



ANNOUNCEMENT

13th Regional Assembly and 10th Co-operative Forum, November 26 to 30, Tehran, Iran



Representative image for the ICA-AP Regional Assembly & Co-operative Forum

The biennial Regional Assembly, represented by all members is the highest authority of the ICA Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP). The Regional Assembly brings together all members once every two years, providing them a platform for discussing issues concerning development and growth of co-operative organisations as well as opportunity for networking and forming alliances for mutual benefit. The first Regional Assembly was held in 1995 and the tradition continues since then. The Regional Assembly encompasses the Cooperative Forum and various events organized by the ICA-AP Regional Committees

The theme for the High Level Political Forum on sustainable development, which oversees the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in 2018 is, **“Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies.”** In line with this, the theme for the 13th Regional Assembly is, **“Co-operatives help Economies become more resilient and sustainable.”** The need to grow the real economy, generate conditions for long-term jobs creation, and increase wealth which combines economic interests with social and environmental concerns is greater than ever before. The co-operative business model with its focus on the economic, social, and environmental development of members and strong democratic principles offers the solution to the main social and economic issues of our times. In the aftermath of the global financial and economic crises, co-operatives have proven their strength and resilience, benefitting members, employees and customers. The co-operative business model can reverse the trend of growing inequality and play a crucial role to construct an economy that performs better for all, based on solidarity.

ICA-AP ACTIVITIES MAPPING

ICA-AP 2017 Annual Activities Report



Cover page of the 2017 Annual Activities Report

We're proud to present the ICA-AP 2017 Annual Activities Report (AAR). The AAR is along the lines of the four aspects - Inform, Engage, Build and Commit - around which we centered our activities. Inform was to let members and stakeholders know about the work being carried out by co-operatives in the region. Engage was to connect co-operatives with governments, donor agencies and civil society and get to know more about country development plans, work of European Union Delegations, donor approaches, and various CSO platforms. Build was to develop capacity of members through trainings, exchanges, seminars and workshops. Commit focused on developing an action plan to take forward the meeting resolutions and declarations. We're thankful to everyone who has been part of the journey this year and to those who have contributed articles for the [Report](#). Happy Reading!

ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting



Members of the ICA-AP Board after the meeting.

The ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting was held in Kathmandu (Nepal) on April 6, 2018 in conjunction with the Second National Co-operative Congress of the National Cooperative movement. The board meeting hosted by the National Cooperative Federation of Nepal (NCFN) was attended by 28 participants, including 12 board members, ICA President, observers and interpreters. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Li Chunsheng, Chairperson of the Regional Board.

Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, Chairman of NCFN, welcomed the members on behalf of the Nepal co-operative movement. In his opening remarks, Mr. Ariel Guarco, President of ICA said “I am delighted to participate, for the first time and as President of ICA, in the board meeting of ICA-AP. The ICA respects and values the full range of our differences as it derives its unity and strength from its diversity. The ICA attaches importance on the complementarities and synergies with all its regions and sectors. ICA’s vision together with its bottom-up approach are closely linked to its role and influence in the world and to the Statement of Co-operative Identity”.



Mr. Ariel Guarco, President of ICA, addresses the ICA-AP Board.

The items discussed at the meeting were: ICA-AP Activities report for the period, October 2017 to February 2018; January to December 2017 financial report; revised activity plan for 2018; membership situation (ICA-AP membership is 100 organizations from 32 countries); updates from the ICA-EU project, Women and Youth committees; and 13th ICA-AP Regional Assembly and Asia-Pacific Cooperative Forum to be held in Tehran (Iran) from November 26-30, 2018.

The next board meeting will be held in Tehran (Iran) on November 26, 2018 in conjunction with the ICA-AP Regional Assembly.

