

ICA-AP NEWSLETTER

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

June Newsletter

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16th ICA-AP Regional Assembly – Registrations Open!



ICA-AP will hold its 16th Regional Assembly in Manila, Philippines from 6 to 10 November 2023. The Regional Assembly is being hosted by the Philippines Cooperative Affiliates (PCA) on behalf of the Philippines Cooperative Movement, marking their return as hosts since the last assembly held in 2003 in Cebu.

The Regional Assembly encompasses the Asia-Pacific Cooperative Forum, Regional Board Meeting, various events organized by the regional sectoral and thematic committees, and the statutory meeting of the Regional Assembly. The theme for the 16th Regional Assembly, 11th Cooperative Forum and related events is, “Cooperatives: Our Common Agenda.” ICA-AP will deliberate upon key opportunities and challenges to build a common agenda for cooperatives and chalk out concrete and achievable action points.

The registrations for the Regional Assembly are open and all information is available at <http://regionalassembly.coop>.

ICA-AP Launches Asia-Pacific Cooperative Excellence Awards



The ICA-AP Regional Office launched ICA Asia-Pacific Cooperative Excellence Awards to honour outstanding individuals, cooperative organizations, and government ministries/ departments that have made remarkable contributions to the growth of cooperatives and

have significantly benefited the cooperative movement. By acknowledging the extraordinary efforts and achievements of these entities, the awards aim to foster a culture of excellence and innovation within the cooperative sector.

Nominations are open until 31 August 2023, and the winners will be announced at the 16th ICA-AP Regional Assembly Welcome Dinner on 8 November 2023, in Manila, Philippines.

All the information and nomination forms are available at <https://bit.ly/apcoopawards>.

17th ICA-AP Research Conference – Call for Papers



The 17th ICA Asia-Pacific Research Conference will be held in Manila, Philippines on 4 and 5 November. It is being organized by the ICA-AP Committee on Cooperative Research (CCR) and the Department of Cooperatives and Social Development at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) to bring together academics and researchers on cooperatives in the Asia-Pacific region.

ICA-AP CCR invites young researchers, and postgraduate and doctoral students to submit their abstracts latest by 30 July. It will bestow two meritorious papers with Dr. Mauritz Bonow Young Researcher Award (US\$ 500 and US\$ 300). [Read more](#).

Gearing up for the Asia Pacific Cooperative Youth Summit 4.0

The Asia Pacific Cooperative Youth Summit (APCYS 4.0) will be held in Sabah, Malaysia from 27 to 30 July and focus on “*Cooperation for Sustainable Lifestyles*.” APCYS 4.0 is a platform for youth to come together and hear about inspiring youth-led sustainable practices and ventures, experience hands-on cooperative activities, share cooperative business ideas, and enjoy the spirit of different cultures and youth cooperativism.

An inspiring line-up of speakers with interesting sessions, the COOP Pitch competition, hands-on experiential activities, Go Green Campaign await you in Sabah. More information is available at <https://apyouthsummit.coop/>.

Global Innovation Cooperative Summit – Montreal 2023



Global Innovation Cooperative Summit 2023 will be held in Montreal from 27 to 29 September. With the theme, *Act Now to lead a circular and digital future the cooperators way*, the Montreal event will focus on taking the lessons from the first Summit in Paris and turning them into action. The Summit founders call upon cooperatives to be circular, in a digital life to carry out together the necessary transformations for the benefit of their members and their communities. [Read more.](#)

ICA-AP Updates

Coop Dialogue 4.0



ICA-AP released the fourth edition of COOP Dialogue on Cooperatives' Contribution to SDGs: Achievements and Way Forward in conjunction with the 101st International Day of Cooperatives. It features case studies of cooperatives' contribution to SDGs, reports progress on the Coopsfor2030 pledges made by cooperatives in the Asia-Pacific region over the past 7 years, carries interviews with experts on the cooperatives and SDGs, and reinforces the fact that cooperatives contribute effectively towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and play a vital role in their nation's development. [Read here.](#)

Coop Colloquium on 'Mutual Value Measurement Framework'

BUSINESS COUNCIL OF CO-OPERATIVES AND MUTUALS (BCCM)

Formed in 2013, the Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM) is Australia's only peak body for co-operatives and mutuals across all industries.

