



## ACTIVITIES' MAPPING OF ICA-AP

### ASEAN Co-operative Development Meeting in Manila



The 'ASEAN Co-operative Development Meeting' (CDM) was organized by the ICA-EU Partnership on Co-operatives in Development: People Centered Businesses in Action (#Coops4Dev), along with the co-operative movement in the Philippines represented through the Philippines Co-operative Center (PCC) from September 6-7, 2017 at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Manila, The Philippines. The meeting was organized to build strategic partnerships on development in the sub region represented by ASEAN member states.

This CDM was a platform for co-operative development actors to coordinate, enhance and broaden their work towards achieving the [UN Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). The focus areas for the meeting were **Agriculture, Financial Inclusion and Partnerships**. In particular, the emphasis was on three of the seventeen global goals - (1) No poverty; (2) Zero Hunger and (3) Partnerships.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Alliance members in the ASEAN, governments, and local & international development agencies with the objectives to: trigger potential synergies

in development cooperation & build partnerships, strengthen regional cooperation and develop a co-operative development platform, and tackle priorities, policies and specificities affecting co-operatives. The meeting approach was four pronged: **Inform - Engage - Build - Commit**.

The almost two-day meeting saw presentations from ICA-AP members in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand. There were presentations made by experts from Asiadharra, the Office of ASEAN Affairs, University of Asia and Pacific, the Co-operative Development Authority, WeEffect, ILO and the National Economic Development authority of Philippines. By way of presentations and group discussions, the aim was also to enhance capacities on monitoring, measuring and reporting on the contribution of co-operatives to the SDGs (via platforms such as [www.coopsfor2030.coop](http://www.coopsfor2030.coop) and the [High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#)). It helped the participants get a better understanding of the current challenges and opportunities in regional groupings of nations and co-operative movements, in terms of the formation of an effective regional co-operative development network and contribute toward the targets of the SDGs, particularly goal number 17 - [Partnership for the Goals](#).

The meeting was concluded with a visit to the San Dionisio Credit Co-operative in Manila.

### Consultation on Autonomy & Independence of Co-operatives



ICA-AP in collaboration with Access Livelihood Consulting (India) organised a Consultation on Autonomy & Independence of Co-operatives on September 14-15 at Administrative Staff College of India's (ASCI) College Park campus in Hyderabad, Telangana.

The consultation predominantly looked at how well or not 'autonomy and independence' is represented in existing co-operative legislations and policy frameworks in select countries in South Asia. It was designed to help participants share knowledge and practices from their experiences on autonomy and independence of co-operatives and also build their capacities in ensuring a conducive business and administrative environment. The consultation was followed by a field visit to Mulkanoor Co-operative Rural Bank & Marketing Society

and Mulkanoor Women's Co-operative Dairy, both based in Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh.

The consultation was well represented by Alliance members and government representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka; organisations such as Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation, Karnataka State Souharda Federal Co-operative, RamRahim Pragati Producer Company, Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society and regional & international development agencies such as Friends of Women's World Banking, Rural Enterprise Development Corporation, Sampark Foundation, Technoserve and Reliance Foundation. The event also saw participation from academicians and technocrats from Agriculture Co-operative Staff Training Institute, Kerala Agricultural University, Institute of Co-operative Management, National Payments Corporation of India & Verghese Kurien Centre of Excellence.

The format was a mix of presentations, lectures and discussions in working groups. The forum allowed participants to actively contribute and participate during and after the seminar, thus forming knowledge partnerships across sectors. Findings from the consultation will provide important reference points for a thematic research to be undertaken in the region under the ICA-EU Partnership on Co-operatives in Development: People Centred Businesses in Action.

### **Mr. Balu Iyer delivers keynote address on 'Co-operatives and SDGs: Members' participation' at NCUI**

The National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) organized a symposium on 'Co-operatives and SDGs: Members' Participation' on 20<sup>th</sup> September at the NCUI premises. The event was attended by members of NCUI as well as ICA-AP staff and a group of young students from Delhi University. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Balu Iyer on the main theme of the symposium. Mr. Iyer began his presentation by asking the audience on how many SDGs they thought co-operatives were helping achieve? The audience named a few of the SDGs, and on that note Mr. Iyer presented 17 cases of co-operatives depicting how they were helping achieve each of the SDGs.

The main objective of his presentation was to help the audience understand that co-operatives have always cared for the community, built sustainable businesses, created livelihoods, and cared for the environment. It is upto us to showcase the work we're doing, in the language of the SDGs, and build a strong case for co-operatives being an ideal vehicle for the delivery of SDGs. Mr. Iyer also highlighted what the co-operatives need to do in terms of systematically achieving the SDGs by registering pledges on the [coopsfor2030.coop](http://coopsfor2030.coop) website, presenting their work at various national and international events meant for SDGs like the HLPF of the UN, and most importantly by collecting reliable data on the work that they were doing.