ICA-EU PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ON CO-OPERATIVES IN DEVELOPMENT: PEOPLE CENTRED BUSINESSES IN ACTION



In March 2016, the ICA and the European Union signed a Framework Partnership Agreement (Europe Aid/150-053/C/ACT/Multi) to implement a multi-year and multi-country development programme aimed at benefitting and advancing co-operatives worldwide. The Partnership is officially titled "Co-operatives in Development: People Centred Businesses in Action", translated into the social media hashtag #Coops4Dev (cooperatives for development). The Partnership has 8 Result Areas and 33 Activity Streams for delivery by 5 units, one housed in each regional office and one at the coordination level in Brussels. The AP unit has identified three strategic development priorities namely, participation of Co-operatives in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Youth Inclusion in Co-operatives, and Exploring Work and Ownership Structures in Co-operatives. The ICA-AP implements the programme in collaboration with Alliance members and in partnerships with other stakeholders such as governments, international development agencies, private sector and NGOs in the region. You may read more about the Partnership [here](#).

ICA-AP & ACFSMC Regional Workshop on “Re- Work, Re- Imagine and Re- Shape: Advancing Women CEOs in Co-operatives”

Time will not solve the gender leadership gap; action will

Women have made significant progress in graduation rates in the field of business administration and law; natural sciences, mathematics and statistics, health and welfare (though the numbers need to improve in engineering, manufacturing and construction) and the gender gap in participation between men and women in the workforce is narrowing, even though participation in the workforce for women is 49.6% compared to men at 76.1%. But, when it comes to leadership, the numbers are stark. According to the 2016 Grant Thornton Report, women held under a quarter (24%) of senior roles across the world in 2016—an increase of only 3% from 2011; one-third (33%) of global businesses had no women in senior management roles, a number which has not changed since 2011. Across the spectrum of literature, there is overwhelming evidence of a large presence of women getting ‘stuck’ at the middle management level, with no means or support to move higher up.

The 2015 ICA Study, *Advancing gender equality: The Co-operative Way* showed that within the co-operative movement, there has been a growing attention to gender issues, a progression of women into leadership roles, albeit slow, and an increase in the number of women-owned co-operatives. However, even in co-operatives, the asymmetry in leadership position between men and women exists. Women comprise over 50% of membership and over 50% of the clientele. Almost 75% of survey respondents stated that among the co-operatives with which they are most familiar, women comprise less than 50% of the co-operative board. A quarter of those same respondents reported that women occupy less than 10% of the board. As these figures suggest, women are among the most involved in and served by co-operative organizations, but among the least likely to hold high-ranking and decision-making roles.

Since co-operatives are exposed to serious competition from the open market and specialized private businesses, it is time to be professional in approach and delivery. Keeping in view the market demand, many co-operatives are hiring qualified CEOs to run the businesses. Moreover, there are a number of women working in senior and middle managerial levels in many co-operatives and a pool of qualified talent is already available. Women CEOs in co-operatives have already proved their mantle.

The quest towards achieving gender equality in decision making in co-operatives begins by looking within. This is ICA-AP’s first attempt to look for ‘Women CEOs’ in the region and find out about their journey to the ‘top job’, to contemplate on why they are almost invisible, what are the challenges and opportunities, and what can be done to tackle the issues.

The Workshop was jointly held by the ICA-AP Committee on Women, ICA-EU Partnership on Co-operatives in Development and the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC) from April 17 to 19, 2018 in Renaissance Guiyang Hotel, Guiyang, Guizhou Province, China.



Participants of the workshop at the Opening Ceremony.

Over the two days of the Workshop, there were three panel discussions on the themes - *The case of the missing women Chief Executives: Breaking down the current scenario of the gender gap in executive leadership of Co-operatives; Gender equality at top management of cooperatives: Women CEOs-seen and heard; and Data leads the way: Strengthening data collection and analysis on the status of female executive leadership in Co-operatives.*

The panel discussions were enriching and in useful in providing perspective not only from the point of the CEOs, but also from other participants who spoke about their understanding of the issue, how it affects the female employees in their organizations, and what they have done till to tackle it. Panel One helped establish the context and the current scenario of the gender gap at the executive level of co-operatives. Panel Two gave the female CEOs an opportunity to not only talk about their stints as CEOs, but also their personal journey till the point of being appointed CEO. Panel Three was a continuation of efforts at mainstreaming collection of gender-disaggregated data, which would assist in formulating policies to bring more women to the top from the mid and low-levels of management in co-operatives.