The BCCM unites co-operatives, mutuals and member-owned businesses with the common objective of increasing awareness of the co-operative and mutual business model and the important contribution of member-owned businesses to the national economy and community development of Australia.

We are a powerful and informed voice in the business community and have successfully focused media and political attention on Australia's co-operative and mutual sector.

Our strategy delivers outstanding results for our members and the wider sector.

BCCM | THIS IS SOCIAL BUSINESS

Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals | Mutual Value Measurement | Copyright © 2019 Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM) and Monash University's Monash Business School

Participants: Paul J. Thambar, Mohit Dave, ICA-AP, Melina Morrison, Yashvantha, Heira Hardiya..., Novita Puspa..., Akira Kurimoto

ICA-AP Committee on Cooperative Research (CCR) conducted the 6th COOP Colloquium on 21 June to build upon its series of academic dialogues on issues that are relevant to cooperative education and research. The Colloquium was held in collaboration with Australia's Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM) and Melbourne-based Monash Business School (MBS). Around 20 participants from 6 countries joined the webinar to learn about the nature and benefits of measuring and communicating the total value that a cooperative and mutual enterprise (CME) creates.

Dr. Yashvantha Dongre, Chairperson, ICA-AP CCR welcomed the participants and said that CCR is committed to sharing the rich and diverse experience of cooperative research and scholarship across the Asia and Pacific region through the COOP Colloquiums. He said the current iteration will focus on understanding the Mutual Value Measurement (MVM) Framework and thanked the guest speakers Ms. Melina Morrison, CEO, BCCM and Dr. Paul Thambar, Professor, MBS. Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP in his opening remarks welcomed the initiative to discuss measuring the value created by coops and mutuals. He commended the support of countries like Australia in encouraging education and research on the value created by CMEs.

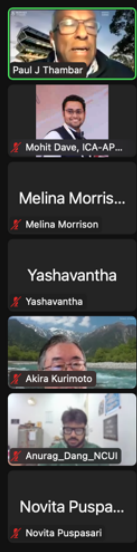
Ms. Morrison made a presentation on BCCM's aim to further deepen the understanding and appreciation of mutuals and cooperatives to promote the sector's significant contributions to national development. She spoke about its work as a peak body in the country dedicated to cooperative education, training and research engagements. BCCM's innovative approach to measuring the total value mutuals and cooperatives create offers a potential solution to the problem of mutual value measurement the world over. Measuring and communicating the total value that CMEs create has long been a challenging task as financial numbers (e.g. profit) rarely capture the complete value. The challenge of developing a consistent approach to

measuring mutual value led BCCM to engage with accounting researchers from one of Australia’s leading research-focused business schools, MBS.

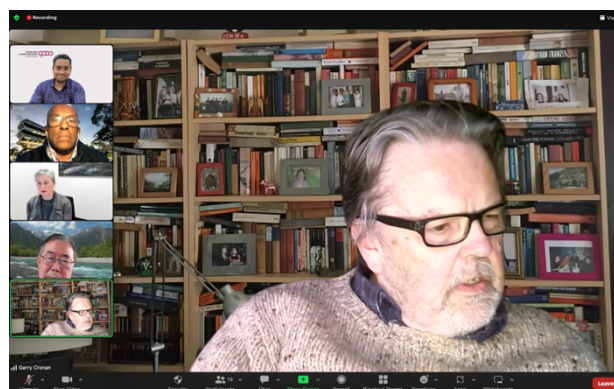
UNDERSTANDING THE MUTUAL VALUE MEASUREMENT DIMENSIONS

Commerciality	What does your CME do to create economic value for current and future members?
Shaping markets	What is the value of your CME's existence?
Member relationships	How does your CME treat its members?
Community relationships	What does your CME do to create value for the broader community and society that you exist in?
Ecosystem and reciprocity	How does your CME work with others to create value?
Mutual mindset	How does your CME do the right thing?

Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals
Mutual Value Measurement
Copyright © 2019 Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM) and Monash University's Monash Business School



Dr. Thambar made a presentation on the collaboration with the BCCM, StateCover Mutual and twelve other CMEs to design and develop the MVM framework. This ground-breaking measurement framework enables any CME to measure the whole value of what they do and communicate it to the broader community, including members, potential new members, and financial markets. MVM provides CMEs with the capability to measure and communicate information relating to environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. Importantly, the MVM provides a strong focus on the measurement of social and governance-related issues which are not well covered by other frameworks (e.g. integrated reporting) which tend to focus more on environmental issues. The BCCM has embarked on an advocacy project with a select group of CMEs in 2022 to further assess and understand the policy and reporting implications of ESG for CMEs. As part of this project, Dr. Thambar and his colleagues will further develop the MVM to provide ‘a bridge’ to ESG measurement and reporting.



Mr. Mohit Dave, Secretary, ICA-AP CCR moderated the comments, questions and reflections from the audience and thanked the presenters. The participants hoped it will inspire the

viewers to go back to the core of the MVM framework. This colloquium is a starting point for these discussions, bringing together cooperative advocates, practitioners and youth from the Asia and Pacific region who are committed to infusing meaning, relevance, enthusiasm, and promising returns in the value creation and measurement space for CMEs.

BCCM is a powerful and informed voice in the business community, working to remove the barriers to fair competition and improving the business environment for all cooperatives and mutuals. For more details on the research collaboration with the Monash Business School, see www.mvm.coop.

International Day of Cooperatives 2023



The [International Day of Cooperatives](#) was celebrated on 1 July under the theme *Cooperatives: partners for accelerated sustainable development*. United by the slogan *Cooperatives for sustainable development*, the movement showed how the cooperative way of working, inspired by cooperative values and principles, has the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of its DNA.

Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, President, ICA-AP in his message noted that in the Asia-Pacific region, cooperatives play a vital role in fostering sustainable development by providing livelihood opportunities to its members and enhancing their capacity by collaborating with governments and other stakeholders. He appealed to cooperators worldwide to join hands and help in moving forward to achieve our common goals.

Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP said that cooperatives are essential partners for accelerated sustainable development and together, we can build a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future.

ICA-AP Regional Office [position paper](#) articulates its commitment to promoting the role of cooperatives in achieving accelerated sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. It highlights key areas where cooperatives can act as crucial partners for sustainable development, with specific examples from the region.

The messages of the ICA-AP President and Regional Director and the full position paper are published on our [dedicated CoopsDay website](#). It also provides information on how our members celebrated CoopsDay.



The National Cooperative Union of India organised the [17th Indian Cooperative Congress](#) on the theme 'Amrit Kaal: Prosperity through Cooperation for a Vibrant India' in New Delhi, India on 1 and 2 July. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi who [in his address](#), noted that the country is working towards the goal of a 'Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat' (developed and self-dependent India). He reiterated the need for 'Sabka Prayas' (everyone's effort) in achieving these goals where the spirit of cooperation sends the message of everyone's effort. He launched the e-Commerce website for Cooperative Marketing (e-NCUI Haat) and a Cooperative Extension and Advisory Services Portal. The Prime Minister noted the contributions of the dairy cooperative in making India the world's leading milk producer and the role of cooperatives in making India one of the top sugar-producing countries in the world. He underlined that cooperatives have become a huge support system for small farmers in many parts of the country. The PM also informed about the measures undertaken by the government to strengthen cooperative societies.



The National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO), Philippines organised a [tree plantation drive](#) in their efforts to advocate Sustainable Development Goal #13 or Climate

Action. They also organized an online forum on “Coops as Models of Sustainability” to highlight the significant contributions of coops in attaining the SDGs and to increase awareness of cooperatives as active contributors to sustainable development and promote the coops' successes and ideals of international solidarity, economic efficiency, equality, social inclusion, environmental soundness, and peace. The details can be found [here](#).

