



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Launch of the website for the ICA-AP Regional Assembly and Co-operative Forum!



We are pleased to announce the launch of the website for our 13th Regional Assembly and 10th Co-operative Forum, to be held in Tehran, Iran from November 26 to 30, 2018. Please visit the website at www.regionalassembly.coop to get information related to the events to and register for the Regional Assembly (September 30, 2018). For any queries regarding the Regional Assembly, Co-operative Forum or any other aspect related to the Assembly, please write to regionalassembly@icaap.coop. We look forward to hearing from you!

International Day of Cooperatives 2018



In 2018, the International Day of Cooperatives is on the **7th of July**. With "[sustainable consumption and production of goods and services](#)" as the theme in mind, cooperators selected the 2018 International Day of Cooperatives (#CoopsDay) slogan: [Sustainable societies through cooperation](#). Both reflect the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal number 12 which is 'Responsible Consumption and Production'. Sustainable societies are ones that reflect the environmental, social and economic limits to growth.

Cooperatives with their values, principles and governance structures have sustainability at their core and are different from other economic models in that they do not exploit the planet's limits. The International Co-operative Alliance has created a [Cooperators' guide](#) to help you promote #coopsday around! We have prepared 'ready to post' messages for social media. The [#coopsday](#) logo is available for you in different languages and formats. The [statement](#) has been published for you to share its messaging and we are proposing cooperators divers actions to promote #coopsday. Just find the one that suits you and let us know if we can be of any help!

ICA-AP ACTIVITIES MAPPING

ICA-AP-NACF Joint Workshop on Co-operative Systems in Korea

The ICA-AP NACF Joint workshop on Co-operative Systems was held in Seoul, Korea from May 15 to 18. Since 2002, this workshop has been held to help the development of agricultural co-operatives in developing countries. This year, 12 delegates representing nine organizations from India, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, participated in the workshop. On the first day, the Welcome Address was given by M. Heo Sik, the Vice Chairman of NACF, which was followed by presentations about the history, business areas, and introductions of each NACF business. This session was then followed by country reports by the participating countries.



During the intensive field visits by workshop participants.

From the second day, participants visited facilities run either by member co-operatives or NACF. The first visit was to RPC (Rice Processing Complex), a factory for drying, storing, processing and packing rice after harvest. The 151 RPCs in Korea help to reduce the production cost and produce high quality rice. This was followed by a visit to a Local Food store run by member co-op, Ilsan Nonghyup. It is a small-scale store in which farmers can sell their agricultural produce and which they determine price, decide on display, and control stocks. For all the services, farmers pay 2-3% of their sales. The concept is to connect food producers and consumers in the same geographic region and is emerging as a new

marketing channel for small-scale farmers. The group then proceeded to Goyang Hanaro Mart, which is one of the largest hypermarkets in Korea. The delegates were interested in the unique operating system where NACF has the right to run most of the assets owned by Goyang city and gives back 30% of the net profit. The annual sales last year was USD 250 million.

On the third day, the participants visited the Anseong Agricultural Product Distribution Center, which is the biggest agricultural logistics center in Korea. It has, not only distribution and storage functions, but also offers packaging and processing services. Member co-operatives have their own facilities with similar functions which are called APCs (Agricultural Product Processing Centers), usually on the production site. Anseong center distributes the goods that each APC gathers on a large scale. The group then visited Nonghyup Seed, which is a branch office of NACF dealing with vegetable seeds and seedlings. It is as old as NACF itself and was set up to stabilize the seed prices, develop high performance seeds and protect the seed sovereignty. Lastly, they went to the Central Agricultural Equipment Distribution Center, which was opened in April 2018. It plays the role of supplying farming materials and equipment to member co-operatives. Its major advantage is that co-operatives can lower down the price of the materials by ordering them in bulk and supplying them on time. The workshop tours concluded with a visit to Seoul city.

The situation each country or co-operative faces may be different; through this workshop the delegates had the opportunity to learn from the experience of NACF. After all, co-operatives are working to help farmers live in a better environment where they can farm happily without any worries!

Report on 'Cooperation and Progress: Examining the Co-operative Movement in India'



Cover Page of the Report.