(L-R) Mr. Balu Iyer, Ms. Karuna de Silva, Ms. Elenita Sanroque & Ms. Dolly Goh during Panel 2.

Day 2 saw group discussion to formulate action points for members and ICA-AP, to further women CEOs in co-operatives. The participants were divided into two groups and after brainstorming, gave the following recommendations. Formulate gender equality policies (including HR policies) in co-

operatives to create a diverse and balanced work environment, and to support and actively promote advancement of women across the co-operative ladder. Ongoing and regular collection of data to take stock of the status of executive leadership of women among ICA member; disseminate successful case studies of co-operatives led by women; and create an online portal which will have multiple purposes including uploading HR policies, capacity-building modules on leadership, and space for co-operators to speak with women CEOs for guidance.

Kozhikode welcomes International Conference on Co-operatives in the Changing World of Work

More than 200 delegates met in Kozhikode, India for the International Conference on Co-operatives in the Changing World of Work (29 Apr - 1 May 2018). Over three days, academicians, researchers, policy-makers and co-operators from across the world examined how co-operatives are evolving in the changing world of work.

Delegates were welcomed at the event by Dr. Kulbhushan Balooni, Director at Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, India. "I am honoured that our institute has been selected as the host for this renowned conference. Having so many leaders from over ten countries is something we are very proud of. We can learn from each other", said Dr. Kulbhushan Balooni.



(L-R) Dr. Balooni, Dr. Isaac, Mr. Iyer and Ms. Esim at the inaugural ceremony of the Conference.

Dr. Thomas Isaac, Minister of Finance, Government of Kerala, shared with the audience: "We can never say enough about how much the movement contributed to a better world of work. In fact, the co-operative movement has always been destined to remain a modern movement, always at the forefront of promising social and economic innovations and bringing positive changes in communities and societies across the world of work."

The global event features key speakers Dr. Simel Esim, Head of the ILO Co-operatives Unit in Geneva and Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director at International Co-operative Alliance (Asia-Pacific) who gave a global outlook on economic, social, and environmental changes in the world of work, with a focus on the labour co-operative movement in India. Lead organiser Uralungal Labour Contractor's Co-operative Society Ltd. was represented by chairman Mr. Rameshan Paleri who discussed the contributions of labourers in creating their 93-year old legacy and successful diversification of the co-operative in recent times.

On April 30, the conference was opened by Ms. Reema Nanavaty, an Indian social worker, known for her humanitarian services as the head of Self-Employed Women's Association of India.

"The Global Commission on Future of Work of the International Labour Organisation, will be bringing out a very strategic and action oriented report on the Future of Work that aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals as ILO's centenary celebration", said Ms. Nanavaty who is a member of the Global Commission on the Future of Work.

Mr. Rangan Dutta IAS (Retd.) gave a speech on the Blueprint to Maximize Employment Generation, he shared with the audience: "New employment policy blueprint will be shaped by economic, social and labour policy interventions and is expected to incentivise employers to create more jobs, introduce economic reforms appealing to companies, along with supporting the medium and small scale industries"

Dr. Mridul Eapen, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum stated that the world of work is changing, posing significant implications especially for women who have been disadvantaged not only in terms of percentages coming out for work, but also in terms of being largely crowded at the bottom of the labour hierarchy.



Dr. Esim, Cooperative Unit Head, ILO, during her speech at the Conference.

Delegates were welcomed to the last day of the conference with opening remarks by Prof. Trebor Scholz, New School, United States. "Beyond following the shift of labor markets to the Internet, this is also about data ownership and the prospects of meaningful interoperability between co-operatives. There are 100 million co-ops with roughly 1 billion members worldwide. Combining the ICA principles with the opportunities of digital technologies opens the door to new business models and will attract new generations to the idea of cooperativism", said Prof. Trebor Scholz.

Dr. Yashvantha Dongre of the Third Sector Research Resource Centre, University of Mysore, shared with the audience: "Co-operatives need not – and must not – abandon the definition of voting membership; but unless they remain open to the new possibilities for participation and engagement and are willing to innovate, they might miss out on opportunities to inspire and involve a new generation of members."

