

ICA-AP NEWSLETTER

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

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In 2020, we mark 60 years of ICA in the Asia-Pacific region, working hand-in-hand with our members to grow and enhance the cooperative movement. Over the years, ICA-AP has worked across many sectors and focused on key development areas such as gender equality, youth inclusion, entrepreneurship, and capacity building. This month, we highlight the work undertaken by ICA-AP and our members in the space of consumer cooperatives.

Consumer cooperatives play an important role in the socio-economic fabric of a country by making strong economic contributions and strengthening social development. Consumer cooperatives are present in communications, education, financial, food, health, housing, insurance, retail and wholesale, social work, transportation, and utility (such as power). In the [2019 World Cooperative Monitor: Exploring the Cooperative Economy](#), consumer cooperatives occupy 3 out of the top 5 rank among the Top 300 cooperatives based on turnover and 3 of the top 10 rank based on turnover over GDP per capita.

ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Cooperation

The ICA-AP Consumer Committee was established in 1977 to engage with consumer cooperatives, promote the development of consumer cooperation in the region and develop appropriate policies and programmes. The objectives of the committee include reviewing progress made by consumer cooperatives in the region; promoting the growth and development of consumer cooperatives; recommending policies of consumer cooperatives and consumer protection; improving managerial competence and operational efficiency of consumer cooperatives; assisting in the strengthening, reconstruction and rehabilitation of the existing consumer cooperatives; and promoting the dissemination of information and exchange of experiences/ best practices among consumer cooperatives.

The ICA-AP Consumer Committee defines consumer cooperatives as those operating in wholesale and retail sectors, selling goods and/or services to its members. As of 2020, the Committee represents 19 consumer cooperatives from 13 countries in the region (See Figure 1). Since its inception in 1977, the ICA-AP Consumer Committee has organised many training programmes and workshops for managers of consumer cooperatives, created opportunities for cross-learning and collaborated both within the region, and globally. The Japanese Consumer Cooperative Union (JCCU) has been at the forefront of promoting consumer cooperation in the

region, with an emphasis on women and youth development. In 1987, JCCU set up the [Asian Cooperation Fund](#) with ICA-AP, using its own funds, to assist consumer cooperatives sector.

For more information on consumer cooperatives in the region, and examples of their contributions, see the consumer snapshot created by ICA-AP [here](#).



Figure 1: Members of the ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Cooperation

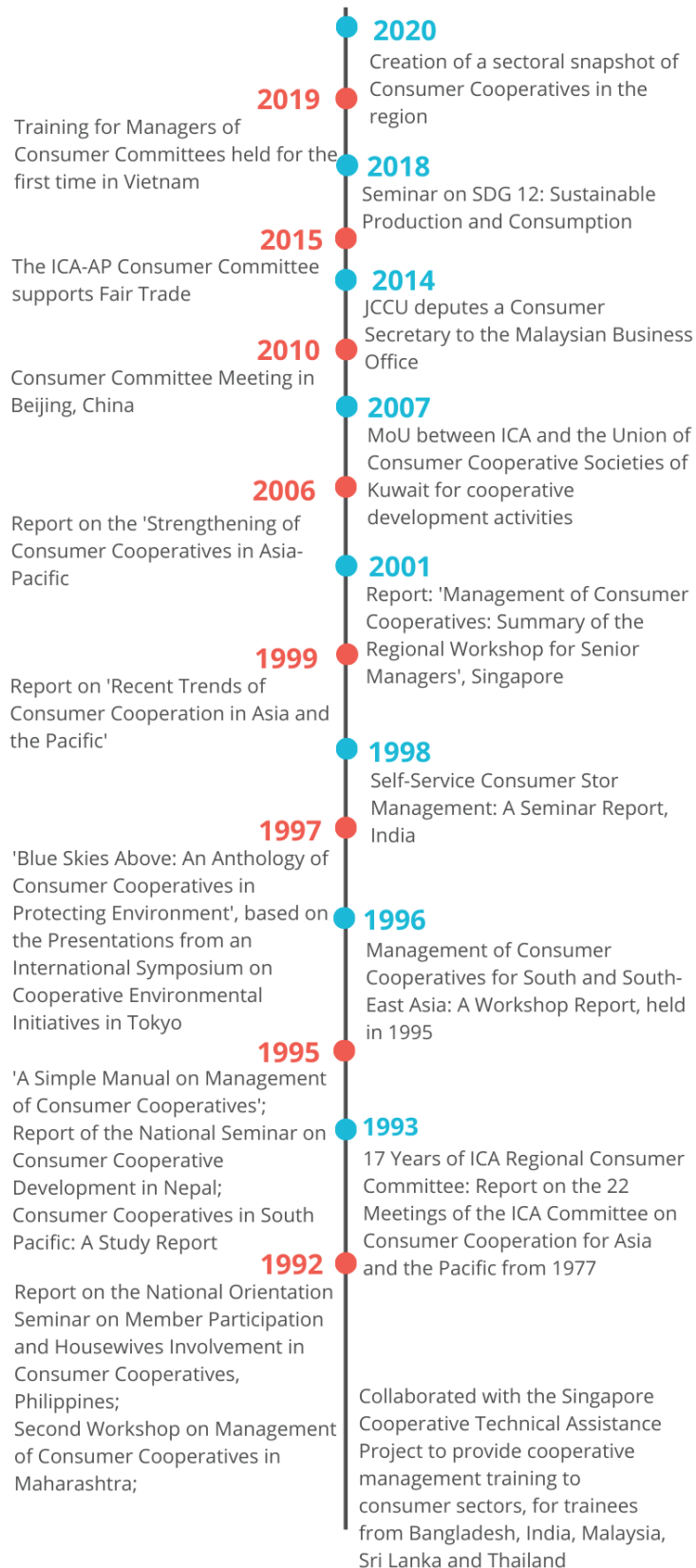
Over the years, ICA-AP and consumer cooperatives in the region have incorporated the 7 cooperative principles in their actions, with emphasis on *Cooperation among Cooperatives*,

