

ICA-AP NEWSLETTER

News from members, ICA-AP activities,
ICA-EU Partnership update & more!

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ICA Global Conference on 'Cooperatives for Development'



The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) under the auspices of the Government of Rwanda and the ICA-EU Partnership on Cooperatives in Development (#Coops4Dev) will be organizing its global

conference on 'Cooperatives for Development' in Kigali, Rwanda from October 14-17. Rwanda, quite like the global cooperative movement, symbolizes resilience, and has for the past few decades worked successfully towards reconstructing its economic and social fabric, and on ethnic reconciliation; thus serving as an ideal location for a conference focusing on sustainable development. Participants from 90 countries are expected to attend the conference to learn, share, advocate, and showcase cooperatives' contributions to the SDGs.

This unique event will see the global cooperative movement coming together with a specific focus on not just cooperative development, but – more significantly – to the development of their surrounding communities and the world at large. The Keynote Address will be delivered by Dr. Vandana Shiva, who is a globally renowned authority on ecological and social issues. Dr. Shiva will be talking about how “cooperatives help to achieve a more solidarity-based and participatory society?”

The conference will be structured around plenary sessions, sectoral and thematic seminars, and discussion panels among other activities. It will be open to cooperators worldwide, but also to other civil society actors, development agencies, policy makers, institutional partners, government representatives, researchers, and all those who are concerned about development. Education, the role of women in society, the eradication of hunger and poverty, the right to housing, adequate health care, the protection of the biodiversity and the environment, new digital technologies, youth development awareness, etc. - among others - will be discussed and deliberated at the Conference.

For more information regarding the Conference visit www.kigali2019.coop.

ICA-AP Regional Capacity Building Program on SDG-13: Climate Action



The International Cooperative Alliance-Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) under the aegis of the #coops4dev project will organise a Regional Capacity Building Program on SDG-13: Climate Action on the Theme: “Save the Environment to Sustain Future Generations” from November 19-20 2019, Bangkok, Thailand. The program will be co-organised by the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT), ICA member organisation in Thailand, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), a German development agency headquartered in Bonn and Eschborn that provides services in the field of international development cooperation.

New member - Taavon Insurance Company, Iran



Taavon Insurance Company, Iran recently became a member of ICA-AP, taking the member tally to 108 members from 33 countries. It is the first cooperative insurance company in Iran. They provide a diverse range of insurance products through 28 branches and 300 agencies. They provide general and life insurance, and have 1,500 members and 7 member societies.

More information about them can be found at their website www.taavon-ins.ir.

ICA-AP ACTIVITIES

3rd ICA-Japan Training Course on “Fostering Agricultural Cooperatives to Build Food Value Chain”

The 3rd ICA-Japan Training Course on “Fostering Agricultural Cooperatives to Build Food Value Chain” was held in Japan from August 19 to September 11, 2019. There were six participants from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, The Philippines and Vietnam. The objective of the training course was to strengthen capacity of agricultural, forestry and fisheries producers by building food value chains.

Ms. Savitri Singh, Program Director of ICA-AP, Mr. Kyohei Sugaya, officer in-charge of ICA-Japan project in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Mr. Chikara Sato, Senior Advisor of JA Zenchu and Mr. Masahiro Konno, Executive Director of IDACA attended the opening session and made welcome remarks for the participants.

The training focused on agricultural cooperatives in Japan and the topics covered were historical background, organisational and business activities, procurement, processing and distribution system. The preparation and presentation of country reports focused on collecting information around a particular subject and analysing the problems faced by farmers, agricultural communities, cooperatives and the governments. The participants prepared course ‘Action Plans’ to be implemented by them after returning to their respective countries. A core focus for MAFF is the impact of training on the participants and there was keen interest in the Action Plans of the participants and evaluation of the training. A team of four MAFF officials led by Mr. Takashi Hiranaka, Director and Mr. Takayoshi Kondo, Assistant Director attended the Action Plan presentation and course evaluation sessions.