ICA-AP hosted three students from the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada) in December 2017 to work on various research streams as part of their Masters in Public Policy & Global Affairs programme. The students conducted research in the areas of Self Reliant Co-operatives (Ms. Lauren, Bangalore), Financial Co-operatives (Mr. Bo, Hyderabad), and Worker Co-operatives (Mr. Reagan, Kozhikode).

These streams were identified considering their relevance and importance in the context of co-operative development in India and strategic priorities of the ongoing ICA-EU research. The findings

from the research are expected to contribute to our ongoing research on legal framework analysis and work & ownership in co-operatives. The final report titled 'Cooperation and Progress: Examining the Co-operative Movement in India' can be read here.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

48th Annual General Assembly Meeting and National Convention

VICTO National celebrated its 48th Annual General Assembly Meeting and National Convention from May 19 to 20, 2018 at Baguio City, the Philippines, on the Theme "Co-operatives: Putting Members at the Center of Development". The annual gathering brings together the 283 primary co-operative member affiliates from across the country. This year's event was attended by 840 delegates including co-operative leaders, VICTO National officers, staff, federation partners and invited guests and resource speakers.

Mr. Ponciano Payuyo, Chairperson, Philippine Co-operative Center (PCC) in his solidarity message. His message spoke about the importance of cooperation and the need for the co-operative sector to fight against the tax being imposed on co-operatives. He laid out the thrust and direction of PCC as the apex serving to unify the Philippines co-operative sector. Mr. Jost Detablan, the COO of VICTO National gave an update on the premium events for the year. Mr. Audie Joseph "Dudz" Samson presented the proposed program for the upcoming International Youth Summit and the World Development Educators Seminar (World DE), and invited co-operative leaders to send their participants to these events.



With the participants at the 48th Annual VICTO General Assembly.

The Keynote Speaker, Honorable Congressman Rico B. Geron, was introduced as a true blood co-operator, a champion co-operative legislator, an educator, and an advocate of co-operatives! His speech emphasized the importance of managing the co-operative business operations in an effective and efficient manner. He encouraged the delegates to be actively involved in the affairs of the co-operative at the local and national levels and in lobbying for co-operative legislation.

Plenary and breakout sessions

Mr. Sungjoon Kang spoke about the consumer co-operative best practices and co-operative product branding using the example of the Japan Consumers Co-operative Union (JCCU). Mr. Justin Daniel T. Arcenas, talked about online business opportunities for co-operatives, a business platform for government documents, online pay bills and inter co-operative money fund transfer.

There were simultaneous breakout sessions for the Gender and Youth Congresses, where the Gender and Youth Board representative to VICTO National Board facilitated the sessions. Each group presented their accomplishment report, annual plans and development agendas. The major highlights were election of representatives to the gender and youth boards and passing resolutions to be presented and approved during the business meeting on the following day.

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



International
Co-operative
Alliance



Co-funded
by the
European Union

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](#).

Report of the ICA-AP & ACFSMC Regional Workshop on 'Re-Work, Re-Imagine and Re-Shape: Advancing Women CEOs in Co-operatives'

We are pleased to share the [Report](#) from the ICA-AP & ACFSMC Regional Workshop on Advancing Women CEOs in Co-operatives, held in Guiyang, China from April 17-19, 2018. The Workshop was attended by women CEOs, Deputy CEOs and Senior Managers from 9 countries (Australia, China, India, Iran, Nepal, Palestine, the Philippines, and Singapore). The report presents the action points coming out of the presentations and group discussions. The presentations from the Workshop can be viewed by clicking [here](#), and the photographs can be viewed [here](#). We look forward to receiving your inputs on the report. Happy Reading!



(L-R) Ms. Chow Fong Leng, Mr. Tim Zachernuk, Ms. Alexandra Hordern, Dr. Nandini Azad, Ms. Meena Pokhrel & Ms. Chitra Kumari Subba during Panel 3

Pacific Forum on Development of Co-operatives

The ICA-AP Forum on Development of Co-operatives in the Pacific Islands [The Pacific Forum] is being organized on July 5 & 6, 2018 at Hotel Holiday Inn, Port Vila, Republic of Vanuatu. The Forum is an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas and knowledge on development of co-operatives and to integrate co-operatives and representative organizations in the Pacific region. The Forum will also mark the 2018 International Day of Co-operatives (#CoopsDay2018) on July 7, 2018 with local co-operators in Vanuatu. *Sustainable societies through cooperation* is the ICA slogan for #CoopsDay2018 and will complement the exposition of products produced by co-operatives in Vanuatu. The Forum is being organized in partnership with Alliance member Office of the Registrar of Co-operatives and Business Development Services (ORCBDS), Government of the Republic of Vanuatu, and the ICA-EU Partnership on Co-operatives in Development: People Centered Businesses in Action.

