

ICA-AP NEWSLETTER

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

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ICA-AP 2019 year-end Report



The ICA-AP team wishes you Happy Holidays and a Prosperous 2020! Our holiday card captures the diversity we have in the office – years with ICA-AP, gender, age, regions. This diversity is also reflected in the Asia-Pacific region – members, culture, history, approach. What pulls us together is the common cause – advancement of people-centered model of business – cooperatives!

The highlight of the year was ICA President Ariel Guarco’s visit to eight countries in the region – China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam! At the end of his visit, President Guarco said, “In Asia, the cooperative movement has very diverse organizations. We have large enterprises that compete in the market with very powerful capitalist companies; others with small productive units meet the needs at local level. There is a clear commitment to sustainable development and comprehension that integration among cooperatives, within each country, in each region and worldwide, is what makes us a key tool to meet the objectives set by the United Nations to build a more just, solidary and peaceful world.” A first-person account of Mr. Guarco’s visit can be found at: <http://ica-ap.coop/icanews/travels-ica-president-20-balu-iyer-regional-director-ica-ap>

The Second Asia-Pacific Registrar’s Forum was held in partnership with the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance and the Institute for Organic Agricultural Economics and supported by the ICA-EU Partnership on Cooperatives in Development (#Coops4Dev). The Forum on Creating Enabling Legal Framework and Policies to Promote Sustainable Development of Cooperatives in the 21st Century, was organized to focus on the challenges relating to food security, nature of work and employment, financial inclusion, economic growth, gender equality & equity, climate change, and freedom of association.

The ICA-Asia and Pacific region has 107 members from 32 countries. During the year, we were joined by the Uralungal Labour Contract Coop Society Ltd., India; the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives, Kiribati; the International Solidarity of Korea Cooperatives, Rep. of Korea; the Department of Coop Business, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Fiji; the Tirumalla Tirupati Multipurpose Cooperative Credit Society Limited, India; the Metro South Cooperative Bank, Philippines; and the 1 Cooperative Insurance System of the Philippines Life and General Insurance, Philippines.

The ICA-AP office and members increased their engagement with Africa in 2019. The first Cooperative Development Conference for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries was held in Morocco to foster partnerships and enhance collective action on SDGs. The ICA-AP Committee on Educational Institutions (ICEI) organized a workshop during the ICA Kigali conference to share knowledge and technical know-how among ICA members in Africa and other stakeholders about cooperatives in educational institutions (universities, colleges, and high schools). Members from Africa participated in the ICAO General Assembly in Korea, the International Agricultural Produce and Agricultural Input Trade Fair and Seminar in China and the SDG-13 Climate Action capacity building program in Thailand.

The ICA-AP Research Committee organized the 14th Research Conference in collaboration with the University of Newcastle in Australia. During the conference, the 2019 Dr. Mauritz Bonow Award for Young Researchers was awarded to Heira Hardiyanti for her paper on Worker Cooperatives in Indonesia and to Jihyun Jeong for her paper on Fair Trade in Korea. The Trade and Business Committee organized a seminar in Johor Bahru on Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth in conjunction with the Malaysia Carnival of Cooperatives' Products and Minister Services exhibition. The ICEI organized a seminar on curriculum development in Kathmandu in conjunction with its annual meeting. The Committee on Women with support from the Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union organized an international workshop on "Enhancing Gender Equality in Cooperative Business" with the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) in New Delhi and a Training of Trainers on Management Capacity Building of Women and Gender Integration in Cooperative Development with the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka in Colombo. The Youth Committee organized the second edition of Go Green campaign and the second Global Youth Cooperative Webinar on 'Transforming Education' to highlight initiatives in making education inclusive and accessible for youth. The Consumer Committee in addition to its regular training programs organized a workshop on 'Social Contribution of Consumer Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific with iCOOP Korea.

During the year with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan training courses were organized on "Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives", "Empowering Women in Business and Management of Agricultural Cooperatives", and "Fostering Coordinators to Build Food Value Chains". In addition, a follow-up guidance and survey of ex-participants to assess the impact of training was organized in Thailand and Mongolia. The Malaysia Business Office (MBO), JCCU and ANGKASA jointly organized a seminar on "SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth in Kuala Lumpur. The ACFSMC organized the following programs during the year - training program on development and practices of Agricultural Cooperatives' Services and seminar on business promotion among cooperatives. The 17th edition of the NACF Joint workshop on cooperative systems was held in Seoul to help the development of agricultural cooperatives in the Asia Pacific region.