The closing ceremony was attended by Mr. Yasuyuki Kobayashi, Manager of the International Department of JA Zenchu, Ms. Savitri Singh, Mr. Masahiro Konno, and Mr. Takayoshi Kondo of MAFF. A certificate for successful completion of the course was awarded to the participants by Mr. Konno.



The participants after receiving their certificates for the training.

ICA-AP MBO Sustainable Development Goals Seminar 2019

The ICA-AP Malaysia Business Office (ICA-AP MBO), ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP Consumer Committee), Malaysian National Co-operative Movement (ANGKASA) and the Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) jointly organized the Sustainable Development Goals Seminar on September 4 and 5, 2019 at Aloft Kuala Lumpur Sentral Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The seminar focused on "SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth". The theme of the seminar was chosen as it resonated with the theme of this year's International Day of Cooperatives; "COOPS 4 DECENT WORK."

This two day event was attended by more than 70 delegates including representatives from 20 member organizations of ICA-AP, Malaysian cooperative leaders, staff, invited guests and resource persons. The seminar began with a welcome address by Mr. Balasubramanian Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP and Mr. Haruyoshi Amano, Chairperson of ICA-AP Consumer Committee and Manager, International Department of JCCU.



The delegates pose for a group photo.

Mr. Ariffin Mamat, Director General, Cooperative Institute of Malaysia, presented a paper on economic growth of the cooperative sector and introduced activities conducted by Malaysian cooperatives towards implementation of the SDGs. Datuk HJ Mohamad Ali B Hasan, Vice President, ANGKASA, spoke about the problems of unemployment worldwide and introduced ANGKASA's programs for job creation and support to entrepreneurship. Datin Seri Paduka Dr. Hajah Jamilah Binti

Din, Board of Directors, Co-op Bank Pertama, delivered a paper on the contribution of financial cooperatives in Malaysia towards SDG 8.

The lectures were followed by a special study session conducted by Mr. Hyungsik Eum, Strategy and Statistics Coordinator, ICA, covering the concept, understanding and measurement of SDG 8, and how cooperatives are contributing towards it. Ms. Heira Hardiyanti, Cooperative Consultant, Dekopin, Indonesia, presented a paper on building decent work and economic growth of Indonesian cooperatives.

On the second day, the delegates visited the National Land Finance Co-op Society Limited (Koperasi NLFCS BHD) in Kuala Lumpur. NLFCS is ranked 6th of the top 100 cooperatives in Malaysia for 2018. Dato' Raj Somasundram, CEO, NLFCS, presented an overview of NLFCS and the involvement of the cooperative in the SDGs.

ICA-AP NACF Joint Workshop on Cooperative System in Korea

The ICA-AP NACF Joint workshop on Cooperative Systems was held in Seoul, Korea from September 24 to 27. Since 2002, this workshop has been held to help the development of agricultural cooperatives in the Asia Pacific region. This year, 19 delegates representing 11 organizations from Bhutan, China, India, Kiribati, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, participated in the workshop. Delegates from the Kiribati government were attending the workshop for the first time and as they saw the workshop as an opportunity to learn about the functioning of agricultural cooperatives and the enabling environment.

Mr. Lee Gyeong-won, General Manager of Future Management Research Institute of NACF, delivered the welcome address. This was followed by presentations about NACF and its two major business sectors: agribusiness and finance. In the afternoon, country reports were presented by four organizations who were first-time participants at the workshop. This was followed by two special lectures, one was on agricultural development in Korea and the role of agricultural cooperative and the other on the governance of agricultural cooperatives in Korea.



Participants on the first day of the Workshop.