Why a Forum for development of co-operatives?

The ICA has a strong network of co-operatives across the globe and continues to grow its network of co-operatives and government departments in charge of co-operatives. These actors play a crucial role in local co-operative development through member services, technical assistance, research & support on data, political representation and advocacy work. While several movements in the Asia Pacific region have had a long history of strong institutions and federations, a few other countries particularly in sub-regional groupings like Central Asia, Pacific Islands and to an extent Middle East, are faced with diverse challenges for varied reasons, in the development of co-operatives and co-operative institutions.

The Forum is to mark the development intervention of ICA-AP, in form of an exploratory & engagement mission for development of co-operatives and co-operative institutions (ORCs, federations, universities etc.) in the Pacific Islands states. The Pacific Forum will employ a two-pronged approach namely **INFORM** and **BUILD** aimed to enhance knowledge sharing & regional integration among co-operative movements in the Pacific, and to concur on steps needed to enhance the technical, institutional and advocacy capacity of organizations representing Pacific co-operatives.

In 2017, the ICA-AP organized a similar Forum in Central Asia at Bishkek & marked the #CoopsDay2017 at Issyk Kul Organic Co-operatives, Kyrgyz Republic. The intervention witnessed the participation of development stakeholders from Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Switzerland, Afghanistan and India, and with the successful application of the Co-operative Union of Kyrgyzstan as a member of the ICA in 2018, and with follow up seminar and advocacy slated for September 2018.

The Pacific Forum is structured into thematic sessions, group discussions and key speeches. The first session is dedicated to understanding the status of co-operatives in the Pacific in terms of opportunities, issues & challenges, followed by a group session on synthesizing the main needs and challenges for development of co-operatives in the region. This will be followed by a detailed orientation by co-operative leaders from the ICA umbrella in order to share and present a strategic direction for the region in business development and awareness on co-operatives. The space for development cooperation is helmed in many cases by international development agencies and to recognize this important role and potential partnerships, agencies like ILO, UNDP and the PIANGO are provided a session to highlight successful interventions in support of community owned and managed businesses in the Pacific. The Forum will also dedicate time to discuss the roles of federations and representative bodies (like the ORCBDS) in co-operatives' response to the SDGs. Four Key development areas identified by [ICA's CoopsFor2030 Campaign](#) (No Poverty, Gender Equality, Access to Basic Goods & Services and Protecting the Environment) will be subject matters for knowledge exchange among participants.

Research Watch

The following research initiatives have been undertaken as part of the ICA-EU Partnership, to strengthen the cooperative movement and its capacity to promote international development.

Mapping

The mapping research seeks to collect consistent and reliable data on the situation of co-operatives in every region and across sectors by applying a common methodology. The survey will be carried out through an online questionnaire and the results by country published in a dynamic online database. The objective is to provide an accurate picture of the movement to both cooperators and external stakeholders, and use this to reinforce policy, capacity building, visibility and networking activities. The Asia-Pacific regional office has recently started this exercise on a pilot basis with ICA members in Iran and Philippines.



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Legal Framework Analysis

This research aims to provide co-operative organisations with concrete tools for their advocacy. The objectives are threefold: acquire general knowledge of the national legislation on co-operatives as well as of supranational cooperation legislation; evaluate the national jurisdictions covered based on a scale of their “co-operative friendliness”; and provide recommendations for eventual renewal of the legal frameworks in place. This process is proposed to be piloted by the ICA-AP office in the Kyrgyz Republic and in Vanuatu, using commonly agreed methodological tools. Regional and national experts will be engaged to carry out the work.

Global Thematic Research on Youth



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The goal of this research is to highlight how co-operatives can benefit the youth and seek ways to enhance the inclusion, opportunities and empowerment offered by cooperatives to young people – especially by conveying suggestions stemming from the youth themselves. We have completed the design and approval of qualitative instruments (surveys, interviews) at the centralised level. The next step is the collection of information from youth in member countries.

