



## ACTIVITIES' MAPPING OF ICA-AP

### Training course on 'Fostering Coordinators to build Food Value Chain' in Japan

Organizing farmers and strengthening marketing activities of farmers organisations is essential for ensuring sound development of agriculture and activation of rural economies. The first ICA - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Japan Training Course on "Fostering Coordinators to Build Food Value Chains," was held in Japan from September 13 to October 6 2017. There were eight participants from India, Mongolia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, and Thailand.



Participants of the training in Japan.

The three weeks training course held at Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (hereafter called "IDACA") covered topics such as outline of agriculture in Japan, historical background, organisation and business activities of Japanese agricultural co-operatives, distribution system of vegetables and fruits, marketing and purchasing business of agricultural co-operatives and the role of wholesale market. There were visits to farms and co-operatives to see their value chain activities. The participants were encouraged to share their knowledge through presentation of country reports; emphasis was

put on preparation of individual action plan to be implemented in their respective coops using the learning from the training.

### **Preparing for the ICA-Japan Training Course on Fostering and Improving Management of Agricultural Coops in Africa**

A preparatory meeting for ICA-JAPAN Training Course on “Fostering and Improving Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Africa” was held at the office of the Cooperative College of Malaysia between October 24-26 2017. Mr. Nakashima Toru and Mr. Hiroshi Terunuma from IDACA, Japan, Mr. A.K. Taneja from ICA-AP and Following officers from CCM attended the meeting - Ms. Aishah Binti Ariffin, Senior Director, CCM Central Zone, Ms. Sharina Binti Abdullah, Director, Centre for Policy & International, and Ms. Rahmathbee Zarinatun Binti Mohd. Abdul Kader, Lecturer, Centre of Policy & International. In the meeting, after discussions, tentative subjects were finalised for the training course, keeping in mind the advice from MAFF that "training should be designed with basic subjects on organizing and management of agricultural cooperatives and development of business systems. It will also include the study of some successful cases related to the development of agricultural cooperatives". Dr. Sifa Chiyoge, Regional Director, ICA-Africa, shared her views over Skype about the subjects selected, countries to be invited and arrangements at CCM. We had a round of the facilities at the CCM. The team visited some of the multi-purpose cooperatives near Kuala Lumpur and finalized them for the training course.



At the Maktab Koperasi Cooperative in Malaysia.

## ICA Global Conference in Kuala Lumpur: Session on co-op to co-op trade



As part of the [ICA Global Conference](#) to be held between 14-16 November in Kuala Lumpur, there will be a specific session on trade. Titled *Co-op to co-op trade: Taking existing achievements to scale*, it will take place on November 15 from 11:00-12:30 at Lagoon 1, Level 15 of the Sunway Resort Hotel.

Coop-2-Coop trade is a topic of interest to the Alliance and its members and have long discussed. Yet the achievement of a global facility that could increase the overall share of C2C trade remains elusive. Meanwhile, co-operatives around the world are solidifying their presence on global trade markets using e-commerce platforms and methodologies to achieve scale. What can we learn from these examples for national and regional development? Rather than reinvent the wheel, can we borrow and maximize on achievements and help make these tools reproducible in other parts of the world? This session will present some existing platforms and open a discussion for how these can be re-created in different regions and sectors for increased C2C trade.

The panelists who will share their initiatives are:

- Fabiola Motta, Manager of Institutional Relations, Organization of Brazilian Cooperatives
- Zhang Xiaohong, Division Chief, All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives
- Craig Presland, CEO, Cooperative Business, New Zealand
- Mohamed Es Fih, eSolutions for Business Advisor, International Trade Center
- Shaharuddin Bin Mohammed, CEO, MyAngkasa

There will also be a networking session the same day from 16:00-17:00 at the venue of the Malaysian Cooperative exhibition (MACCOPS). The networking session is to meet and greet fellow co-operators interested in developing business contacts. This is an occasion for informal conversation with other participants that are also interested in trade opportunities among co-operatives. Here, co-operative producers and purchasers from around the world, will have a chance to speak with Malaysian co-operatives about their products for export. Additionally, representatives from co-operatives active in international purchasing and selling will present their experiences. This will be an informal networking moment which will be lightly moderated.

