

ICA-AP NEWSLETTER

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

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Obituary



Sethu Madhavan
February 19, 1952 - September 5, 2020

It is with extreme sadness we announce the passing of our friend and colleague, Sethu Madhavan. Our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Lalitha; son, Ekanth; and family!

Sethu and ICA-AP were one and the same to members in the Asia-Pacific region. Sethu joined the ICA Regional Office on April 16, 1975 and was continually associated till the day of his passing. For 45 years, Sethu worked with sincerity and dedication for members and cooperatives. He was always there to answer questions, ever eager to help members, a friend and mentor, sincere in his work, and meticulous in whatever task he undertook.

Sethu was the first point of contact for members, be it to know about joining ICA, any issue relating to subscription, or seeking clarification on rules. He was always there to hear, ever ready to respond, and do his best to resolve. As Coordinator of one of the ICA-MAFF training programs, he was a guide and friend to many a cooperator from across the region. As Secretary of the Human Resources Committee, he served with sincerity and dedication.

Sethu played a central role in the Regional Assemblies, Board meetings, and in high level ministerial and other conferences. He would be the first person in the hall and the last person to leave after having ensured order of seating, placement of name plates and flags, arrangement for interpreters, handing out of meeting material, and taking care of hospitality. To many Regional Directors, he was the right hand man with his knowledge of members, information on board decisions, balanced understanding of issues and finger on happenings in the office.

To staff in the Regional Office, he was a mentor, friend, and guide. It did not matter to Sethu, whether it was the Regional Director or a support staff. He had a friendly demeanour, treated everyone equally, was easily accessible, and every ready to share and guide.

Rest in peace, Sethu! You will be terribly missed!

Celebrating 125 years of ICA: Bringing the future into focus



Dear Madam, dear Sir,

On 19 August 2020, the **International Cooperative Alliance - ICA** celebrated its 125th anniversary, showing a longevity and strength that few international organisations can claim to have.

On this important anniversary, I am pleased to share some material specially prepared for this day on our ICA website. Several co-operators and historians are sharing some important considerations which you will find on the website here.



- In his [video address](#), ICA President Ariel Guarco situates the 125 anniversary in light of the ongoing global challenges, not least the pandemic, and thanks all co-operators for their contributions and efforts to overcome them.
- [In this video](#), Gillian Lonergan, retired UK National Cooperative Archive Librarian; Rita Rhodes, ICA historian; Martin Lowery, ICA Cooperative Identity Committee Chair; and Vina Vida Rempillo, training coordinator and youth co-operator from the Philippines' National Confederation of Cooperatives, share their knowledge of, and enthusiasm for the cooperative movement. You can also read more stories from their interviews [here](#).
- Gillian Lonergan, Rita Rhodes, and Martin Lowery have also written insightful think pieces to enhance our knowledge on the cooperative movement and the future, which can be found [here](#).
- Several national co-operators and historians of the cooperative movement from countries which had delegates at the very first international Cooperative Congress held in London 125 years ago, share their views here with their analyses on their countries' participation at that congress and the reason why it has been such a remarkably influential event. They also reflect upon what 125 years of relations with the ICA has meant for their national cooperative movements. More national contributions from countries that were represented at the first congress will be uploaded in the incoming days and weeks, and we kindly invite you to visit the ICA website regularly [here](#).

Whereas cooperatives today represent an impressive global reality in terms of membership,

employment and economic share in the most diverse sectors, the international cooperative movement as we know it today would probably not have survived, had not the ICA been established in the first place. This was done in great part to promote a clear entrepreneurial, social and organisational model, aimed at meeting people's needs and aspirations, a model that could be managed by all those involved by themselves. A business model that, by 1895, had already gathered 50 years of extensively tested evidence of success and power of replicability.

Co-operators have always learnt from each other

In her think piece, Gillian Lonergan explains the rise of the cooperative model over those 50 years preceding the ICA's foundation in 1895. The Rochdale Pioneers' Rulebook, as it was called, was quickly followed by hundreds of British cooperatives and known as the "Rochdale method", probably because it combined governance considerations (such as the principle of one person one vote) with very practical provisions borne out of 19th century entrepreneurial experience (like the rule of cash payment). But what is even more noteworthy is that in the middle of the 19th Century, early co-operators crossed borders and travelled long distances to meet and exchange observations and ideas stemming from the experience of their respective cooperative models: the Rochdale cooperative received visitors from many countries as early as in the 1860s, Gillian Lonergan explains.

Co-operators from various countries attended and participated in each other's early national congresses. US Madison University Emeritus Prof. Ann Hoyt and Prof. Daniel Plotisnsky, Director of Idelcoop, Argentina, explain how US and Argentinean co-operators made study visits to several European countries at that time. As Dr. Peter Gleber, Scientific Director of the Cooperative History Information Centre in Berlin, explains, Hermann Schulze-Delitzsch, one of the founders of the German credit cooperative movement, had studied Robert Owen. The early German co-operators had high respect for the Rochdale principles, in spite of the fact that the latter were more oriented towards consumer cooperatives. Prof. Jean-François Draperi from France explains that, during this early period of incubation and networking, French and British co-operators developed a positive dialogue over two forms of cooperatives represented by consumer and producer cooperatives. Prof. Alexander Sobolev from Russia explains that the early Russian co-operators studied the English, German, and French models alike.

