

# ICA-AP NEWSLETTER

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

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## International Day of Cooperatives 2024



On 6 July 2024, cooperatives around the world will celebrate the International Day of Cooperatives (CoopsDay, IDC) with the theme "[Cooperatives Build a Better Future for All](#)." Cooperatives will have the opportunity to showcase their current and historical contributions to building a sustainable future, accelerating efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030. The theme aligns well with the objectives of the upcoming [UN Summit of the Future](#) whose theme is "Multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow".

You can participate in the celebrations using the media pack that includes the logo, key messages, and other digital resources, and share your stories of CoopsDay celebrations to be featured on the interactive map. All information is available [here](#).

The Asia and Pacific region is home to a diverse and vibrant cooperative movement that has been instrumental in driving socio-economic development, promoting environmental sustainability, and fostering community resilience. On this CoopsDay, the ICA-AP Regional Office, in its position paper, highlight the lessons learned and explores how cooperatives can keep making a positive impact and help build a better future for everyone.

Watch the inspirational "Power of Cooperatives" messages from the ICA-AP Board Members [here](#).

Together, we are building a better future for all. Happy International Day of Cooperatives!

## Cooperatives Build a Better World: Theme for 2025 International Year of Cooperatives Announced



Picture Credit: ica.coop

The International Cooperative Alliance has announced the theme for the 2025 UN International Year of Cooperatives (IYC2025) as 'Cooperatives Build a Better World', showcasing the enduring global impact cooperatives have everywhere. This milestone will highlight how the cooperative model is an essential solution to overcome many global challenges and continues to play an important role in accelerating efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

On 19 June 2024, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives (watch from 02:44:05 [recording of the UNGA Session](#)). Draft UN resolution A/78/L.71 on the IYC2025 can be found [here](#). The text recommends ways to celebrate and encourages all Member States, the United Nations, and relevant stakeholders to leverage this event to promote cooperatives' contribution to social and economic development. Among others, Member States and cooperatives are also invited to consider establishing national committees to coordinate and prepare for all IYC2025 activities.

A soft launch of the IYC2025 will be conducted on 9 July 2024 during the UN High-Level Political Forum at the UN Headquarters in New York. The UN Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the United Nations will host this hybrid event. Organisers plan to unveil the IYC2025 theme, the roadmap of the event and communications materials that the UN teams are currently developing. For more information about the hybrid event, please [visit](#).

## Asia-Pacific Women CEOs in Cooperatives Summit

**ICA-AP** International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific

**VCA** International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific Committee on Women

**JCCU** 日本生活協同組合連合会

### Asia-Pacific Women CEOs in Cooperatives Summit

Empowering Leadership: Navigating the Future of Cooperatives with Women at the Helm

**29 - 31 July 2024**

**Hotel Meliá Hanoi, Vietnam**

**secretariat@icaap.coop**

Panel 2—Gender management Women CEOs-5

From 29 to 31 July 2024, ICA-AP in collaboration with its Committee on Women and Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) is organizing the Asia-Pacific Women CEOs in Cooperatives Summit on the theme, *'Empowering Leadership: Navigating the Future of Cooperatives with Women at the Helm'* in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The Summit, graciously sponsored by All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC, China) and the Japanese Consumer Cooperatives Union (JCCU, Japan), is a unique opportunity for the participants to discuss their specific needs and foster critical dialogue.

It features in-depth thematic sessions including discussions around Cooperative Resilience and Adaptability, Inclusivity and Social Responsibility, Personal Development, Work-Life Balance, and Mentorship and Leadership Development. The program offers a tailor-made training session on Purpose-Driven Leadership by Women in Cooperatives facilitated by Ms. Vasanthi Srinivasan, a Professor in the Organizational Behaviour and Human Resources Management area at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM-B) in India. At IIM-B, she runs 'Tanmatra-Women in Leadership Program' for senior women leaders and trained over 150 women from leading Indian companies.