We welcome you all to join the learn and networking session.

## **NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS**

### **Election of a new Chairperson in NATCCO, Philippines**



Mr Efren M. Bravo has been elected as the new Chairperson of the National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO Network), replacing Mr. Adolfo Ibanez. Mr. Bravo is a seasoned leader in the Philippines, having sat in various cooperative organizations as Board of Director and as Chairperson. He became a Board of Director of NATCCO in 2016 and in his second year as Board member, he was elected as the Chairperson. He has also been a Board of Director of MASS-SPECC Cooperative Development, the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest federation and a member of NATCCO, for six years; Board of Director of the Model Cooperative Network for five years. He has been a Board of Director of a primary cooperative Panabo Multi-Purpose Cooperative for nine years, where he served as Chairperson for eight years.

He brings with him his expertise in finance and accounting. A Certified Public Accountant, he is the General Manager of the E.M. Bravo Accounting and Auditing Firm. He has served in various corporations mostly as Comptroller, Finance Manager, Accounting and Finance Manager.

We congratulate Mr. Bravo for his latest achievement, and wish him luck on this new journey.

We would also like to thank Mr. Adolfo Ibanez for his services on the ICA-AP Board.

## **INSPIRATION FROM THE SANASA MOVEMENT**

### **An Exchange Program which led to mutual Development Innovation**

Article written by: **Mr. Yohanes Rumpak, CEO of KELING KUMANG GROUP**

Development Innovation is inevitable this day and age. Keling Kumang Group (KKG), encouraged by a presentation of Dr. Kiriwandeniya in February 2017, decided to undertake an exchange program with SANASA in September 2017 following the Open Forum of the Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU). The decision was triggered by the fact that SANASA has 13 business units under its fold, an innovative way of sustaining its co-operative



development ideology. That augers well for KKG which has also expanded its credit union entity into many other new co-op establishments based on the needs of the real sector in rural West Kalimantan, hence the term Keling Kumang Group. Apart from a few delegates from the Keling Kumang Credit Union who participated in ACCU's Forum, the exchange mission was enriched by young co-operators from KKG, the Millennials, facilitated and led by Robby Tulus.

The group was composed of some older generation such as Michael, Munaldus, Wiratmoko, and Robby himself, whereas others were mainly young leaders including Yohanes, Sopian, Valentinus, Hera, Musa, Adilbertus, Itoi Thomas Aquino, Bonny Bulang, Iwan F Erlianto, and Korintus. Robby, as cofounder and pioneer of the credit union movement in Indonesia, has spearheaded viable "spin-offs" of credit unions into other co-op sectors in Indonesia. As a former Regional Director of ICA for Asia Pacific, Robby also saw the need for a holistic approach to development by building various co-op sectors to fulfil the need of basic communities in rural areas.



Unlike exchange visits that are sponsored from outside, the entire activity was self-financed. KKG, therefore, has its own and inherent obligation to learn substantively from the exchanges. A detailed exposure was given to imbibe SANASA's Insurance and Banking business entities, in addition to visiting SANASA Engineering, SANASA International, the Supply Chain Management Project on micro-finance development, culminating in field visits to primary Thrift and Credit Societies in various parts of Sri Lanka. The latter was quite interesting as thrift and credit societies in Sri Lanka were formed as cohesive people-based organizations in villages of relatively small common bonds, in contrast to Keling Kumang credit union which has over 160,000 members as one primary credit union, but with service-centers all over the province that are formed as cohesive clusters. All in all, both approaches are conducive to maintaining the co-operative ideology in making sure "no one is left behind".