He made a brief mention of the ongoing engagement between ICA-AP and the students of Delhi University on the creation of student co-operatives in the University. The students from two colleges had carried out a survey and reached out to 500+ respondents; all of whom were university students. The survey was intended as a needs assessment to procure information on what are the needs of the students which can be fulfilled via a co-operative on campus. The responses were quite encouraging, but there was also a concern about students lacking clarity on what co-operatives are, and which are the co-operatives around them. This is also an indicator of the efforts co-operatives need to put in to be visible in the mainstream domain.

The presentation was well-received and was followed by an interactive Q&A session. Members from the audience spoke of the work they were doing, sought help on how they can highlight this work at various Forums and thanked the Speaker on lucidly explaining this widely debated issue.

## **NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS**

### **First Training Workshop on Saemaul Geumgo for Uganda organized by the Korean Federation of Community Credit Co-operatives**

In order to enhance Uganda's financial inclusion, especially to promote VSLA (Village Savings and Loan Association) to higher levels, KFCC organized a 11-day training workshop from 21st to 31st August 2017 to eight Ugandan delegates. The program consisted of lectures about the principles of the Association, the establishment and organization of savings groups, the role of governmental in the Saemaul Geumgo Movement, etc. The participants also visited Daesung Saemaul Geumgo and Waegwan Saemaul Geumgo. In particular, Waegwan Saemaul Geumgo has numerous old materials from the 1970s including accounting books. The Daesung Saemaul Geumgo operates the business of collective purchase of chestnuts and a medical center, the operations of which the participants could directly witness. This helped them learn how Saemaul Geumgo's operate and its contribution to the development of villages. In addition, the participants took part in discussions about what they needed to do for the implementation and promotion of Saemaul Geumgo Movement. During the weekend they experienced Korean culture of making Korean rice cake and performing Taekwondo. The participants formulated action plans which they will coordinate with the government

and communities living in villages for the development of VSLAs. KFCC will provide continuous technical support for the development of Ugandan financial co-operatives.

### **Celebration of the Iranian Co-operative Day**

Iranian Co-operative Day, an annual celebration of the country's co-operative movement is observed on the 4th of September since 1991 by the Islamic Consultative Assembly. On this date, the Iranian Parliament adopted the Act for regulating the co-operative sector. Co-operatives around Iran celebrate this day in various ways for a week. This year, the co-operatives celebrated by inaugurating the building for the Hormozgan Province Chamber of Co-operatives and holding exhibitions aimed at highlighting capabilities of the co-operative sector.



### **New member - Union of Labour Service Co-operative-ULSC, Philippines**



ICA-AP welcomes its brand-new member, the Union of Labour Service Co-operative (ULSC), from the Philippines. With the inclusion of ULSC, the total number of members of ICA-AP stands at 96 from 30 countries. ULSC was registered with the Co-operative Development Authority (CDA) as a labour service co-operative in 2013 with the mission to be a competent and reliable provider of services for individual, corporate and institutional customers with wide range of services that meet their needs and preferences. As of 2015, it had 48 members consisting of retirees or former employees of Central Azucarera Don Pedro Inc. (CADPI) and private citizens who have shown interest in joining the co-operative.

ULSC is presently engaged in various service contracts with CADPI such as clerical, professional and technical, machine operator, electromechanical, vehicle operation and maintenance, welding and fabrication, janitorial and messengerial, ground maintenance, plumbing and pipe fitting, carpentry and masonry and other utility services. It also provides clerical and billing collection services at Roxas Holdings Inc. in Makati City, Manila and tractor operations services for Roxas Agricultural Development Corporation.

### **Postponement of the Second Forestry Committee Meeting**

The Second Forestry Committee Meeting to be held on October 20, 2017, has been postponed till the next Regional Assembly in Iran in 2018. Tensions have been rising in the Korean Peninsula between North Korea and South Korea and the impact of which are being felt in China, Japan, Russia and the USA. In light of the security situation and concerns expressed by the National Forestry Co-operative Federation in Korea (NFCF), it has been decided to postpone the Committee meeting till the next Regional Assembly of ICA-AP. The exact date and venue of the meeting will be conveyed in due course.

### **Postponement of ‘Re-Work, Re-Imagine, Re-Shape: advancing women CEOs in co-operatives’**

This event was scheduled for December 4-8 in China this year. However, during the same period our office will be participating in a Result Oriented Monitoring review for the ICA-EU partnership project. The event has been postponed, and we will keep you updated on any further developments on the same.