On the second day, the participants went on a field visit. The first place was the Nonghyup Future Agriculture Support Center, which was opened to establish a platform to drive agriculture into the future growing industries. The strategy is to develop and promote the 4th industry in rural areas, which is, simply put, a combination of the 1st (growing and raising food resources), 2nd (processing) and 3rd (sales and other services) sectors to create value and ultimately to raise farmers income. The

group then visited the Anseong Agricultural Product Distribution Center, which is the biggest agricultural logistics center in Korea. In addition to distribution and storage functions, the facility also offers packaging and processing services. Many member cooperatives have similar facilities, which are called APCs (Agricultural Product Processing Centers) but Anseong center distributes what APCs collect, on a nationwide scale.



A visit to the Gyeongbokgung palace.

The group then visited Yangjae Hanaro Mart, the biggest hypermarket in Korea. Hanaro Mart aims to secure a stable selling channel for agricultural products. It is just like other discount retailers but has one unique feature, it deals with domestic farm products only. This time the workshop coincided with the International Cooperative Agricultural Organization (ICAO) general assembly (GA) and on the third day, the delegates joined the GA and the Forum themed on sustainable agricultural development. The workshop concluded with a visit to Seoul city on the last day. The delegates had the opportunity to learn from the experience of NACF and hopefully the success story of NACF will greatly contribute to the development of cooperatives of each participating country.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

International Agricultural Produce and Agricultural Input Trade Fair and Seminar on Business Promotion Among Cooperatives

60 cooperators from Africa, Asia and Europe gathered in Xiamen, China to take part in the International Agricultural Produce and Agricultural Input Trade Fair and Seminar. The Trade Fair and Seminar was organized as part of the 2019 China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT) and supported by the All-China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC) and the Fujian Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (FFSMC).



Cooperators from a variety of countries congregated at the Trade Fair & Seminar in Xiamen.

CIFIT was organized to highlight cooperation among countries and regions involved in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and facilitate investment opportunities. Covering an area of 130,000 square meters at the Xiamen International Conference and Exhibition Center, the fair was composed of 16 professional exhibits in three major categories: investment, business attraction and trading along the Silk Road. The Trade Fair for agricultural products from countries involved in the BRI was being organized for the first time to showcase agricultural products and to develop business opportunities. Speaking at the opening of the Trade Fair, Mr. Cai Zhenhong, VP, ACFSMC stressed on the need to strengthen cooperation among cooperatives and promote innovation given volatility in markets and competition from multiple fronts. Mr. Japheth Magomere, President, ICA-Africa representing ICA spoke of the development challenges and the importance of agriculture in improving food security and increasing income of farmers. He highlighted the three-pronged strategy in Africa for their agricultural products – promote fresh products in domestic markets, enhance intra-regional trade, and develop strategic global markets. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by ACFSMC, FFSMC, ICA Africa and ICA-Asia and Pacific to establish an investment and cooperation mechanism along the BRI countries to promote sustainable agricultural development, e-commerce and trade alliance.

The Trade Fair organized in the 8,200 square-meter exhibition hall had representation from ICA members ANGKASA, Malaysia; CACU, Zimbabwe; Central Cooperative Union, Bulgaria; Coop Hungary, COOPFED, Sri Lanka; DEKOPIN, Indonesia; Legacoop, Italy; KCCE, Kenya; NACCF, Nepal; NAMAC, Mongolia; NH Trading, Korea; RCU, Tanzania; Sinh Duoc Herbal Cooperative, Vietnam and Tarim Kredi, Turkey. Many of the products on display had the distinct COOP logo to showcase the identity!

The Trade Fair Seminar looked at issues relating to cooperation among cooperatives and the sessions covered - Cooperation Among Cooperatives: Sharing and Challenges, Cooperative Trade in a Globalized Economy, Building Capacity for Trade among Cooperatives and Developing the Cooperative Ecosystem. The presentations touched upon C2C initiatives to promote cooperative products within and outside the country. The challenges brought to the fore at the macro level were the volatile market environment (tariffs) and inward looking policies (rising protectionism), and at the cooperative level, the lack of concrete action (yielding results) and capacity (financial, human and technical). The solutions proposed were: need to promote capacity (through training and exchanges), adopt technology, develop concrete projects (which would stand as examples) and create avenues to market (trade wing, subsidiary, tie-ups).