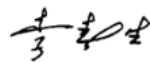
The ICA-EU Partnership on Co-operatives in Development People Centered Businesses in Action Project in its fourth year was active on a number of fronts. All the events and activities were to address the Project's three strategic priorities – Sustainable Development Goals, Youth Inclusion and Work and Ownership. The team organized the first capacity building program on SDG13 - Climate Action on the theme 'Save the Environment to Sustain Future Generations' with the Cooperative League of Thailand in Bangkok; the Second Forum on Development of Cooperatives in the Pacific Islands at the University of Newcastle in Australia which was attended by members and representatives from Fiji, Kiribati, Australia and New

Zealand; national workshop for women's cooperatives with the Gujarat Self Employed Women's Association in Ahmedabad; and the Young Development Professionals meeting in New Delhi. The Global Cooperative Entrepreneur project to identify youth entrepreneurs in India, Indonesia and Malaysia culminated with the training for Ambassadors in Kozhikode, India. Coopathon 2.0, was organized with NCUI and Coop Mic with Mr. Rajiv Khandelwal, Executive Director of Aajeevika Bureau, India. On the research front, two reports were released, one on the 'Autonomy and Independence of Cooperatives in India' and the other 'Cooperatives in Industrial and Service Sectors in the Asia and Pacific Region.' As part of the global thematic research on youth, the country level reports for India, Indonesia, Iran, Korea and Philippines were completed as were the legal framework analysis of 17 countries. The mapping reports for Iran and Philippines are available on the #coops4dev website. The [Aroundtheworld.coop](#) video series covered the Bhabishya Nirman Sana Kishan cooperative in Nepal, the School Cooperative MRSM Kepala Batas Berhad in Malaysia and the Boomalli Artists Cooperative in Australia.

We mourn the passing of Dr. Jaya Arunachalam, Founder of the Working Women's Forum (WWF) and the Indian Cooperative Network for Women (ICNW); Mr. Stephen Sallun, Registrar Office of Cooperative Societies, Papua New Guinea; and Mr. R.B. Rajaguru, Regional Director of ICA-AP from 1977 to 1986.

We are thankful to our MBO sponsoring organizations – ACFSMC, Angkasa, JCCU, and NACF. We continue to receive generous support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Government of Japan to foster leadership and develop cooperatives in the Asia Pacific region. The ICA-EU Partnership on Co-operatives in Development People Centered Businesses in Action is helping strengthen capacity of federation, increase advocacy, and improve visibility of co-operatives as development actors. During the year, the regional office entered into an agreement with Aflatoun; took part in the India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF) organized by the National Cooperative Development Corporation; and expanded relations with the Asian Farmers Association; the Institute of Rural Management, Anand; the Smallholder and Agri-SME Finance and Investment Network

The ICA-AP Regional Office was formed on November 14, 1960 and begins its 60th year of uniting, promoting and developing cooperatives! We look forward to your continued support in 2020 and the decade ahead!. The significant events in 2020 are the Global Youth Forum in February in Malaysia; the ICA Congress and ICA-AP Regional Assembly in December in Korea. We look forward to seeing you there!



Li Chunsheng
President



Balasubramanian Iyer
Regional Director

ICA-AP ACTIVITIES

14th ICA-AP Cooperative Research Conference

The ICA-AP Committee on Cooperative Research (CCR) organized the 14th ICA-AP Cooperative Research Conference on “Cooperation among Cooperatives and Mutuals” in the Asia-Pacific region at the Faculty of Business and Law, University of Newcastle, Australia from December 12 to 14, 2019. The conference was organized with the University of Newcastle (UoN) and supported by the ICA-EU Partnership on Cooperatives in Development (#Coops4Dev) and Young Scholars Initiative (YSI).

The conference was attended by more than 100 participants from 12 countries - Australia (60), Fiji (1), India (19), Indonesia (2), Japan (2), Kiribati (2), South Korea (2), Malaysia (2), Nepal (4), New Zealand (4), Timore Leste (1) and United Kingdom (2). Researchers, policy makers, practitioners and students, shared their experiences on issues related to cooperation among cooperatives and mutuals, and developed new networks and partnerships around cooperative research and education.