The cooperative movement of Myanmar celebrated CoopsDay at Nay Pyi Taw. The event was attended by the Union Minister, Deputy Union Minister from the Ministry of Cooperative and Rural Development, government officers of Cooperative Departments from all states and regions, Chairmans/ BODs of unions of cooperative federations from all states and regions and staff from the Central Cooperative Society (CCS). An exhibition of cooperative products was held as well.

In the lead-up to CoopsDay, the [Business Council of Cooperatives and Mutuals \(BCCM\)](#) in Australia reflected on how the cooperative and mutual movement supports the UN’s SDGs. The [Singapore National Cooperative Federation \(SNCF\)](#) shared stories of how local cooperatives undertake sustainability efforts in their daily operations. The Japan Cooperative Alliance along with cooperatives in Japan held a Forum on the theme *Let's discuss the future of cooperatives!* in Tokyo (hybrid).

ICA-AP will organize a webinar on the theme ‘*Cooperatives as Partners for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*’ on 19 July.

Member Updates

NATCCO Elects a New Chairperson



In its General Assembly on 6 May 2023, the NATCCO Board elected Atty. Maria Corazon S. Montallana as its new Chairperson.

A lawyer from Tacloban City, Ms. Montallana is the Chairperson of the very successful Regional & Central COMELEC Employees Multipurpose Cooperative (RECEMPCO). She succeeds Romulo Caceres from San Isidro Development Cooperative (SIDEKO).

After the election of Ms. Montallana by her peers, a short ceremony was held onstage where Mr. Caceres formally handed to her the Chairperson's gavel.

"MC" as she is fondly called, is a Bachelor of Science in Biology and got her law degree in 1999 from the Dr. V. Orestes Romualdez Educational Foundation College of Law. In 2006, she got her Master's in Management at Leyte Normal University. In addition, her commitment to public service extends to the Commission on Election (COMELEC) where she currently holds the position of Provincial Election Supervisor.

ACCU's Former President Appointed as the Member of Cooperative Sector Improvement Task Force



Mr. Rishi Raj Ghimire, the former President of the Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Union (ACCU) has been appointed as a member of the Cooperative Sector Improvement Task Force by the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation in Nepal. This is a well-deserved recognition of his expertise and dedication to the cooperative sector. A key focus of the task force is the reform of policies within cooperative regulation. By suggesting innovative reforms, the task force aims to create a conducive environment for cooperatives to thrive and play a vital role in empowering communities and alleviating poverty. "His commitment and dedication to the cooperative sector will undoubtedly lead to positive changes and improvements. We look forward to witnessing the remarkable impact of his contributions" – ACCU.

ICA-AP congratulates Mr. Rishi Raj Ghimire for this achievement.

BCCM Releases the 10th Annual National Mutual Economy (NME) Report



The Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM) 10th annual [National Mutual Economy \(NME\) Report](#) shows a hike in revenue by 10.8% across the top 100 coops and mutuals in Australia and growth in earning by an average of 27.1%. West Australia-based CBH Group retained its top position as Australia's largest coop. [Read more.](#)

ULCCS President Receives Kerala Government's Robert Owen Award



Mr. Rameshan Paleri, President of the Uralungal Labor Contract Cooperative Society (ULCCS) Ltd has received the Kerala Government's Robert Owen Award for the best cooperative activist. ULCCS's official social media states that Mr. Paleri is a dedicated cooperative activist whose efforts have helped raise the dignity and pride of Kerala's cooperative sector and workers in the world. The drive, imagination and hard work of its 10th President led ULCCS to become the world's second-highest turnover cooperative in the industrial and consumer services sector, on the threshold of its centenary. ULCCS has also been chosen as a model cooperative by the UNDP in 2013. ULCCS states that this is the acknowledgement of Mr. Paleri's vision and mission. ULCCS, a primary cooperative, was the first to join ICA as a regular member from India in 2019. It has also been selected as a 'Navarathna cooperative' (one among the nine gems) in India among its eight lakh cooperatives and has been awarded as the best cooperative in the country many times.

ICA-AP congratulates Mr. Paleri and the entire team and workers of ULCCS on their remarkable achievements!