Please click on the link here to read the Common Minimum Understanding of the participants of the Conference to enhance the role of co-operatives and collectives, in meeting the challenges of the changing world of work, and in addressing the mega drivers of Future of Work viz. technology, demography, climate change and economic globalization. This link also contains thematic reflections

made by some of the prominent speakers at the Conference which have contributed to the ILO Inception Report on the Future of Work. For photographs and presentations from the Conference please visit www.worldofwork.coop.

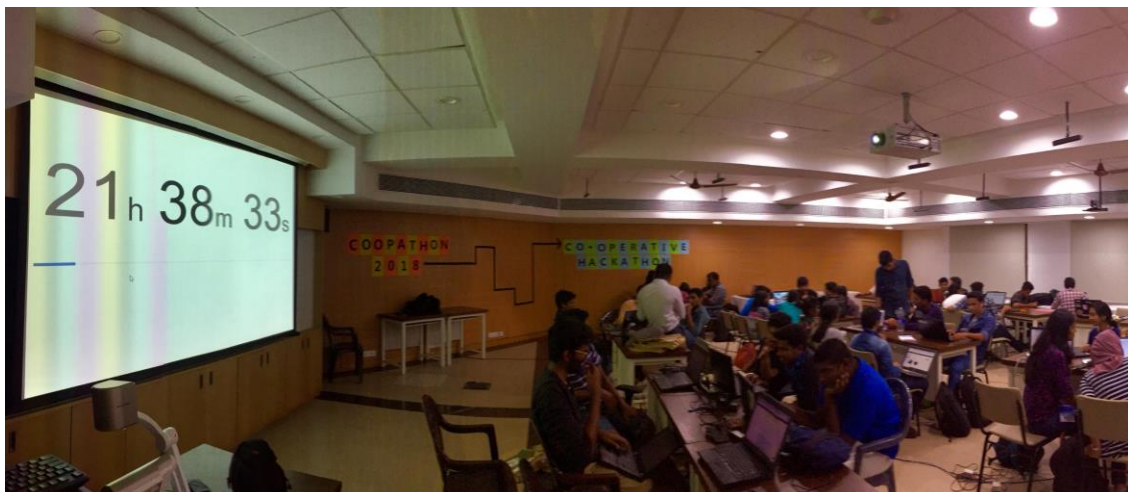
Additionally the International Cooperative Alliance has welcomed ILO's Centenary Initiative with its focus on the Future of Work, and, within this context, the establishment of the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work. On April 30, the cooperative movement has presented a position paper on the Global Commission's Inception Report, called Cooperatives and the Future of Work, showing the relevance of cooperatives in work and employment, and has proposed policy recommendations aimed at promoting cooperatives' contributions to the future of work. The position paper can be read [here](#).

ICA-AP hosts India's first ever Coopathon!

Alongside the International Conference on Co-operatives in the Changing World of Work , India's first ever coopathon was organized on the first two days of the conference with support from the ICA-EU Partnership, IIM Kozhikode, Kerala Startup Mission and UL Technology Solutions, to promote the involvement of youth and technology in co-operatives. Over 20 teams were competing for cash prizes upto 60,000 and a chance to be mentored by some of the best incubators in the region.

Mr. Jithin Chakkalakkal from ULTS began the Coopathon by explaining about the concept. He said that over the course of the 48-hour-long event 24 participants from across the region will work on addressing the challenges faced by the regional cooperative movement. The aim of the Coopathon was to have four multi-stakeholder teams of up to five members each (academicians, researchers, policy-experts, co-operators, incubators, technology enthusiasts etc. on each team) deliberating on the shortlisted problem statements.

Contestants sat in groups which were assigned mentors and discussed the statement of the problems. Two parallel tracks, one with 8 teams and the other with 16 teams had an intensive discussion with experts from the field. The participants were seriously engaged with their statement of problems and the mentors helped them move forward by clearing their queries on the spot.



Counting down to the end of the Coopathon.

The winning ideas were a smart shoe designed to track employees for attendance management, artificial intelligence for environment detection to empower people with visual disabilities and a co-operative Uber model application for improved access to basic services. You can watch a brief

snapshot of the proceedings of the Coopathon in this [video](#), made by teams of Kerala Start-Up Mission and ULTS.