Early Career Researchers and Young Scholars workshop:

An Early Career Researchers and Young Scholars workshop was conducted on December 12 to provide participants with an opportunity to be mentored by senior academicians with rich experience in the area of cooperatives. This was the first time that an ICA-AP CCR conference had held such a workshop. Prof. Akira Kurimoto, Institute for Solidarity-based Society, Hosei University, Tokyo and Chair of the ICA-AP CCR and Prof. Morris Altman, Co-chair of the local organizing committee welcomed the 24 scholars from ten countries. The scholars received feedback on their draft papers by senior academicians, who included Prof. Morris Altman (Dundee University, School of Business), Prof. Olivera Marjanovic (University of Technology Sydney), Professor Branka Krivokapic-Skoko (Charles Sturt University), Dr. Paul Thambar (Monash University Melbourne) and Prof. Tony Webster (Northumbria University United Kingdom). The break-out sessions on ‘How to get cooperative research published?’ and “Developing a network for emerging cooperative scholars” allowed time for discussions which were facilitated by Ms. Emi Do, PhD candidate at the Tokyo University and YSI Coordinator. The energy in the room was positive as the scholars received good advice and tips on ‘how to’ get published in reputable academic journals (and what not to do). The group also discussed how to use social media and digital platforms to continue to network and support each other through PhD’s and early career challenges. The full report of the conference can be read [here](#).



During a group discussion at the ECR and Young Scholar’s workshop.

Dr. Mauritz Bonow Young Researcher Award 2019

The Dr. Mauritz Bonow Young Researcher Award is a joint initiative of the ICA-AP and the ICA Domus Trust. The ICA Domus Trust was set up in recognition of the valuable contributions made by Dr. Mauritz Bonow.

A sub-committee was set up during the 14th ICA-AP Research Conference to review and adjudicate the best research papers. The first prize was awarded to Ms. Heira Hardiyanti, Researcher, Institute for Indonesian Cooperatives Development studies (LSP21), for her paper on “Worker Cooperative in Indonesia, The Invisible Cooperative.” The second prize was awarded to Ms. Jihyun Jeong, Researcher, Sungkonghoe University, Seoul for her paper on “How do local actors institutionalise global movement? The case study of Fair Trade in Korea.”

Ms. Heira Hardiyanti provided an insight about her research. *Worker cooperatives in Indonesia have gone unrecognized for a long time. The understanding of worker cooperatives in the community are ‘cooperatives formed in a factory or an institution by the employees; providing goods and services, as well as savings and loans.’ The term ‘worker cooperative’ exists since the 1930s and I found at least 5 worker cooperatives in the past; some of which are still running till now. The Koperasi Sepatu Slamet with 30 members-workers-owners produced shoes and sandals in Tasikmalaya. The worker-members of Koperasi Produksi Perkebunan Karet Wangunwatie (KPPKW), have been working as rubber trappers since 1950. In 1983, the Koperasi Sopir Taksi (Kosti) Jaya was established with more than 3,600 taxi drivers, and the Koperasi Dharma Profesi was established in 1985 in Jakarta with 76 civil engineers/members running the business. Koperasi Karya Sejahtera Tenaga Kerja Bongkar Muat (KKSTKBM) established in 1990 with around 4500 members working as porters at various ports in Indonesia. Recently, awareness about the worker co-op model is rising amongst the Indonesian youth especially as digital start-up businesses such as Pedihelp.id, Purusha.id, Meridian.id etc. Unfortunately, cooperative regulation hasn't supported the structure and development of worker cooperatives. Cooperative research is expected to enrich the draft of the new cooperative law which has been submitted to the house of Representatives and is awaiting to be legalized.*

I was pleasantly surprised and honoured to win the Mauritz Bonow Award. I am not a professional writer, researcher, or an academician. But I am an educator. I love research and cooperation is a way of life for me, and doing something we love is a blessing. I'm proud to be a co-operator!



(L-R) Ms. Jihyun Jeong and Ms. Heira Hardiyanti won the Mauritz Bonow Young Researchers Award 2019.

