



Summary of Proceedings 10th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference

April 18-21, 2017 – Hanoi, Vietnam



VISIONING AHEAD TO 2030

Promoting Stronger Partnership between Government and
Co-operative Stakeholders in realizing the
Sustainable Development Goals

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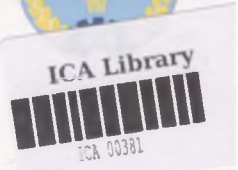
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Statements of Ministers, International Agencies, and
Co-operative Leaders; Resolution; and Proceedings

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Resolution; and Proceedings

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Traditional Vietnamese Music Performance at the Opening Ceremony of the 10th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference



Young Vietnamese Performers during the Opening Ceremony



Organising Committee of the 10th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference



(L-R) Mr. Vo Kim Cu, president of the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance and Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director of the International Cooperative Alliance- Asia and Pacific.

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Preface

I am delighted to present to you the Conference Report of the 10th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers Conference (APCMC) on *"Promoting Stronger Partnership between Government and Co-operative Stakeholders in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."* The report contains the Declaration and Recommendations and a summary record of the proceedings of the Conference held at the Melia Hotel in Hanoi from April 18 to 21, 2017.

The SDGs have an aspirational set of goals to "end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all" as part of a global development agenda. The 2030 Agenda recognizes co-operatives, which are members-owned, value-based, and sustainable enterprises, as important players within the private sector to achieve the SDGs. The Regional Consultations held before the Conference and the deliberations in the conference have reiterated that the success of co-operatives in achieving the SDGs relies altogether on a healthy member base, good governance, and expansion and advancement that is grounded in communities and supported by strong and strategic partnerships with respective governments and international and national organizations in the Asia Pacific Region. Partnership is considered crucial in this day and age and to bring about sustained economic democracy, co-operatives must work in partnership with key stakeholders.

The International Co-operative Alliance Asia-Pacific (ICA-AP) is grateful to the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for their whole-hearted support throughout the conference. Our sincere thanks to the Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA) for their exemplary organization and to Mr. Vo Kim Cu, President VCA and the staff, headed by Ms. Tran Thu Hang, for their tireless efforts during the conference. Our gratitude to all the honorable Ministers and senior government officials who attended the conference and contributed to the conference proceedings. We are thankful to the international organizations who attended the conference and made valuable recommendations.

I would like to thank all ICA members from the Asia Pacific region for their enthusiastic participation during the regional consultations and the conference. I am grateful to Mr. Charles Gould, Director General ICA and Mr. Martin Lowery from the ICA Global Board for attending the conference. My thanks to Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of ICA-AP and the Regional Board for their generous support and encouragement. My special gratitude to Drs. Robby Tulus, former Regional Director, for his continuous support and guidance

prior, during and after the conference. I am thankful to Ms. Erin Hayden for painstakingly putting together the conference proceedings. I would like to acknowledge the terrific support from staff at the Regional Office and specially acknowledge the efforts of Ms. Savitri Singh, Mr. Sethu Madhavan and Mr. Santosh Kumar.

The Asia Pacific region has an important role to play in ensuring the commitments made at the International Summit of Co-operatives in Quebec, the 12th ICA-AP Regional Assembly in New Delhi, and the 10th APCMC in Hanoi are met. The conference has pointed out that attaining the SDGs, requires a multi-stakeholder approach in which concrete actions are taken in a measurable and time-bound manner. We are committed to taking forward the Declaration and Recommendations coming out of the conference.

Balasubramanian (Balu) G. Iyer
Regional Director, ICA-Asia and Pacific

Executive Summary

Statements of Ministers, International Agencies and Co-operative Leaders

10th ICA-AP Co-operative Ministers' Conference, Hanoi, Vietnam

Visioning Ahead to 2030: Promoting Stronger Partnership between Government and Co-operative Stakeholders in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals

The Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference (APCMC) was instituted by the ICA-AP in 1990 as a quadrennial conference to provide a platform for co-operative leaders and ministers in charge of co-operatives from countries in the Asia Pacific to discuss current and emerging issues, set a common agenda for development of co-operatives and advocate for an enabling legal and policy environment for co-operatives to operate. The 10th APCMC was organized in Hanoi from April 18 to 21 in collaboration with the Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA) and the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Government of Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The Hanoi Conference was attended by over 200 participants from 23 countries from the region and eight countries were represented by their ministers in charge of cooperatives.

The conference adopted the Hanoi Resolution on Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), first in its draft form on April 20, 2017, and in its complete form, after recommendations and suggestions of stakeholders, on July 1, 2017, the Interna-

tional Day of Co-operatives 2017. The international community adopted the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (Transforming Our World) at the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 to address areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships. The 10th APCMC was organized on the theme – Visioning Ahead to 2030: Promoting Stronger Partnership between Government and Co-operative Stakeholders in realizing the SDGs. The conference focused on five main topics: a) Food Sovereignty – Role of Producers and Consumers, b) New Co-operative Approaches and Innovation, c) Public-Private Partnership d) Co-operatives and the Transition from the Informal into Formal Economy, and e) Enabling Environment (Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks); which came out of Regional Consultations in Jakarta, Kathmandu and the Gulf Co-operative Council Meeting held in 2015.

Agenda 2030 expressly recognizes co-operative enterprises (paragraph 41), as important players to achieve the SDGs. Mr.

Vo Kim Cu, President of the VCA welcomed the participants on behalf of 20,000 co-operatives and 30 million co-operators in Vietnam. He quoted former UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki Moon who had affirmed the role co-operatives played in social development and stabilizing economies. He also made reference to the 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Forum organized during the 12th ICA-AP Regional Assembly in New Delhi in 2016, where ICA members made a joint call on co-operatives as the Power to Act for a Sustainable Future. He was hopeful the conference would take forward the spirit of co-operation and produce concrete ideas and results. Ms. Monique Leroux, President ICA, in her video message reminded the gathering that co-operatives were the 1st international economic group that expressed firm commitment towards SDGs in 2016. She said and that the co-operative enterprise model with its inherent characteristics of democracy, solidarity, justice and equity, ensures stability of the global economy. Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of the ICA-AP Board expressed gratitude to the hosts VCA and the MPI and congratulated those present on their participation at the conference that will help shape the run up to the realization of the SDGs.

H.E. Madam. Dang Thi Ngoc Think, Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam graced the conference as the Chief Guest and in her address, drew attention to the disparity in the realization of the fruits of globalization and the unequal allocation of resources across majority of countries in the Asia-Pacific region. She opined that the widening gap between the rich and the poor could be bridged through science and technology and co-operation. She complimented the ICA on its role in representing co-operatives through the tumultu-

ous period of global economic recession of 2008, the effects of which are still being felt. She expressed confidence in the Declaration of the International Summit of Co-operatives, Quebec 2016, where co-operators resolved to increase the number of members from 1 billion to 2 billion globally, and the number cooperative enterprises from 2 million to 4 million, by 2030.

Mr. Charles Gould, ICA Director General reminded the conference that co-operatives globally are worth as much as the GDP of France, the world's 7th largest economy. He said that as people-centered and principles driven enterprises, cooperatives are positioned to deliver effectively on the SDGs by 2030.

Mr. Balasubramanian G. Iyer, Regional Director ICA Asia and Pacific informed the participants on the instrument of Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference and reminded the audience on the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships to implement the SDGs.

Mr. Martin Lowery, ICA Global Board Member and Executive Vice President (Member & Association Relations), National Rural Electric Co-operative Association (NRECA), USA delivered the first keynote address on Sustainable Development and the Global Co-operative Movement. He informed the participants on the role of community owned co-operatives in handling much of rural USA's electricity needs and NRECA's global electrification projects in Africa, Central and South America and in Bangladesh and the Philippines in Asia. He said that co-operatives and their networks globally played a key role as creators of quality employment. He asserted the need for co-operatives to commit to the SDGs in a measurable way and put forward their collec-

tive expertise in realizing them. The ambitious targets of the Quebec Declaration can be achieved by introducing sustainable development strategies within the operations of co-operatives as well by visioning to help resolve major world issues. He finally recalled the 2016 theme for the International Day of Co-operatives – Co-operatives' Power to Act and urged co-operatives to prepare and act to help the world realize the SDGs.

Mr. Phan Duc Hieu, Vice President, Central Institute for Economic Management gave the second keynote address on cooperation and support between government and co-operative sector to implement the SDGs in Vietnam. Mr. Hieu spoke of three distinct drivers – i) Enhance economic productivity and cleaner production, guarantee of food security while developing agriculture in rural areas, ii) Accelerate work towards poverty reduction and enhance social safety and iii) Minimize the negative impact of economic activities on the environment by responsible use of natural resources and mitigate the impact of natural disasters. Mr. Hieu touched on the need for co-operatives to enhance their contribution to the national GDP by enhancing the scale of production in agriculture through vertical and horizontal connectivity and by enhancing the engagement of rural labor, particularly young persons. Mr. Hieu made recommendations for the growth of co-operatives and to enhance their role in development by harmonizing the concept of co-operatives with development, amending the cooperative law to simplify co-operative structures and supporting newly-established co-operatives that serve socio-environmental goals besides economic objectives.

H.E. Mr. Joe Y. Natuman, Deputy Prime

Minister and Minister for Trade, Tourism, Industry and Co-operatives, Government of Vanuatu informed the conference about the People's Plan or the Vanuatu Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2020, where co-operatives were recognized for their significant contribution. He remarked that although Vanuatu is a male-dominated society, women fared much better than men in co-operative management. Young persons were being included in the cooperatives through school co-operatives and fisheries and from early stages taught the importance of savings and credit.

H.E. Mr. Khandker Mosharraf, Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Government of Bangladesh highlighted his government's 'one house one farm project' launched by Prime Minister Shiekh Hasina. It was turning out to be far more successful in terms of inclusive development and poverty alleviation, when compared to microcredit initiatives in Bangladesh.

H.E. Mr. Lyonpo Y. Dorji, Minister of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan reminded everyone about the Bhutan's philosophy of Gross National Happiness and that, it was his country's pledge not to degrade the environment for economic growth. He added that Bhutan considered co-operatives as a viable platform for promoting people's participation in nation building and socio-economic development.