On the Insurance front, a special Seminar was conducted at the SANASA Campus, inasmuch as the Credit Union Central Organization (CUCO) of Indonesia has begun the initial steps towards forming the Indonesian Co-op Insurance company based on the SANASA model introduced by Dr. Kiriwandeniya earlier in 2017. A team from CUCO-Indonesia took an active role in the Seminar, composed of Joko Susilo (Chair), Puspo Cahyo (CEO), Joniono (Secretary of the Board), Stefanus Siagian (Education Manager), and Joko Setiono (Mutual Aid Manager).

KKG recorded important lessons learned which could form a basis for future collaboration with the SANASA Movement:

1. SANASA has a powerful brand, easily recognizable from its color, logo, and tagline. KKG may consider KELING KUMANG as its brand. It's an imminent homework to complete.
2. SANASA has a strong philosophical/ideological underpinning: People first as against Money First. Each of their business units started from a sincere concern of socio-economic conditions of members and their respective communities; KKG has the same focus, and thus needs to further strengthen its outreach to the vulnerable people at grassroots level;
3. The KELINGKUMANG MOVEMENT needs to augment its units by having more business entities; Inasmuch as Co-operatives are people and member-based, co-ops must remain firm as an ideological entity; however, they need to have and run professional and effective businesses entities as their competitive strength against private rivals.
4. The basic idea of "spinning off" towards new co-operative sectors and business entities has already started at KELING KUMANG GROUP (KKG); Lessons learned from SANASA will accelerate the process for members' benefit;
5. Relationship with SANASA through its charismatic Chair (Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya) and other leaders such as Prof. Laksman (Vice Chancellor of SANASA University) will benefit KKG as well, since KKG has already started its Technical High School, an embryo for a future Technical University in Sintang, West Kalimantan.
6. The Exchange Program has opened new horizons for KKG, not just to reaffirm the significance of co-operative values and viable business entities of SANASA, but also its local wisdom by sharing local food in villages and interacting with satisfied members in the rural areas.



In the final analysis, the Exchange Program was indeed inspirational. There are empowerment tools which KKG could emulate to further strengthen its base among vulnerable communities still left behind. Development Innovation is a continuum. SANASA and KKG will hold hands together to ensure their holistic approach to development will be innovative and sustainable, and which hopefully will become one of the models able to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.

### **Introducing Kapiti Biodiesel Cooperative**



The Kapiti Biodiesel Cooperative team

The Kapiti Biodiesel Cooperative is a team of talented people preparing biodiesel from the waste cooking businesses on the Kapiti Coast, New Zealand. They want to change the way



fuel is produced as they care about the planet, their community, and their carbon footprint. These are ambitious targets, but through self-reliance they believe their small-scale biodiesel co-operative can achieve them.

The co-operative is in the process of scaling their project by buying a 500 litres biodiesel mini-tanker as they want to provide more fuel to their members. Their crowdfunding page can be found [here](#). Everyone who pledges over \$20 will get their name printed on their tanker; a way for them to always remember their supporters. An initiative like this definitely warrants support from the co-operative community! Please visit Kapiti Biodiesel's crowdfunding page and support them in reaching their goal.

## ICA-EU PARTNERSHIP ON COOPERATIVES IN DEVELOPMENT

### ICA-AP #Coops4Dev Unit Meets and Greets European Union Delegations & Officials in Three Countries



Meeting with the EUD, Philippines

The ICA-EU Partnership on Co-operatives in Development (People Centered Businesses in Action) is in its second year. One of the key results the 54 months project expects to achieve is an enhanced interaction and engagement of co-operative actors with European Union Delegations (EUDs) in their respective countries and regions. Following our interactions with EUDs in India, Kyrgyz Republic, Nepal and Sri Lanka, the ICA-AP reached out to EUD to the Philippines on 8 September, and to Jordan and Mongolia on 5 October and 25 October respectively. Mr. Xavier Canton-Lamousse, Project Manager (Operations) and Mr. Giovanni Serritella, Programme Manager (Environment and Climate Change) from the EUD to the Philippines met the AP Unit represented by Ms. Anam Mittra and Mr. P. Santosh Kumar along with Mr. Daniel Ang, CEO, Philippine Co-operative Center and Ms. Lasalette Gumban, Project



Officer, NATCCO and discussed the scope and potential of co-operatives in the Philippines, especially in the context of promoting youth participation. Ms. Gumban explained the work of NATCCO and the Aflatoun International in mobilizing students across the country to form co-operatives.