ICA's first years and through the two world wars: Guidance and resilience

Prof. Rita Rhodes from the UK explains that the ICA, since its creation in 1895, managed to gather a gradually growing international cooperative movement, while maintaining a high level of adaptability and dialogue among the different cooperative schools, sectors and trends that were gradually learning to know each other. This adaptability is what, according to Rita Rhodes, has enabled the ICA and the cooperative movement to remain unified. This was indeed a prudent approach not only because of the changing international context, with the establishment of new states at the end of World War I, not least the Soviet Union, but also of the internal differences within states. Dr. Eva Bauer explains in the case of the Austrian-Hungarian empire and the new Austrian state, and Dr. Mattia Granata about the development of two cooperative organisations in Italy along different political lines (socialist and catholic), but both following closely the cooperative model.

There was, however, a limit to adaptability. While ICA was carrying out its first review of the cooperative principles in the 1930s, the German, Austrian and Italian cooperative movements,

undergoing fascism, were excluded for several years.

Post World War II, the Cold War and Decolonisation

Following the second world war, as Prof. Rita Rhodes explains, a second revision of the cooperative principles in 1966 was driven partly by the changing international arena. Prof. Soboliev recognises that ICA activities were partly used for Russian political purposes at that time, but also underlines that exchanges of views and experience among ICA members were useful to all sides. He reminds us that hundreds of co-operators from developing countries were trained in cooperative studies at the Moscow Cooperative Institution during the post war for decades.

The 1966 review of the cooperative principles, as well as the 1995 one, discussed the sensitive issue of political neutrality, autonomy and independence. Daniel Plotinski explains that Argentina took an active part in this debate. During that time, with decolonisation, more organisations became affiliated from outside Europe, making ICA gradually a truly global organisation. This laid the ground for the rise of the ICA Regions.

The cooperative movement today

Martin Lowery, in his think piece about the present and the future of the cooperative movement discusses the important contribution of cooperatives to the immense advances of today's world in the fields of human rights and equal opportunity. Making the cooperative values fully explicit for the first time in 1995 with the **Statement on the Cooperative Identity** helped clarify the operational excellence of cooperative principles. Martin Lowery also elaborates on the addition of the 7th cooperative principle of 'Concern for Community', with its full conformity with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were approved 20 years later, and their triple bottom-line vision of development: economic, social, and environmental. He argues that the global challenges of today as further evidenced by the current pandemic, and the key role of cooperatives in contributing to meeting such challenges, require to deepen the understanding of the cooperative principles, including the possibility of their being completed in the light of these ongoing challenges.

Cooperatives and peace

In addition, special mention should be made here about cooperatives and peace along ICA's history up to this very date, as highlighted by several contributors to our 125 Anniversary.

Back in the 19th Century, one of the founders of the German cooperative movements, Hermann Schulze-Delitzsch, had already affirmed that "the cooperative is peace", according to Peter Gleber. Rita Rhodes in her think piece points out that the First ICA Declaration on Peace goes back to 1902, whereas Ann Hoyt recalls that the 1913 Glasgow Congress expressed deep concern for the pre-war climate then emerging. Rita Rhodes explains that, after World War I, an ICA Congress in Switzerland presented a global report on cooperatives during the war period, which she upholds as an early example of truth and reconciliation. Mattia Granata emphasises the focus on cooperatives and peace brought by Ivano Barberini, the first ICA Italian President (2001-2009). Ann Hoyt underlines the 2006 ICA Declaration mentioning peace under Barberini's presidency, and hails the ICA Declaration on Cooperatives and Positive Peace approved by the ICA 2019 General Assembly held in Kigali, Rwanda, adding that the quest for positive peace is probably one the key contributions of cooperatives during the entire ICA history. Martin Lowery ends his think piece echoing Ann Hoyt, considering that positive

peace is probably one of the areas where cooperatives can bring the most lasting impact on the development of communities everywhere and in the future.

Evolving to meet emergent and urgent needs

The achievement in establishing ICA 125 years ago and the continued strength of the cooperative model is a testimony to its relevance and contribution of cooperatives to cooperative members, their families and communities, and societies at large, around the world. The cooperative movement and ICA have managed to survive and grow through the great economic depression, the fascist and Nazi regimes, the tragedies of two world wars, the high tensions of the cold war and the arms race, crimes against humanity during internal conflicts, pressures to conform to for-profit motives only, as well as the many concurrent crises and challenges. Today, ICA represents 315 member organisations in 111 countries—more than at any time in these 125 years. There is corresponding evidence that, since the industrial revolution until today, cooperatives have been economically sustainable in all sectors of the economy, and continue to be responsive to fundamental and evolving human needs.

New forms and types of cooperatives are being invented all the time, just like the original Rochdale Pioneers cooperative did, with amazing innovations. Social cooperatives, an extremely valuable experiment, were invented in Italy in the late 1970s, and are now extending all over the world. We have recently seen the emergence of freelancers' cooperatives, community cooperatives, renewable energy cooperatives, food cooperatives, and various types of multi-stakeholder and platform cooperatives as innovative and successful cooperative models. It is only natural that new forms of cooperatives will continue to emerge as the socio-economic needs of human beings evolve, and aspirations manifest themselves into a common will to make this world a better place.

Cooperatives' future is being built here and now

The cooperative model may have been sometimes depicted as 'old-fashioned', which we cannot agree with as innovation and dynamism seem continuously to spring from the 5th cooperative principle of education, training and information, of members, staff, communities and public at large but also the youth, women and vulnerable groups in every society across the world. With the emergence of new technologies and the youth's leadership in global issues, we observe among them a strengthening and vibrant interest towards the cooperative model. This was particularly tangible during the recent cooperative Global Youth Forum, in February 2020 in Malaysia, which was also a large mutual learning exercise. The youth, as global citizens, are becoming more determined to actively bring up the subject of environmental crises and the impact of climate change to the fore, as well as the need for addressing inequality and discrimination. The cooperative model continues to be increasingly relevant thanks to young co-operators, offering one of the most important channels for democratic organisation and ensuring both the satisfaction and sustainable management of their economic, social, cultural and environmental needs.