The program also offers business insights by practitioners and an inspirational line-up of speakers including a keynote message by Ms. Rebecca Harvey, Executive Editor of Co-operatives News, a monthly magazine and news website that connects, challenges and champions cooperatives and cooperators across the globe. Other expert speakers include senior women leaders of national cooperative apexes, international agencies, and cooperative practitioners.

The program and speakers are being regularly updated on the official website. For all the latest information, stay tuned to <https://icaap.coop/Women-CEOs-in-Cooperative-Summit/>.



## 18<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Research Conference and Young & Emerging Scholars (YES) Workshop



The ICA-AP Committee on Cooperative Research (CCR) will organize the 18th ICA Asia Pacific Research Conference on 'Cooperatives in the Next Industrial Revolution' in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K) and Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society (ULCCS) Ltd. in Kozhikode, Kerala, India from 15-18 October 2024.

The Conference aims to explore the role of cooperatives in shaping the future of work amidst the ongoing technological advancements and industrial transformations. In an era marked by automation, digitalization, and globalization, cooperatives emerge as a resilient and sustainable alternative, fostering democratic workplaces, equitable distribution of wealth, and community empowerment. This conference will provide a platform for scholars, practitioners, policymakers, entrepreneurs and activists to exchange insights, share best practices, and chart a collective path forward for cooperatives in the evolving landscape of the Next Industrial Revolution.

The ICA-AP CCR is inviting abstract submissions from researchers interested in presenting their papers at the conference until 14 July 2024. All details are available [here](#).

### **Dr. Mauritz Bonow Young Researchers Award**

The ICA-AP CCR will bestow two meritorious papers with Dr. Mauritz Bonow Young Researcher Award (US\$ 500 and US\$ 300) to researchers not over 35 years of age, who present their papers at the conference. The award was instituted in 2016 in the memory of Dr. Mauritz Bonow, the former President of the International Cooperative Alliance (1962 – 1975). He was a strong advocate of education and believed that the strength of the cooperative movement depended on the existence of a vast and enlightened membership.

### **Young & Emerging Scholars (YES) Workshop**

During the conference, a dedicated workshop will be organized for young scholars and early career researchers to cultivate and enhance interdisciplinary collaboration. The ICA-AP CCR and the working group on Cooperatives from the Young Scholar Initiative (YSI), Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) present a unique opportunity to convene researchers within the cooperative sector, offering a platform to exchange resources and foster connections for future collaborations. The workshop will be an opportunity for these scholars to present their research in a friendly environment and be provided constructive feedback and support from senior academic researchers in the field. All details are available [here](#).

## ICA Global Cooperative Conference 2024 – Registrations Open!



# ICA GLOBAL COOPERATIVE CONFERENCE

25 - 30 November, 2024  
Bharat Mandapam  
New Delhi, India

The ICA Global Cooperative Conference (GCC) and General Assembly (GA) 2024 will be held in New Delhi, India, from 25 – 30 November 2024. It is being hosted by the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) in close cooperation with the wider cooperative movement of India.

It will feature an array of events and activities including the official launch of the UN International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) 2025, an International Exposition of Cooperatives, the ICA Bodies' Meeting on Deepening the Cooperative Identity, and various Sectoral & Thematic Meetings. The central focus of the Conference will be on celebrating Cooperation among Cooperatives, and its many manifestations in and for the 21st century.

All the latest information and registration details for the ICA GCC 2024 are available at <https://icanewdelhi2024.coop/welcome>.

Registration for the ICA GA 2024 will be separate and will begin two months prior to the GA. The Global Office will send official invitations to ICA member organisations in August 2024.