The AP unit also met with Ms. Hala Doudin, Programme Manager (Human Rights, Civil Society and Governance) of the EUD to Jordan along with Mr. Akram Al-Taher, Executive Director, Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine and apprised her team about the sub regional Co-operative Development meeting that was organized in February 2017. The discussions centred around the role co-operatives play in building societies while engaging communities. The need to analyse the country's legal framework affecting co-operatives was identified by the EUD as one of work areas that ICA-AP and its members could focus on. Mr. Marco Ferri, Minister Counsellor (Political Section) EUD to China and Mongolia attended the opening session of the sub-regional co-operative development meeting for East Asian countries on 25 October 2017 in Ulan Bator, Mongolia. Mr. Ferri talked about the EU Consensus on Development as the most important EU instrument for development for the next 15 years and that, the document recognized co-operatives as key actors to deliver positive change in our society, especially in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **East Asian sub-regional co-operative development meeting in Ulan Bator, Mongolia**



Delegates at the co-operative development meeting in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

The Sub-Regional Co-operative Development Meeting (CDM) for East Asia on the theme, Engaging co-operatives in contributing to the UN Agenda 2030 on SDGs, took place from October 25-26 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ulan Bator, Mongolia. The meeting was organised by the ICA-EU Partnership on Co-operatives in Development: People Centered Businesses in Action (#coops4dev on social media), Mongolian National Co-operative Alliance (MNCA), National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Co-operatives (NAMAC), Organization

of Brazilian Co-operatives (OCB), and the Global Communities (GC) run Enabling Market Integration for Rural Group Empowerment (EMIRGE) Program.

This meeting provided a platform for co-operative development actors to network, coordinate, enhance and broaden their work in relation to the SDGs. The emphasis was on four of the seventeen global goals - 1) NO POVERTY; 2) ZERO HUNGER; 3) GOOD HEALTH and WELL BEING and 4) PARTNERSHIPS. The gathering was designed to help participants share knowledge and practices from their experiences of cooperative development and also build their capacities in measuring and reporting on SDGs. The meeting was followed by a field visit to Gobi Cashmere factory & Tsagaan Alt White Gold, a shop selling goods made by co-ops.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Alliance members in Brazil (OCB & Unimed), China (ICCC), Japan (JA-Zenchu, JCCU, JWCU), Korea (iCOOP) & Mongolia (MNCA, NAMAC), Mongolian government ministries, delegation of the European Union to Mongolia, and international development agencies such as the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). The focus areas for the meeting were Agriculture, Health and Partnerships and the meeting approach was four pronged: Inform - Engage - Build - Commit. The format was a mix of presentations, lectures and discussions in working panels. The forum allowed participants to actively contribute and participate during and after the seminar, thus forming knowledge partnerships across sectors.



JCCU showcasing their work with cooperatives and SDGs through a dynamic poster.

## Capacity building training on advocacy towards EUDs in New Delhi

A four-day training on advocacy towards EUDs was organized in New Delhi between October 9-12, at the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI). ICA-AP organized this unique training for its staff, members and partners to enhance their capacities in engaging actively in policy dialogues and understanding the process of applying for development grants from the EUDs. Trained staff and members are expected to further deliver this training to co-operatives and cooperators in their countries and sub regions. The training was delivered by Mr. Stefan Mielke from the Forum for International Development and Partnership (FinEp), Berlin.

Besides helping the participants know the basics of EU-funding possibilities, EuropeAid grant administration and the different budget lines under EU Directorate General Development Cooperation (DG DEVCO - EuropeAid), the training addressed the following fundamental questions: How EUDs work in partner countries and which policies and cooperation agreements exist? How the EU funds projects through calls for proposals and which relevant documents need to be studied? What does an EuropeAid proposal look like and which documents need to be filled in and what information needs to be provided?