## **AROUND THE WORLD IN COOPS**

### **CICOPA publishes its Second Global Report on ‘Co-operatives and Employment’**



CICOPA, the international organisation of industrial and service co-operatives, published its second global report on [“Co-operatives and Employment”](#). Based on data from 156 countries, the updated estimate shows that employment in or within the scope of co-operatives is at least 279.4 million people across the globe, in other words 9.46% of the world’s employed population.

According to Mr. Bruno Roelants, Secretary General of CICOPA, “*Employment is one of the most important contributions made by co-operatives throughout the world. This report shows that people involved in co-operatives constitute a sufficiently high percentage to be considered as a major actor in the United Nations “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, as well as in the worldwide debate on the “Future of Work” launched by the International Labour Organization.*”

The report also examines co-operatives’ specific contributions to addressing problems related to work and employment in the informal economy:

- People working in the informal economy who join savings and credit co-operatives, mutual insurance co-operatives, multi-purpose co-operatives and consumer co-operatives have an easier access to credit, education and training, affordable goods and services to **meet their basic needs and a certain level of social protection** based on solidarity and mutual help.
- Self-employed producers and entrepreneurs who join shared service co-operatives gain access to various services which help them **to attain economies of scale and a higher bargaining power.**
- For the self-employed workers and freelancers who have considerably increased in number over the last decades, co-operatives could be used by trade unions or member based organisations as a tool to organize them, but could also **provide innovative models which could guarantee both flexibility and protection.**
- Worker co-operatives, which aim at providing decent jobs to their worker-members, can be a **direct solution to the formalization of informal employment.**

However, to fully display the potential contributions of the co-operatives, “a favourable environment and an appropriate legal framework are necessary” and “the co-operative model should be better explained to trade unions, member-based organisations, NGOs and local governments”, concludes the report.

## COMMUNICATIONS WATCH

### Coops Speak with Ms. Adleen Karajah



**#COOPSSPEAK on Twitter!**

**We will speaking with Ms. Adleen Karajah, Executive Director, Palestinian Agricultural Co-operative Union (PACU)!**

**TOPICS-**

**1. Are co-operatives in Palestine working towards the Sustainable Development Goals? If yes, then how?**

**State of co-operatives in Palestine – how are women being involved? In which sectors?**

**How is it to be the head of an organization in the Middle East? Issues and challenges**

**27th Sept. @ 12:30 pm IST**



Taking forward our initiative on social media, Coops Speak, we had with Ms. Adleen Karajah, Executive Director of the Palestinian Agricultural Co-operative Union (PACU) join us on

September 27. She took questions on Palestinian co-operatives' role in SDGs, status of women co-operators in Palestine, as well as the role of youth in the Palestinian co-operative movement. It was an engaging discussion where Ms. Karajah spoke of how she overcame initial resistance to her appointment on the PACU board. She said that women in co-operatives need to be able to speak their mind without hesitation. PACU has also been working towards ensuring gender equality by changing its by-laws to have women on its Board.

PACU is holding workshops in schools to persuade youth to join co-operatives, as the general trend right now for them is to graduate, and move away from their homes to find a suitable job and end up distancing themselves from the co-operatives, which their parents are part of. On the topic of legislations for co-operatives, Ms. Karajah informed us that the law is currently pending approval in the Parliament.

If you wish to read this and our previous conversations on Coops Speak, simply log onto Twitter and search for the hashtag [#CoopsSpeak](https://twitter.com/hashtag/CoopsSpeak).

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### October 2017

- Capacity building and training of ICA-AP staff and members on understanding mechanisms of EU-funding and strategic engagement with EU Delegations; New Delhi, India October 9-12.
- Capacity Building and Co-operative Development Seminar; Ulan Bator, Mongolia; October 25-26.

### November 2017

- Policy Event on Bridging the Gap in Co-operative Law for Youth, Bhutan, November 2017
- 12th ICA-AP Co-operative Research Conference, "Co-operatives: The key solution for Social Innovation"; Seoul, Korea; November 11-12, 2017. Organized with the Department of Management of Co-operatives at the Graduate School in Sungkonghoe University
- Global Workshop on University and Campus Co-operatives; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Nov 13
- ICA Global Conference and General Assembly, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, November 14-17. Some of the sessions covered in the conference are given below
  - Session on Co-op to co-op trade: Taking existing achievements to scale, Nov 15
  - Session on Co-ops for 2030: Models of coop engagement in the SDGs, Nov 15
  - Workshop on Integrating gender equality in to your co-op; workshop lead by Ms. Nandini Azad, Indian Co-operative Network for women (ICNW), India, Nov 15
  - ICAO-CCW Joint session: Building sustainable supply chains, Nov 16
  - Session on practical tips and tools for communicating the co-operative message: Session lead by ANGKASA, Nov 16