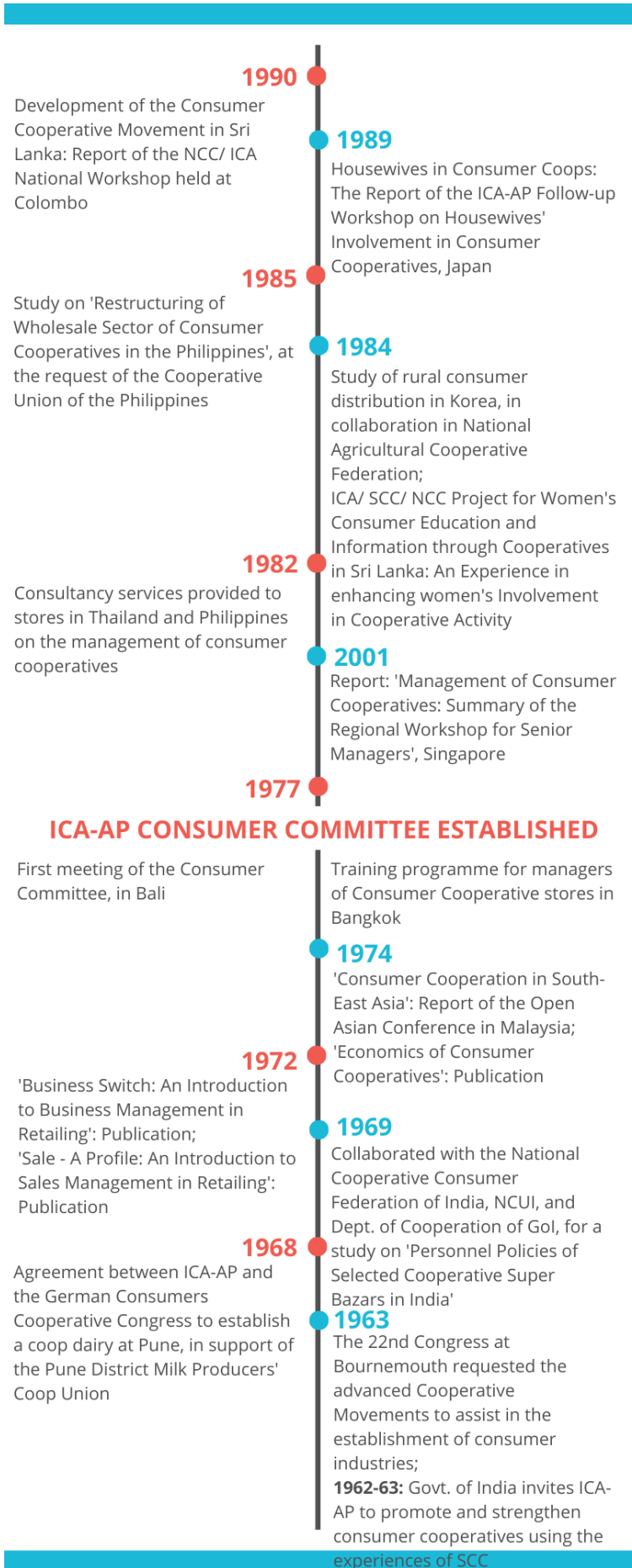
and *Concern for Community*. Some of the key activities promoted by the committee and members include:

- ❖ Consumer Cooperative Development Project in India;
- ❖ Accelerating trade by importing 20 tonnes of horsemeat by Consumer Cooperative Trading Company of Japan from cooperative trading organisation in Poland, in 1969;
- ❖ Providing consultancy services to consumer cooperatives in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, in 1992;
- ❖ Organising technical meetings and seminars on consumer cooperation. For instance, the Open Asia Conferences on Management, Agriculture, Consumer, etc.;
- ❖ Publishing and disseminating information on consumer cooperation development;
- ❖ Income-generating activities through various projects, such as the Canadian-supported project for the study of women in fishery cooperatives, the SCC-sponsored projects in Sri Lanka and India
- ❖ Technological innovations, such as computer-read order sheets and settlements through member bank accounts, improved efficiency and enhanced member participation.
- ❖ Health cooperatives in Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Singapore are also organised by consumers, placing greater emphasis on health promotion by combining consumers' learning activities with professional help.
- ❖ Fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by focusing on SDG3 (health and safety of consumers), SDG12 (responsible production and consumption), SDG13 (climate action), and incorporating other aspects of the SDG Agenda, such as gender equality, reduced inequalities, decent work and economic growth, quality education, and technical innovations.