Cooperatives attest to the human spirit of cooperation, resilience and solidarity, capable of overcoming all types of challenges, transformations, and crises. But it is through our children, through the youth and their leadership today, that the cooperative model will remain an important agent of social transformation, working steadily towards sustainable, inclusive, encompassing development of all individuals, families and communities, towards positive peace. The ICA will be there, as it has always been, as the platform for exchange dedicated to the cooperative model.

The International Cooperative Alliance will continue to deliver its value with unwavering determination, for decades to come, to support all and each one's efforts to improve life on this planet for all, with the humble but bold contribution of our cooperative identity.

Cooperatively,
Bruno Roelants
Director General



ICA-APs work with youth and educational institutions

2020 is a landmark year for the global cooperative movement! This year, we have once again stood resilient to the many challenges, and now come together to celebrate 125 years of ICA and 60 years of ICA-AP. August 2020 is particularly special as it marks the birth anniversary of ICA. On 12th August, we also celebrated International Youth Day, to mark the importance of youth engagement in the world community and economy, and especially in the cooperative movement. This month, we highlight the work done by ICA-AP over the past 60 years with youth and educational institutions across the Asia-Pacific.

ICYC

Recognising the importance of increasing youth engagement within the cooperative movement, the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation (ICYC) was established in 2000 to promote and strengthen cooperation among youth in cooperatives. The objectives of ICYC are to:

- ❖ Facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building among youth in cooperatives;
- ❖ Encourage the active membership and participation of youth as employees and leaders within the cooperative movement;
- ❖ Increase awareness on participatory democracy among youth;
- ❖ Strengthen business activities of youth cooperatives through member education, promotion, training, and facilitating exchange;
- ❖ Promote and develop the cooperative community, coop movement and environment for cooperatives to succeed;
- ❖ Provide linkages and networking with cooperatives at all levels (i.e. local, national, regional and global); and
- ❖ Promote the inclusion of youth into the mainstream of the cooperative organization via youth representation at the local, national, regional, and global level.

ICYC currently has 11 members from 6 countries in the Asia-Pacific. The figure below indicates ICYCs members as of 2020.

ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation

Members in Asia-Pacific



India

Indian Farmer Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO)

Indonesia

KOPINDO, Representative of DEKOPIN (The Indonesian Coop Council)

Iran

Iran Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC)

Roh-e-roshd

Nepal

National Agriculture Cooperative Central Federation Ltd. (NACCFL)

Pakistan

Karachi Housing Cooperative Union

Palestine

Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine (ESDC)

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Co-operative
Alliance
Asia and Pacific

ICEI

The ICA-AP Committee on Cooperatives in Educational Institutions (ICEI, formerly known as the ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Cooperatives) was established in 2008 at the ICA-AP Regional Assembly held at Hanoi, Vietnam. Before this, it was a sub-committee of the ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Cooperation for fifteen years (1993-2008), and promoted campus cooperatives as an instrument to improve the quality of life on campuses.

The objectives of ICEI are to promote the development of cooperatives in educational institutions (university, colleges, and high schools) with participation of teachers, staff and students as members. The Committee facilitates youth integration into the cooperative movement by involving students in cooperatives and making them understand the cooperative values and importance of self-help and mutuality.

ICEI has 15 individual members from 12 member countries of ICA. The National Federation of University Cooperative Associations (NFUCA), ICA member since 2002, has played a critical role in supporting the establishment of ICEI.

ICA-AP Committee on Cooperatives in Educational Institutions

Members in Asia-Pacific



China

Zhejiang Institute of Economics and Trade

India

National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI)

Indonesia

KOPINDO, Representative of DEKOPIN (The Indonesian Coop Council)

Iran

Roh-e-roshd Educational Cooperative

Japan

National Federation of University Cooperative Associations (NFUCA)

Malaysia

ANGKASA

Nepal

National Cooperative Bank Ltd. (NCBL)

Pakistan

Karachi Housing Cooperative Union

Palestine

Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine (ESDC)

Philippines

Metro Manila Federation of Consumer Cooperatives (MMAFECCO)

Singapore

Singapore National Cooperative Federation (SNCF)

South Korea

Korean Federation of University Cooperatives (KFUC)

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Alliance
Asia and Pacific

Even before the inception of ICYC and ICEI, ICA-AP and its members have been working with youth, young co-operators and educational institutions to promote youth entrepreneurship, training, education, capacity building, and engagement with the cooperative movement. Over the years, ICA-APs involvement with youth and educational institutions has included:

- ❖ The ICA-National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) *Cooperative Field Education Project* in Indore, India from 1971-1977. The project, funded by the Swedish Cooperative Centre, covered 10 village-level primary cooperatives with the objective of strengthening them through education and extension, focusing on farm guidance workers, women and youth participation in income generation activities. The success of the project resulted in the Government of India sanctioning 50 similar projects for NCUI, 40 of which continued up till 2010.
- ❖ Promoting networking, knowledge and best practice exchange among youth through events and activities targeting youth co-operators and youth in educational institutions.
- ❖ Research and publications on youth engagement in cooperatives, youth entrepreneurship, cooperatives in educational institutions. The Dr. Mauritz Bonow Young Researchers Award is awarded to two meritorious youth researchers in cooperatives every year. The Global Thematic Research on Youth, currently being conducted by ICA across all regional offices focuses on different themes concerning youth, including education, employment, entrepreneurship, and inequalities.
- ❖ Training programmes for leadership development of youth in cooperatives.
- ❖ Global assemblies, conferences and research opportunities focused on youth participation and furthering youth involvement in cooperatives.
- ❖ Providing platforms for interaction, networking, exchange and cross learning through Committees such as the ICYC and ICEI.