## ICA-AP Updates

### Jordan Declaration - Partnerships for Sustainable Development

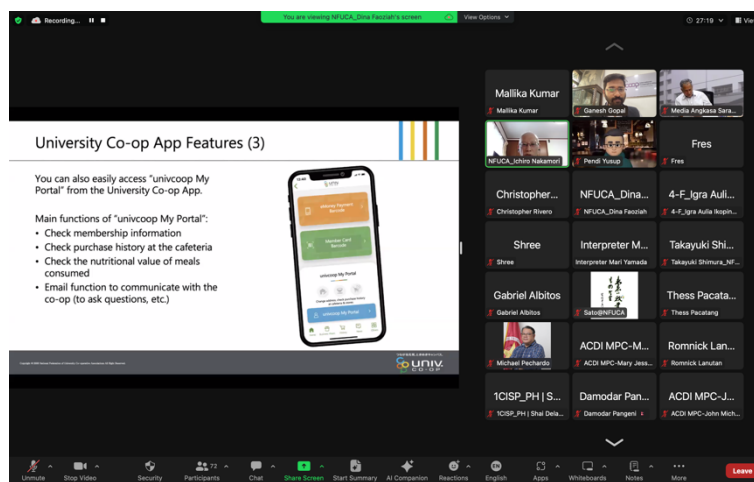


The 11th Asia Pacific Cooperative Ministers Conference (APCMC), held on 28 and 29 April 2024, marked the commencement of a crucial gathering aimed at fostering cooperation, dialogue, and actionable strategies to drive inclusive growth and sustainable development across the Asia Pacific (AP), Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

The Conference adopted the Jordan Declaration on 29 April 2024 which calls upon the members of the International Cooperative Alliance and the global cooperative movement to build meaningful partnerships with the Governments and other stakeholders to accelerate the attainment of UN SDGs by 2030. The declaration promotes multi-stakeholder innovation in healthcare, education, green economy, and aged care. Emphasizing gender equity, digital tech, and cooperative principles, it calls for regional and global partnerships to share best practices and foster resilience.

Read the full text [here](#).

## ICEI Webinar on Digital Cooperative Platforms by and for Youth - Perspectives for the Asia and Pacific Region

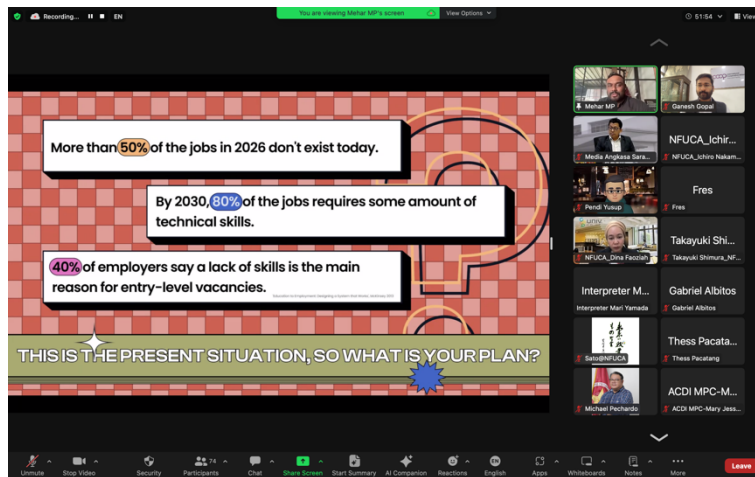


The ICA-AP Committee on Cooperatives in Educational Institutions (ICEI) organised a webinar titled "Digital Cooperative Platforms by and for Youth - Perspectives for the Asia and Pacific Region" on 25 June 2024. 90 participants joined the webinar to discuss the potential of digital cooperative platforms in empowering youth and fostering sustainable development across the Asia and Pacific region.

Dr. Mohd. Azlan Yahaya, Chairperson, ICEI and Vice-President, ANGKASA, Malaysia commenced the webinar by welcoming everyone and highlighting the importance of cooperatives in educational institutions and the role of digital platforms in enhancing their reach and impact. He emphasised the need for innovative solutions to address contemporary challenges faced by youth in the region.