H.E. Mr. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Government of Sri Lanka highlighted the nation's new cooperative policy. He assured the conference that the partnership between co-operatives and government would be strengthened

with the aim of protecting the future of the co-operative movement. He said that co-operatives can easily help achieve the SDGs if they and the government worked together and paid attention to the inclusion of women and youth.

H.E. Mr. Syed Hamid Kalantari, Deputy Minister of Co-operatives, Government of Islamic Republic of Iran informed the participants about the importance accorded to co-operatives in his country where the Constitution recognized co-operative economy as the second economic sector for the development of Iran (first being the public sector).

H.E. Dato Henry Sum Agong, Minister of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism, Government of Malaysia, informed the participants about the Malaysia's National Co-operative Policy (2011-2020). It was adopted to further cooperative economy that already operates in several high value economic areas in the country, towards their target of USD 11.28 billion co-operative turnover by 2020.

Ms. Melina Morrison, CEO Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals read out the statement from H.E. Barnaby Joyce MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources, Government of Australia. The minister stated that co-operatives allowed farmers to have more control and ownership of the food supply chain by according a higher bargaining power and at the same time connecting them with communities directly.

H.E. Mr. Anak Agung Gede Ngurah Puspayoga, Minister of Co-operatives and Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of Indonesia was represented by Mr. Teguh Boediyana, special governmental staff,

who informed everyone that President Joko Widodo's administration expressly recognized the need to reform (rehabilitation, reorientation, and revitalization) the Indonesian co-operative movement with the goal of enhancing the contribution of co-operatives to the economy.

Mr. Suresh Pradhan (Joint Secretary) who was representing, H.E. Mr. Hridayaram Thani, Minister of Co-operatives and Poverty Alleviation, Government of Republic of Nepal, said that co-operatives were recognized one of the three pillars of the economy in the Constitution (public and private being the other two). He said that co-operatives play a vital role in achieving social justice and equity among Nepal's people.

The statement of H.E. Ms. Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Second Minister for Ministry of Communications and Information, Government of Singapore was read out by Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong Chairperson of the Singapore National Co-operative Federation. Ms. Fu extolled the role played by co-operatives in complementing the efforts of public and private sectors and recorded her confidence in the co-operative movement to significantly contribute to the development of communities in Singapore.

Mr. Osamu Hashiramoto, Deputy Director General, International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, Government of Japan asserted the need for Japanese co-operatives to highlight their originality and bolster their marketing strategies by going beyond getting farm products to the retail market and by responding to the voices of producers and consumers.

Mr. Toru Yamamoto, Head of Consumers' Co-operative Societies, Ministry of Health,

Labour and Welfare informed the conference that community based mutual assistance had become a challenge in Japan and highlighted the manner in which consumer co-operatives encourage residents to participate economically and socially in the operation of business.

Mr. Eulogio Castillo, Administrator, Co-operative Development Authority (CDA) of the Philippines, speaking on behalf of the government informed everyone about co-operatives in Philippines actively promoting social justice, equity and economic development. The government's Gender and Development Program (GAD) was aimed at promoting gender equality which urged all government agencies to allocate 5% of its budget for Gender and Development.

Dr. Vinaroj Supsongsuk, Director General, Co-operative Promotion Department, Thailand reminded the conference that the 9th APCMC was organized by the Thailand on the theme, 'Sufficiency Economy', that prescribes a balanced and stable development path. He added that liberalization of economies had put pressure on co-operative management and that co-operatives will need to embrace competition by focusing on the SDGs.

The Head of the European Union Delegation to Vietnam, Ambassador Mr. Bruno Angelet asked pointed questions on the interactions of the globally driven market with social justice in communities and local democracies and the need for sustainable global economic growth. He informed everyone on the role and commitment of the European Union to establish deeper and meaningful engagement with co-operatives.

Drs. Robby Tulus, Former Regional Direc-

tor, ICA-AP, while asserting for the need for stronger partnerships among cooperatives and other development stakeholders, revisited previous APCMCs and listed five strategic issues to be addressed by co-operatives (results of the regional consultations). In a survey conducted in preparation for the conference, members said that the SDGs most relevant to them were – poverty, hunger, employment, good health and economic growth.

Ms. Clara Mi Young Park of the regional office of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) informed the conference on the importance FAO placed on co-operatives in making food systems sustainable by fostering rural-urban linkages. She said that co-operatives gave greater access to resources such as land to women and smallholders.

Mr. Magnus Persson, Regional Director We Effect spoke about the role of his organization in development of co-operatives in Philippines (housing), Sri Lanka (governance), Palestine (developing good practices and leadership) and Vietnam. WeEffect was working on managerial trainings for cooperators and enhancing production skills.

Ms. Simel Esim, Head of the Co-operatives Unit, ILO spoke on co-operative policy towards 2030 and reminded the conference of the ILO Recommendation 193 that urges governments to consult co-operatives in preparing laws and policies affecting co-operatives. She recognized that co-operatives play a crucial role in achieving decent work and social justice.

Mr. Bruno Roelants, Secretary General of CICOPA highlighted the opportunity co-operatives for formalizing work and men-

tioned the case of Solid Waste Collection and Handling (SWaCH) waste-pickers that comprised of 2,100 members, 75% of whom are women. He specified the need for improved regulatory legislation for co-operatives, administrative provisions to facilitate and incentivize registration, improvements on national statistics on co-operatives, and the development of clear measures of progress in formalization.

Mr. Shigeshi Onishi, Executive Director of the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (JA-Zenchu), spoke of their multifarious business activities including farm guidance, marketing, supply and processing, credit, insurance, medical services, travel agency, news agency and gas stations. Mr. Onishi expressed concern over the declining population of Japan and added that the increase in aging population had resulted in a decline in rice consumption and affected the JA's business. He spoke about the Sanchoku Business model where primary agricultural co-operatives and consumer cooperatives directly traded in farm products. The basic principles of Sanchoku were – traceability, standardization and communication. The model had a turnover of 2.5 billion USD with the participation of 28 million members and consumers.

Mr. U Khin Maung Aye, Chairperson of the Central Co-operative Society (CCS) represented both the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and CCS, the apex organization. The sector in Myanmar comprised of 32,401 co-operatives with a little over 3 million members. The challenges faced were in relation to lack of infrastructure, credit linkage, market intelligence and weak government policies towards co-operatives. CCS's role as an institution for training and education and advocacy could

be leveraged to strengthen co-operatives in the context of the SDGs.

Ms. Esther Penunia, Secretary General of the Asian Farmers' Association (AFA) for Sustainable Rural Development in her presentation mentioned the relevance of the International Year of Family Farming 2014. Family farms, a unit managed and operated by labor that is largely supplied by the household. 65% of world's hungriest people lived in Asia Pacific and 50-80% of Asian farms are worked on by women who did not have equal access to rights and opportunities. AFA's strategic plan 2016-2020 included rights to natural resources, sustainable and resilient co-operatives, women farmers' empowerment and attracting youth in agriculture.

Mr. Tarun Bhargava of the Indian Farmer's Fertilizer Co-operative (IFFCO) informed the conference about IFFCO's initiatives on innovation for sustainable development. He spoke about their co-operatives undertaking sustainable farming practices and using renewable energy. IFFCO was working to improve rural access to healthcare, increase women's labor force participation, and on digital initiatives like e-commerce to facilitate trade between rural and urban consumers.

Mr. Maizan Ahmed Manik, Chairperson of the Maldives Fishermen's Association (MFA) said that more than 25% of the population in Maldives was directly involved in the fishing industry. He highlighted the role of Fishermen's Community and Training Centre and the role of MFA in providing career guidance to young persons and school students. The intent was to advocate for the fisheries sector among school students with the aim to develop management and lead-

ership among the youth. He spoke about his government's policy to promote co-operatives and urged participants, especially from SAARC to exchange best practices to mitigate challenges of marketing and enhance trade.

Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong, Chairperson of the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) highlighted the alarming pace in which his country's population was ageing and the approaches undertaken by SNCF to holistically address the issues. Since 2004, two million individuals were trained in Lifelong Learning Movement that offered upskilling and learning opportunities. Employment opportunities have been created in enterprises that worked solely for the benefit of the elderly, notably, the Silver Caregivers, NTUC Health, Goodlife Co-operative, Silver Horizon Travel Co-operative Ltd.

Dr. Nandini Azad, Vice Chairperson of the ICA-AP Women Committee spoke about the ICA-AP and ICPRD study on gender statistics. Among the recommendations of the study were – mainstream gender analysis in all aspects of co-operatives; establish "gender equality cells/units" to identify gender-related problems and develop gender awareness trainings; national census to collect gender disaggregated data; sensitize co-operative leaders to grasp the complexity of women's issues; facilitate women's income earning capacities and alleviate their work loads.

Ms. Om Devi Malla, Vice Chairperson of the National Co-operative Federation (NCF) of Nepal spoke about co-operatives' work with youth, women and disaster response. NCF had created youth sub-committees across its membership to integrate young persons in the movement by provid-

ing training and education, skills training, internship programs and soft loans. The leadership of women in national politics and presence in high-ranking offices sent a strong message to co-operatives to include women in decision making and leadership positions. Co-operatives in Nepal and in Asia played a pivotal role in raising funds and providing relief and rehabilitation work post the devastating earthquake of 2015.

Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, President, National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) spoke about the role of NCUI in expanding the scope of co-operative business, delivering quality services and creating tangible impact for members. He highlighted the role of education and training, access to credit and promotion of peaceful societies to strengthen co-operatives and create an environment for co-operatives that was conducive to deliver on the SDGs.

Ms. Helen Zhang of the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (AFSMC) spoke about new approaches in collaborating with government of China on rural e-commerce. She said that the internet had become the basic element and fundamental support of society and e-commerce had been elevated to the status of a national strategy. By 2020, over 50% of trade in China will be done online.

Mr. Alireza Gharagozlou, CEO of the Iranian Chamber of Co-operatives spoke about the key areas where government and co-operatives could collaborate. He stated that through joint efforts, arbitration centres, national councils and commercial IDs, co-operatives could offer more benefits to members. Through international trade, co-operatives could strengthen businesses in

areas of handicrafts, services, banking and finance, insurance, tourism, fisheries, and education.