Bilateral Meetings to promote co-operative development in ASEAN



As part of enhancing the engagement and deepening multilateral collaborations in the ASEAN region, and in anticipation of collaboration for upcoming co-operative development events in the region, ICA-AP met the ASEAN secretariat and the EU Delegation to ASEAN states (Jakarta) in March this year. The meetings were organized right after the Asia Pacific Co-operative Development Conference on building Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships on Sustainable Development in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Drs. Robby Tulus, Former ICA-AP Regional Director (1996-2001) led the meetings on behalf of the ICA-AP.

Drs. Tulus visited the ASEAN Secretariat with Suroto Ph, a former youth cooperativist and currently Chairperson of the National Association of Socio-Economic Cadres and the Institute for Indonesian Co-operative Development Studies (LSP2i) who represented Ms. Eva Sundari (Member of Indonesian Parliament). Ms. Sundari has been a key advocate for co-operative development in the country. The delegation met with Dr. Pham Quang Minh, Assistant Director and Head of the Agriculture and Forestry Division, Sectoral Development Directorate along with Mr. Joseph Arbiol, Senior Officer of the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Division, and Mr. Hiroaki Kinoshita, the counterpart of Institute for Development of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia, in Indonesia. Dr. Minh explained the role and functions of the Sectoral Development Directorate, that deals with Transport, ICT & Tourism, Energy and Minerals, and sectors like Food, Agriculture, Forestry, Science and Technology, under the directorship of Mr. Tran Dong Phuong.

ASEDAC (ASEAN Centre for the Development of Agricultural Co-operatives) has been the key conduit for Agricultural Co-operatives' engagement with the Secretariat since they are considered as part of the "ASEAN Centres & Facilities". ACEDAC members are government representatives from various ministries in ASEAN countries in charge of co-operative development. ICA Asia and Pacific had had important interventions at the ACEDAC in the past with participation of former Regional Directors Drs. Tulus and Mr. G.K. Sharma (1986-1996). Dr. Minh explained that most activities in the field of food, agriculture and forestry, are coordinated with line ministries, and there were only few activities in which the Ministry of Co-operatives (particularly in Indonesia) was directly involved. Of the key instruments and funds, ASEAN Cooperation Projects that contribute to the achievements of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, and the Blueprint of 2025 along with the availability of funds from the ASEAN Development Fund (ADF) were highlighted as key.

Drs. Tulus accompanied a group of ICA AP stakeholders in Indonesia to the office of the EU Delegation to ASEAN, on Friday, 9th March 2018. The group consisted of Prof Burhanuddin Abdullah and Mrs Anita (IKOPIN), Mr. Ilham Nasai and Mr. Wibisono (DEKOPIN) and Mr. Suroto Ph (INKUR). With the absence of the Ambassador, Francisco Fontan, the EU Delegation to ASEAN was represented by Mr. Daniele de Bernardi, Program Manager (Environment, Climate Change, Forestry) of the Cooperation section. The ICA-AP delegation apprised the EUD on the ICA-EU partnership agreement with the European Union through the DG Devco and sought cooperation for the co-operative sector. Mr. Bernadi stated that through thematic and regional cooperation programmes, the EU planned to

continue to concentrate its support on Indonesia's priority sectors including higher education, health, trade, green infrastructure, green growth, climate change and forestry, and added that the South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and civil society support, will continue. ICA-AP informed the delegation of its intention to organize a Capacity Building seminar aimed to enhance EU advocacy and project proposal writing for ASEAN co-operatives in July this year. Mr. Bernardi welcomed the idea and stated that the EUD will be happy to send a representative to participate. The visit proved to be fruitful to develop first contact and introductions to build on for a developed relationship among co-operatives, the EU and the ASEAN Secretariat.

Pledge your co-operative on the coops for 2030 website!