The timelines below provide a brief overview of ICA-AP and its members' engagement with youth and cooperatives in educational institutions since the inception of the respective Committees.

ICA-AP updates

International Youth Day virtual talk: ICEI – ANGKASA: Youth Engagement through Entrepreneurship

12th August, 2020



To commemorate the International Youth Day (IYD) 2020, ICA member ANGKASA from Malaysia and the ICA-AP Committee on Cooperatives in Educational Institutions (ICEI) organised an international virtual talk on *Youth Engagement through Entrepreneurship*. Three young speakers from Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan were invited to discuss issues concerning youth, such as job creation; empowerment and innovation; and challenges and opportunities for youth post COVID-19 pandemic.

The virtual talk held on August 12, 2020, was attended by 60 participants from various countries in Asia-Pacific. Around 25% of the participants were in the age group of 16-20; 24% between 31-35 years; and 21% between 26-30 years.

Dr. Mohd. Azlan Yahya Vice-President, ANGKASA and Chairperson, ICEI commenced the discussions by welcoming the guest speakers and participants. Dr. Azlan said that youth employment is a serious issue in many countries of Asia-Pacific and this theme was chosen keeping in view the relevance and need to discuss entrepreneurship through which youth can be engaged in the economy.

Mr. Nasir Khan Yahaya, Group Chief Executive Officer, ANGKASA while moderating the discussions, noted the dire need to take active measures to ensure youth employment, especially because COVID-19 is still looming large. He added that while the Asia-Pacific region is fortunate to have youth as key agents of socio-economic development and technological innovation; youth unemployment is growing fast. Therefore, the themes selected for the discussions will help show the way towards youth entrepreneurship and employment.

Mr. Zaiwin Kassim, Chairman, KOBIS and TEDx curator from Malaysia emphasized on empowerment and innovation can ensure rich engagement with youth in cooperatives. In his brief and vibrant address, he said that COVID-19 is a reset button for the world and it gives us an opportunity to rethink empowerment and innovation. He set a positive tone early in the discussion by laying emphasis on appreciation and said that, empowerment is appreciation for youth!

Ms. Yohana Tamara Yunisa, Project Manager, Keling Kumang Credit Union from Indonesia made the case for creating adequate and meaningful jobs for young people. Through a visual presentation of her cooperative, she showed the importance of understanding people's needs in order to create jobs for young people. Her address focused on sustainable business which stems from customer satisfaction and appreciation. She added that in cooperatives, serving members well is of great importance. Her cooperative is helping members in accessing credit to produce a range of consumer products which enable members to earn a secure income.

Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur, Director of IR & Communications K.C.H.S. Union Ltd., Pakistan; Chairperson, ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation (ICYC); and Vice-President of the ICA Youth Network presented an insightful take on some of the challenges faced by youth during the pandemic and opportunities to look forward. He emphasized the need for inclusive and active measures in the education sector; and opportunities in the areas of skill enhancement, entrepreneurship, platform cooperatives, local production of basic goods and services, social activities and volunteerism.

The discussions were followed by an engaging question and answer round and a vote of thanks by Mr. Khan and Dr. Azlan. The full recording of the virtual talk can be accessed [here](#).

[International Youth Day: ICYC Webinar on Youth Engagement for Global Action](#)



The ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation (ICYC) organised an international webinar on *Youth Engagement for the Global Action* on 12th August 2020, to connect, learn and strengthen the youth cooperative movement. The webinar aimed to promote youth-driven cooperatives by recognising the needs and interests of the youth rather than working for them. The

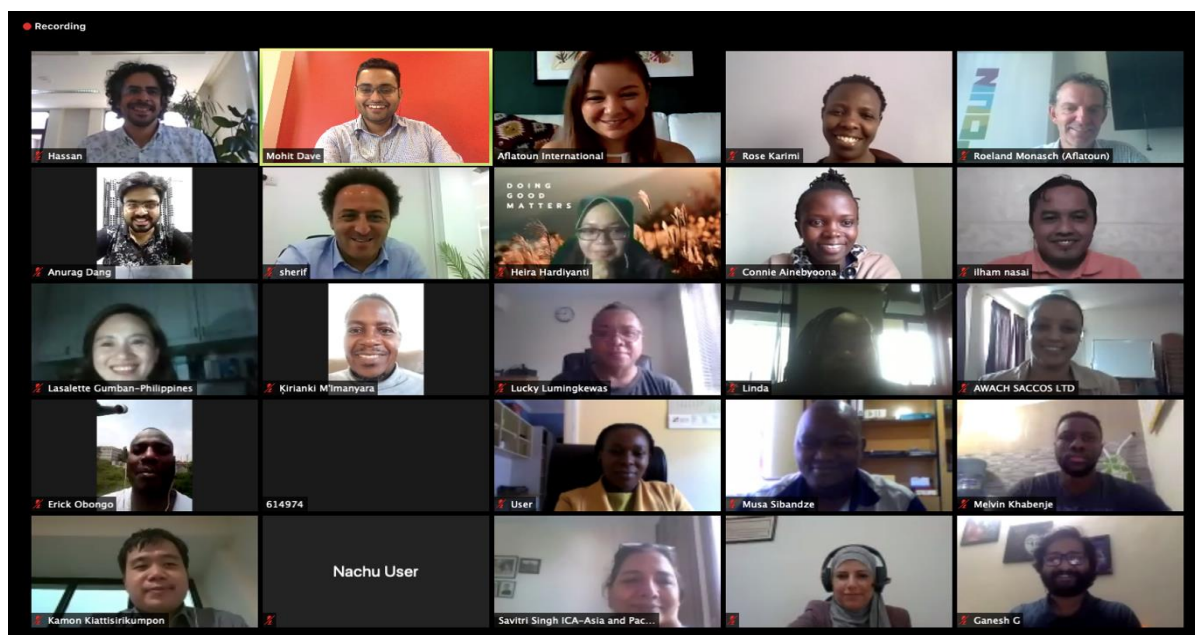
Ms. Salonie Muralidhara, Senior Coordinator, SEWA Federation, India spoke on **Engage** (SDG# 17 Partnerships for the Goals: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development); Mr. Samuel Oloo, Chairperson, Mutarakwa Harmony Cooperative, Kenya, Africa on **Educate** (SDG#4 Quality Education: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all); and Ms. Emily AM Lippold Cheney, Global Cooperative Activist, USA as youth speakers on, **Employ** (SDG#8 Decent Work and Economic Growth: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all) during the panel one session.