Mr. Raul M. Calayan Jr., Chief Operating Officer of National Confederation of Co-operatives (NATCCO) Philippines highlighted the synergies forged with the Department of Education and Social Welfare and the Department of Agrarian Reform with their initiatives – Aflatoun, Conditional Cash Transfer program and Microfinance Innovation in Cooperatives. Kaya, NATCCO's online payment platform was made possible with partnership between private and cooperative sector.

Dato Haji Kamarudin Ismail from Angkasa said that organized relationships between co-operatives and governments with a common scope and aim, defined roles and work methodology will enhance the chance of achieving the SDGs for a better living. He highlighted the role of the Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission and the support of the Malaysian National Co-operative Policy 2011-2020 in forging strategic partnership with co-operatives for economic growth and sustainability. He said that co-operative-government collaborations was pivotal in developing and providing a conducive ecosystem for community development.

The Hanoi APCMC Resolution on Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in Realizing the SDGs was adopted by the conference on April 20, 2017 and reservations were taken up until June 30, 2017. The Hanoi Resolution distinctly recognizes the Power of Co-operatives to Act on Goal 17 on Partnerships and Goal 16 on Peace, Justice and Stronger Institutions in the furtherance of the goals. The Resolution identifies five areas of work for co-operatives namely – Food Security; Economic Growth, Employment and Decent Work; Access to Healthcare and Social services; Poverty and Financial Inclusion; and, Climate Change.

The Resolution urges governments to make co-operatives as agents of inclusion for the marginalized while promoting open membership and volunteerism; explore and jointly implement (with other stakeholders) co-operative solutions to local and global problems; foster partnerships to encourage innovation in areas of health, education, green economy and care for the aged; further the equitable representation of all genders in co-operatives; collaborate with ICA members to promote the use of information technology and lastly, uphold the 6th Co-operative Principle of Co-operation among Co-operatives.



Dr. Martin Lowery, ICA Global Board member and Executive Vice President, Member and Association Relations, of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Delivering the Keynote Speech



More than 300 participants from 23 countries around the world attended the Conference

The HANOI APCMC RESOLUTION

on

Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in Realizing the SDGs

**Adopted by Participants of the 10th Asia Pacific
Co-operative Ministers' Conference**

20 April 2017 at the Melia Hotel, Hanoi (Vietnam)

**Launched on the occasion on 95th ICA International Day of Co-operatives,
July 1, 2017 at Issyk Kul, Kyrgyz Republic, during the Forum on
Development of Co-operatives in Central Asia**

A. PREAMBLE

The International Co-operative Identity Statement¹ reflects the significance of people in the cooperative enterprise model, and through the 'concern for community' principle², the element of 'sustainable development'. Therefore, it confers on the International Co-operative Alliance as its custodian, the responsibility of building meaningful partnerships and alliances with all relevant stakeholders in achieving together the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030,

Whereas, co-operatives have been recognized by the United Nations in particular and the international community in general, as vehicles for transformation of the world and implementation of the 2030 Agenda along with their contribution in achieving a socially just, economically equitable and culturally inclusive society,

Whereas, co-operatives represent more than 2.5 million enterprises and 1.5 billion members and represent more than 272 million jobs and play a key role as creators of quality employment,

^[1] Identity Statement – Definition, Values and Principles of Co-operatives adopted in 1995 at the Centennial Congress of the ICA, Manchester

^[2] Principle 7

Whereas the International Co-operative Alliance continues to pledge its contribution in achieving the SDGs by way of concrete actions of its members in close partnership with its stakeholders within the context of its 'Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade', and realizes the importance of measuring and monitoring the efforts.

Participants of the 10th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference (APCMC) in their statements and deliberations during April 18-20, 2017 at the Melia Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam,

Recall the Declaration of the International Summit of Co-operatives 2016 (Summit) and the Resolution of the 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Forum 2016, that encourage effective partnerships among governments, the private sector and civil society to ensure sustainable development, that set the goal of enhancing the number of co-operative enterprises worldwide to 4 million and number of co-operators to 2 billion, as well as the ILO Recommendation 193 on Promotion of Co-operatives and the UN Resolution A/Res/64/136 (IYC 2012).

Recognize the capacity of co-operatives to act affirmatively on social, environmental and economic issues of the 21st century, and the relevance of SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals) **as well as** SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Stronger Institutions),

Reaffirm the International Co-operative Alliance as custodian of the International Co-operative Identity Statement with its definition, values and principles, as adopted by the ICA Congress in 1995, and the Guidance Notes of the Co-operative Principles of 2015,

Review the five areas of work for co-operatives namely, Food security, Economic growth, employment and decent work, Access to healthcare and social services, Poverty and financial inclusion and, Climate change and sustainable development, as identified by co-operatives at the Summit in 2016, while taking note of the direct contribution of co-operatives in the achievement of Goal 1 (No poverty), Goal 2 (No Hunger), Goal 3 (Good health), Goal 4 (Quality education), Goal 10 (Reduced inequalities) Goal 8 (Good jobs and economic growth), Goal 9 (Innovation & Infrastructure) and Goal 10 (Reduced inequalities), and the potential of co-operatives in addressing challenges related to Goal 13 (Climate action), Goal 6 (Clean water and sanitation), Goal 7 (Renewable energy), Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and Goal 12 (Responsible consumption) of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and,

Taking due account of the democratic character of co-operatives and the recommendations 193 (concerning the Promotion of Co-operatives) and 204 (concerning the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy) of the International Labour Organization and the UN Resolution A/Res/64/136 (IYC 2012)

B. RESOLUTION

Urge governments of Member States of the United Nations, to integrate co-operatives in their respective development agendas and national policies by adopting the following HANOI APCMC.

RESOLUTION :

Article 1

Ensure an enabling environment and supportive institutional infrastructure for the establishment and functioning of voluntary, autonomous and independent co-operatives by adopting favourable and harmonized legal frameworks based on a uniform understanding of the Identity Statement.

Article 2

Strategically position the co-operative enterprise model to benefit persons from marginalized sections of society including migrants, refugees, indigenous people and differently-abled persons to inclusively generate decent, formal and full employment for members of the society at large, and enhancing open participation & voluntarism while promoting real & effective membership.

Article 3

Integrate co-operatives into development strategies by identifying needs and opportunities that can be addressed and co-operative solutions that can be implemented, and actively promote cooperative education and training to stakeholders in attainment of the SDGs.

Article 4

Foster Public-Private Partnerships between Government, Co-operatives and other private sector entities in generating new and innovative approaches in areas of health, education, green economy, and care for children & the aged, with emphasis on women empowerment and youth employment.

Article 5

Rebuild community based co-operatives to resolve the challenge of equitable representation of all and women in particular, to help the world transition into a cohesive society.

Article 6

Actively collaborate with national co-operative movements, as members of the ICA, to promote the use of information technology initiatives to improve governance, encourage transparency and support modernization and expansion of the socio-economic activities of co-operatives and integration of youth.

Article 7

Uphold and support cooperation among co-operatives, and with other enterprises based on cooperative values and principles, to foster a robust and resilient civil society movement in the pursuit of the SDGs,

C. STRATEGIC FOLLOW UP

Call on all Participants to act on the following STRATEGIC FOLLOW UP ACTIONS to effectively implement the targets envisioned under the HANOI APCMC RESOLUTION on Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in Realizing the SDGs, in a measurable and time-bound manner, namely:

ACTION STEP 1 : To develop concrete action plans and follow-up activities

- 1.1 Participants will devise **concrete action plans** in addressing the targets of the HANOI APCMC RESOLUTION by August 2017, and utilize coopsfor2030.coop platform as instrument; **organise an initial stakeholders council** in order to monitor the progress of the aforementioned action steps, the organization of stakeholder's council compose of one representative each of the sub region (ASEAN, SAARC, GCC and The Pacific) and one from an International organization/ specialised agency is deemed necessary and important.
- 1.2 Consultations with partners in co-operative development under the framework of COPAC membership, CICOPA, the European Union and various governments that are associated with ICA, to seek concrete follow up and implementation of the HANOI APCMC RESOLUTION and share its report during the ICA General Assembly in Malaysia in November 2017.
- 1.3 More specifically, governments and cooperative movement/organization will promote participation of co-operatives in reporting, in the context of the SDGs, on themes such as gender equality policies, decent work practices, youth employment, care for the environment etc.
- 1.4 The council constituted under 1.1. will monitor and track all action plans received from participants of this 10th APCMC in Hanoi and report on progress made during the Regional Consultations prior to 11th APCMC, and at the 11th APCMC Proper in 2021.

ACTION STEP 2 : To devise instruments on Care Economy & Social Economy

Collaboration will be encourage with relevant stakeholders in organizing regional and sub-regional dialogues on provision of care services through co-operatives bringing in global experiences to strategize toward addressing the demographic issues of child care, ageing, disability, migration, employment and entrepreneurship of women & youth in cooperatives. To encourage and support women members' participation (ranging from 30% to 50% representation) in committees, bodies, councils and other higher-level cooperative structures.

ACTION STEP 3 : To Undertake Research-based Programs relevant to the Implementation of the Multi-Stakeholders Partnerships in Realizing the SDGs.

In light of the SDGs and the related response of co-operatives, programmes shall be devised for Alliance members, partners and stakeholders on an array of subjects such as 'future of work', new and innovative businesses and changes in technology and its application, impact of climate change, renewable energy, food sovereignty, healthcare for migrants and refugees, autonomy of cooperatives in doing business, and co-operative engagements at nationally/regionally/globally towards revitalizing the co-operative model, all of which will be carefully undertaken based on research and evidence. Training, collection of sex disaggregated data will be a priority during the period. A fifth Critical Study will also be considered to complement this action program.

Action Step 4: To pursue Sub-regional groupings of nations for co-operative development

In order to better understand and serve the national co-operative movements in various geographical areas such as ASEAN, SAARC and the Pacific Regions, consultations and harmonious collaborations will be carried out within the respective sub-regions and also among sub-regions as deemed necessary, results of which will be reported by ICA-AP no later than December 31, 2018.

Areas like implementation of co-operative policies and strategies, and the potential of regional and sub-regional legislative frameworks shall also be explored.