The timeline below provides a brief overview of ICA-APs involvement with consumer cooperatives in the region, to promote and enhance development of consumer cooperatives.

60 YEARS OF ICA-AP: WORKING WITH CONSUMER COOPS





ICA-AP updates

Launching the ICA-AP COVID-19 Response page



ICA-AP has consolidated member responses from the region and is proud to launch the [COVID19 Response webpage](#). The pages showcase the immense support provided by the cooperative sector to their communities and governments. We are humbled by the magnitude of cooperative action and the display of community concern across the region.

Platform to share COVID-19 experiences, resources and needs



International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)

This group has been created for members to discuss various issues.

THREADS

POLLS

MEMBERS

FILES

SUBGROUPS

SETTINGS

ICA launched the Loomio discussion platform for members across the world to coordinate a global cooperative response to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. The platform, created on www.loomio.coop, a worker cooperative based in New Zealand, provides the space and means to share and build the cooperative narrative in terms of the movement's impact and create a consolidated response to the crisis.

Members are invited to share their ongoing experience and needs, including short-term and urgent ones such as medical supplies, and more long-term ones. There are five main threads on the platform:

- The situation on the ground
- How are you helping?
- What do you need?
- Cooperative Solidarity Fund
- Online resources and links

To join this discussion platform built by Loomio, click [here](#). For any questions regarding Loomio, please mail Santosh Kumar: kumar@ica.coop. Please allow up to 24 hours for a response and approval to join the discussion.

Webinars

ICA-AP organised two webinars, one to enable sharing of responses from the global and regional level and two to bring insights on technology transformation of cooperatives.

[Post COVID-19 Response of Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific: A discussion with ICA President, Ariel Guarco and ICA-AP President, Li Chunsheng](#)

Moderated by:
BALASUBRAMANIAN
IYER
REGIONAL DIRECTOR, ICA-AP

Ariel Guarco
PRESIDENT, ICA

Li Chunsheng
PRESIDENT, ICA-AP

WEBINAR: DISCUSSION WITH ICA PRESIDENT, ARIEL GUARCO &
ICA-AP PRESIDENT, LI CHUNSHENG

**POST COVID-19 RESPONSE OF
COOPERATIVES IN ASIA-PACIFIC**

May 13, 2020
17:30 hours (GMT +5:30)

Please register here: <https://bit.ly/3flUns2>

FOR DETAILS: INFO@ICAAP.COOP

coop International
Co-operative
Alliance
Asia and Pacific

The webinar with ICA President, Ariel Guarco and ICA-AP President, Li Chunsheng on **May 13, 2020** brought together global, regional, and national perspectives on the responses of cooperatives to COVID19. Leaders from apex cooperatives in the region presented government actions and their member responses to COVID19. The presenters included, Ms. Melina Morrison, CEO of BCCM, Australia; Mr. Gary Leonardo, Chairperson of PCC, Philippines; Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Bao, President of the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance; Mr. Alireza Banaeifar, International Affairs Manager of the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives; Dr. U. S. Awasthi, Managing Director of IFFCO, India; Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, president of the National Cooperative Union of India; and Mr. Satyanarayana, CEO, NCUI.

The [webinar recording](#) and speaker presentations can be viewed [here](#).

Post COVID-19 Webinar on Technology Transformation in Cooperatives

POST COVID-19: WEBINAR ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMATION IN COOPERATIVES
MAY 21, 2020 11:00-12:30 (IST)

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the workplace, forcing people and organisations to re-plan activities and quickly adapt to changes in member and client needs. This webinar brings in technological experts who advocate enhancing cooperatives presence in the digital space by addressing key issues around education, cooperation, and the use and application of digital platforms.

BRIAN SAN, NTUC LEARNING HUB, SINGAPORE

RAVEENDRAN KASTHURI, ULCCS, INDIA

Moderated by:
Balasubramanian Iyer,
Regional Director
ICA-AP

ANIS SAADAH, INNOCIRCLE INITIATIVE, INDONESIA

DR. HOSSEINI NIA, IRAN CHAMBER OF COOPERATIVES

Register [here](https://bit.ly/3furDxd): <https://bit.ly/3furDxd>

FOR MORE INFO, EMAIL: INFO@ICAAP.COOP

COOP International Co-operative Alliance Asia and Pacific

ICA DOMUS TRUST

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This webinar brought experts from India, Indonesia, Iran and Singapore, who advocate enhancing cooperatives presence in the digital space. Mr. Brian San, Director of Career Agility Product Division, Strategy & Communications, NTUC LearningHub, Singapore; Ms. Anis Saadah, Co-Founder and CEO of Innocircle, Indonesia; Mr. Raveendran Kasthuri, CEO of ULCCS Group, India; Dr. Ghloam Hossein Hosseininia and Dr. Zarei Behrouz of the Iran Chamber of Commerce addressed key issues around education, cooperation, use and application of digital platforms to bridge the coop-digital gaps and address the changing landscape in work and business.