The second panel had two guest speakers: Mr. Balasubramanian Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP spoke of how ICA-AP is promoting the cooperative model among youth and Mr. Bruno Roelants, Director-General, ICA who shared insights on the role of youth in the ICA Strategy 2020-2030.

The webinar was moderated by Mr. David Rodger from UK, former Chief Executive of CDS Cooperatives, former President of Cooperative Housing International (2009-2013) and an expert advisor to ICA's Principles Committee.

A detailed report on the IYD 2020 will be released soon. Watch the ICYC International Youth Day webinar [here](#).

[ICA-AP – Aflatoun International – ICA-Africa: Inter-Regional Online Workshop on Capacity Building: Social & Financial Education for Coops](#)



The ongoing pandemic and financial crisis have highlighted the importance of promoting social responsibility and developing skills in financial management. This is especially true for children and youth, who are more vulnerable. ICA-AP, in collaboration with Aflatoun International (AI) and ICA-Africa, with the support of the ICA-EU Partnership¹ ([#coops4dev](#)) organised an inter-regional online workshop on capacity building on the theme, *Social and Financial Education (SFE) for Cooperatives* on 13th August 2020.

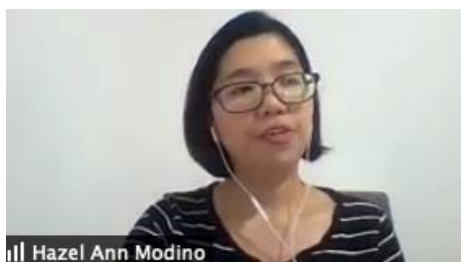
ICA-Africa and ICA-AP have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with AI to collaborate in empowering children and young people with social, financial, and entrepreneurial skills across the Africa and Asia-Pacific region. Working towards the same values and principles, the organisations believe that the collaboration can increase the capacity of youth in cooperatives, promote social and financial education for young people, promote entrepreneurship and employability and in the development of life skills. This collaboration builds upon the existing SFE program developed by AI and brings it to a larger audience in ICA's network of member cooperatives in different sectors.

Dr. Sifa Chiyoge, Regional Director of ICA-Africa in her opening remarks informed the participants that AI programmes complement ICA's vision. She commended Aflatoun for organising the workshop which was considered an important step in operationalising the MoU. It is expected to bring the best practices of social and financial education to the cooperative movements in Africa and Asia-Pacific. Dr. Sifa advised the participants to make use of the knowledge and information that they would receive from the workshop to better the cooperative services they provide to their members.

Mr. Hassan Mahtat, Director of National Policies and Strategies at AI started the first part of the workshop by introducing the organisation, its history, programme and its social franchise model. AI promotes life skills and financial education among the younger generation. Today it is active in over

¹ In March 2016, the ICA and the European Union signed a Framework Partnership Agreement to implement a development programme aimed at benefitting and advancing cooperatives worldwide.

100 countries collaborating with 345 organisations, including 38 government institutions. In 2007, ICA member National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) adapted and implemented the Aflatoun programme in the Philippines.



Ms. Hazel Ann, Programme Manager at NATCCO presents their experience with the Aflatoun programme in the Philippines.

The workshop also sought to engage participants in sharing and reflecting on how to best collaborate to bring social and financial education to the cooperative's members. Below areas of collaboration were identified and brainstormed during the second part of the webinar:

Partnerships

The participants expressed interest in the social and financial education concept and discussed opportunities to become an Aflatoun partner and join its network. Below are some of the key outcomes:

1. Consider and learn further from the NATCCO model, and encourage cooperatives to be a focal point to advocate for SFE in their countries;
2. Develop partnerships to support the agenda of life skills, financial education and entrepreneurship within countries;
3. Build national partnerships or network of partners based on the demographics served by cooperatives;
4. Cooperatives to develop in country partnerships with universities, schools and other institutions to provide SFE.

Projects

The participants expressed interest to complement their approaches especially around entrepreneurship, school cooperatives and life skills development. Below are some of the key outcomes:

1. Look and focus on projects aimed at financial inclusion, beneficiaries will need financial education to optimize results of the projects;
2. Select entrepreneurship projects such as agribusinesses where the need for SFE is apparent, not only to build skills but also resilience in the agriculture sector;
3. For cooperatives providing financial services to young people, SFE should be embedded to complement their services;
4. Consider implementing SFE modules in projects on circular economy, girl's education, etc.

Program Development and Expertise Exchange

Prospects of long term and collaborative partnership were brought up and proposed as a thematic area to address. Participants were invited to brainstorm around the idea of building innovative

programmes or approaches that will bring together SFE as a concept with the cooperative model as a platform. Below are some of the key outcomes:

1. Aflatoun and the regional ICA offices should collaborate to develop specific SFE programmes that will consider the cooperatives principles. This can be done on a national and/or regional level;
2. SFE should be considered a pillar as part of the SDG implementation guidelines for cooperatives in primary and secondary education;
3. The financial inclusion services or products provided by some of the cooperative's members should look to include SFE as a learning service;
4. Look at developing training and capacity building on facilitation programmes for cooperative's members;
5. Use Aflatoun and the ICA network to generate data, learn, share and disseminate;
6. Joint events to provide space for sharing, learning and improving.