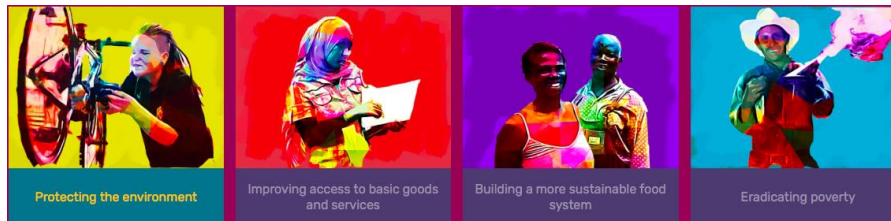


Image from www.coopsfor2030.coop

In September 2015, UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which comprises seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that aim to take forward the work begun in 2000 by the Millennium Development Goals. This ambitious agenda sets a course to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all by 2030.

[Co-ops for 2030](#) is a campaign for cooperatives to learn more about the SDGs, commit to pledges to contribute to achieving the SDGs (often through initiatives that are already in place) and report their progress. The Agenda explicitly recognises co-operative enterprises as important players within the private sector to achieve the SDGs, creating an opportunity for co-operatives to position themselves as partners with global, national, regional and local institutions to achieve sustainable development.

ICA has identified the targets within the 17 SDGs of *most relevance* to co-operatives. The identified targets are grouped into three main action areas: eradicating poverty, improving access to basic goods and services and protecting the environment. Co-operatives active in the food and agriculture sector have a designated space to explore their impact, thanks to the support of the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#). Within each action areas are the relevant targets, suggested pledges for co-operatives to make to achieve those targets and suggested indicators for co-operatives to track their progress.

Want to pledge? Simply click the *Pledge my co-op* button displayed on every page and complete the online form. A member of the ICA team will review and confirm your pledge within three business days.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

China E Co-op Signs MOU with Korean Nonghyup Hanaro Mart



Signing of the MoU.

China E Co-op, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ACFSMC operating China's leading agribusiness online platform (www.gxyj.com) and the Korean Nonghyup Hanaro Mart signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation on cross-border trade and services. Sinotrans Tianjin, a subsidiary of Sinotrans Limited, joined the partnership as the sole logistics service provider.

The MoU was signed by high-level executives of Beijing Agriculture-centered Network Technology Co., Ltd., Nonghyup Hanaro Mart and Sinotrans Tianjin in Beijing on March 15. With the signing of the document, ACFSMC and Nonghyup cooperation on cross-border trade and services has entered a new stage, an ACFSMC senior representative said in the opening.

Under the MOU, Beijing Agriculture-centered Network Technology Co., Ltd. was appointed as the sole (all-channel) selling agent of Hanaro's own brand within China. Hanaro Mart will also support the establishment of "South Korea Pavilion" at the online platform for product promotion and transactions. In December 2017, ACFSMC signed an MoU with National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF, known as Nonghyup) on extensive cooperation in the areas of finance, trade, investment, training, e-commerce etc.

The MoU between China E Co-op and Nonghyup Hanaro Mart will help consolidate bilateral exchanges, cooperation and coordination, promote agricultural and rural development and enhance the farmers' wellbeing in the two countries, an Hanaro executive stated.



Senior representatives of ACFSMC and NACF attended the signing ceremony.

The Ministry of Strategy and Finance, Korea announces the 3rd national survey on co-operatives

On February 13, the Ministry of Strategy and Finance (MOSF) announced the results of the 3rd national survey on co-operatives. This survey has been conducted every two years since 2013.

This co-operative survey was carried out in two phases to a total of 10,615 registered co-operatives as of the end of 2016 including 9,954 general co-operatives, 604 social co-operatives, and 57 associations. This is an increase of 4,380 co-operatives from the second survey that was carried out on the basis of co-operatives as of end of 2014. Industry, wholesale and retail sector accounted for 23.6%, education service industry 13.7%, agriculture and forestry 10.3%, manufacturing 8.7%, and arts and sports 8.6%.

The total number of members was 313,000, and the average number of them was 61.6, which was 14.8 more than the second survey (46.8 members). The total number of workers was 6.9 million, and the average number of workers was 13.5, which was 5.3 more than the second one (8.2 workers). In particular, the percentage of the employment of the vulnerable social group increased among total workers from 20.2% in the second survey to 34.7% in the third survey. The average monthly work salary based on 34 working hours per week was KRW147,000 for regular workers and KRW920,000 for irregular workers. (In Korea, the average monthly salary is KRW18.6 million based on 174 hours of legal working hours per month.)