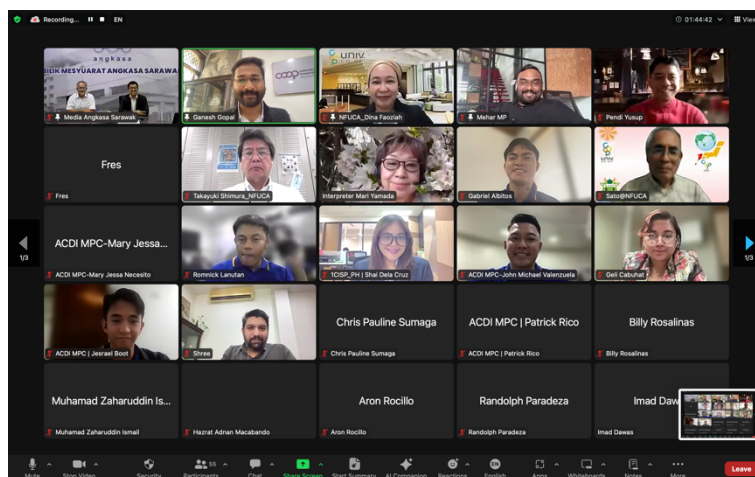
Mr. Ganesh Gopal, Secretary of ICEI and Lead-Entrepreneurship Development at ICA-AP, provided the context for the webinar's topic and discussions. He stressed the significance of digital cooperative platforms in creating opportunities for youth, enhancing social inclusion, and contributing to regional economic development.

Mr. Ichiro Nakamori, Managing Director of the National Federation of University Cooperative Associations (NFUCA), Japan and Vice-Chairman of ICEI, presented a detailed overview of the Univ Coop App used by NFUCA. This unique mobile application integrates several functionalities, including eMoney, provision of top-up transfers by parents, meal plan details, the nutritional value of meals consumed, an email function to communicate with the co-op, and membership information. The app aims to streamline and enhance the experience of university cooperative members by providing convenient access to various services and information. The presentation generated significant interest, with participants eager to learn how this app could be adopted or replicated in similar settings by university cooperatives in the Asia and Pacific region.



Mr. Moosa Mehar MP, CEO of Tinkerhub Foundation, India, shared the inspiring journey of Tinkerhub. Founded in 2014 by young students from various colleges in Kochi, Kerala, Tinkerhub has grown into a 21,000+ strong community of learners and mentors across 61+ campuses. He explained about 'TinkerSpace', a community learning hub for technology skills where students exploring new technologies can collaborate, innovate, and work on curiosity-driven projects. He explained how such an environment encourages creativity and innovation, helping young people develop technical and social skills that are crucial for their future careers. Mr. Mehar briefly provided a virtual tour of the Tinkerspace, showcasing the open learning area, electronics workbench, community meetup space, and skill learning workspaces. He also demonstrated the Tinkerspace app, developed to track community usage of the learning space.

Mr. Zaiwin Kassim, Chairman of KOBIS, Malaysia, discussed the Cooperative Digitalization Action Plan (DigiKOP) 2030, which aims to promote youth enterprises through technology and innovative approaches. He emphasized the need to encourage youth to start enterprises by leveraging newer domains and experiments.



The webinar featured an engaging Q&A session. The discussions included the potential of the Univ Coop App for university cooperatives, the innovative approaches of Tinkerhub, and the strategies outlined in DigiKOP 2030 for youth-led digital cooperatives. During the Q&A session, Mr. Kassim delved into the challenges and attractions for youth to establish startups versus cooperatives and the importance of positioning, educating, and spreading awareness about cooperatives. He stressed that cooperatives offer a unique model of democratic ownership and mutual benefit, which can be highly appealing to young entrepreneurs seeking to make a positive impact on their communities.

Mr. Ganesh, on behalf of the committee, expressed gratitude for the active participation from the diverse audience expressing hope that the examples shared during the webinar would be appropriately emulated by university cooperatives in the region. Ms. Dina Fazoziah, in charge of International Relations at NFUCA, Japan, summarised the webinar and delivered the closing remarks, reiterating the key takeaways and encouraging participants to stay engaged with the ongoing initiatives of ICEI and its partners.

A full video recording of the webinar is [available here](#).

## Workshop on Social and Solidarity Economy for Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia



The regional workshop organized from 18-19 June 2024 by the International Labor Organization (ILO) on "*Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) for Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Asia*" was to highlight the critical role of SSE entities in promoting inclusive and sustainable development across Asia and the Pacific. SSE entities, of which cooperatives are an important part, create quality jobs, promote the inclusion of disadvantaged groups, and drive sustainable development through their principles and values. Recognizing their importance, the ILO, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the United Nations have adopted resolutions and recommendations that acknowledge SSE's contribution to the SDGs and encourage member states to support SSE through enabling policies and programs.