CONCLUSION

This HANOI APCMC RESOLUTION, which is action-oriented and results-based ought to be construed as more than a DECLARATION, the contents of the latter are usually more form than action;

Notwithstanding, Participants reserve the right to utilize this HANOI APCMC RESOLUTION – minus the segment of the STRATEGIC FOLLOW UP ACTIONS - as a legitimate DECLARATION as they deem fit.

The Regional Director of the ICA Asia and Pacific and the President of the Vietnam Co-operative Alliance are designated guardian of this RESOLUTION, who will circulate it to all relevant stakeholders. The depositories will accept calls of reservations to the RESOLUTION until 2 July 2017 after which the RESOLUTION-CUM-DECLARATION will be deemed to have been unanimously adopted.

THE DRAFTING TEAM : Mr. Robby Tulus (Indonesia & Canada), Dr. Nandini Azad (India), Mr. Suresh Pradhan (Nepal), Mr. P. Santosh Kumar (ICA-AP), Ms. Heira Hardiyanti (Indonesia), Ms. Nguyet Minh (Vietnam). With contribution from CICOPA, ILO, JA ZENCHU, NRECA.

Summary Record of Proceedings

Session 1 : Roadmap to 2030 Implementation and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Session Chair – Dr. Martin Lowery, ICA Global Board member; Executive Vice President, Member and Association Relationship, National Rural Electric Co-operative Association (NRECA), USA.



[L to R] Ambassador Mr. Bruno Angelet, Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Vietnam; Drs. Robby Tulus, Former Regional Director ICA-AP; Mr. Charles Gould, Director General ICA (at the podium); Dr. Martin Lowery, Executive Vice President, NRECA and ICA Board Member.

1.0 **Mr. Charles Gould**, Director General of the ICA welcomed co-operators in attendance and began by reminding the conference how the seven co-operative principles uniquely position the ICA and co-operative members to be leaders of sustainability as we approach 2020. He emphasized the importance co-operatives will have, as people-centered businesses, to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the ICA's Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade. Specifically, he shared that within the 17 SDGs, the ICA has identified three action areas most relevant to the co-operative sector: eradicating poverty, improving access to basic goods and services, and protecting the environment, which includes building a more sustainable food system. He concluded by stating the ICA's role as the global voice for co-operatives and reminded the conference that the collective economic power of global co-operatives equals the GDP of France, which is the world's 7th largest economy.

1.1 **Mr. Bruno Angelet**, Ambassador, Head of the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Vietnam, spoke about the partnership between the EU and co-operatives to realize the SDGs. He posed the fundamental questions: Can the global economy produce and profit as well as deliver social justice? How can we reconcile a market that went global with democracies that stayed local? Can social justice survive at the local level, when economic forces are unbound at the global level? He stressed that since the financial crisis proved a need for more sustainable economic growth, the EU has committed to deeper engagement with civil society, in particular, co-operatives.

1.2 **Drs. Robby Tulus**, former Regional Director, ICA-AP, brought attention to the need for partnerships between co-operatives, the government, and the private sector. He reviewed the history of the Asia Pacific Co-operative Minister's Conference (APCMC), particularly lessons learned from the past APCMCs. He listed five strategic issues the co-operative movement needs to address in the coming years: food sovereignty, new co-operative approaches, transition from informal to formal economy, the regional and global engagement of co-operatives, and promoting an enabling regulatory environment. Based on a survey among ICA members in the region, about their opinions of the SDGs, all agreed with the goals to eradicate poverty and hunger. Most are committed to economic growth, employment, and good work. A few prioritized good health. He ended by emphasizing the need for the co-operative movement to use "blended finance," by accepting support from private investment and governments, concluding with the quote, "Partnership is not the absence of competition but the ability to cope with competition by collaborative means towards reaching a common goal."

Session 2 : Role of co-operatives as producers and consumers in ensuring food sovereignty – *Sufficient, safe and nutritious food for a healthy lifestyle is simply not enough. More attention needs to be given to where, how, by and for whom food was produced, and how co operatives as producers and consumers could play an important role in this regard.*

Session Chair - Mr. Charles Gould, Director General, ICA

2.0 **Ms. Clara Mi Young Park**, Gender Rural and Social Development Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific reiterated the importance of agricultural co-operatives to achieve the 2030 SDGs. Specifically, the SDGs which link agriculture, nutrition, and sustainable food supplies. She highlighted how the co-operative model particularly, increases access to resources such as land to women and smallholders, which comprise the majority of food producers in the world. The FAO sees co-operatives as a crucial step towards making our food systems more sustainable by fostering more inclusive rural-urban linkages, enhancing access to affordable and healthy food, and by empowering local food production chains. Ms. Park shared that the FAO is working towards enabling an environment where co-operatives and producer organizations will be included in policy discussions. They are also supportive of organizational strengthening and knowledge generation through co-operative-to-co-operative information sharing.



[L to R] H.E. Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, Minister for Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Bangladesh; Ms. Esther Penunia, Secretary General, Asian Farmer's Association for Sustainable Rural Development; Mr. Rajeev Mehta, Senior Advisor, KMA Group; Mr. Khin Muang Aye Chairman, Central Co-operative Society, Myanmar; Ms. Clara Mi Young Park, Gender Rural and Social Development Officer, FAO; Mr. Shigeshi Onishi, Executive Director, Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives, Japan.

2.1 H.E. Mr. Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, Minister for Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Bangladesh spoke about the importance of co-operatives in building secure food systems that result in economic security and environmental sustainability. He specifically used the term “food sovereignty,” to mean the right of the people to “healthy and culturally appropriate food – produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods.” H.E. Hossain then spoke about the “One House One Farm Project,” a co-operative initiative introduced by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the development paradigm shift from micro-credit to micro-savings. H.E. Hossain also saw agricultural co-operatives as a way to achieve agro-ecology, a more sustainable alternative to industrialized farming. Agro-ecology expands the idea of where food can come from beyond cultivated fields; it can come from forests, meadows, and coastal lands. Broadening the definition of healthy food and plant-based medicine can help impoverished communities increase their access to sustaining resources, better the well-being of the environment, and generate more income for farmers. To protect the future of food production the Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Department of Bangladesh supports by paying farmers fair wages, setting fair price for their goods, price protection policies, and access to healthy and culturally appropriate foods. He concluded by summarizing that, “Local agriculture is in decline and the economic crisis has a negative influence on agriculture: it is inclined to industrialize

monoculture farming. On the other hand, solutions must be adapted to local situations.” To encourage more local and sustainable solutions he suggested a list of recommendations - increasing dialogue between rural communities and politicians, combining traditional indigenous farming methods with new knowledge, labeling foods with more information about how it was produced, and increasing knowledge sharing between co-operators throughout the region.

2.2 Mr. Khin Muang Aye, Chairman Central Co-operative Society (CCS), spoke on behalf of the CCS of Myanmar and the Ministry of Agriculture, Myanmar. He shared the main activities of the CCS: training for members, channelizing financial support from government and international financial institutions, implementing bilateral projects, policy advocacy, co-operation among co-operatives. There are currently 32,401 primary co-operatives in Myanmar representing the production sector, service sector, and trade sector. Mr. Khin Muang Aye explained some central challenges facing co-operatives in Myanmar – infrastructure, finance, and land rights. 70% villages don’t have paved roads and 75% villages don’t have electricity. Co-operatives have limited means to access credit to invest in new technology and to purchase supplies. They don’t have rights to mortgage land for Land Title investment loans. The lack of access to the internet reduces information on market trends and guidance and e-commerce. He also shared government policies concerning banking laws in Myanmar, as they are, hinder co-operative development.

2.3 Ms. Esther Penunia, Secretary General, Asian Farmer’s Association for Sustainable Rural Development spoke about the Association’s work in supporting 20 national farmer organizations from 16 countries including two national co-operative alliances (Nepal and Mongolia). The Association seeks to support smallholder family farmers, with a focus on the women. Ms. Penunia pointed out that 70% of the world’s food is produced by smallholder farmers, 80% of these farms are in the Asia-Pacific region and 50-80% of this work is done by women. Yet 65% of the world’s hungriest people are in the Asia-Pacific region and women in this area do not have equal rights. The Association sees the collective power of the co-operative model as a way to right this paradox. She proposed policy reforms that particularly support smallholder and women farmers which included land and natural resource rights; need to regulate market competition to allow smallholder farmers a fair position; and trade policy, and macro-economic policy. Suggestions for gender equity focused on eliminating discriminatory gender clauses from current policy and encouraging affirmative action measures.

2.4 Mr. Shigeshi Onishi, Executive Director, Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (JA-ZENCHU), Japan said that JA serves 10.3 million co-operative members with the goal to enhance agricultural production and farmer’s financial and social status through mutual cooperation. Mr. Onishi spoke primarily about the example of rice production in Japan. Since 2011, the population of Japan has been declining and there has been a strong force of urbanization towards Japan’s three urban centers. While there has been an oversupply of rice, the production of other farm products remains

low, resulting in a large number of urban consumers primarily buying imported goods. Modern Japanese consumers are now prioritizing taste, freshness, safety, and price when buying food. To reconnect the modern urban consumer to locally produced goods, JA has been implementing a business strategy called Sanchoku, which focuses on increasing direct trade among co-operative producers. In one of unique practices in Sanchokubusiness, a consumers' coop purchases pig meet raised by rice produced genuinely for feed, as their contribution to improve the food efficiency rate and to maintain the paddy field active to rice production against the oversupplying market situation. The other essential strategy of the JA is to increase face-to-face contact between consumers and farmers through farmer's markets and open meetings. This form of direct trade benefits the farmers and reengages the consumers to support local agriculture by appealing to their desire for freshness and food safety.

2.5 H.E. Eng. Mr. Wassfi Hassan El-Sreihin, Secretary General, African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), India said that AARDO is an inter-governmental International Organization established in 1962. AARDO serves as a forum for the countries of Africa and Asia to jointly discuss their common problems, exchange views, ideas, information and experiences in the field of rural and agricultural development, and to make concerted efforts, wherever possible, to improve the quality of life of their rural people. He said that the global community recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions including extreme poverty is the great global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. As regard to the implementation of the SDGs, co-operatives can play very important role as producer, consumer, service provider, developing human resources, conserving natural resources etc. In the light of the problems and constraints being faced by co-operatives in most developing countries, a precise action programme for the strengthening of co-operatives at all levels may have to be drawn up to meet the diverse needs of members. Co-operatives on their part must offer efficient services to the producers and the consumers. Along with providing efficient and improved services to members, co-operatives should also lay more emphasis on human resource development, networking, exchange and access to information on their functioning.