Follow these links to view the [webinar recording](#) and [speaker presentations](#).

Regional Board Meeting

The ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting was held online on 19th May 2020 from 11:00 to 13:30 (IST). The physical board meeting to be held in the Philippines in May, was moved online due to the continuing COVID-19 crisis.



The meeting was chaired by Mr. Li Chunsheng, Chairperson of the Regional Board who extended a warm welcome to the members. Nine board members from India, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Singapore presented updates on their organisations' response to COVID-19.

The agenda for the meeting included discussions on: the membership situation (at present ICA-AP has 109 members from 32 countries), and the status of 2020 subscription fees. The board approved the financial report for the period January to December 2019, and the revised ICA-AP Budget for 2020.

The Board decided to postpone the 14th ICA-AP Regional Assembly to 28th February 2021 in Seoul (Republic of Korea), and hold it in conjunction with the ICA World Cooperative Congress (March 1-3). It also approved the procedures for the board elections to be held during the Regional Assembly.

The next board meeting will be held in November or December 2020. The physical or online nature of the meeting will depend on the COVID-19 situation. The Regional Director was authorised to fix the date in consultation with the ICA-AP President.

Book Launch: Waking the Asian Pacific Cooperative Potential

ICA-AP is delighted to announce the launch of *Waking the Asian Pacific Cooperative Potential* on 1st June, 2020. The book is the culmination of five years of research, involving 34 academics across 11 countries in the Asia-Pacific.



Waking the Asian Pacific Co-operative Potential 1st Edition

☆☆☆☆☆ Write a review

Editors: Morris Altman, Anthony Jensen, Akira Kurimoto, Robby Tulus, Yashavantha Dongre, Seungkwon Jang

The book is based on a cross country comparison methodology of successful cooperatives in different socio-political systems. It provides numerous case studies drawn from successful cooperative organisations; advances a theoretical framework to help readers access and understand the reasons for cooperative success in the Asia-Pacific, and develops tools for practitioners to establish effective cooperatives and restructure them to optimal goals.

The book has been led by an Editorial Board closely associated with ICA-AP research: Professor Morris Altman, University of Dundee, Scotland; Professor Yashavantha Dongre, University of Mysore, India; Professor Seungkwon Jang, Sungkonghoe University, Korea; Professor Anthony Jensen, University of Newcastle, Australia; Professor Akira Kurimoto, Hosei University, Japan; and Drs. Robby Tulus, Credit Union Movement, Indonesia.

The book comes at a critical time when Post-COVID 19, the world is looking at alternatives to the market driven, inequality widening, consumption led, environment depleting models. There is need to bring attention to the cooperative model with its member focus, democratic control, sustainable business and community concern.

The book can be ordered at: <https://www.elsevier.com/books/waking-the-asian-pacific-co-operative-potential/altman/978-0-12-816666-6>.

Interview with Professor Akira Kurimoto, Hosei University, Japan

Professor Akira Kurimoto is one of the author's and editor of the book *Waking the Asian Pacific Cooperative Potential*. He is also the Founder of the Asia Pacific Cooperative Research Partnership, with Dr. Jensen; and Chair of the ICA-AP Research Committee. Prof. Kurimoto shares his insights on the book regarding cooperative development, especially in light of the COVID19 situation around the world.



Q 1. How did you get involved with the book?

I got involved in the project that was crystallised in the publication when I met Anthony Jensen on the occasion of the ICA-AP Regional Assembly, held in Bali in 2014. We talked on the Asian cooperative model based on my paper “Mainstreaming Asian Cooperative Studies”, that I presented as a keynote speaker at the ICA-AP Research Conference held in Mysore University in 2013. We were enthusiastic in creating an Asia-Pacific cooperative scholarship and decided to create the Asia Pacific Cooperative Research Partnership (APCRP) as an engine for collaborative efforts. Then Jensen served as a project manager and we met in Bangkok, Pune, Delhi, Seoul and Newcastle. In the meantime, Morris Altman made arrangements with the publisher in Oxford and contributed to the publication.

Q 2. What are the main differences between the Asian and European cooperative models?

Asian cooperatives have been strongly influenced by the European counterparts through immigration, colonisation and knowledge transfer, including technical assistance since the mid nineteenth century. However, they have evolved differently under a stronger state involvement and dominant socio-economic circumstances. Since Asia is so diverse in terms of political systems, level of development, culture and religion, it is very difficult to make any kind of generalisation. However, we can identify the Asian cooperative features vis-a-vis the European model; collective tradition and community orientation that are conducive to create some unique cooperative models.

Q 3. What would you attribute to cooperatives that were successful and those that did not do well?