Mr. Stefan Mielke during the training.

The training was attended by representatives from SANASA (Sri Lanka), ESDC and PACU (Palestine), NCUI and FISHCOPFED (India), CCS (Myanmar), NACCF and NCF (Nepal), CUK (Kyrgystan), as well as the ICA-AP staff. The intensive training was well-received by the participants, and they each designed an action plan about what they would do to take this knowledge forward.





## Stakeholders from Middle East and Neighbourhood South Converge at the Policy Forum on Development



The first ever Multi-stakeholder meeting of the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) for the Middle East and Neighbourhood South was held on October 3-4 2017 in the Dead Sea region of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Participants represented key development stakeholders from the region such as Local Authorities (LAs), Civil Society Organizations



(CSOs) and Co-operatives, the private sector and officials of the European Commission. The instrument of PFD is the result of a Structured Dialogue that brought together CSOs and LAs from the European Union and partner countries with European Institutions and bodies. The need of a high-level policy dialogue was identified by stakeholders during the consultation process that ran from November 2011 to November 2012. This permanent channel for dialogue about development issues, with the aim of strengthening the European Union's development policy made an important impact in the Middle East and Neighbourhood South (MENS) with a series of working sessions and plenaries providing space for the stakeholders to identify and highlight regional priorities and challenges.

The primary aims of the PFD (MENS) was to first, introduce regional participants to the work and process of the PFD and second, provide a venue to discuss regional concerns as relate to the ongoing work of the PFD. While the goal of this meeting is not to produce a consensus document or joint outcomes from all involved, the messages and conclusions will be fed into the global discussions of the PFD and shared with relevant EU actors. The overall objective was to enhance networking among development actors and get them to know and use the PFD well. The Alliance was represented by member representatives Mr. Akram Al-Taher, Executive Director of [Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine](#) and Mr. Rebhi Baker, Treasurer, [Palestinian Agricultural Co-operative Union](#) and by staff Ms. Georgia Papoutsis (CoopsEurope) and Mr. P. Santosh Kumar (ICA-AP). Some of the key (draft) recommendations of the PFD highlighted the need to work together towards 'permanent dialogue' and 'trust building' among LAs, CSOs; develop instrument to track progress made at PFD; foster democracy and spread the imperative of human rights in the region; invest in youth and defend laws that protect CSO activities; increase awareness on SDGs and reporting processes like the Voluntary National Reviews and ensure collective action & comprehensive approach towards climate change.

### **Co-op Mic 3.0 Tikli and Laxmi Bomb: In conversation with Mr. Aditya Kripalani**

Co-op Mic is our initiative to provide a platform for experts, entrepreneurs and friends of the co-operative movement to help share their ideas, experience and knowledge on strategically relevant themes. The format of Co-op Mic involves an hour long talk on topical issues affecting co-operatives and collectives and includes a brief Q&A session. The talk is streamed live on [Facebook.com/ICAAsiaandPacific/](https://www.facebook.com/ICAAsiaandPacific/) and a short video is prepared for wider dissemination. We have had two guests till now including Dr. Gopi Ghosh and Ms. Ishita Chaudhary.

Co-op Mic 3.0 took place in Jesus and Mary College, New Delhi on October 30th, where our guest was the young and dynamic film-maker Mr. Aditya Kripalani. Originally trained in script-writing, he went onto study at the Film and Television Institute of India. He took the plunge as a Director with a film titled 'Tikli and Laxmi Bomb', based on his own best-selling third novel of the same name. He is also the producer, writer and co-music director of this film along with his wife, Shweta.

The program began with Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, giving a succinct presentation on how co-operatives and the youth are dynamically linked, and how in countries like Korea, Japan, Singapore; university co-ops are already thriving. These university co-ops are also

helping meet some of the SDGs. This was followed by a talk by Aditya Kripalani where he spoke about the inspiration behind writing the book 'Tikli and Laxmi bomb', which has now been converted into a film. The book tells us a fictional story about two sex workers in Mumbai, India who come together and form a co-operative. This co-operative is then joined by other sex workers wherein it develops into a system guaranteeing physical protection and financial safety to these women who work in such dangerous conditions.