The ICA is part of the International Coalition for the Social and Solidarity Economy (ICSSE), an intercontinental network of associations, cooperatives, foundations, social enterprises, mutuals, and local authorities which aims to deepen advocacy for the recognition of SSE and to promote SSE as a field of economic activity.

In Asia and the Pacific, understanding and integrating SSE into national frameworks is still in its early stages. The ILO's project "*Strengthening Social and Solidarity Economy in Asia - Phase 2*" seeks to enhance this understanding and support policy dialogue in Cambodia, Mongolia, Thailand, and Vietnam. The workshop was organized with the aim to:

- **Strengthen Understanding:** Enhance the knowledge of ILO constituents and partners about SSE's contribution to decent work and sustainable development, based on four country case studies and good practices.
- **Promote Knowledge Sharing:** Provide a platform for policymakers, organizations, support institutions, and practitioners to share knowledge, know-how, and good practices related to SSE.



- **Develop Action Plans:** Discuss and formulate national action plans to operationalize policy recommendations for strengthening SSE in the four countries.

The workshop was attended by around 100 participants (in-person and online) from Cambodia, Mongolia, Thailand, Vietnam, and other Asia-Pacific countries, representing government agencies, employers' and workers' organizations, SSE entities' apex or representative, organizations, and international organizations including Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP. The country studies and workshops were funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea.



The policy presentations from Korea, Vietnam, Japan, and Thailand highlighted the strategies for creating supportive legal and regulatory frameworks for SSE and provided insights into the policy measures and their impact on SSE development and the comparative analysis of SSE policies across different countries. The session on ILO and UN Resolutions gave an overview of the resolution concerning decent work and SSE adopted at the 110th session of the International Labour Conference and an analysis of the UN resolution on SSE for sustainable development and its implications for member states. The key would be the implementation strategies for these resolutions and their significance in advancing SSE globally. The session on statistics detailed the importance of accurate data collection for assessing the impact of SSE, and the need for the [Guidelines concerning Statistics of Cooperatives](#) to be incorporated by the national statistical agencies.

Plenary sessions were held on SSE's contribution to decent work, supply chain development, just transition from the informal to formal economy, and digital platforms. There was a detailed analysis of SSE's contributions to decent work and the SDGs in the four project countries and the identification of common challenges and opportunities. The role of SSE in creating inclusive and sustainable global supply chains was discussed and the best practices for integrating community-based supply chains into the global market were considered along with certification and labelling practices. Successful case studies and strategies for transitioning informal workers to the formal economy were discussed and the role of SSE entities in providing decent work and social protection to informal workers. The digital labour platforms focused on ways to leverage SSE to build fair, inclusive workplaces in the platform economy and strategies for protecting workers' rights in the digital labour market.

The National Priority Setting session saw representatives from Cambodia, Mongolia, Thailand and Vietnam present their national action plans to strengthen SSE, along with prioritization of short, medium, and long-term actions, and identification of responsible parties and timelines for implementation.

The workshop provided a platform for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders to enhance their understanding of SSE's vital role in promoting inclusive and sustainable development. The workshop's



collaborative atmosphere facilitated the development of national action plans, addressing both immediate and long-term challenges and opportunities. The commitment demonstrated by all participants underscores the potential of SSE to drive economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability in Asia and the Pacific. Moving forward, the insights and strategies formulated during this workshop will serve as a foundation for continued collaboration and progress towards achieving the SDGs through the empowerment and expansion of SSE entities.