There are some attributes that contribute to creating successful cooperatives; relevance to member's needs, member's participation, quality of leadership, and a favourable environment. The extent these attributes lead to success largely differ among cases. For instance, the Japanese and South Korean consumer cooperatives have succeeded thanks to members' participation under the unfavourable legal/political environment, while favourable public policies contributed to the rapid expansion of Singaporean and Vietnamese cooperatives. The former can learn from the advanced knowhow of modern retail formats of the latter, while the latter may learn from the member participation and social movement dimensions of the former.

Q 4. During your research, did you find something about the cooperative model that you had not come across before?

I found unique cooperative models in agricultural, financial and workers' cooperatives. In particular, the Amul dairy cooperative in India has been well organised in federations at district, state and national levels to accomplish economies of scale while maintaining grassroots of small farmers breeding a few cows. Credit unions in the Philippines and Indonesia are uplifting farmers and SMEs lives through affordable financial services, while extending help to other types of cooperatives. Workers cooperatives are late bloomers but increasingly contribute to job creation and decent work in many places.

Q 5. What is the future of consumer cooperatives in the region, especially in light of the socio-economic changes imposed by COVID19?

It is very difficult to predict the future of consumer cooperatives in the region. It is largely dependent on the changes in public policies and socio-economic environment, in addition to active member participation and the capacity of leadership of future generations. Cooperatives grown from grassroots may survive and thrive if they can maintain relevance to member's needs, while those which have been supported by governments may face challenges if supportive public policies change. We don't know how the socio-economic changes imposed by COVID19 may impact consumer cooperatives, but they need to be responsive to the new environment to serve member's needs.

6. Where do you see opportunities that cooperatives can capitalise on during these times? Could you locate this in 1) in the Japanese context and 2) for cooperatives in the region?

1) In the Japanese context

Japan has witnessed the constant decrease of food self-sufficiency ratio because of expanding import and weakening domestic production basis. Most multinational retailers made inroads in one of the largest consumer markets in recent decades with mixed results. The COVID crisis reminded many Japanese of the importance of the domestic food production and distribution. It is up to cooperatives whether they can capitalise on such opportunities by modernising agriculture and improving the food supply chain.

2) For cooperatives in the region

The Lehman shock and COVID pandemic have revealed the inherent problems in the neoliberal reforms pursued in these decades. Now we can observe some setbacks from excessive globalisation. Many multinational retailers have withdrawn from rapidly expanding consumer markets in the region. The disrupted international trade of food might cause serious problems in food security in importing countries. Here we can see the opportunities in consumer and agricultural cooperatives in the age of successive crises.

Interview with Dr. Anthony Jensen, Co-Founder, Asia Pacific Cooperative Research Partnership

Dr. Jensen is the lead editor and one of the key authors of the book *Waking the Asian Pacific Cooperative Potential*. He is also the Founder of the Asia Pacific Cooperative Research Partnership, with Prof. Kurimoto.



Q 1. What was the genesis of the book?

This project had its genesis in collaborative thinking around the idea of comparative research. An idea whose time had come. It started with discussions I had held with Mr Bien Nito at the University of Asia Pacific on a comparative study of cooperatives I had conducted in Italy and Australia, and how this could be applied to Asia-Pacific. Ms Melina Morrison of the Business Council of Cooperatives and Mutuals (BCCM) in Australia suggested that I put this to the ICA-AP Research Committee in Bali in 2015, where it struck a deep chord with Professor Akira Kurimoto, Professor Yasavaatha Dongre, Professor Morris Altman, and Dr. Robby Tulus. As a result, we founded the Asia Pacific Cooperative Research Partnership (APCRP), and invited Professor Seungkwon Jang to join us as a founding member. The APCRP was fortunate to have a very strong editorial board with Professor Kurimoto, specialising in consumer cooperatives; Dr. Tulus, in credit unions and cooperative policy; Professor Dongre in agricultural cooperatives; Professor Jang in worker, consumer and agricultural cooperatives; and Professor Altman in cooperative theory.

The first meeting of the APCRP was held in early 2014 in Bangkok, with 22 participants from across the region. The scope of the research was defined and work began, including the recruitment of eleven countries and twenty-two case studies. The concept was supported by Mr Balu Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP, on the back of the substantial work already done to date by the ICA-AP Research Committee. Professor Morris Altman negotiated a book contract with Elsevier.

Q 2. What are key takeaways from Asia cooperative experience?

The key takeaway was that the APCRP initiated a new phase of research into cooperatives in the Asia Pacific. Having been eclipsed by neo liberal ideology, this book positions cooperatives in the renewal phase of theory and practice. Acknowledged as a group of revisionist academics, APCRP redefined the position of cooperatives, from being seen as inadequate and failures, to that of being viewed as a superior business model. Subsequently, cooperatives are now viewed as a model with untapped potential.

The APCRP academics, in conducting this project, positioned cooperative research as being distinct from that conducted in the West. They positioned their scholarship in the context of cooperatives sitting within Asian business systems, "which cannot be understood by concepts developed in the West" (Witt and Redding 2013).