Image credit: Alex Pearce

The co-operatives' total incomes were KRW 1.48 trillion (average KRW 290 million per co-op) increased by more than twice as compared to the second survey of KRW 691.6 billion (average KRW 230 million); the total turnover reached KRW 1.387 trillion (average KRW 270 million) from KRW 622.1 billion (average of KRW 210 million). The average assets were KRW 140.2 million up from KRW 56.3 million while sales increased from KRW 210.39 million to KRW 272.7 million. The total revenue rose from KRW 233.99 million to KRW 290.9 million. However, according to the MOSF, due to the nature of co-operatives, the net profit decreased from KRW 19.35 million to KRW 3.73 million since co-operatives value the interests of members rather than the maximization of profits. For example, wholesale co-operative purchase at a higher price from their members or workers' co-operatives cover the higher share of wages and education expenses. Also, an increase in financial costs due to scaling businesses can be one of the reasons.

The financials depended mainly on internal methods such as increasing the contribution of members (42.3%) and loans from board members (39.6%) and from financial institutions (21.1%) The reasons that financial institutions rank the third place were the burden of loan collateral (24%), excessive documentation (16.7%), and submission of financial performance (16.1%).

Of the 9,547 co-operatives registered, 53.4% run businesses, slightly lower than the second survey (54.6%) as 4,447 co-operatives have not operated: 2,994 of them stopped their businesses and 1,453 were closed. The reasons for the suspension and closure of business were lack of profit models, lack of funds for business operation, and disagreement among members.

Based on the results of the surveys, MOSF stated that co-operatives have scaled up over the five years since the enactment of the Framework Act on Cooperatives in 2012, and that they have put efforts to create jobs, contribute to communities, and hire the vulnerable social group. However, the public still has low awareness of co-operatives. Also, MOSF pointed out the challenges of harder access to financial services, professional training, and market development. Based on the results, it plans to set up a tailor-made policy for each steps of co-operatives' growth from establishment to business development and scale-up so that co-operatives can grow into a central axis of the social economy.

NEW MEMBER UPDATE

Jordan Co-operative Corporation (JCC), Jordan



The Jordan Co-operative Corporation (JCC) is an independent organisation formed by the government which supervises the co-operative sector (societies and unions) and works to raise the economic, social, cultural and local communities. They promote self-reliance to achieve the social and economic benefits of co-operatives. Established in 1959, JCC joined ICA in April 2018 and has a membership of 1605 co-operatives.

Rah-e-Roshd Cooperative Educational Complex (CRC), Iran



In 1983, Rah-e-Roshd educational complex started its activities as a kindergarten. It was co-founded by teachers, most women. Ten years later, they converted to a teacher's co-operative as it would serve their ideals better. Their members have expanded to parents who admired the learning approaches of the school and the difficulties the teachers had been through. Some university professors with ideas in learning methods became members later. They have 2,000 students, 620 employees (140 are members) and recently united all related educational co-ops into an alliance.

With the addition of JCC and CRC, the total membership of ICA-AP now stands at 101 members from 32 countries!

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2018

- ICA-AP/NACF Joint Workshop on Agricultural Co-operative System in Korea, May 14 to 19, 2018

June 2018

- ICA-AP Capacity-building Workshop on Sustainable Development Partnerships of Credit and Banking Cooperatives, KFCC Headquarters in Seoul and Jeju Training Center, June 18-23

July 2018

- Forum on Development of Co-operatives in Pacific Islands, Port Villa, Republic of Vanuatu, July 4-7
- EU ASEAN Training Seminar on Multilateral Advocacy, Jakarta, Indonesia, July 24-27

August 2018

- 2nd ICA-AP Co-operative Youth Summit, Pinamungajan, Cebu, The Philippines, August 18-21.

September 2018

- Implementation of next steps for Co-operative Development in Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, September 10-14.

November 2018

- 13th ICA-AP Regional Assembly and 10th Co-operative Forum, Tehran, Iran; November 26-30. Theme: Co-operatives Help Economies Become More Resilient and Sustainable.