Second ICA-AP Meeting on Development of Cooperatives in Pacific Islands



Participants at the second ICA-AP meeting on development of cooperatives in Pacific Islands.

ICA-AP along with the University of Newcastle (UoN) and support from the ICA-EU Partnership on Cooperatives in Development (#Coops4Dev) organized the 2nd ICA-AP Forum on Development of Cooperatives in Pacific Islands on December 12, 2019. It came as a follow-up to the one in Vanuatu in 2018 and aimed at mainstreaming representation from Pacific cooperatives within the ICA's development processes.

The Forum on “Cooperation among Cooperatives and Mutuals in the Asia-Pacific region – working together to achieve a flourishing and sustainable future” was attended by delegates from academia, cooperative federations and government agencies from Australia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, and New Zealand. It was useful in bringing cooperative apex organizations in Australia, the Business Council of Cooperatives and Mutuals (BCCM), and New Zealand, the Cooperative Business New Zealand (CBNZ), closer to the stakeholders representing cooperatives in the Pacific.

Mr. Anthony Taylor, Policy officer at BCCM shared that there are over 2,000 cooperatives in Australia with the top 100 having a turnover of \$AU30 billion. However, despite large membership, cooperatives do not have a large market share in consumer/retail markets. Energy is an emerging sector, but there are legislative and policy barriers for community energy, particularly in the retail segment. Cooperatives in Australia actively support women and youth groups.

Mrs. Kanmari Betiota, Director of the Business Regulatory Centre within the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives in Kiribati talked about the 11 business sectors covered by cooperatives in the country, with copra-farming and fisheries dominating the space. She highlighted compliance issues, outdated legal frameworks, political interference, and lack of access to international development and capacity building funds as the main challenges.

Ms. Roz Henry, Chief Executive Officer at CBNZ shared that cooperatives started in New Zealand in 1846. In 2012, the United Nations listed New Zealand as the most cooperative economy. The top 30 cooperatives, mutuals and societies in New Zealand have a total revenue \$NZ 42.3 billion, assets of \$33.5 billion, membership of 1.4 million and employ close to 48,500 individuals.

Mr. Faizal Khan, Director and Registrar of Cooperatives in the Department of Cooperative Business, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism in Fiji talked about the National Cooperative Federation which was recently established under the Cooperatives Act of 2018. He stressed upon the need to modernise the Cooperative Act of 1996 and to strengthen training curriculum through international accreditations.

Mr. Balasubramanian Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP provided a comprehensive round-up to the participants wherein he highlighted that cooperatives in the Pacific are rich in history in terms of social mobilisation, culture and norms, played an important part in national independence and nation building and are drivers in terms of size, members, range, influence, operations etc. He identified issues such as lack of education, ineffective legal & policy environment, lack of cooperative statistics, lack of access to finance as the common challenges for cooperatives in the Pacific. He said that two important and ongoing activities of mapping cooperative actors and legal framework analysis under the ICA-EU Partnership would certainly benefit the stakeholders.

The members in Pacific Island countries were encouraged to undertake needs assessment to identify gaps to strengthen the capacity of primaries to form federations, and promote and develop the federations. ICA-AP can facilitate such an exercise with support from experts and member networks.

53rd Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Co-op held in Tokyo, Japan

The ICA-AP Consumer Committee held the its 53rd Meeting in Tokyo, Japan on November 19, 2019. It was organized by the Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU). Eight Committee members and six observers from four countries attended the meeting.

The meeting was officiated by Mr. Yoshitsugu Fujii, Managing Director of JCCU. Two new members, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), India and the Colaba Central Cooperative Consumers' Wholesale & Retail Stores Ltd. (Sahakari Bhandar), India joined the committee. The Committee members made presentations about their recent activities and business results, which was followed by active discussions. Mr. Sungjoon Kang, Secretary of the Committee, tabled the Activity Report for the period 2018-2019 and the Activity Plan for 2020.

In conjunction with the meeting, a seminar on 'Product Quality Assurance of Japanese Consumer Co-ops' was held by JCCU. Mr. Akihiro Yamakoshi, Manager, Quality Assurance Dept., JCCU, gave a lecture about "Import Products of JCCU." Mr. Boku Nakano, Co-op Trade Japan Ltd (subsidiary company of JCCU) made a presentation on "Product Quality Policy of JCCU".