2.6 Ms. Melina Morrison, Chief Executive, Business Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM), Australia recalled that the First Ministerial Conference was held in Sydney in 1990. The BCCM was formed in 2013, following the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives. Today, there are 2,000 co-operatives operating in sectors across the Australian economy including agriculture, financial services, insurance, health, employment, education, housing and retail and marketing. They range in size from small retail co-operatives through to Murray Goulburn and the Co-operative Bulk Handling or CBH Group; these businesses have around US \$3 billion turnover each year. There are 15 million members of co-operatives in Australia and 8 in 10 Australians are members of at least one co-operative organisation. Co-operatives and Mutuals have traditionally received very little Government attention in Australia. As such, the sector has not grown to its full potential over the last 30 years. Since the formation of a

national peak body and co-operation across the Australian co-operative sector, this is beginning to change. Today the Australian government recognises the important role of co-operatives in Australia and in the region. The government has committed to a range of initiatives to improve the enabling environment for co-operatives.

2.7 H.E. Mr. Barnaby Joyce, MP, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Australia (statement read out by Ms. Melina Morrison, CEO, Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals, Australia). *This year's conference has an excellent program, with several notable speakers, and covers a range of issues that will be key to the future success of the agriculture sector across the Asia-Pacific region. Agricultural co-operatives and other collaborative business models can help farmers to own and control more of the food supply chain themselves. Co-operatives have the potential to give farmers greater bargaining power when negotiating with buyers of their produce leading to increased returns at the farm gate. The further you can reach down the path to the consumer, the greater the returns. It's better for the farmer and local communities.*

2.8 H.E. Ms. Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Second Minister for Ministry of Communications and Information, Singapore (statement read out by Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong, Chairman, Singapore National Co-operative Federation). *"Co-operatives are important agents for social good, and play an integral part in making Singapore a more caring and cohesive society. They have an important role in achieving economic and social objectives by enhancing the availability of resources, and creating opportunities. They do so by complementing the efforts of public and private sectors, and contributing towards meeting the evolving needs of our people. As we build a more vibrant co-operative movement, I am confident that co-operatives will continue to make significant contributions to the communities they serve."*

Session 3 : Approaches in areas of health, education, green economy and care for the aged with emphasis on women and youth – *Co operatives must devise new ways to move from their more traditional and consolidated approaches and sectors such as agriculture, consumer and financial co operatives, and start innovating in new approaches and sectors to include health, education, social security, green economy, care for the aged, children, people living with chronic illness and disabilities.*

Session Chair - Mr. Suresh Pradhan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives and Poverty Alleviation, Nepal.

3.0 Mr. Toru Yamamoto, Director, Office of Consumers' Co-operative Societies, Community Welfare and Services Division, Social Welfare and War Victims' Relief Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan, emphasized the role co-operatives can play in building communities especially by integrating welfare, healthcare, and elderly care services. Given Japan's declining birthrate and aging population, community-based care for elders is now more crucial than ever. In 2007, the Consumer Co-operative Act was amended to promote healthcare and welfare activities among community-based



[L to R] – Mr. Suresh Pradhan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives and Poverty Alleviation, Nepal; Mr. Toru Yamamoto, Director, Office of Consumers' Co-operative Societies, Community Welfare and Services Division, Social Welfare and War Victims' Relief Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan; Hon. Joe Natuman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, Tourism, Commerce and Business, Vanuatu; Mr. Kek Kok Kwong, Chairman Singapore National Co-operative Federation; Ms. Om Devi Malla, Vice Chair, National Co-operative Federation of Nepal (NCF), Nepal.

co-operatives. The amendment also loosened regulations on co-operatives providing social services to non-members in the community. Mr. Yamamoto shared that the amendment led to an increase in these services among co-operatives. Now 181 co-operatives engage in elderly care services and 483 co-operatives organize some kind of community mutual-support activities. Examples of elderly care services included housework assistance, gathering places, care prevention, and mobility assistance. Co-operatives that provide commodities in Japan have also signed an agreement with 52.3% of local municipalities to check-in on elderly people while they are delivering their goods. These groups also provide delivery services for vulnerable people living on 152 remote islands. Mr. Yamamoto said that these types of intersections of community and commerce through co-operatives will be essential in building a future of “regionally cohesive societies” in Japan.

3.1 H.E. Mr. Joe Natuman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, Tourism, Commerce and Business, Vanuatu, spoke to the conference on behalf of the small Pacific Island nation, Vanuatu, with a total population around 270,000 people. In 2015, Vanuatu



Dr. Nandini Azad, Acting Chairperson ICA-AP Women Committee; Mr. Tarun Bhargava, Deputy General Manager, IFFCO; Mr. Maizan Ahmed Manik, Chairman of the Maldives Fishermen's Association

was hit by a category 5 cyclone Pam; H.E. Natuman thanked the ICA for their support during that time. He also spoke of the challenges of a small nation, with a small economy, geographic isolation, and heightened vulnerability to climate change and natural disaster. Co-operatives have played a central role in their economy since the 1960s, there are currently 387 active co-operatives, but the sector has failed to deliver as much economic self-reliance as they had hoped it would. Vanuatu supports the 2030 SDGs and has its own National development plan for 2016-2030 that prioritizes social inclusion and elimination of poverty. They see co-operatives as essential in the achievement of these goals and have drafted a new co-operative policy for 2017-2022 and plan to establish the Vanuatu Co-operative Alliance. A highlight of their co-operative movement has been an increase in female leadership. H.E. Joe Natuman, shared that, "Vanuatu is a male-dominated society but recent experiences within the co-operative system and in the larger business environment have shown women to be better managers, and this has resulted in improved status for women; with some being elected to management or leadership roles in business and regional governments." Vanuatu sees promise in the co-operative movement but recognize the need for greater reinforcement and communication in their development efforts. Moreover, as the sole representative of a Pacific Island nation at the conference, they hope more of their neighboring Pacific nations will be able to join the ICA in the future.

3.2 Dr. Nandini Azad, Chairperson, Indian Co-operative Network for Women, India

reported on the Study conducted on the Status of Women in Co-operatives in 26 countries in the Asia Pacific region. The Study found that there aren't currently significant female representation in co-operative leadership, but the democratic nature of co-operatives and the emergence of women-only co-operatives are promising for the future of increased gender equality. The average male: female ratio of co-operative membership was 74:26. The majority of female members were above age 45 while for male members it was between 18-45, a variation attributed to the dual pressures exerted on women to both produce and reproduce. Leadership at the top levels is still low, with 10% of chairpersons being female – a statistic they thought was due to patriarchal values and lack of education. At the non-executive level, there is a much more balanced distribution of 43% women members and 57% male members. The measures suggested to increase women's participation include: assigning quotas, co-opting to boards and committees, increasing participation in decision-making, increasing leadership roles, and capacity building. There are many possible benefits to women co-operative members such as childcare support and healthcare, educational support, and access to loan and credit. The study found several barriers to women's empowerment through co-operatives that came largely from patriarchal cultural norms resulting in cycles that discourage education and practice of necessary skills, lack of specifically supportive by-laws, and imbalanced domestic responsibilities. The concluding recommendations from the study called for mainstreaming gender analysis in all co-operatives, establishing gender equality committees, national networks for collecting gender disaggregated data, increasing women's membership, overcoming the structural and legal barriers to women's involvement especially in leadership, and sensitizing existing co-operative leaders to women's issues.

3.4 Mr. Kek Kok Kwong, Chairman of Singapore National Co-operative Federation (est. 1980), focused his presentation on potential for co-operatives to provide elder care services in their communities. He began by giving background on the current context of Singapore's population. Since Independence in 1965, the average life expectancy of a citizen of Singapore has increased by 20 years from 63 to 83. To ensure holistic care for this rising demographic, they have divided their program efforts into four main areas: healthcare, lifestyle, employment, and infrastructure. For example, a lifelong learning program encourages adults to continue learning new skills in order to keep up employment in a changing workforce. Mr. Kwong shared several examples of co-operative organizations that specifically address elder services such as travel, caregiver support, healthcare, and shopping.

3.5 Ms. Om Devi Malla, Vice Chair, National Co-operative Federation of Nepal (NCF) spoke to the conference about NCF's work in empowering youth and women, and disaster relief in Nepal. NCF has a youth sub-committee and encourages its members to do the same. They see co-operatives as having the capacity to help young people develop employable skills, gain access to soft loans for entrepreneurship, and create opportunities for self-employment. Regarding the situation of women in Nepal, though both the President and the Chief Justice in Nepal are women, generally women still fall behind men in rates of literacy, home and land ownership, and in the civil service. The

co-operative sector shows promise for women's empowerment as 51% of the co-operative members in Nepal are women and 38% of them are working in decision making positions. The NCF has implemented provisions to ensure at least one-woman vice chairperson and two women board members. Additionally, all central and district level co-operatives must have at least one woman on their board. Ms. Om Devi Malla spoke about the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, how it affected co-operatives, and about NCF's response. A total of 1,080 co-operative members lost their lives, 2,200 were injured, 518 co-operative buildings collapsed and 105 were damaged. The damages also lead to financial delays and losses. In response, the NCF contributed Nepalese Rupees 2.5 million to the Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund. The generous contributions by the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives, the Indian Farmer's Fertilizer Co-operative, the Japanese Agriculture Co-operatives and ICA members in the region and outside help NCF provide timely relief and rehabilitation. NCF has established a Co-operative Disaster Relief Fund for the co-operatives who were most affected by the disaster.

3.6 Mr. Tarun Bhargava, Deputy General Manager, Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative (IFFCO), India, gave the conference an overview of IFFCO's latest initiatives and areas of development. He shared IFFCO's work in addressing climate change through sustainable farming practices and use of renewable energy. He also emphasized the ability of co-operatives to improve rural access to healthcare and to increase women's labour force participation. IFFCO is pursuing digital initiatives like e-commerce to facilitate trade between rural and urban consumers. Other focus areas of IFFCO include capacity building of women, income generation initiatives, health check-up camps for women, women training programs, and agriculture diversification.