**Additional reading:**

- Centering cooperatives and cooperative identity within the social and solidarity economy: Views from the Asia-Pacific cooperative apexes and federations
- ICA Position Paper - Cooperatives as a key constituent of the Social and Solidarity Economy
- UN resolution on SSE for sustainable development
- UNTFSSSE Position Paper: "Advancing the 2030 Agenda through the Social and Solidarity Economy"
- OECD Recommendation on SSE and Social Innovation

[International Credit & Banking Conference 2024](#)



The International Credit & Banking Conference 2024 took place on 5 and 6 June 2024 in Kuala Lumpur Sentral, Malaysia. Organized by the ICA-AP Committee on Credit and Banking and the ASEAN Cooperative Organization (ACO), and hosted by the Malaysian National Cooperative Movement (ANGKASA), the conference gathered 50 delegates from Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei, India, Nepal, Malaysia, Timor Leste, and Korea. The conference featured two primary forums: one addressed the shift from conventional to Shariah-based finance and the other explored Indonesia's cooperative digital transformation efforts for sustainability. Additionally, ANGKASA shared its successful Salary Deduction and Credit System, enhancing financial stability for Malaysian cooperatives.

The event commenced with an insightful keynote by Mr. Khairil Anuar Mohammad Anuar, CEO of Co-opbank Pertama (Malaysia), who discussed the transition from conventional to Shariah-based finance. Mr. Anuar highlighted the principles of Islamic banking, emphasizing Shariah compliance, asset-based transactions, and robust governance structures. Key takeaways included the importance of ethical governance, asset cleansing, and promoting a culture of ongoing compliance.



The first forum focused on empowering cooperative businesses by leveraging digital solutions for financial inclusion and growth. Moderated by the Director of MYANGKASA Digital Services & MYISCO, Malaysia, Mr. Muhammad Hudhaifa Ahmad, the session featured Mr. Heejun Yoon from the Korean Federation of Community Credit Cooperatives (KFCC), Korea and Mr. Paladi Mohanaiah from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) India as panellists, who discussed digital empowerment, financial inclusion, and cooperative sector contributions. The second forum explored building resilient economies through digital transformation for cooperative business, moderated by Mr. Raul Montemayor from the Philippines Cooperative Center (PCC), Philippines with panelists Dr. Agung Sudjatmoko DEKOPIN, Indonesia and Mr. Ahmad Shakir Ahmad Ubaidah KOPETRO, Malaysia discussing Indonesia's cooperative landscape, digital competency, and supportive government policies.

ANGKASA presented its innovative Salary Deduction and Credit System, highlighting its role in promoting financial transparency, responsible borrowing, and cooperative growth. The conference provided a platform for collaborative dialogue and strategic insights into advancing cooperative banking and finance, aiming to strengthen operational resilience, promote member satisfaction, and drive economic growth across ASEAN and Asia-Pacific cooperative sectors.

A visit to Bank Rakyat was conducted with 27 participants who learned about cooperative banking activities in Malaysia facilitated by Mr. Mohamad Hafiz Omar, followed by a library tour. Some participants also explored key attractions in Kuala Lumpur, including the Bank Negara Malaysia Museum and Art Gallery, the Petronas Twin Towers (KLCC), Independence Square, and Central Market. They gained insights into the nation's financial history, viewed historical landmarks, and enjoyed local arts and crafts. The combined experience of the conference and the visit enriched the delegates' understanding of cooperative banking and the cultural context of Malaysia, fostering a deeper appreciation for the region's financial and historical heritage.

## COOP Dialogue 7: Call for Articles

The graphic features a vertical bar on the left with a colorful geometric pattern of overlapping semi-circles in yellow, blue, and red. To the right, the COOP logo is displayed above the text 'International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific'. Below this, the title 'COOP Dialogue 7 Call for Articles' is written in a bold, dark font. Underneath the title, the theme 'Cooperatives in the Social and Services Sector' is listed. At the bottom, submission deadlines are provided: 'Abstract Submission by - 15 July 2024' and 'Complete Article Submission by - 30 August 2024'. A circular inset image on the right shows several hands of different ages and ethnicities clasped together in a supportive gesture.