Mr. Roeland Monasch, CEO of AI thanks participants for making the time and their interest they in Aflatoun's SFE.

Mr. Monasch, CEO of AI thanked the participants for their active and rich conversation and ideas. He reiterated Aflatoun's interest to collaborate closely with ICA's members in both Africa and Asia-Pacific. He also highlighted that the COVID-19 context has today served as a major wake up call for everyone involved in education and development; that resilience in economy, civic engagement, employment is very important; and that all actors need to play a role in building that resilience.

Webinar: Platform Cooperatives: An Opportunity for Youth Entrepreneurship

The Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University), Gandhigram Department of Cooperation, and Agricultural Cooperative Staff Training Institute (ACSTI), Trivandrum jointly organised an international webinar with ICA-AP on "Platform Cooperatives: An Opportunity for Youth Entrepreneurship". The purpose of this webinar was to promote youth entrepreneurial activities through cooperatives in India, as well as all over the world.



The Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University) (GRI-DTBU) is a central university in India, funded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. It was established in 1956, with the broad objective of developing manpower with updated knowledge, skills and practical experience in the field of cooperation; capable of managing cooperatives

ACSTI was established by the Kerala State Cooperative Bank in 1992. It envisages conducting training for the three-tier cooperative structure. Trainings are given to personnel and directors of the entire cooperative short-term credit structure. The core areas of training include Organisation Development, Finance Management, Development Action Plan, Financing Farm and Non-Farm Sector, Micro Finance, Project Finance and Human Resource Development. The programmes are organised with the active collaboration of the Kerala State Cooperative Bank (KSCB), Centre of Professional Excellence in Cooperatives (C-PEC), National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), etc.

The webinar on *Platform Cooperatives: An Opportunity for Youth Entrepreneurship* targeted graduating and post graduate students, research scholars, teaching faculty, officials and non-officials in the cooperative field. Students of cooperation, management and computer science & IT participated in the webinar. There were 199 participants from different backgrounds.

The webinar was in line with the theme for International Youth Day 2020: *Youth Engagement for Global Action*. Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP; and Mr. Santosh Kumar, Legislation Coordinator, ICA spoke on *Cooperatives and Youth Employment Opportunities* and *Platform Cooperatives for Youth Entrepreneurship* respectively. Dr. C. Pitchai, Professor, Department of Cooperation, GRI welcomed the participants of the webinar. Dr. B. Subburaj, Vice Chancellor, GRI inaugurated the webinar, narrating the origin and development of GRI. On cooperation, he explained the growth of cooperative movement in India and the roles played by the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors in the economic development of the nation.

Dr. V. P. R. Sivakumar, the Registrar of GRI, emphasized the global pervasiveness of the cooperative movement, with 12% of humanity as co-operators of any of the 3 million cooperatives on earth. International Youth Day 2020. Dr. M. Soundarapandian, Dean, School of Management Studies, in his felicitation address mentioned the role of the youth in the economic development of the nation. The new concept of platform cooperatives will help the youth for getting an employment opportunity and

start a business venture. Dr. T. Paranjothi, Director, ACSTI, Kerala co-convenor of the programme moderated the webinar.

The webinar was followed by an engaging question and answer round which raised pertinent and practical queries on:

- ✓ How to bring the next generation into the cooperative movement?
- ✓ What are the prospects for the cooperative sector, especially when data are not authentically available for research for policy prescriptions?
- ✓ Dairy cooperatives are one of the successful cooperative models in India. How can we encourage the involvement of youth entrepreneurs in dairy cooperatives; and as policy makers in cooperative institutions?
- ✓ How can students/young people who are attending professional cooperative training be guided by mentors to be actively involved in cooperative institutions established at the village level?
- ✓ Do FPOs pose a challenge to cooperatives?
- ✓ How can FPOs and cooperatives coexist at village/taluka level?
- ✓ How can the cooperative principles be applied in service provider model?

This webinar was thought provoking and insightful with expert opinions shared by experienced co-operators from around the world. All the participants were sent E-Certificates within two days of the webinar.

Virtual Roundtable – Cooperatives in Education and Training



Dr. K. K. Tripathy, IES,
Director, Vaikunth Mehta National
Institute of Co-operative
Management (VAMNICOM)
& Center for International
Co-operation & Training in
Agricultural Banking (CICTAB),
Pune (India)



Mr. Balasubramanian Iyer
Regional Director, ICA-AP, New Delhi (India)
His experience across Asia extends in the
areas of cooperatives, business
associations, water, food-security,
women's empowerment, and economic
development. He serves as the
Administrator for the ICA Domus Trust.



Dr. Burhanuddin Abdullah
Burhanuddin Abdullah (BA),
currently is rector of Institute of
Cooperative of Indonesia (IKOPIN).
He received Honorary Doctor in
Economics from University Of
Diponegoro, Semarang, and in
Agricultural Economics from
University of Padjajaran, Bandung.



Dr. Sidsel Grimstad
Sidsel is a lecturer and Program
Convenor for Australia's only degree
in co-operative's organisation and
management taught online at the
University of Newcastle. She is
currently doing research on co-
operative housing and community
renewable energy solutions.



Dr. Harekrishna Misra
Professor, Institute of
Rural Management (IRMA), Anand (India)
Holds a doctorate degree in the
area of Information Systems
Management. He is a member of IEEE,
ACM and Association of Information
Systems, USA.