3.7 Mr. Maizan Ahmed Manik, Chairman of the Maldives Fishermen's Association explained that fishery is the primary industry of the Maldives and training and support for fishing communities is of prime importance. One such organization is the Fishermen's Community and Training Centre (FCTC), which provides trainings, information on potential fishery zones, support while they are out to sea, and information through TV, radio, and a bimonthly newsletter. The FCTC also places special emphasis on youth development for everyone from school children to young adults. Mr. Manik shared that the Maldivian Fisheries Industry supports measures for sustainable development including sustainable use of marine resources, waste management, efficient use of bait fish, and locating school of fish through satellite to avoid unnecessary use of fuel. The Maldives Fishermen's Association (MFA) is opening a Health and Recreation Club with special services for elderly citizens including education programs to pass on fishing knowledge from elder members to younger members. Regarding women's empowerment, the MFA has training programs for co-operative business development, handicraft and vocational skills, fish processing, and career and life skill development. In the Maldives, a Co-operative Society Law has been in place since 2007. Since it is a relatively new concept to the people of the Maldives, Mr. Manik thinks arranging exchange programs to other SAARC countries with more extensive co-operative experience would be quite beneficial. Similarly, the MFA hopes to arrange exchanges within regional co-operatives to share technical knowledge.

Session 4 : Public-Private Partnership: government and co-operatives as stakeholders in innovating new approaches – *Co-operatives must initiate and enhance engagement with the government in expanding their scope of business and delivery of quality services to members as well as the community by embracing innovative new approaches. Co-operatives should enter into partnership to create tangible impact on the development of a society.*

Session Chair – Ms. Mercedes D. Castillo, Administrator, CDA, Philippines.



[L to R] – Ms. Mercedes D. Castillo, Administrator, CDA, Philippines; Hon. Dr. Syed Kalantari Hemmat Abadi, Deputy Minister of Co-operatives, Labour and Social Welfare, Islamic Republic of Iran; Mr. Magnus Persson, Regional Director, WeEffect; Hon. Abdul Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Sri Lanka; Mr. Osamu Hashiramoto, Dy. Director General for International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan; Mr. Teguh Boediyana, Special Staff to the Minister, Ministry of Co-operatives and Small & Medium Enterprises, Indonesia.

4.0 Mr. Magnus Persson, Regional Director, WeEffect, previously the Swedish Co-operative Center, partners with local organisations to build capacity and improve governance. He gave four examples of WeEffect's recent work in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Palestine, and Vietnam. In the Philippines, WeEffect supported Community-led Co-operative Housing by working with local government to allow for affordable development, encouraging the use of interlocking compressed earth-block (ICEB), low-cost earth based construction materials, and strengthening their quality of services and scope of business. In Sri Lanka, WeEffect worked with the National Co-operative Council

(NCC) to improve governance issues. They evaluated the operations and found in practice, there were some issues with capacity and practice of co-operative values. They developed an official Code of Good Governance and implemented it through coaching and monitoring. As a result, NCC co-operatives saw reduced corruption and conflicts, increased surplus and public trust, and expanded services. In Palestine, WeEffect partnered to help create the Palestine Co-operative Education Institute with a curriculum to help train on co-operative practices and leadership. The Tan Cuong Co-operative, a rice producer in Vietnam, has worked with WeEffect since 2010 to implement co-operative managerial training courses, introduce accounting software, improve rice production skills, build a brand name for their product, VietGap rice, and help acquire \$540,000 from the World Bank.

Mr. Persson emphasized on good governance to build public trust in the co-operative sector. He stressed on the need to invest in specialized training for co-operative staff and leadership to help build human resources capability. He called on the co-operatives to expand their services, increase capacity to attract external stakeholders, invest in research and implement new models of members-based solutions. He listed the importance of working with public authorities to utilize public resources and on public-private-partnerships to help co-operatives develop and contribute to the SDGs.

4.1 Hon. Dr. Syed Kalantari Hemmat Abadi, Deputy Minister of Co-operatives, Labour and Social Welfare, Islamic Republic of Iran discussed the Iranian government's role in development of co-operatives. The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran lists the co-operative economy as the second economic sector. The current administration has turned to co-operatives as a key strategy to raise employment and production by people for people. The Ministry of Co-operatives has come up with seven strategies to evolve co-operatives and particularly promising are the tourism co-operatives and women's co-operatives. Minister Kalantari shared that, "in order to influence various ministries which have macro influence and cross-cutting relationships with co-operatives, my ministry has systematically reinforced communication with the agencies, in particular, the Ministries of Industry and Mine, Agriculture, Education, Statistical Center of Iran, universities, governor's offices and other institutions and signed agreements. I believe there will be continued success for co-operatives as long as they continue to market their advantages of values-based, efficient management."

4.2 H.E. Mr. Abdul Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Sri Lanka shared that Sri Lanka is currently in the final stages of developing a National Co-operatives Policy to serve more than 14,500 co-operatives throughout the country. Co-operatives in Sri Lanka date back to the British Rule (1906) and the first co-operative law was written in 1911. In 1930, the Department of Co-operatives was established, which became the Department of Co-operative Development in 1945. In the intervening years of socio-political change, the subject of co-operative sector became a provincial subject with the 13th amendment of the Constitution in 1989. Subsequent to de-centralization the role of the Department

of Co-operative Development, under the Central Government is to co-ordinate provincial departments and the activities of the Central Government. Hon. Bathiudeen explained that, going forward, "in promoting good relationship between the government and the co-operative movement, attention should be paid to evaluate the co-operative system properly, since it is an independent economic system distinct from government and private sector. At times, we may need to support the movement officially, for it to survive, in today's competitive market." The Ministry hopes that Sri Lankan co-operatives will improve their women's leadership to empower women in the country. Co-operatives are seen as a way for Sri Lanka to achieve the 2030 SDGs.

4.3 Mr. Osamu Hashiramoto, Dy. Director General for International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan spoke to the conference about the state of agricultural co-operatives in Japan and their commitment to supporting co-operatives in the Asia region. Agricultural co-operatives began in Japan in 1947 as a way to support small-scale farmers. Now there are about 1,400 larger scale co-operatives employing about 4.5 million farmers. These co-operatives provide services such as joint distribution of agricultural products, joint purchase of production materials, management of common facilities, and welfare services, to name a few. Mr. Hashiramoto noted that it is now important to focus on producing goods that respond to the demands of the market and distributing those goods and in a way, that helps co-operatives to remain original and competitive. To support development of co-operatives and human resources, the government of Japan has contributed funds to ICA since 1986. Japan has also developed initiatives such as the APTERR (ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve), the AFSIS (ASEAN Food Security Information System) within the AMAF (ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry), which has representatives from 10 member states including Japan, Korea, and China. Japan has particularly used the APTERR to contribute 240 tons of rice to the Philippines and 210 tons of rice to Cambodia. Thus, they see the success of co-operatives in Japan to be interlinked with the success of co-operatives throughout the region.

4.4 Mr. Teguh Boediyana, Special Staff to the Minister, Ministry of Co-operatives and Small & Medium Enterprises, Indonesia reported on the current initiative in Indonesia under President Joko Widodo called, *Co-operative Reform: Indonesian Strategic Policy in Realizing SDGs*. The Co-operative Reform program consists of three main area, *Rehabilitation, Reorientation, and Revitalization*. The Rehabilitation effort is meant to focus on the public image of co-operatives – the main action is to update online data and to dissolve inactive co-operatives so that focus and resources will be put only towards active and thriving co-operatives. The Reorientation effort is meant to emphasize co-operative development towards strengthening the quality of their products and services through training and the use of newer technology. The Revitalization effort focuses on the business development of co-operatives to maintain competition in the wider market. Mr. Boediyana spoke about the importance of political and financial support from the



[L to R] - Ms. Xiaohong Zhang, All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives, China; Mr. Alireza Gharagozlou, Vice President, International Business, Iran Chamber Central of Cooperatives, Iran; Dr. Burhanuddin Abdullah, Senior Advisor, Indonesian Co-operative Council, Indonesia; Mr. Raul M. Calayan, Chief Operating Officer, National Confederation of Co-operatives, Philippines; Dato Hj Kamarudin Ismail, Vice President Malaysian National Co-operative Movement; Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President, National Co-operative Union of India and Vice President, ICA-AP.

government for co-operative reform. In Indonesia, the government provides credit for small enterprises through government owned banks with low interest rates, subsidized and guaranteed up to 80% by Indonesia Credit Guarantee Corporation. Loans with low interest rates are also provided for by the Revolving Fund Institution. The government in partnership with the Indonesian Co-operative Council (DEKOPIN) hopes co-operatives will continue to provide economic benefit to their members as well as grow the national economy.

4.5 Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of the National Co-operative Unit of India (NCUI), spoke about how co-operatives, especially with the support of the government, are key players in the pursuit of the 2030 SDGs. The Indian co-operative movement is one of the largest, with 0.83 million co-operatives employing 274.97 million people. In their effort to develop co-operatives, NCUI has focused on quality trainings and recruiting talented youth. At the grassroots level, NCUI runs 43 co-operative educational field projects with focuses on developing women's empowerment and public health objectives. NCUI also works to influence government policies through dialogue with government representatives. Every three years, NCUI organises an Indian Co-operative Conference based on members' feedback, consultations, and members' problems. In 2011, the NCUI helped pass a Constitutional Amendment Bill, which set a foundation for autonomous and transparent co-operative practices. Most importantly, the Bill gives citizens the fundamental right to form co-operatives.

4.6 **Dato Hj Kamarudin Ismail**, Vice President of the Malaysian National Co-operative Movement (ANGKASA), spoke to the conference about the relationship between the government and the co-operative movement in Malaysia. Malaysia has three main co-operative agencies: the Malaysian Co-operative Societies Commission, the Co-operative College of Malaysia, and ANGKASA. The primary functions of the Commission are to encourage the growth of the co-operative movement, regulate co-operatives, and maintain stability within the co-operative sector. The Co-operative College contributes to the movement through education programs, research, and knowledge-based consultancy. ANGKASA acts as an international and national resource for the co-operative movement. ANGKASA specifically engages in partnership with external parties through joint venture, capital investment, joint committee, and short and long-term financing. A current initiative to market co-operative products is underway with Aeon Big Supermarket. ANGKASA has also identified "100 Champion Products" for product development with the Scientific and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia to improve product development, packaging, and labelling. To develop increased internet communication, there's a new online networking portal for Malaysian Co-operatives called, Maya2U Portal, which facilitates cross-co-operative communication and coordination. In addition to the online portal, ANGKASA has developed an e-commerce platform, SHOPEERA, which opens internet access to 20,000 available products. Dato Kamarudin concluded that government and co-operative collaboration is essential as long as it facilitates the furtherance of co-operatives without compromising the values of the movement.