Asia consists of a number of different economies in which certain types of cooperatives thrive unevenly across the region. Witt and Redding (2013) described ten factors which define these Asian business systems. One key factor they defined is "multiplexity" meaning that different business systems co-exist within an economy. Here we take a new view of cooperatives, that rather as living on the margins, can be seen as a "state within a state ". We see potential in Asia for cooperatives "nestling' within a system of opposites, of co-existing, of being the possibility of being the "new normal", and therefore having the ability to affect the development of the state and the value systems underlying corporate behaviour.

Q 3. Within the Asia Pacific context are there any specific tools for practitioners to establish effective cooperatives?

This case study research provides an invaluable matrix of factors which impact the successful formation and trajectory of cooperatives, giving practitioners an explanation of how the cooperative businesses model starts and functions. These factors are the fundamental tools of the practitioner. In addition, the context of the book is underpinned by an explanation of the theoretical concept that cooperatives will out-perform their investor competitors if they implement the cooperative principles as described by Professor Altman (2020). This presents a major challenge to the perceived wisdom that the neo classical model is the best one for economic development.

The theme of the book is invaluable to practitioners as it is a study defining the obstacles that cooperatives face in the start-up phase, and reporting on how these obstacles were overcome in subsequent phases. In addition, this study is focused on four different types of cooperatives

- agricultural, consumer, credit/thrift, and worker. The matrix/model is developed further using the variety of Asian business systems approach to explain different outcomes in different national political economies. The final stage of the model uses macro factors of the state, civil society and the market to explain emergence and micro factors of ownership, governance, and human relations, to explain functionality and trajectory. Using these concepts, practitioners and policy makers can craft and design cooperatives to fit different political economies. They can also predict outcomes of state interventions to improve cooperative formation and resilience.

Q 4. What are the key lessons from case studies regarding the role of cooperatives in a modern economy?

This raises questions as to what the future economy might look like. A key lesson of this project was that cooperatives provide an alternative model which can be embraced by many sectors of both the traditional and modern economy. Through a series of twenty-one extraordinary case studies, this book presents a rethink and challenge to the way capitalism fails society, and in the way the production and distribution of wealth is organised. In the sustainability and resiliency of financing, production and distribution of wealth and opportunity, the case study cooperatives provide key lessons about how to create a more egalitarian and democratic world. A key lesson of the case studies is the confirmation of proof of concept where cooperative start-up and thriving was effected by important local leaders.

Another key lesson that the book provides, through a study of a number of successful cooperatives, the ability to scale up which is a necessary alternative view to the negative perspective that cooperatives are not a suitable model for lifting people out of poverty. The book is a rich 'how to do it' series of examples to counter these negative views. The Uralungal Labour Cooperative Society in India evolved from a group of 13 men in construction to diversifying into Intermediate Technology with 5000 members; Asia Pro in the Philippines developed a model to supply employees to companies, and now has over 80,000 employees; the award-winning retailer Saigon Coop demonstrated a joint venture approach to partner with the Singapore cooperative grocery chain FairPrice, establishing cooperative retail chain in Vietnam.

Q 5. How do you see the future for worker cooperatives in the region?

Worker cooperatives are relatively scarce across the region but their theoretical potential is enormous if they can overcome start-up problems. The case studies demonstrate the potential of worker cooperatives succeeding in a range of scenarios in the pursuit of jobs: business start-up and diversification, contract employee hire, business succession of family firm to employees, strike action over wages, trade union job creation, and social mission supported by consumer cooperatives. Their scarcity however reflects the disadvantages that they face in the start-up phase when the investor model is preferred. Workers wanting to start a mutual business are generally risk averse, lack financial skills, and lack access to investment and working capital. Crucially there is often a scarcity of state support and market entry is costly. In this scenario, demonstrated in the case studies, leaders with a social vision emerged from civil society institutions, with their commitment to overcome these problems and launch the cooperative. The case studies demonstrated this could be achieved.

They provide replicable models that can be used as a template to roll out across the region in joint ventures. This results in the major lesson of the research that there needs to be a redefining of the role of the state, from control to support, in facilitating cooperatives' success in competing in competitive markets and accessing capital in the early stages. The joint venture to bring the Saigon Coop in Vietnam into existence is a good example.

Once launched and past the start-up phase, some of the studies leveraged their strategic competitive advantage through efficient communication channels, better motivation, and so outperform the investor model. The key lesson is that conflict is a tension to be managed, not eliminated. As a researcher stated, "Through conflict and debate a new organisation was formed". The key lesson from the highly successful Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society (Isaac and Williams 2017) is that a change to "right" support in the role of the state is required if worker cooperatives are to reach their potential and replicate these case study successes across the region. Worker cooperatives can achieve their full potential in Asia and deliver a social and economic good.

To do this, it is hoped this book provides impetus for states in Asia to legislate to establish institutions to support worker cooperatives, as has occurred in many Western countries, e.g. the Marcora Law in Italy (1985) established two funds the FONCOOPER and CFI (Campagna Finanziaria Industrie) with funding and advice.