Mr. Mohd Roslan Bani Amin
Took his A Levels at Harrogate
College of Further Education
Yorkshire England. Now he has been
appointed as the Director General of
Co-operative Institute of Malaysia.



Dr. Dilip Deshpande
Professor, VAMNICOM, Pune (India)
Former Director, Bankers Institute of
Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow
(India)



Dr. V. K. Dubey
Executive Director of National
Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) &
Director of National Council for
Co-operative Education,
NCCCE, New Delhi (India)

**Roundtable on
Co-operative
Training and Education
Remote Learning,
ED Tech & COVID-19**
Online Programme
(Date & Time : July 29, 11 am to 12.30 pm IST)

**Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of
Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM)**
(Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India)
Savitribai Phule Pune University Road, PUNE 411007 – India
E-mail : info@vamnicom.gov.in Website : www.vamnicom.gov.in

COVID-19 has brought an unprecedented disruption to the entire world. Protocols enforcing social distancing, movement lockdowns, travel restrictions, and other related measures have overnight affected businesses and institutions forcing them to adapt and change quickly. To cope with this situation, educational institutions have devised multiple strategies to embrace digital technologies in their training and knowledge sessions. However, this process has posed several challenges to teachers, trainers, students, and institutions. The current situation has driven everyone to rethink cooperative training & education.

The virtual roundtable organised in collaboration with VAMNICOM aimed to:

- ❖ To understand the impact of COVID-19 on educational and training institutions;
- ❖ To learn from the experiences of countries regarding strategies to adopt digital technologies (like video conferencing, e-learning, etc.), and methods of online teaching/training;
- ❖ To study the financial and social implications of the adoption of different platforms on training institutions, trainers and students;
- ❖ To create an online network of institutions involved in cooperative training/education.

Watch the complete webinar [here](#).

Go Green 3.0



The poster for the Go Green Campaign 3.0 features a central image of hands holding a small green plant growing from soil. The background is a mix of light and dark green. Text on the left includes the COOP logo, 'International Cooperative Alliance - Asia and Pacific Committee on Youth Cooperation', website 'youth-asiapacific.coop', Facebook handle '@icaapyouth', a YouTube channel 'AHSAN ALI THAKUR' with a 'SUBSCRIBE' button, 'COOP YOUTH SDG#13', and '13 CLIMATE ACTION' with a globe icon. The bottom left corner has '1 July 2020 #coopday International Day of Cooperatives'. The right side features the COOP logo, 'International Co-operative Alliance - Africa A Region of the International Co-operative Alliance Youth Network', 'Cooperativas de las Américas Comité Regional de Juventud (CRJ)', 'GO GREEN CAMPAIGN 3.0', and the text: 'Spreading awareness and plant saplings from 1-21 July 2020, in celebration of International Day of Cooperatives (4th July 2020). Be part of a global movement to raise awareness about cooperatives and climate action!'. The bottom right corner has the COOP logo and 'Co-operative Housing International A Sector of the International Co-operative Alliance'.

The Go Green Campaign is an initiative of ICYC, started in 2018, to encourage youth from the Asia-Pacific to combat the global threat of climate change and its impacts, by planting trees on International Mother Earth Day. Based on the belief and cooperative value of 'Self-Help and Solidarity', the campaign manifests that youth and cooperatives can be a part of something greater while sustaining their environment.

The Go Green campaign is now in its third year and builds on previous initiatives carried out in 2018 and in 2019, the campaign was expanded to include youth from Africa and generated very enthusiastic participation. Read the 2018 Go Green campaign report [here](#).

In 2020, Go Green 3.0 was celebrated as *World Goes Green*, with the Youth Committees of ICA-AP, ICA-Africa and ICA-Americas. Each region has been organising activities in accordance with local requirements. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, this year the network encouraged participants to plant trees at home or their workplace. ICYC organised an international webinar on *Youth Cooperatives for Climate Action* on 7th July to commemorate the International Day of Cooperatives (IDC) on 4th July. The theme for this year's IDC was *Cooperatives for Climate Action* in support of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13: Climate Action.

The purpose of the international webinar on Go Green Campaign was to create awareness about the climate action and how youth are engaged in decreasing carbon emissions through cooperatives. The committee invited **Ms. Ruth Legg** who works as the Manager, HSBC Bank Canada and also serves on the board of Modo, a British Columbia car-sharing cooperative serving over 20,000 members, whose business contributes directly to reducing climate change; **Ms. Yohana Tamara Yunisa** from Indonesia, who leads the agriculture project on Cocoa Conversation; and **Ms. Emma Patterson** who leads Climate Change and Sustainability at SAOS, Agriculture Cooperative from Scotland. The session was moderated by Mr. Robby Tulus, Cooperative Activist from Canada.

ICYC selected three volunteers from Indonesia and Pakistan to be a part of the Campaign and get exposure to the international workings and cross-cultural environment of cooperatives. The webinar had 112 participants registered from around the world. Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur, Chairperson, ICYC explained that the Go Green Campaign began with a question about how the cooperative movement can connect with youth and support the SDGs. This movement can be done not only by planting trees, but also involving all the communities in a platform to work in an environmentally conscious way. Mr. Alireza Banaeifar, Vice Chairperson of ICYC said that around one million species of animals and plants are extinct because human activity has overwhelmed the planet. We can mitigate these impacts by taking small steps individually and collectively towards a greener and sustained planet.

This webinar was also attended by Ms. Julie LePalme, General Secretary of Coop Housing International; Ms. Hilda Ojal, and Mr. Kobenan Maurice Koffi from ICYC-Africa; Ms. Angelica Soberanes, ICYC-Americas. All of them conveyed their appreciation to ICYC for organising Go Green Campaign 3.0: World Goes Green.