Policy and Legal Watch

Vietnam: Lawmakers approve Law on Cooperatives (revised)



On June 20, the 15th National Assembly of Vietnam approved the Law on Cooperatives (revised) with 466 yes votes from the 472 National Assembly (NA) deputies.

The law, comprising 12 chapters and 115 articles, will take effect from July 1, 2024. It includes regulations on the establishment, management, reorganisation, dissolution, bankruptcy and related activities of cooperative groups, cooperatives and cooperative unions, as well as State policies on the development of cooperative groups, cooperatives and cooperative unions. [Read more.](#)

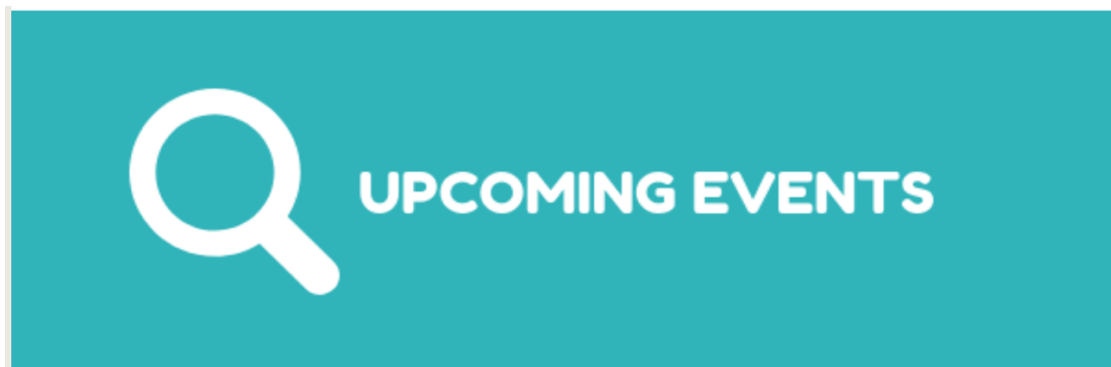
Cooperators Deliberate If Environmental Sustainability Should be Explicit Mentioned in the ICA's Statement on Cooperative Identity



The International Cooperative Alliance is re-examining the [Statement on the Cooperative Identity](#) (SCI), and cooperators around the world have the chance to share their views. Adopted in 1995, the revised SCI contains the definition of a cooperative, the values of cooperatives, and the seven cooperative principles.

In 2022, ICA released a survey on SCI in which 2,290 respondents participated. It formed part of a wider consultation to examine whether the statement is still fit for purpose. The responses were mixed – some felt that SCI works well as an ideal and in reality; some argued that there is a gap between the ideal world and on-the-ground reality; and some said it is not

effective in practice. It is also believed by some respondents that the SCI needs to be updated to strengthen its contribution to addressing societal problems and the environmental crisis. [Read more.](#)



- Webinar on ‘Cooperatives as Partners for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ – 19 July 2023.
- Asia Pacific Cooperative Youth Summit (APCYS) 4.0 in Sabah, Malaysia – 27 to 30 July 2023.
- ICA-AP Training Program for Managers of Consumer Coops, Japan (only for members of ICA-AP Consumer Committee) – 19 to 30 July 2023
- ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting in Malaysia – 21 August 2023
- ICA-AP Trade & Business Committee/ ASEAN Co-operative organization/ ANGKASA Cooperative to Cooperative Trade and Business Conference on Cooperative Partnerships for Sustainable Development and Climate Action: A Collaborative Approach to Addressing Global Challenges – 22 August 2023
- ICA-MAFF (Govt. of Japan) Training Course on Capacity Building of Rural Women on their Roles for Vitalization of Rural Economy – August – September 2023
- ICA-AP Committee on Women 25th-anniversary celebration in Tokyo, Japan (Hybrid; Only for committee members) – 19-20 September 2023
- ICA Regional Workshop for Leaders of Consumer Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific in South Korea (only for members of ICA-AP Consumer Committee) – 16 to 20 October 2023
- 17th ICA Asia-Pacific Research Conference in Manila, Philippines – 4 and 5 November 2023
- 16th ICA-AP Regional Assembly in Manilla, Philippines – 6 to 10 November 2023