On November 20, the members made a field trip to Co-op Mirai (biggest primary consumer co-op in Japan) HQ, Co-op Mirai Minami Urawa Store and JCCU Laboratory (Product Inspection Center).

The next Committee Meeting will be held in December 2020 in Seoul, South Korea.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

NCUI and CICTAB jointly organise a ToT for Cooperatives and Rural Financing Institutions of CICTAB Member Countries

The National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) and the Centre for International Cooperation in Training & Agricultural Banking (CICTAB) jointly organized an international training of trainers (ToT) for cooperative rural financing institutions at its headquarter in New Delhi from December 2 to 6, 2019. 28 participants of CICTAB members from Bangladesh, India and Nepal participated in the five day long ToT. The participants were from central banks, cooperatives, federations and training institutes.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Manoj Nardeo Singh, Secretary General, African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) in the presence of Shri N. Satyanarayana, Chief Executive NCUI, Executive Directors and senior officers of NCUI. Introducing the programme, Ritesh Dey, Programme Director, International Relations of NCUI provided a brief of the programme, profiles of the participants and the topics to be covered.

In his welcome remark, Shri N. Satyanarayana stressed upon the need to procure a fair deal for the farmers to bring them out from poverty and the significant role of cooperative rural financing institutions. Welcoming the participants from neighbouring countries to NCUI, he urged them to take maximum benefit from the ToT so that they can learn and replicate the learning outcomes in their organization.

Dr. Manoj Nardeo Singh, stressed on rural transformation and said that a good rural financing institution can meet the demand of farmers in each country and urged the participants to empower themselves in all aspects to realize the transformation. He mentioned that the role of cooperatives is very important to develop the agriculture sector and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. He emphasized on technology adoption in cooperatives to compete with other players in the market. He described “training” as important tool that helps each individual to enhance his / her knowledge on specific topics and advised the participants to share and exchange their ideas with a positive mindset.

During the programme the participants were imparted training through experts from different fields on various aspects of training and development – ethics and systematic approach, Training Need Analysis (TNA), evaluation, and implementation of techniques. Resource persons from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and other institutions were invited to speak on important aspects of rural financing, digitalization, role of SHGs for empowerment of youth & women. A special session on adult psychology and learning principle was also organized. A one-day field trip to Agra was organized where the participants interacted with the CEO of District Central Cooperative Bank in Agra to learn the process of rural financing in India and also visited the world famous Taj Mahal.

On the last day, the Consultant of CICTAB made a presentation on how to conduct a training programme and appraised the participants about the parameters for the same. The participants were then grouped and each group was assigned a mentor to prepare the draft training programme for their respective organization / countries. This was presented to the senior officers of NCUI and CICTAB. The participants also made presentation on their organization / country.

Mr. Balasubramanian G. Iyer, Regional Director of ICA–AP was the Chief Guest at the valedictory ceremony. In attendance were Shri N. Satyanarayana; Dr. K.K. Tripathy, Director, CICTAB and VAMNICOM; Dr. K.N. Sinha, Executive Director, NCUI; and Dr. D. Ravi, Consultant, CICTAB and Faculty Member, VAMNICOM. During the feedback, one of the participants from Central Bank of Bangladesh described the ToT as an excellent platform to exchange the ideas between participants and a great learning experience for her to replicate training in her organization. A participant from Nepal said that the programme added knowledge on cooperative banking, micro-finance including SHGs and functioning of NABARD in India towards lending credit to rural financing institutions. He felt that this could be replicated in his country.



Participant receiving a certificate at the valedictory from Mr. Balasubramanian Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP.

In his valedictory address, Mr. Iyer said that trainers play an important role in cooperatives by educating member institutions, stakeholders and the public. He requested all to create the synergy to target more and more youth and women to encourage them to join cooperatives.

Building bridges and cooperation among cooperatives: NATCCO, the Philippines & iCOOP, Korea

NATCCO's commitment to the socio-economic development of Filipinos has grown to include Overseas Filipinos (OFs) who are active contributors to the country's economic growth. The power and potential of the OFs are not only limited to their economic contribution through remittances but a gamut of social, political, ecological, and technological dimensions. Realizing the urgent need of the cooperative system to be active allies of the OFs in community development and nation-building, NATCCO has partnered with the Ateneo Leadership, Innovation, and Social Entrepreneurship Program (ALSE OF LIFE) of the Ateneo de Manila University's School of Government. The partnership aims to provide the OFs and their families with the technical skills and tools to improve their socio-economic security through the cooperative system.