Mr. Robby Tulus said that one of the interesting things is that “when young people are engaged in cooperatives that are oriented towards the future, we are not only oriented to existing values but also creating new positive values every day and young people have a very vital role for that.”

Mr. Shree Padmanabhan, Secretary of ICYC and Mr. Alireza Banaeifar delivered the closing statements by reiterating the opportunity posed by global consolidated action to bring together young co-operators and youth in a shared goal and agenda.

ICA-EU Partnership: Updates

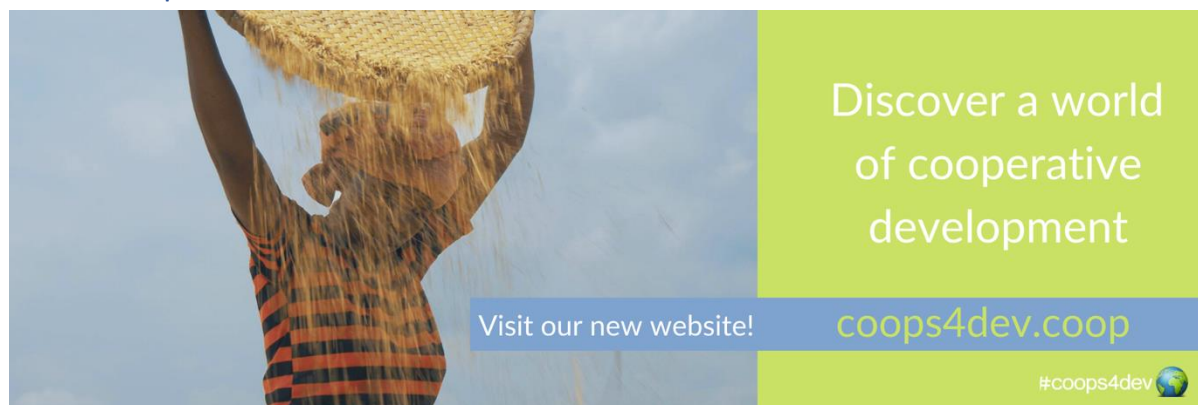
EU Policy Forum on Development Asia – 2020

The Policy Forum on Development (PFD) virtual Asia regional meeting was held on 23rd July 2020. The 2020 Global PFD scheduled for March, had to be cancelled in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. In its place, the PFD organized virtual discussions to ensure the views of PFD stakeholders were shared and taken on board as the EU responds to COVID-19, reinforces its commitment to the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement. The Global PFD Virtual meeting is planned to be held in September 2020.

The Asia meeting offered insights into the next phase of the EU programming in the areas of inequalities, Green Deal, economy that works for all people and digitization. Following the presentations there was in-depth guided discussion on PFD member's recommendations and a question and answer session to clarify questions on EU programming. The PFD also collected written inputs from the participants and it is a welcome step to make the discussions and decision making more participative.


ICA-AP staff attended the meeting and made suggestions on behalf of cooperatives in AP region. The business of cooperatives in Asia region has suffered losses like any other businesses due to COVID-19 induced lockdown. Cooperatives across the region have demonstrated solidarity and resilience and helped members and community by sharing resources, distributing food, medicines, protection gears such as masks and sanitizers, providing shelter and financial services etc. Cooperatives in India have also generously donated to government relief funds. The priority for cooperatives in the region is digitalisation, reducing digital divide, climate action and addressing reverse labour migration. These concerns were highlighted during the guided discussions and well noted by the PFD.

Research updates



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Legal Framework Analysis

The LFA National Report for [India](#) and that of 13 countries can be accessed at [#coops4dev](#). Stay tuned for LFA reports on Iran, China, and the Philippines.

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 Fiji, Indonesia, Kiribati, Myanmar, Nepal, PNG, Vanuatu, Iran and the Philippines can be accessed at [#coops4dev](#).

Global thematic research on youth

The findings of the global thematic research on youth from all regions have been compiled into a global report based on themes concerning youth, including education, employment, entrepreneurship, and inequalities. Stay tuned for updates on the findings!

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.

Global Thematic Research on Environment

The second global thematic research on environment has been launched under the #coops4dev project. This research aims to provide an overview on how cooperatives are protecting the environment, as well as mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. It seeks to elaborate on the links between cooperatives and principle seven on concern for community, including the access and management of natural habitats and resources through cooperative approaches (such as water, energy, etc.). The research will draw on existing literature and resources in order to highlight select number of case studies, with the intention to showcase innovative practices from cooperative enterprises. Stay tuned for updates on the Global Thematic Research on Environment!



The Global Youth Forum Cooperative Entrepreneurship 2020 (GYF20) was a 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. Check out the newly updated [#GYF20 website](#) with information on trainers and experts from around the world, and to access their training sessions that were delivered during #GYF20.

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: www.gyf20.coop

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.*

Upcoming Events

- Roundtable Discussion on Cooperatives and Fairtrade in Myanmar – **September 10, 2020**
- ICA-AP Women’s Committee – Webinar on the *Situation of Women Co-operators During COVID19* – **September 10, 2020**
- ICA-AP Committee on Cooperatives in Educational Institutions: Short Film Competition - **September, 2020** (Dates to be confirmed)
- Regional consultation meeting to launch the UN Decade of Family Farming in South Asia – **October, 2020** (Dates to be confirmed)
- Webinar: Impact of COVID19 on Cooperatives in Educational Institutions - **October, 2020** (Dates to be confirmed)
- 15th ICA-AP Cooperative Research Conference – **December 17-18, 2020** in Trivandrum, India.
- 14th ICA-AP Regional Assembly – **February 28, 2021**
- ‘Deepening our Cooperative Identity’ World Cooperative Congress – **March 1 to 3, 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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