Regional Thematic Research on Work and Ownership

A thematic research on Exploring Work and Ownership Structures in Co-operatives in the Asia-Pacific has been initiated with CICOPA (the International Organization of Industrial and Service Cooperatives). The research will look into the status of industrial and service co-operatives (ISCs), and in the process map work-based co-operatives and ISCs in the region. The research will also highlight the legal environment these co-ops operate in, as well as describe the various forms of prevailing co-operative ownership structures. The publication will be carried in a collaborative manner with contributions sought in the form of country/area specific reports authored by interested institutions and individuals. Stage 1 of the research viz., Call for partners and agreement on types of co-operatives to be studied, is close to completion. We shall now move on to Stage 2 of the research – Context analysis and critical analysis on organisational models.

We would be glad to provide you further information if you have any question about the ongoing research. Please write to Mr. Mohit Dave at mohit.dave@icaap.coop.

POLICY WATCH

ICMIF conducts landscape study of the mutual and cooperative microinsurance sector in the Philippines



Cover page of the Report.

The International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF), an ICA sectoral organization, along with the Microinsurance MBA Association of the Philippines, Inc (RIMANSI), has published a [unique report](#) based on the landscape study of the mutual and cooperative microinsurance sector in the Philippines.

The study forms part of a series of studies implementing the 5-5-5 Strategy of ICMIF which is; provide mutual microinsurance solutions to 5 million low-income households, in five emerging markets over the next five years. The Philippines is one of the five selected countries (along with Colombia, India, Kenya and Sri Lanka). Due to its geographical location and topography, the Philippines is susceptible to natural disasters like tsunamis, typhoons, flooding etc. Additionally the country continues to grapple with violent conflict in certain parts like Mindanao. In both cases, the brunt of the disaster is felt by the most marginalized sections of the population. The situation is further complicated by the

high incidence of poverty with almost 25% of the population living under the poverty line. The study has found that an estimated 14 million households, thus, will benefit from accessing microinsurance, and bolster the government's existing efforts towards financial inclusion.

The Report mentions that the Insurance Commission of the Philippines had introduced a 'new tier for Microinsurance Mutual Benefit Associations (Mi-MBAs) and defining microinsurance products in 2006', which helped expanding the Philippine microinsurance sector. 'Microinsurance coverage expanded from a mere 3.1 million before 2008 to 31.1 million by the end of 2014.'

The Study sees great potential for the mutual microinsurance sector in the next five years in the Philippines. The microinsurance market is expanding and about 53% of the market still remains untapped. The regulatory framework is friendly towards entry of new players in the sector. The emergence of RIMANSI, the network association of Mi-MBAs, as a technical services provider ensures continuous advisory support for Mi-MBAs. Lastly, the desire of the government to eliminate informal insurance providers provides opportunities to create new mutual organizations or expand membership of existing ones, and technology innovations in internet and mobile phone applications provide opportunities to widen reach and lower costs.

51st ADB Annual Meeting in Manila, the Philippines

The 51st Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) was held from May 3-6 at the ADB Headquarters in Manila. With the theme of "Linking People and Economies for Inclusive Growth," the Annual Meeting was attended by over 4,000 delegates from member governments, academics, business leaders, and civil society representatives. ADB President Mr. Takehiko Nakao while unveiling Strategy 2030 said that it will be aligned with the international agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Strategy 2030 will have 10 priorities: (1) tackle remaining poverty and increasing inequalities in Asia and the Pacific; (2) accelerate progress in gender equality; (3) scale up support to combat climate change, build climate and disaster resilience, and enhance environmental sustainability; (4) build liveable cities that are competitive, green, resilient, and inclusive; (5) promote rural development and food security; (6) strengthen governance; (7) foster regional cooperation and integration; (8) mobilize private sector resources to meet the region's huge development financing needs; (9) further strengthen ADB's role as a provider and facilitator of knowledge; and (10) pursue a stronger, better, and faster ADB.

