail about the gender equality model in place by the Working Women Forum and the Indian Co-operative Women Network.

The event was also attended by delegations from India and Japan. The Indian delegation was headed by Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President NCUI. The Japanese delegation consisted of members from the Japan Joint Committee of Co-operatives (JJC), a national committee consisting of the 16 ICA members. Full video of the event can be found at

<http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/watch/international-day-of-cooperatives-cooperative-solutions-for-inclusive-development/5507938393001>

Western Australian grain growers break into Asian beer market

The Co-operative Bulk Handling (CBH) Group, a member of ICA, joined Interflour Group in celebrating the opening of the US\$70 million Intermalt facility in Vietnam providing Western Australian grain growers with direct access to the Asian beer market.

CBH Chairman Wally Newman and Chief Executive Officer Andy Crane attended the ceremony together with directors and senior leaders including Interflour Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Greg Harvey, Intermalt General Manager James Kirton and representatives from the Vietnamese government.



Mr Newman said CBH's involvement in downstream grain processing, through its 50 per cent shareholding of Interflour, had diversified the cooperative's income stream and resulted in increased market opportunities for Australian grain. It will be a new chapter for Western Australian barley growers who now have direct access to Vietnam's burgeoning beer market – the fastest growing beer market in Asia. Intermalt is located in Cai Mep, Vietnam, and will be the largest malting plant in South East Asia. It will have the capacity to produce 110,000 tonnes of malt a year and will service major brewers in the

region including Heineken Vietnam.

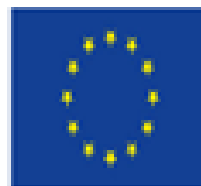
ICA-AP welcomes its newest member-Japan Co-op Insurance Consumers' Co-operative Federation (JCIF)

JCIF, a union of consumer co-operative societies started in 1984 at the Japanese Consumer Cooperative Union (JCCU). Their aim is to better people's lives by developing products that reflect the voices and opinions of their members. JCIF promotes insurance products for women and children who account for the majority of their individual members. Their products have ranked first in the life insurance sector of the Japanese Consumer Satisfaction Index for four consecutive years since 2013.

The current total membership of ICA-AP stands at 95 members from 30 countries.



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Coops Speak - ICA AP's monthly twitter chat series!



We're quite excited to announce the launch of 'COOPS SPEAK'!
It's a chance to speak directly to some of the leading global names in Co-operative Institutions.
Watch this space for more updates!

Ms. Melina Morrison joins us on 31st July'17, as our first guest on Coops Speak; our own Twitter chat. She is currently the CEO of Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM), Australia.

Ms. Morrison has extensive experience working in advocacy and communications, using them to further the cause of co-operatives.

Date: 31st July'17
Time: 11:45 am IST
Tweet to: @BCCM_AU
Hashtag: #CoopsSpeak

We officially launched twitter chat, '**Coops Speak**' on 31st July. The objective behind Coops Speak is to use the social media platform to connect a leader from the global co-operative movement with members and supporters of co-operatives and give them the opportunity to pose questions.

Our first speaker was Ms. Melina Morrison, CEO of Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM). The BCCM is the peak body for co-operatives and mutual in Australia. She is an advocate for all forms of mutually owned enterprise, regularly contributing commentary and appearing as a spokesperson for the sector. The questions posed to Melina were under three categories – SDGs, Platform Co-operatives, and the Parliamentarians Network.

***Cooperatives (in Australia) and SDGs** - Co-operatives in Australia are poised to play a very important role in the implementation of the SDGs. Two of the leading co-operatives, CBH Group and National Health Cooperatives have made pledges at www.coopsfor2030.coop and others are

expected to follow.

***Platform cooperatives** or platform co-op, is a cooperatively-owned, democratically-governed business that uses a protocol, website or mobile app to facilitate the sale of goods and services. Platform cooperatives are an alternative to [venture capital](#) funded platforms insofar as they are owned and governed by those who depend on them most—workers, users, and relevant stakeholders. In Australia, the social care sector has a lot of casualized labour and there is need for care workers to find work through their own platforms.