We are delighted to announce the seventh edition of COOP Dialogue, focusing on the *'Role of Cooperatives in the Social and Services Sector.'* CD7 aims to explore the contributions of social and services cooperatives to sustainable development, social equity, and economic resilience. It will examine the impact of these cooperatives on community development and social inclusion, analyse the legal frameworks and governance models that support or hinder their growth and explore innovative practices that enhance their sustainability and effectiveness. We invite articles, research papers, opinions, case studies, and stories on the selected theme from the Asia and Pacific region. [Read more.](#)

## ICA-EU Updates

### ICA-AP Participates in the Aflatoun Asia Regional Meeting



Aflatoun International, a CSO partner of ICA-AP organized its Asia Regional Meeting (ARM) 2024 from 24 to 28 June, hosted by the National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO), in Cebu, Philippines.

Ms. Monalisa Kashyap, Program Coordinator and Advocacy Officer represented ICA-AP and made a presentation on "Youth in Cooperative Development" during the Partners Best Practices Plenary Session.

The five-day program featured a series of meetings, workshops, and interactive sessions aimed at sharing best practices, developing innovative strategies, and enhancing collective impact. This year's event brought together Aflatoun's Board members, international delegates from its member countries, and cooperators from the Philippines.

On the first day, participants were welcomed by Ms. Kirsten Thenus, Program Director at Aflatoun International, and the keynote speaker, Mr. Junel H. Echavez, Administrative Assistant II from the Office of the Acting Mayor. Following this, there was an interactive session with government stakeholders centered on the national integration of Social and Financial Education and discussion on cross-learning and knowledge sharing about national integration with delegates from other countries. Ms. Sylviya O. Paraguya, CEO of NATCCO, delivered the welcome address during dinner.

The second day began with a plenary session on Climate Change and Social & Financial Education, featuring Mr. Romell Antonio from the National Climate Change Commission of the Philippines, Mrs. Shanti Jagannathan, ADB Climate Change and Skills Specialist, and Mrs. Lasalette Gumban, Head of Advocacy at NATCCO. The first breakout session focused on curriculum development, resource mobilization, capacity building, and partnership development. The second breakout session focused on Aflatoun's four core programs: Aflatot, Aflatoun, Aflateen+, and Aflayouth, with country representatives from India, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Indonesia, the Philippines, China, and Myanmar sharing their experiences. The third breakout consisted of four parallel sessions: Youth Entrepreneurship with speakers from Andra Pradesh, India and Be Better China; Youth Committee with speakers from ICA-AP, NATCCO, Lekdis Indonesia, and NECY Sri Lanka; Curriculum Contextualisation & Integration with speakers from Samunat Nepal, EMI Lao, and FRC Myanmar; and Block Chain/Crypto Currency/ Digital Learning with speakers from CED Vietnam, and CUFA PNG.

On the third day, the group discussion focused on the strategic planning of Aflatoun in the Asian context and was followed by breakout sessions on fundraising and communication, digital learning, and curriculum revision.



On the fourth day, participants visited LAMAC Multi-purpose Cooperative. This visit provided an opportunity to learn about LAMAC's rich 50-year history and its diverse range of services, including savings, loans, insurance, agri-businesses, the Hidden Valley Resort, integrated farm schools, travel and tours, Bugsay Restogrill, Coop Youth Planet, and more.

The Asia Regional Meeting concluded with a discussion on country-level strategies to enhance partner coverage in the Asia-Pacific region.

## Membership Updates

Two New Members from Asia-Pacific Join ICA





Cambodia Agricultural Cooperative Alliance (CAC Alliance) from Cambodia and Providers Multipurpose Cooperative (Providers MPC) from the Philippines joined ICA as Full Members.

CAC Alliance is a non-profit corporation with certain regulatory requirements delegated by the government. It was created to better manage and serve the agriculture cooperatives in Cambodia. Their members are cooperatives formed by local communities and their farms to better manage and distribute their crop production. Their first 5-year strategic plan includes institutional capacity, financial viability, member services, value chain development and enabling environment.

CAC Alliance joined ICA to get more knowledge on cooperation among members and share the best practices.