4.7 **Mr. Raul M. Calayan**, Chief Operating Officer, National Confederation of Co-operatives (NATCCO), Philippines reported on the current affairs of government partnerships with NATCCO. NATCCO federation consists of 840 co-operatives with a total of 3.9 million members and the services they provide inclusive financial services, support services, and regulatory services. Mr. Calayan spoke of how the movement is specifically addressing the needs of young people through education and health programs. NATCCO has partnered with Aflatoun to offer social and financial education to children. The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, a government program modeled after conditional cash transfer schemes in Latin America, provides cash grants to the poor to improve health, nutrition, and education to children (ages 0-18). NATCCO's major initiative is a new shared payment platform called Kaya which allows for convenient money transfer between co-operatives through teller services, mobile banking, ATMs, and POS systems.

4.8 **Dr. Burhanuddin Abdullah**, Senior Advisor, Indonesian Co-operative Council (DEKOPIN), provided an update on the status of Indonesian co-operatives. DEKOPIN has three main roles in supporting co-operatives: education, advocacy, and facilitation. The Indonesian government is collaborating with DEKOPIN to address several issues relevant to the co-operative movement at this time - establish a good public image of co-operatives, pass laws that will help co-operatives remain competitive within the market, and broaden the responsibilities of the Ministry of Co-operatives. From DEKOPIN's perspective, the SDGs are a good direction but they wonder if all of the goals are

realistically attainable within the next 13 years. Indonesia has been trying to raise awareness of the SDGs in meetings with all relevant stakeholders. DEKOPIN has produced a document of Technical Guidelines on SDGs to disseminate their SDG action plan. They are hosting the 3rd Co-operative Congress this July with a theme focused on recommitting the Nation to a just, democratic, and people-based economy.

4.9 Mr. Alireza Gharagozlou, Vice President, International Business, Iran Chamber Central of Cooperatives (ICC), Iran delivered a presentation on the “Survival Keys” for co-operatives, using the ICC as a case study. There are more than 100,000 co-operatives in Iran which represent over 50 million members. There are co-operatives for mining, consumer-retail, agriculture, transportation, handicraft, housing, finance, insurance, tourism, industry, education, healthcare, and fisheries. He emphasized the value of co-operatives to ensure employment for older generations in an economy that otherwise favors the younger generation. Mr. Gharagozlou shared that in Iranian co-operatives, have been around since the 1980s; however, the support from the government has shifted from direct support to more indirect support.

4.9.1 Ms. Xiaohong Zhang, International Division, All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC), China. The ACFSMC, established in 1954 is the largest co-operative organization in China. Most recently, the ACFSMC has focused on developing E-commerce. E-home, the e-commerce platform started in 2015, has seen increase in trading volume by 35% year over year and sales have totaled over 800 million CNY. E-home supports agricultural co-operatives in payment transactions, quality certification, origin tracking, and big data reference. The platform has been developed in coordination with the commerce department, Sichuan Post, and Sichuan Telecom. ACFSMC has also worked on integrating local logistics facilities to integrate county-based postal services. Their vision for the future centers on applying e-commerce delivery and sales to rural agricultural co-operatives in China, to develop a “Modern Rural Logistics and Service Network.”

Session 5 : Role of Co-operatives in transition from informal to formal Economy: decent work and sustainable economic activities for unorganized workers

In the era of rapid urbanization, co-operatives can and should play an important role to ensure that decent work and sustainable economic activities are created for the unorganized workers in the informal sector economy, and that these workers can thereby gradually move towards the formal economy and formal employment. This would include shared service co-operatives of enterprises in the informal economy as well as worker co-operatives of those segments of work that are largely undertaken in the informal economy (domestic work, home based work, street vending, waste picking, transport).



[L to R] – Mr. Keshav Badal, Chairman, National Cooperative Federation of Nepal, Dr. Tran Dinh Tien, Director Economic Institute of Vietnam; Mr. Bruno Roelants, Secretary General CICOPA

Session Chair – Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, Chairman, National Co-operative Federation of Nepal

5.0 **H.E. Mr. Lyonpo Yeshey Dorji**, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan greeted the conference with warm appreciation of the government of Vietnam and the ICA. He shared an update of the co-operative movement of Bhutan, currently in its fifth year of development. There are now 52 co-operatives, representing about 1% of the population. The theme of sustainable and co-operative development aligns closely with a Bhutanese measure of progress established in the 1970's by the fourth King, called Gross National Happiness (GNH). This measure is meant to emphasize the equal importance of social, economic, spiritual, and environmental well-being in the progression of Bhutan. H.E. Dorji stressed that in Bhutan, "We believe strongly in inter-generational equity for the benefit of our posterity." The primary sector of co-operatives in Bhutan has been in agriculture, with a focus on organic farming and community forestry. The Royal Government of Bhutan and select NGOs have been instrumental in supporting this co-operative development. Looking to the future, Bhutan hopes to increase youth involvement in co-operatives, continue capacity building through policies that promote government support and subsidy, and increase networking amongst co-operatives for the sake of mutual support.

5.1 **Mr. Bruno Roelants**, Secretary General of CICOPA in his address said that producer and worker co-operative structures pose a promising opportunity for informal enterprises to transition into the formal sector. Since 1980, the informal economy has been growing in areas such as domestic work, waste-collection, street vendors, care services, transportation, and construction. Mr. Roelants pointed to examples of existing co-operatives organising around these activities. In Pune, India there is a group called the SWaCH waste-pickers with 2,100 producer-members, 75% of whom are women. In Argentina, there's "Creando Conciencia," a garbage collection and awareness co-operative with 50 members. Mr. Roelants shared the example of a transportation co-operative in Joao Pessoa, Brazil with 40 producer-members and a cleaning service co-operative in NYC, Si Se Peudel, with 65 worker-members. Co-operative structure has a lot to offer members of the informal economy, including: formal employment status, opportunity to scale their size, increase income, improve working conditions, social services, training and advisory services, and a network amongst other cooperators. In 2002, the ILO published a recommendation saying, "Governments should promote the important role of co-operatives in transforming what are often marginal survival activities (sometimes referred to as the "informal economy") into legally protected work, fully integrated into mainstream economics." Mr. Roelants stressed that several national policies are needed to enhance the capacity of co-operatives to transition informal economies. He specified the need for improved regulatory legislation for co-operatives, administrative provisions to facilitate and incentivize registration, improvements on national statistics on co-operatives, and the development of clear measures of progress in formalization.

5.2 **Dr. Tran Dinh Tien**, Director Economic Institute of Vietnam explained that in Vietnam, the informal sector provides 5 times more jobs than the FDI sector and 7 times more than government owned enterprises. While the informal sector has a better record of employment, the jobs are often low paying, irregular, and under poor working conditions. Formalizing the informal sector is beneficial to labourers as it provides better social insurance, the ability to unionize, and access to protective contracts. Transitioning to the formal economy through facilitated regulation also benefits business owners by legalizing their ownership rights and benefits from the state. Dr. Tran Dinh Tien spoke about the current fourth phase of industrialization in the global economy - the digital phase. He emphasized how this phase is characterized by "unskilled" labour jobs being replaced by computers; while "skilled labour" jobs of technological production continue to grow. He argued that these threats on "unskilled labour" will only push more people to work in the informal economy. He concluded by echoing that co-operative business structures are a promising organising method for transitioning vulnerable informal enterprises into resilient formal organizations. In Vietnam, there has been a decline in co-operatives from 73,490 in 1987 to 18,992 in 2014; in part, due to some difficulty maintaining competitiveness in comparison to the rest of the market. Dr. Tran Dinh Tien suggested that special assistance from the state would be good to strengthen the co-operative sector in Vietnam, as long as co-operatives continue to function within the market.

5.3 Statement by the ICA-AP Women Committee read out by Dr. Nandini Azad, Vice-chair ICA-AP Women Committee

ICA-AP REGIONAL WOMEN FORUM-2016

Held on 16 November 2016 at The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi, India

AN ICA REGIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EARNESTLY RECOMMENDS TO THE BOARD OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE-ASIA AND PACIFIC, FOR CONSIDERATION OF IMPORTANT CONCERNS IN STRENGTHENING AND ADVANCING ADVOCACY PROGRAMS ON EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN IN CO-OPERATIVES

WHEREAS, the Beijing Platform for Action sets out the global commitment to promote and protect the human rights of women, through the full implementation of all human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice;

WHEREAS, gender equality is a human right and can be achieved only when women and men enjoy the same opportunities, rights and obligations in all spheres of life. It demands the empowerment of women, with a focus on identifying and redressing power imbalances and giving women more autonomy to manage their own lives;

WHEREAS, the International Labor Organization (ILO) recognizes the existence of cooperative enterprises for its role and contribution to achieve the economic and social empowerment of women;

WHEREAS, ILO likewise realized the potential of women and promotes that "special consideration should be given to increasing women's participation in the cooperative movement at all levels, particularly at management and leadership levels". It also calls for national policies to promote gender equality in cooperatives and in their work;

WHEREAS, in the 9th ICA Regional Women's Forum held on November 16, 2016 at Ashok Hotel, New Delhi, India, the participants strongly call for appropriate measures for consideration to strengthen the advancement of advocacy programs and policies regarding the welfare and concerns of women in cooperatives;

WHEREAS, in motion of Dr. Nandini Azad of India, and collectively seconded by majority of participants, the following important concerns to be elevated are the following:

1. Ensure that gender concerns are mainstreamed in all cooperative policies, legislations, mission statements, visions, by-laws, strategies, plans and programs.
2. Need-based capacity building be given a priority to access equal opportunities in education for women.
3. Benchmarking, and manualization of shared best practices (per country).
4. Encourage and support women members' participation (ranging from 30% to 50% representation) in committees, bodies, councils and other higher-level cooperative structures.