International Day of Cooperatives: Cooperatives for Climate Action: SDG 13



We are pleased to launch the 2020 International Day of Cooperatives campaign. As you know, the theme this year is **Cooperatives for Climate Action**, and we designed this year's campaign to engage and inspire members to take action against climate change. Many of you in the cooperative movement

are already very active in this arena, and I applaud you. But as you are also aware, there is still much more to do.

The COVID-19 pandemic has proven to us that the cooperative movement has taken many steps to help communities adjust the way we now have to live, find innovative and cost-effective ways to provide care for the sick, and come together as cooperatives to offer solidarity and support. This pandemic has also proven to us that those who have less are the ones who suffer the most.

Climate change continues to affect the most vulnerable population on our planet, and we must continue to take action to change this. This year to highlight the importance of taking action against climate change, and to encourage others to also make a difference – no matter how small – we invite you to visit the ICA [website](#) to learn about our plans for this special day. Among the activities are:

- **An interactive map** that will show what cooperatives worldwide are doing to take action against climate change. (Thank you **DotCoop** for taking this on again this year!)
- **A photo competition** – the best one that illustrates #Coops4ClimateAction wins!
- **An invitation to submit a short personal video titled, “In 10 years, I hope...”** that will tell us what you hope the outcome #Coops4ClimateAction will be in 10 years. The most inspiring ones will be included in a short video to be produced for this year’s event.

ICA-AP is also organising three webinars in the run-up to the International Day of Cooperatives. The first will be on **17th June, 2020**, with the theme: Harnessing renewables. Experts from the field and co-operators will come together to provide actionable steps for the adoption of renewable sources of energy. On **2nd July**, we bring a panel discussion with the authors and editors of the newly launched book: *Waking the Asia Pacific Co-operative Potential*; and on **4th July**, the International Day of Cooperatives, we bring member perspectives on celebrating cooperatives in climate action.

The cooperative movement can use this important opportunity to take a stand as a global actor of change and collaborate with its partners within the international community. This collective effort can significantly impact the climate agenda and achieve a fair, green and just transition for all communities, leaving no one behind.

We encourage you to promote **#CoopsDay** and **#Coops4ClimateAction** widely on all your social media channels. This event will focus on the contributions of cooperatives to combating climate change, one of the most severe challenges facing our planet during the 21st century.

Stay tuned for updates on activities planned to mark the International Day of Cooperatives!

#GoGreen 3.0

The Go Green Campaign, started in 2018, is an initiative of International Cooperative Alliance Asia-Pacific Committee on Youth Cooperation (ICYC), to link youth and SDGs on a single platform and create an identity for cooperatives as a sustainable model for environment and society. This year, ICYC will organise Go Green Campaign 3.0 in the month of July to fit with

the 2020 theme for International Day of Cooperatives (July 4, 2020), *Cooperatives for Climate Change*.

The “*World Goes Green with Africa, America and Asia-Pacific*”, will be held in partnership with the Africa Youth Network, Americas Youth Network (CRJ) and ICA Sectoral organisation Cooperative Housing International (CHI). The Campaign is divided into three Regional Youth Weeks: the first from July 1 to 7, will be celebrated in the Asia-Pacific; the second from July 8 to 14, in Africa; and third from July 15 to 21, in the Americas. The campaign will display the role of youth and cooperatives can play through self-help and solidarity.

ICYC takes this opportunity to call for speakers for its upcoming webinar on the Go Green campaign. The webinar will focus on SDG13: Climate Action, Youth, and COVID19. Interested volunteers are requested to send in their names to ahsanalithakur@yahoo.com. More information about the Go Green Campaign and call for speakers can be viewed [here](#).

ICA-EU Partnership: Updates



The articles related to the ICA-EU Partnership in this newsletter have been co-funded by the European Union. The contents of these articles are the sole responsibility of the International Cooperative Alliance Asia-Pacific and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

Youth Replication Project

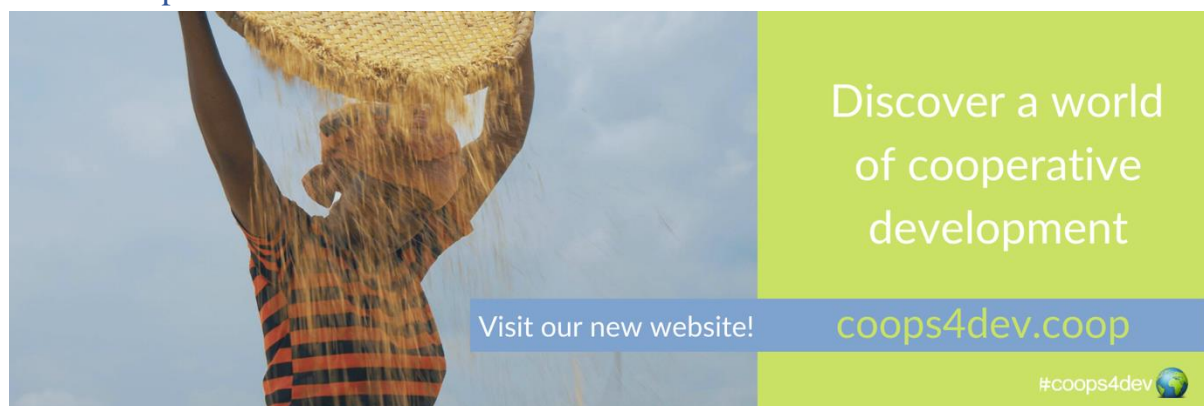


The Youth Replication Project was first announced at the Global Youth Forum (#GYF20) in February. We are happy to finally open the call for applications for the Youth Replication Project! The project is an initiative by the Global Youth Network, managed and led by the Executive Committee, with the goal of having young people come together to start new cooperative projects. More information about the Youth Replication can be found [here](#).