***Parliamentarians network** - The Parliamentary Friends of Mutuals and Co-operatives (an initiative of BCCM) was officially launched in June 2017. It will provide a forum for BCCM members to lobby more effectively for reform in regulation and legislation.

The first edition of Coops Speak was quite exciting and it created space for stimulating discussions on three very relevant topics. Please check out the first Coops Speak on our Twitter profile [here](#).

The next Coops Speak will be with Ms. Elenita Sanroque, CEO of the Association of Asian Confederations of Credit Unions (ACCU), Thailand on 31st August. You can participate in the chat by going to our [Twitter page](#). We will be soon posting the time for the event on all our social media profiles.

Are you ready for Co-op Mic 2.0?



'Co-op Mic' is ICA-AP's newest initiative to use the power of a public forum for deliberating and discussing issues relating to co-operatives. It is a platform where we invite experts, entrepreneurs and friends of the cooperative movement, to share their experiences, ideas and thoughts on mainstreaming cooperatives within the development discourse.

Our first speaker was Dr. Gopi Ghosh who spoke on the topic of 'Cooperatives in India and their potential in the 21st century'. The first instalment of Co-op mic was immensely successful with a large online audience watching the live streaming of the talk. You can watch the video for the event [here](#).

The second 'Co-op Mic' will be held on 14th August '17 with Ms. Ishita Chaudhary. Ms. Chaudhary is an Ashoka Fellow and INK Fellow, and the Founder and Managing Trustee of The YP Foundation in India, a youth-led and – run non-profit organization that fosters youth leadership and civic participation. The Foundation focuses on building feminist leadership with young women and girls from underserved and marginalized communities and in advancing their health and rights. Ishita served as TYPF's Founding Executive Director from 2002 to 2015. She will be speaking on the burning

issue of 'Youth and the achievement of the SDGs'.

We hope you can log into our [Facebook page](#) and watch the talk live on 14th August'17 at 4:00 pm IST.

International Cooperative Alliance-Asia and Pacific and Cooperative Union of Kyrgyzstan Forum on “Development of Co-operatives in Central Asia”-June 30 to July 2, 2017. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



Executive SummaryThe International Cooperative Alliance Asia-Pacific and the Cooperatives Union of Kyrgyzstan in collaboration with the Japanese Consumer Cooperative Union (JCCU) and the ICA-EU Partnership Project on Co-operatives in Development- People Centred Business, came together

to organise the first Forum on Development of Cooperatives in Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The Forum was designed as an exploratory mission with objectives to understand the situation (issues, challenges, and opportunities) of co-operatives in Central Asia; to share information and good practices from ICA AP, it's network of members, participating countries and international organisations; and to create a platform to assist in the promotion and development of the co-operative business model in the region.

The Forum provided space to ICA and Kyrgyz cooperatives and Government as well as other Central Asian countries and stakeholders to interact, share and exchange information on current status and explore possible common grounds to establish relationship for adopting and developing cooperative business to achieve sustainable development. The Forum was attended by over 130 persons which included Ministers from Kyrgyz Republic, representatives of government and international in Kyrgyzstan, members of CUK, representatives from local NGOs, and staff from ICA-AP. The invited resource persons were from Afghanistan, India, Kazakhstan, Switzerland and Turkey.

The Forum concluded with a set of recommendations which included call to improve the policy and legal environment for cooperatives, taking into account as a guide the ICA's cooperative principles and values and best practices from the region; comprehensive cooperative development strategy to

strengthen the scale and scope of cooperative business; training facilities to train cooperative board members, managers, members in addition, government civil servants in-charge of registration and cooperative development; access to credit and finance as member capital has not been sufficient to run the cooperative business; focus on youth and gender development. The immediate next steps include:

- Opening a dialogue with CUK and nodal Ministry of Agriculture to formulate co-operative policy and create an enabling environment. The policy instrument will define role, functions and responsibility of all the actors and bring clarity in inter-relationship.
- Strengthening the capacity of cooperative members: needs assessment with the help of CUK and the concerned ministry and need based training programs.
- Forming a group of partners in Kyrgyz Republic that will include Ministry of Agriculture, CUK, Faculty of training department of the Agriculture University, FAO and EU to create a pool of resources to work together to strengthen the cooperative movement.
- ICA-AP will reach out to Ambassadors of Central Asian countries based in India to generate awareness and explore possible assistance towards the development of co-operatives in the region.