Aditya emphasized that the main reason behind him writing the book was to answer the omnipresent question, "If these women do all the work, then why do they have no control over their earnings, working conditions and such?" He also wanted to explore the possibility of women fighting back the oppressive control of men in this line of work. The best solution to him was the creation of a collective, a co-operative, that ensures this for them.



Aditya Kripalani speaking at co-op mic 3.0

This was followed by a Q&A where Mr. Iyer and Aditya took questions from the young audience at the college. They were asked questions on ideas for sustainable university co-operatives, the reasons why women stay in the sex work trade despite the risks, the need for more film makers to take up such bold topics for films, among other issues.

## COOPS SPEAK 4.0 with Ms. Simel Esim



Ms. Simel Esim is a political economist, working in social and economic development for the past 25 years. She has been the Manager of the Cooperatives Unit at the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva since 2012. Between 2004-12, she was a Senior Technical Specialist in the ILO's Regional Office for Arab States. Prior to the ILO, Simel worked in the International Center for Research on Women, Development Alternatives, Inc. and the World Bank in Washington, DC. She holds a BA in political science, an MA in International Economics and Middle East Studies and a Ph.D. in economics with a concentration in development economics.

*Coops Speak 4.0*  
31st October at 1430 IST

Coops Speak has been our endeavour to connect our audience on social media with co-operative experts via Twitter. It's a simple concept, where all you need is a Twitter account and you can log in at the designated time and ask questions to the speaker using the hashtag #CoopsSpeak, as well as tagging the speaker's account. We have hosted front runners from our membership like Melina Morrison, Elenita San Roque and Adleen Karajah. We were fortunate to have Ms. Simel Esim join us for the fourth edition of Coops Speak. Ms. Esim is the Head, Cooperatives Unit at the International Labour Organization in Geneva. She took questions on co-operatives and how they intersect with youth employment as well as ILO's initiative on the 'future of work'.

On the question of how can we effectively reach out to the youth in schools and universities, Ms. Esim said that integrating co-operatives in the school curriculum as well as having co-operative clubs is essential. She mentioned that she was the head of the co-operative student club in school when she was in the first grade! She said that economic and environmental challenges push youth to migrate, and in such scenarios there is a burning need for self-help and solidarity. Coop internships would be a great way of not only imparting learning, but also giving the youth some hands-on experience. Ms. Esim agreed that it's a good idea to have Youth Councils, but we need these innovations to take place on a large scale to really put co-ops on the map.

According to Ms. Esim, ILO's focus on the future of work is not only about adapting to technology and environmental change, but also about creating and sustaining a moral economy. She highlighted that energy/environment and care are two growth sectors for the future of work, which are also labour intensive and create enough scope for employment opportunities for the youth.

As part of her conversation she shared an informative presentation on youth and co-operatives which can be accessed [here](#). We urge you to follow our future Coops Speak chats by searching for the [#coopsspeak](#) hashtag on Twitter.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### November 2017

- Policy Event on Bridging the Gap in Co-operative Law for Youth, Bhutan, November 2017
- 12th ICA-AP Cooperative Research Conference, “Co-operatives: The key solution for Social Innovation”; Seoul, Korea; November 11-12, 2017. Organized with the Department of Management of Cooperatives at the Graduate School in Sungkonghoe University
- Global Workshop on University and Campus Co-operatives; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### December 2017

- ICA-AP seminar on cooperatives and gender equality: Achieving SDG 5, December 12-14, Nepal

### January 2018

- International skills and cooperatives seminar & policy event - at international conference worker cooperatives - Kozhikode; January 31 to February 2, 2018

### February 2018

- ICA-MAFF Training Follow-up visits to India and Lao PDR, February 11 to 13, 2018
- Co-operative Development Meeting & Policy Event, Sri Lanka, Dates (tbc)