Building bridges and cooperation among cooperatives-

Keeping the principle of cooperation among cooperatives alive, NATCCO aims to connect with the primary co-ops and federations in the countries where the ALSE OF LIFE Program is implemented. As social and financial organizations, co-ops all over the world can make migration as one of the focal issues in fostering local and global development. Through the facilitation of ICA-AP, NATCCO connected with iCoop Korea, to discuss the potential for collaboration on activities related to training of OFs. iCoop Korea is an ICA-member federation that promotes people-centered and sustainable economy, ethical consumption, and partnership for development. On December 9, 2019, Lasalette Gumban of NATCCO and Fe Gimarino-Kim of Filipino-Korean Spouses Association (FKSA), met with Juhee Lee of iCoop, in their Seoul office. The meeting proved to be fruitful in establishing linkages for the ALSE OF LIFE in South Korea in the areas of entrepreneurship and community exposure. iCoop's expertise on fair trade and social entrepreneurship strongly resonates with the goals of ALSE OF LIFE Program. The ALSE program in South Korea was launched in September 2019. As one of the resource persons in the 6-month training program, NATCCO facilitated the session on Social Investments and Cooperatives.



(L-R) Ms. Juhee Lee, iCOOP, Korea and Ms. Lasalette Gumban, NATCCO, the Philippines.

Migration for Development and the Holistic Response to the Filipino Diaspora Phenomenon-
The ALSE OF LIFE Program was started in 2008 in Rome, Italy and is a collaborative effort of the Civil Society Organizations, academic, and government institutions. An initial study conducted by Dr. Cristina Liamzon, with the collaboration of a Filipino Migrants' Association, the Associazione Pilipinas-OFSPES and the Sentro Pilipino Chaplaincy under the Diocese of Rome, identified a range of issues and challenges affecting migrants, particularly the youth. As a response to this situation of the increasing social costs of migration, the ALSE OF LIFE Training Program was designed as a collaborative effort of the Ateneo School of Government (ASoG) under the then ASoG Dean Antonio La Vina and Associazione Pilipinas OFSPES to inject a new awareness leading towards changing the situation and mobilizing the migrants to empower themselves and contribute to family and social development towards nation-building. This has since been integrated as an executive education course under ASoG.

Following the first pilot program, several more programs were launched successively in other Italian cities to include Milan, Naples, Turin and Florence within the first two years. As of 2019, the Ateneo OF LIFE Training Program has been expanded to cover Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Tokyo, Bangkok, and South Korea in East and South East Asia as well as in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha, and Egypt in the Middle East. The Program has also been conducted in other cities in Europe: Paris, Brussels, The Hague, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Madrid, and Barcelona.

Harnessing remittances for local development through Co-ops-

In 2015, a program was initiated by the Ateneo LSE Consortium on Migration and Development with NATCCO to actively mobilize the savings and investments of overseas Filipinos and their families for development of the local economies of their hometowns through the local cooperatives. NATCCO partner cooperatives provide financial education and access to wealth building programs to the OFs and their families. The co-ops also provide psycho social services to make the program more inclusive.

People on the Move Today and in the Future-

As of today, there are 20,100 OFs and OF Families who are actively saving and investing in the co-ops. The goal is to help the OF and OF families build wealth in preparation for their eventual reintegration in the Philippines. While doing this, they are also building the wealth of the community towards nation building. Through the support of ICA, NATCCO aims to advocate migration and development as a tool for global cooperation and for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

New member- Cooperative Insurance System of the Philippines Life and General Insurance (1CISP)



ICA-AP has a new member from the Philippines - Cooperative Insurance System of the Philippines Life and General Insurance. 1CISP was organised to promote and engage in life insurance services as a cooperative. Last year, 1CISP was given authority to become a life and non-life insurance cooperative as it acquired R & B Insurance Corporation to provide non-life services. They operate nationwide with 10 satellite offices and 1 branch, insuring mostly the underprivileged and farmers of the country.