Meeting with European Union Delegation in Kyrgyzstan

The ICA-AP delegation comprising of Ms. Savitri Singh, Program Director of ICA-AP; Ms. Nazik Beishenaly, President Co-operative Union of Kyrgyzstan and Mr. Igor Vokatch, General Secretary of the Green Jobs and Sustainable Development International Centre visited the European Union Delegation (EUD) on July 3, 2017 and had a meeting with Mr. Carl Frosio, Project Manager, Cooperation Section. The objective of the meeting was to acquaint

the delegation with ICA; the co-operativeThe EUD in Kyrgyzstan focuses on education, rule of law and rural development and provides support where there is a clearly defined country policy. In Kyrgyzstan, there is a need for a coherent agriculture policy. The EUD is aware of cooperatives, as they have worked with agricultural cooperatives in Issyk-Kul region. Some of the areas where there could be engagement between the EUD and CUK network in central Asia, especially the CUK; and to know about the engagement EUD in Kyrgyzstan. And co-operatives:

- Technical training that is provided through FAO
- Launch a significantly large scale rural development project in Jalalabad region covering Osh, Batcen and Jalalabad with GIZ. GIZ has a large component of working with farmers and rural community and cooperatives may also derive benefit from this.
- Support export to Europe under Generalized System of Preferences+ under the policy of “Central Asia Invest” supporting small and medium enterprises in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.



International Co-operative Alliance

Global Conference and General Assembly

Co-operatives: Putting People at the Centre of Development

13-17 November 2017 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

www.malaysia2017.coop

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COOP Marque and
a .coop domain name at
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UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2017

- ICA-AP and DAMC Training of Trainers for “Building Management Capacity of Women for Co-operative Development,” Bhutan, August 1-6, 2017
- International Youth Day, New Delhi (India) August 12, 2017???
- Coop-Mic with Ms. Ishita Chaudhary, Founder and Managing Trustee of The YP Foundation India, August 14 at 4:00 pm IST.

September 2017

- Co-operative Development Meeting (CDM), organized by ICA-EU Partnership on Co-operatives in Development: People-Centered Businesses in Action with the co-operative movement in the Philippines, September 6-7 in Manila.
- Consultation on ‘Autonomy - focus on self-reliant co-operatives’ co-organized by ICA-AP and Access Livelihoods Consulting India Ltd, September 14-15, Hyderabad, India.
- Coops Speak with Ms. Elenita Sanroque, CEO of the Association of

Asian Confederations of Credit Unions (ACCU), Thailand on 31st August.

October 2017

- Capacity Building & Cooperative Development Seminar, Mongolia
- 2nd meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Forestry, in S. Korea on 20th October 2017 in conjunction with “2017 Korea Culture Forest EXPO”, which will be held at Yeongju-city, Gyeongsang-province (Southern part of Korea) between 20th and 29th October 2017, under the auspices of the National Forestry Cooperative Federation of Korea (NFCF).

November 2017

- 12th ICA-AP Cooperative Research Conference, “COOPERATIVES: The key solution for Social Innovation.” Organized with the 'Department of Management of Cooperatives at the Graduate School in 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 28th July 2017. This has been extended to August 10, 2017
- Global Workshop on University and Campus Co-operatives, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) on 13th November'2017.

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Our mailing address are:

9 Aradhana Enclave, R.K. Puram, Sector 13, New Delhi, India 110066
www.icaap.coop

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