[Providers MPC](#), originally a savings and credit cooperative, transformed into a multi-service cooperative about 10 years ago. They provide services like lending, deposit, retail, medical, insurance, funeral, etc. They envision to be a world-class cooperative serving Filipinos and enriching the lives of members and the community. They joined ICA to benefit from global networking with the cooperative community.

Now, ICA has 110 members from 29 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

## BCCM Releases 2024 National Mutual Economy Report



Graphic Credits: BCCM

Australia's top 100 cooperative and mutual enterprises (CMEs) achieved record performance in the 2023 financial year, with total revenue growing by 16.1% to \$43.2 billion. The 2024 National Mutual

Economy Report by the Business Council of Cooperatives and Mutuals (BCCM) highlights strong revenue growth across most sectors, despite global inflation. The CME sector saw a significant combined net profit of \$1.83 billion, more than double the previous year's \$712 million. This earnings turnaround was driven by improved performance in health insurance, agribusiness, and motoring services, while financial services were affected by higher interest rates that reduced consumer borrowing. Read the full report [here](#).

## Policy & Legal Watch

Indian Cooperative Sector Seeks Dedicated Fund, Startup Incubators, and Agritourism Aid



Picture Credits: Timesofindia.com

In recent pre-budget consultations with the Indian Finance Minister, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, cooperative sector stakeholders advocated for concrete steps to foster innovation and expand cooperative start-ups through the establishment of incubators and a dedicated fund. They emphasized harnessing agritourism to showcase rural life and farming practices and stressed the importance of the PPP model in agriculture, healthcare, education, and community infrastructure development to enhance service delivery and socio-economic growth. During these consultations, the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) proposed prioritizing the procurement of goods and services from cooperative societies for government projects. [Read more](#).



## ILO's 112th Labor Conference Highlights Care Cooperatives

- ▶ **Care work** sustains life, societies, economies and the environment



Graphic Credits: ILO

At the 112th session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), the issue of decent work in the care economy was discussed. The cooperative movement was represented by the International Organisation of Industrial and Service Cooperatives (CICOPA) where its Secretary General, Ms. Diana Dovgan, [addressed](#) the meeting to highlight the role of cooperatives in the care sector. She emphasized the importance of co-ops in providing quality work to caregivers in a sector often characterized by precarious working conditions and ensuring affordable, uninterrupted care for disadvantaged individuals. CICOPA is also urging governments to form partnerships with cooperatives to enhance care services.

The ILO's Gender, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Branch (GEDI) and Cooperative, Social and Solidarity Economy Unit (COOP/SSE) are collaborating on a cross-regional, multi-country programme focused on Cooperative Care Provision as a Gender Transformative Decent Work Solution. This programme aims to enhance care provision through cooperatives and other social and solidarity entities, starting with pilot initiatives. The ILO is working with constituents, the cooperative movement, and other partners to support the role of cooperatives in the care sector through technical assistance, research, and quality data collection. In June 2024, as part of this initiative, the ILO launched country briefs for including [Colombia](#), [Lebanon](#), the [Occupied Palestinian Territories \(OPT\)](#), and [Zimbabwe](#).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Upcoming Events

- International Day of Cooperatives – 6 July 2024
- Webinar by ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation on *Understanding Cooperative Law Across Different Countries and Sectors - Part-1* – 10 July 2024
- ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam – 29 July 2024
- Asia-Pacific Women CEOs in Cooperatives Summit on *'Empowering Leadership: Navigating the Future of Cooperatives with Women at the Helm'* by ICA-AP, ICA-AP Committee on Women and Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) in Hanoi, Vietnam – 29-31 July 2024
- MBO Council Meeting and Trade Seminar, Kunming, China – 1 to 4 September 2024 (TBC)
- 18th Asia Pacific Research Conference and Young & Emerging Scholars (YES) Workshop by ICA-AP CCR at Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K) Kerala, India from 15-18 October 2024.
- Training Program for Managers of Consumer/ Retail Co-operatives" in Kobe, Japan – 4 to 17 November 2024
- ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting in New Delhi, India – 28 November 2024
- ICA Global Cooperative Conference and General Assembly in India – 25-30 November 2024



*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.*