Some vital statistics of 1CISP include:

Individual members: through their member cooperatives, they have insured 978,768 individuals.

Member societies 2018: 3,031 member cooperatives.

Turnover 2018: PHP 746,164,230 (CHF 13,948,439)

Budget 2018: PHP 699,000,000 in sales and 195,200,000 in income

Income 2018: PHP 216,078,247 (CHF 4,040,195)

Website: www.cisp.coop

ICA-AP now has 107 members from 33 countries.



ICA-EU PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

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](#).

Global Cooperative Entrepreneurs' Training for Ambassadors

ICA-AP in collaboration with Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society Ltd (ULCCS) organized the Global Cooperative Entrepreneurs' Training for Ambassadors (GCE ToA) from 25 to 28 November,

2019 at UL Cyber Park, Kozhikode, Kerala, India. 20 Participants from India and Indonesia attended the four-day training program which was co-funded by the ICA-EU Partnership on Co-operatives in Development-People Centred Business in Action.



Mr. Ivjyot Singh conducts a session with the GCE ambassadors.

The participants were welcomed by Mr. Rameshan Palery, Chairman ULCCS; Dr. Sethumadhavan, Director UL Education; Mr. Raveendran Kasthuri, Group CEO, ULCCS; Mr. Shaju S, Managing Director, ULCCS; and Ms. Anupa Sasi, Director ULCCS.

The overarching aim of the training was to capacitate participants with the skills and knowledge to set up new cooperatives. The training was broken down into five sessions, complemented with activities around cooperative principles, icebreakers, community building exercises and field visits. The sessions were as follows:

1. Knowledge of Cooperatives - the ambassador is expected to have knowledge about cooperatives and its principles to conceptualize an enterprise model. With this knowledge they are in a better position to understand whether the cooperative model is right for their idea; if yes, they can then use this knowledge to get others on board. The session was conducted by Ms. Heira Hardiyanti, Member of Board of Directors, LSP2I.
2. Mobilizing Youth – the ambassadors are expected to mobilize the youth around an idea/ issue while informing others about the distinctive features of cooperatives. The ambassadors are expected to conduct ‘needs analysis’ of the mobilized youth, find common need(s) around which an enterprise can be set up. The session was conducted by Mr. Moosa Mehar, founder TinkerHub, who used storytelling method to explain the mobilization aspect. He encouraged the participants to tell their stories while interacting with youth as a collective.
3. Business Model Canvas for Cooperatives - Once a common need has been identified, it is essential to set up an enterprise around it. The aim is to make the satisfaction of the common need a sustainable process. The session was conducted by Mr. Saji Gopinath who explained what it means to be an entrepreneur in the cooperative sector. The ambassadors were then taken through the step-by-step process of the business model canvas tool.
4. Support Structure of Cooperatives: the session covered the support structure needed to take forward the collective business idea. Mr. Sasikumar MV, Director of Institute of Cooperative

Management, Kannur talked about the need to contain the entropy of a cooperative while highlighting the institutional and enterprise side of a cooperative.

5. Setting up a Cooperative: The final session of the training was to provide the ambassadors a glimpse of the 'legal requirements' to set up a cooperative. The focus was on Articles of Association (AoA) and the outputs generated from activities related to cooperative principles during the training were utilized to draft a very basic version of AoA. This session also included a brief discussion on the 'Knowledge Base' tool, to highlight the platform available for the mentors and ambassadors to pool knowledge and resources. This session was led by Mr. Ivjyot Singh, Program officer, ICA-AP.

The closing ceremony was presided by Mr. Kadakampally Surendran, Minister of Cooperation, Tourism and Devaswom in the Govt. of Kerala. He praised the efforts to involve young people into the world of cooperatives.

A detailed report of the GCE ToA will be covered in the next newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2020

- Global Board meeting, Brussels, January 10 and 11

February 2020

- Global Youth Forum, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, February 3-7.
- 3rd ICA-MAFF Japan Training Course on 'Fostering Leaders for Management and Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia 2019', Thailand and Japan, February 2- March 18.
- MBO Council Meeting, Sanya, China, February 18
- UNDESA Cooperatives Development Workshop for Pacific countries, Fiji March 3-5 February (tbc)