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 program aimed at benefitting and advancing cooperatives worldwide. The Partnership is officially titled "Cooperatives 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 Cooperatives in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Youth Inclusion in Cooperatives, and Exploring Work and Ownership Structures in Cooperatives. The ICA-AP implements the program in collaboration with ICA members and in partnership with other stakeholders such as governments, international development agencies, private sector and NGOs in the region. You may read more about the Partnership [here](#).

Workshop on Doubling Farmers' Income: Exploring Pathways for Cooperatives in Odisha



Mr. Balasubramanian Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP (podium) addresses the audience.

The International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) in collaboration with the Verghese Kurien Centre for Excellence (VKCoE) at Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), the Department of Co-operation in Government of Odisha, and support from the ICA-EU Partnership on Cooperatives in Development (#Coops4Dev) attended the Workshop on "Doubling Farmers Income: Exploring Pathways for Cooperatives in Odisha". It was organized at the Odisha State Cooperative Bank from August 29-30, 2019.

The Government of India with significant departure from its past policies of emphasizing only on production now focuses on the marketability of the produce, too. This deviation is primarily aimed at Doubling the Farmers' Income (DFI) by the year 2022. Farmer's collectives like cooperatives, especially those which are involved in high value agricultural and allied products, have a substantially large role to play in achieving this goal. Cooperatives in the country have also been evolving under the influence of various elements. These elements need to be calibrated and optimized as per the requirements to solve the present-day challenges of various cooperatives at large and agricultural cooperatives in particular. With this rationale, the workshop was planned in the eastern coast of India, to find various

reasons why the cooperative infrastructure is not being used to its fullest potential in the state of Odisha.

The inaugural session was graced with the presence of Shri Ranendra Pratap Swain Hon'ble Minister, Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare, Cooperation, Odisha and Dr. Arun Kumar Sahoo, Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development, Higher Education, Odisha.



Smt. Gayatri Patnaik, Department of Cooperation, Government of Odisha makes her presentation.

This was followed by presentations made by key panellists including Shri Debendra Kumar Jena, IAS, Managing Director, Odisha State Cooperative Bank; Smt. Sarojini Mishra, Chairperson, Orissa State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation; Smt. Gayatri Patnaik, Department of Cooperation, Government of Odisha; Shri Manoranjan Pani, Senior General Manager (Sales & Marketing), Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation; Mr. Lav Bhardwaj, Young Professional, NITI Aayog; Dr. Patanjali Tripathy, Dept. of Cooperation, Govt. of Odisha, Dr. K.K. Tripathy, IES, Director, VAMNICOM, Prof. Hitesh Bhatt, Director, IRMA and Prof Harekrishna Misra, Chair, VKCoE.

The ICA-AP office was represented by Mr. Balasubramanian Iyer and Mr. Mohit Dave to provide an overview on *Regional Cooperation for DFI in the context of policies, market and networks*. Mr. Iyer spoke about how the regional office of ICA works closely with members and development partners at various levels to promote an enabling environment for cooperatives in the region. They emphasized on the role of youth and women in cooperatives, and the contribution of agriculture and allied sectors in the economy, as per the World Cooperative Monitor 2018 report. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

The workshop ended with theme-based group exercises to discuss the enabling factors for DFI from the standpoint of four dimensions: (1) Governance and Leadership in Cooperatives, (2) Member Centrality, (3) Infrastructure, Services and Ecosystem Convergence, and (4) Government Strategies and Policies. It also successfully generated crucial policy recommendations for the cooperative sector in Odisha as a whole. It is further aimed to use the findings from the workshop to produce rich knowledge base and actionable research agenda in line with the national policies, to address the contemporary challenges of the cooperatives in the country.