The ADB has a long history with civil society organizations (CSOs) and recognizes that cooperation with CSOs helps improve the quality of its development services. This year's meeting featured many sessions including the consultation workshop on ADB's new strategy. The participants shared concrete suggestions to promote accountability and transparency, especially on projects involving the private sector. The discussions put emphasis on food security and rural development, as well as the role of youth as an active contributor to development. The CSO seminars covered shrinking democratic space in selected countries in Asia and the Pacific; engagement with governments to strengthen the implementation of the Open Government Platforms across national and subnational levels; biodiversity conservation in socio-ecological land and seascapes and applying multi-sector management approaches help advance inclusive development in Southeast Asia; and decent work to link people and economies towards sustainable, inclusive and resilient Asia and the Pacific.

One of the seminars featured agricultural co-operatives in the Asia and the Pacific. The panellists included Cornelis (Kees) Blokland, Managing Director, Agriterra; Rico B. Geron, AGAP Party-List Representative, Philippine House of Representatives; Wen-Chi Huang, Professor and Chair, Department of Agribusiness Management, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, Taipei, China; Cresente C. Paez Asian Farmers' Association (AFA) Cooperative Development Program

Director; Xianbin Yao, Special Senior Advisor to the President, ADB; and Marlene Ramirez, Secretary General, Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (AsiaDHRRA).



Panellists discussing agricultural co-operatives in the Asia Pacific region.

Agricultural co-operatives play a key role in linking farmers to markets, providing a collective platform for negotiating with buyers, offering aggregating, marketing and processing services, providing distribution channels for primary products, and delivering training, business planning and capacity building services to their members. The discussions acknowledged the value of farmers' associations and agricultural co-operatives in giving farmers stronger involvement in the value chain and increasing their market power.

NEW MEMBER UPDATE

Aurora Integrated Multipurpose Cooperative (AIMCOOP), the Philippines



AIMCOOP
YOUR COOP. YOUR CHOICE



Management System
ISO 9001:2008

www.tuv.com
ID 9105083218



AIMCOOP is a savings and loan co-operative. AIMCOOP focuses on savings mobilization and capital build-up for its members through high rates of return on interest and savings and time deposits. AIMCOOP is dedicated to poverty elimination and elimination of capitalism. They have 80 offices serving almost 1 million members nationwide. They have an online banking system and ATM's nationwide. Other services include trading, funeral services, marketing, gas stations, hospital / medical services, life and non-life insurance, training, exercising political affairs of members, and other utility services as needed by members and community.

The current membership of the ICA-AP stands at 102 members from 32 countries.

The law has changed and we don't want to lose you



Representational Image.

At the International Co-operative Alliance, we take data protection seriously and our team is working to ensure that we are EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliant, for all of our contacts, even those outside of the EU. On May 22, an email was sent to our whole date base asking to manually re-signup to our contact database here <https://ica.coop/en/subscribe-to-our-newsletter> to continue receiving our news emails. Contacts not answering to this call will be unsubscribed on June 25.

If you are unfamiliar with the new regulation, GDPR aims to strengthen data protection for people within the EU. This regulation is overseen by the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission.

Your personal information will be used with your explicit consent, to deliver our newsletters, important press releases, invitations to events, and may be used to contact you for statistical information and networking within the co-operative movement. Your personal information is accessible to some partners, and by all of the Alliance structures including the Regional Offices, Sectoral Organisations and Thematic Committees. You are invited to read our privacy policy at <https://ica.coop/en/terms-and-conditions> to learn more. If you would like to review the information that we have in our database on you, make changes to your data, or remove all or part of your information from the Alliance database, please reach out to our team anytime at dataprotection@ica.coop.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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
- ICA Global Board meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, June 19-20
- EU Partnership Forum, Brussels, Belgium, June 25-26

July 2018

- Forum on Development of Co-operatives in Pacific Islands, Port Villa, Republic of Vanuatu, July 4-7
- International Day of Co-operatives 2018
- Asia Pacific Regional Seminar on "ASEAN Cooperative Commodities forward to the Globe " at CLT Training Center, Bangkok, July 11–13, 2018
- 2nd ICA-Japan training course on Empowering Women in Business and Management of Agricultural Cooperatives to be held in Thailand and Japan from 19th July to 11th August 2018.
- 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.
- ICA-AP-ACFSMC seminar on development of e-commerce platforms (tbc)

September 2018

- Implementation of next steps for Co-operative Development in Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, September 10-14.
- Young Development Professionals' Meet, New Delhi, India (tbc)

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.