The Executive Committee will select at least 8 projects - 2 per ICA region - and invest a maximum of EUR 10,000 per project. They will also assign mentors that will help with the development of the project.

The call for applications is open until **16th August (midnight Brussels time)**.

Research updates



Legal Framework Analysis

National Reports of Bhutan and Mongolia are now available on the [#coops4dev website](#). National Reports of 13 countries can also be accessed at [#coops4dev](#).

Mapping of Cooperatives

The mapping research aims at collecting and publicising exhaustive and up-to-date statistics of cooperative organisations in different countries. The national Reports for Iran and the Philippines can be accessed at [#coops4dev](#).

Country snapshots

Country snapshots for Australia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, PNG, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, and Vanuatu are now available on the [ICA-AP website](#).

Sectoral/thematic snapshots

The snapshot on **consumer cooperatives** can be accessed [here](#). This snapshot provides one-stop information on consumer cooperatives in the region and includes definition of consumer cooperatives, number of consumer cooperatives by countries and interesting case studies.

GYF20



The Global Youth Forum Cooperative Entrepreneurship 2020 (GYF20) was a first-of-its kind week long immersive training for youth entrepreneurs (ages 18-35) and co-operators from around the world. GYF20 took place in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia from 3rd-7th February 2020 with over 150 youth participants and 20 trainers, professionals and experts from 50 countries. From the Asia-Pacific region, we had participants and trainers from India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Singapore, and Sri Lanka.

Know more about participants from the Asia-Pacific here: https://youtu.be/INr_t9s6hR4

Announcements

Postponement of World Cooperative Congress and 14th ICA-AP Regional Assembly



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ICA Global Board has decided to postpone the 33rd World Cooperative Congress. This important event will still be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea and is now scheduled to take place between the **1st and 3rd of March 2021**. The preparatory events, namely the **ICA Cooperative Research Conference** and the **International Cooperative Law Forum**, will take place between the 26th and 28th of February.*

As originally defined, the theme of the Congress will still be ‘**Deepening our Cooperative Identity.**’ Looking beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, the Congress we look to deepening understanding of how the cooperative identity has enabled cooperatives to tackle this crisis and how it will overcome other global challenges like climate change, sustainable development, peace and equality. The 33rd World Cooperative Congress will be an opportunity to look back and validate the cooperative movement’s resilience, leadership and solidarity during times of crisis. This event will now serve as an important forum to:

- Discuss why the cooperative identity, including definition, principles and values, is needed now more than ever;
- Show cooperative resilience by sharing experiences and testimonies; and
- Discuss how cooperatives can significantly contribute to the global economic, social and environmental reconstruction.

The ICA-AP Regional Board in its online meeting on May 19, decided to postpone the 14th ICA-AP Regional Assembly to 28th February 2021 and hold it in conjunction with the ICA World Cooperative

Congress (March 1-3). It also approved the procedures for the board elections to be held during the Regional Assembly.

**The dates for these events are subject to be further rescheduled should the pandemic make it necessary for force majeure.*

ICA-AP Cooperative Research Conference: Call for papers



The ICA-AP Committee on Cooperative Research invites paper proposals for the 15th ICA-AP Cooperative Research Conference, which will be held from November 25-27, 2020 in Trivandrum, India. The conference is organised under the ICA-AP Committee on Cooperative Research, with support from the Government of Kerala and the ICA-EU Partnership on Cooperatives in Development (#coops4dev). The conference theme this year is “Confronting climate change through cooperative enterprise”.

More details about the call for papers can be found here: <http://icaap.coop/sites/ica-ap.coop/files/CfP%20Trivandrum%20Conference.pdf>

All abstracts of the papers should reach Mr. Mohit Dave, Secretary, ICA-AP Committee on Cooperative Research at research@icaap.coop on or before **1st July, 2020**.

Upcoming Events

- Webinar on *Harnessing Renewables* – June 14th
- Panel Discussion with authors of *Waking the Asia Pacific Cooperative Potential* – July 2nd
- International Day of Cooperatives – July 4th
- GoGreen 3.0 International Webinar – July 7th
- 14th ICA-AP Regional Assembly – Feb 28th
- World Congress – March 1st-3rd, 2021

The Covid-19 outbreak has disrupted many scheduled plans and activities across the world. Following WHO guidelines and government advisories, ICA-AP and members have put out on hold physical activities planned for the time being. We will update you as and when the rescheduled dates are available.



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