NCUI Program on Cooperative Development for school teachers

The National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) organized a two-day (September 12-13) program on cooperative development for Kendriya Vidyalaya (central school) teachers in New Delhi, India. The

goal of the program was to familiarize school teachers with the concept of cooperatives, its values and principles, and provide them with tools to advocate for cooperatives among their students.

ICA-AP was invited to deliver a lecture on youth and cooperative entrepreneurship. This was a unique opportunity for me as I was going to deliver a lecture to a cohort who does this on a daily basis! I began by asking them what came to their mind when they thought of cooperatives? It was motivating to hear answers like 'People's enterprises' and 'community driven not profit driven.'



Image Credit: NCUI

In my lecture, I focused on the activities of ICA-AP, the ICA-EU Partnership, and the work ICA-AP has been undertaking in the field of "youth and entrepreneurship amongst cooperatives". The audience was impressed with Coopathon and expressed interest to experiment with this in their schools. The Global Cooperative Entrepreneurs (GCE) program was discussed in detail, including its goals, its activities and the GCE Ambassadors Training.

The high point of the lecture was the video on Koperasi MRSM Kepala Berhad, a thriving school cooperative in Malaysia filmed by the [Around The World dot Coop project](#). The teachers admired the cooperative model, but were apprehensive about how they would implement it in their schools. They appreciated the Malaysian government's efforts to legislate the formation of school cooperatives. The teachers felt that through school cooperatives, their students would benefit by:

- Getting hands on practice of subjects E.g. Accounting
- Inculcating a sense of responsibility at an early age
- Reducing dependency on external sources of funding by channelizing the earning from the school cooperative towards student-development activities.
- Sharpening soft skills like communication and relationship building.

Two case studies were presented to show how young people can successfully run cooperatives. The first was 'Innocircle', an organization incubating cooperative start-ups in Indonesia. Innocircle provides services of Market research, Financial Viability, and Skill Mapping (building teams with diversified skills). The second was Kopma UGM; a student's cooperative set up in Univeristas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia.



Image credit: NCUI

The lecture concluded with discussions where the audience felt that cooperatives need to be given more significance in the school curriculum. It was recognized that the NCUI program was a step in the right direction, and similar such interactions can be planned for students through events like the Coopathon. Some of the teachers were willing to take forward the idea of setting up school cooperatives with support from relevant stakeholders.

Written by Mr. Ivjyot Singh, Program Officer, ICA-AP. The views expressed here are personal.

Research watch

The following research-based activities were undertaken by ICA-AP in the months of August and September 2019 as a part of the ICA-EU partnership to improve knowledge on cooperatives, strengthen the cooperative movement and its capacity to promote international development.



- **Legal Framework Analysis (LFA)**

National reports from have been completed for 16 countries. The reports of Palestine and Jordan will be uploaded on the #coops4dev website which will be officially launched during ICA General Assembly and Global Conference on Cooperatives for Development in Kigali, Rwanda.

- **Mapping national cooperative movements in East and South East Asia**

The cooperative movements in two countries- Malaysia and Nepal were studied and mapped using secondary research. The key parameters studied included: contribution of cooperatives to the national economy, sectoral distribution of cooperatives, genesis and evolution of the cooperative

movement, historical and current laws on cooperatives, and association with the international cooperative movement and ICA, amongst others. The snapshots of seven countries are available on [our website](#).

- **Autonomy and Independence of Cooperatives in India**

The report on 'Autonomy and Independence of Cooperatives in India' will be ready by the second week of October.

- **Global Thematic Research on Youth**

- 91% of data collection from five countries has been completed. In the months of August and September, data was collected from Korea. The team is currently working on responses from six Korean and three Iranian youth from non-cooperative backgrounds.
- The country level analysis for India, Indonesia and the Philippines is ongoing and the regional level results from Asia and Pacific will be shared in the #coops4dev Coordination Unit for compilation and documentation.
- The abstract to present the global youth research at the 14th ICA CCR Asia-Pacific Research Conference was accepted.

- **Mapping Research**

- The Lime Survey tool was tested by the global research team and suitable changes were made to the tool before the announcement of the final launch.
- The base year for data collection has been moved from 2016 to 2017.
- The research team at Asia and Pacific office will start sending the survey tool to members from October 1, 2019.
- During the research team's visit to Indonesia in August, the objective and scope of mapping research were discussed and key contacts were established.
- Highlights from the pilot countries, Iran and the Philippines, will be presented on the #coops4dev website.

THE MEMBER BULLETIN

Economic & Social Development Center of Palestine (ESDC)



The Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine (ESDC) is a Palestinian results and rights based development-oriented NGO established in 2003. ESDC works to improve the institutional capacities of cooperatives and CBOs and their members through providing them with training, advisory services, material support and other related services. Some of the key focus areas for ESDC include:

- Rural Women Empowerment
ESDC understands the importance of increased women participation at the social, economic and political level for the development of a just Palestinian society. For that reason, ESDC works to enhance the role of rural women participation in their local cooperative and CBOs, contributing to their social and economic empowerment, starting with their active participation in identifying their and the community's needs. Further, ESDC strives to guide cooperatives and CBOs to provide an enabling environment for women's participation in the cooperative and CBO. Women, through their cooperative or CBO, receive theoretical and practical training as well as necessary inputs in order for them to provide relevant services and goods for their members and community so as to improve their economic and social standing within the society.
- Transfer of Knowledge
ESDC strongly believes that one of the most effective learning tools among cooperatives and CBOs is exchange visits. ESDC coordinates exchange visits amongst cooperatives and CBOs to facilitate transfer of knowledge. ESDC links cooperatives with CBOs when one is considering an economic initiative that the other has tried-either succeeding or failing- in order for them to make a more thought out decision. These visits also give the cooperatives and CBOs new ideas for maintaining their respective organizations.
- Engagement of Youth



At the ESDC Summer Camp. Image credit: ESDC

ESDC conducts a Cooperative Summer Camp every summer for a period of one week. This summer camp targets young girls for a week of fun, games and relaxation, and most importantly, the specific message of cooperatives; with all the activities revolving around cooperative thought. In this way, ESDC is helping to create a generation of youth who are well aware of the importance and thought of cooperatives. It is worth mentioning that ESDC created a Cooperative Summer Camp manual specifically for this yearly event.

Year of affiliation to ICA: 2014

Contact information: Website: <https://www.esdc-pal.org> | Social Media- @ESDC (Facebook)

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2019

- India International Cooperative Trade Fair (IICTF), New Delhi, India, October 11-13
- ICYC annual meeting, Kigali, Rwanda, October 12
- ICA-AP Regional Board meeting, October 13
- Workshop on Cooperatives in Educational Institutions (ICEI, ICA Africa), Kigali, Rwanda, October 14
- ICA Global General Assembly, Kigali, Rwanda, October 14-17

November 2019

- ICA Regional Workshop for Managers on “Management of Consumer Co-ops”, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam, November 3-7 (tbc)
- Training of Trainers for Management Capacity Building of Women and Gender Integration in Cooperative Development, Colombo, Sri Lanka, November 5-8
- ICA-AP Regional Conference on Climate Action: SDG 13, Theme: Save the environment for future generations, Bangkok, Thailand, November 19-20
- Training Programs for Managers of Consumer Co-ops in Japan (Winter), Tokyo/Kobe, Japan, November 18- December 1
- ICEI annual meeting, Kathmandu, Nepal, November 25-26
- Coop Mic (tbc)

December 2019

- ICA-AP Cooperative Research Conference, Newcastle, Australia, December 12-14
- Second ICA-AP meeting on Development of Cooperatives in Pacific Islands, Newcastle, Australia, December 13