5. Establish standardized sex-disaggregation template/format for data collection and collation of information.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved to earnestly request the Board of the International Co-operative Alliance-Asia Pacific to consider the proposed recommendations of the women representatives from the participating countries of the 9th ICA-AP Regional Women's Forum advocating intensely the advancement of women in cooperatives at all levels.

The motion was unanimously carried.

5.4 Statement by the ICA-AP Youth Committee read out by Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, Secretary, ICA-AP Committee on Youth Co-operation

The Asia Pacific Co-operative Youth Statement 2016 – Road to 2030: Co-operatives for Sustainable Development – Adopted on 23 September 2016 in Bali (Indonesia) urge various stakeholders of the co-operative movement including co-operative federations and unions, individual and institutional co-operative members and governments of various countries and their agencies concerned with youth and co-operative enterprises to:

- **Enhance** youth engagement and awareness of co-operatives by mainstreaming youth in co-operative movements worldwide
- **Ensure** youth become advocates for gender equality in and outside of the co-operative to build an equitable society
- **Create** an enabling employment environment for youth to be engaged in work driven by passion and empathy towards others as well as co-operative values and principles, rather than competition and profiteering.
- **Increase** the participation of youth in co-operative management and leadership boards
- **Encourage** youth to carry out research on co-operatives, formation of school and university co-operatives, and encourage youth to educate others on values and principles of co-operatives
- **Advocate for** international, regional, national, and local youth development programmes, exchange programmes, and apprenticeships; efficient use of technology and resources to help spread the message of co-operatives and the co-operative identity to a wider section of the society at large; essential education through co-operatives on the following (i) life under water and on land, (ii) rights of young persons, (iii) sexual education especially for the vulnerable section of the society, (iv) responsible consumerism by youth; inclusion of indigenous persons in the co-operative fraternity by setting up specialised incubators managed by youth at a local level; partnerships among organizations working in the interest of youth and co-operatives globally; and a just and peaceful society by implementation and practice of values and principles of co-operation.



Ministers and other Conference Delegates meeting H.E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Vietnam (Centre).



H.E. Mr. Joe Natuman, Deputy Prime Minister of Vanuatu, inaugurating the 1st Trade Fair on Agricultural and Handicraft Products of Co-operatives, organized on the side-lines of the 10th APCMC

Session 6 : Enabling Environment: co-operative legislation, policies and regulations to facilitate growth and development – *Co operative legislation, policies and regulations must continuously be reviewed and renewed to make them more enabling and favorable for the entire co-operative movement. It is important to recognize legislative, policy and regulatory advancements as they now exist in the country concerned, as well as at the ASEAN, SAARC, GCC and MSG, to facilitate co operative growth and development.*

Session Chair – Drs. Robby Tulus, Former Regional Director, ICA-Asia and Pacific



[L to R] – Mr. Nguyen Dinh Long (podium), Vice Director, Policy and Co-operative Development Department, Vietnam Co-operative Alliance; Drs. Robby Tulus, Former Regional Director, ICA-AP; Ms. Simel Esim, Head Co-operative Department, ILO Geneva; Dr. Eulogio T. Castillo, Administrator, Co-operative Development Authority, Philippines; Mr. Suresh Pradhan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives and Poverty Alleviation, Government of Nepal; H.E. Dato Henry Sum Agong, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism, Malaysia; Dr. Vinaroj Supsongasuk, Director General, Co-operative Promotion Department, Thailand.

6.0 **Ms. Simel Esim**, Head of Co-operative Development, ILO Geneva spoke about the Promotion of Co-operatives Recommendation No. 193, a mandate passed in 2002. This is currently the only global normative measure of co-operatives. The Recommendation provided a clear definition of co-operatives as, “an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise.” The Recommendation also clearly emphasizes the role of governments to create supportive environments and to “remove obstacles preventing co-operatives from competing equally

with other enterprises." Since 2002, 100 countries have used the Recommendation to review and revise or change policies and laws affecting co-operatives. There have also been efforts to extend co-operatives to new sectors such as finance and employment. Primarily the ILO provides legal and policy advice to its members. Looking to the future, Ms. Esim suggested the need for greater standardization through more legal and statistical definitions. She also mentioned the idea of establishing a regional co-operative framework law for Asia. In general she identified need for greater political support, public-private partnerships, resource and knowledge transfer, and funding development projects.

6.1 Dr. Eulogio T. Castillo, Administrator, Co-operative Development Authority (CDA), Philippines said that the CDA celebrated 100 years of co-operative development in the Philippines and shared some of the legislative provisions that have encouraged co-operative growth. In 1987, there was a Constitutional Provision that mandated the creation of an agency to promote co-operatives as a means of economic nation-building. Later, in 1990, the Congress of the Philippines passed the Co-operative Code and the CDA Charter, which was later amended in 2008. These legislations were designed to encourage the government to, "ensure provision of technical guidance, financial assistance and other services to enable co-operatives to develop into a viable movement that is free from any conditions that may infringe upon the autonomy or organizational integrity." In 1993, Executive Order 95 was added to the Co-operative Code to create the National Coordinating Committee, which encouraged all government agencies involved in co-operatives to coordinate with the CDA to ensure effective deliverance of services through Memorandum of Agreements and Memorandum of Understandings.

In the Philippines, there is an inverse relationship between size of co-operatives and assets holding. Micro co-operatives which compose 54% of the reporting co-operatives had only 2% of total assets while the large co-operatives which compose only 4% of the reporting co-operatives, control 72% of the total assets." He said that focusing on building assets of the micro co-operatives will significantly improve the rural and agricultural socio-economic standing. Generally, the CDA sees co-operatives as key to achieving many of the SDGs including: eradication of poverty and hunger, quality education, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequities, responsive production and consumption, climate action, peace, justice and strong institution, and gender equality.

6.2 H.E. Dato Henry Sum Agong, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism in Malaysia, delivered a statement about Malaysia's National Co-operative Policy 2011-2020. The broad goal of the policy is to establish co-operatives as effective contributors to national development. The policy aims to promote co-operatives as generators of economic growth, competitive business entities, effective forms of self-help, and as environmentally sensitive organizations. Dato Agong echoed other presenters calls to update and liberalize government policy as the last Malaysian Co-operative Act was published in 1993. Malaysian co-operatives wish to establish greater information exchange alliances at the domestic, regional, and international levels in the areas of financial capital, technology exchange, and best practices in market

penetration. The government is working to establish the National Blue Ocean Strategy to connect Ministries and related agencies in Malaysia. Dato Agong said that of the six main economic co-operative sectors, four met or exceeded their projected goal for 2016, while the other two came very close to meeting the goal. Notably, Bank Rakyat, a co-operative bank in Kuala Lumpur has received many awards including the Global Islamic Finance Award, "Best Islamic Bank 2014."

6.3 Mr. Suresh Pradhan, Joint Secretary, speaking on behalf of H.E. Hridayaram Thani, Minister of Co-operatives and Poverty Alleviation of Nepal reviewed previous legislations in Nepal such as the Co-operative Act 1991, Co-operative Regulation 1993, and the National Co-operative Policy 2012. He focused on the proposed Co-operative Bill for 2017 which included: emphasis on co-operative values and principles, formulation of community and member based co-operatives, classification for co-operatives, provisions for education and training, tax incentives and concessions, co-operative promotion and commercialization, specialized co-operative in fields of hydropower, chemical fertilisers, fruit and sugar processing, hospitals, schools, and laboratories for the advancement of co-operatives. The proposed Good Governance Measures are: increased internal control over auditing, punishment provisions for misuse of funds, assets management committee for the recovery of embezzled funds, yearly inspection report, and emphasis on "members active participation." He saw the need for the Proposed Co-operative Bill to set a standard, co-operatives can follow even as government changes and felt it was important to include punishment measures within co-operative law to enhance co-operative self-regulation. He suggested the creation of Operating Manuals for the implementation of these co-operative laws and policies and establishment of Co-operative Information Systems to help with planning and on and off- site monitoring. He agreed that cooperation among co-operatives will continue to be essential to the movement's success.

6.4 Dr. Vinaroj Supsongasuk, Director General, Co-operative Promotion Department (CPD), Thailand, began by thanking the VCA and ICA for hosting the conference. He spoke of the importance of the emphasis on balanced and stable economic development promoted by co-operatives as opposed to unchecked growth. This balanced development ensures more social harmony, protects the environment, and preserves cultural identity. Simultaneously, the CPD acknowledges that co-operatives must maintain relevant levels of professionalism and good governance to keep up with the competition of open markets. To assist with governance, the Royal Thai Government consults with co-operatives when developing economic and legal frameworks, policies, and practices and reviews the Co-operative Act from time to time. A recent amendment of the Co-operative Act B.E. 2542 is currently being processed by the Parliament. Dr. Sarikalya concluded that with a combination of good governance, government support, professionalism, and adherence to the values of solidarity, co-operatives will be successful.

6.5 Mr. Nguyen Dinh Long, Vice Director, Policy and Co-operative Development Department, Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA), Vietnam, shed light on the long

history of co-operatives in his country. He spoke of how President Ho Chi Minh was the first to bring the idea of co-operatives into Vietnam; very early recognizing their role in socio-economic development. Implementing Ho Chi Minh's thoughts and policies on collective economic development with co-operative core, the co-operative legal framework was born with the promulgation of the 1996 Co-operative Law. This was followed by a series of laws passed to institutionally strengthen the co-operative movement in Vietnam. By the end of 2016, the country had about 150,000 co-operative groups with nearly 2 million members. The contribution of the co-operative sector is extremely important in economic, social and cultural terms. This sector has created jobs, attracted a large share of social workers, contributing nearly 8% of gross domestic product; household economic development support; increased income for members; stabilization and socio-economic development. The Vietnam Co-operative Alliance, till 2020, aims to continue propagating the implementation of the Co-operative Law of 2012, prepare reviews of 5 years of implementation of the law, continue working with boards, ministries, sectors and mass organizations, and complete the medium-term plan 2016-2020 in association with the five strategic projects of the organization.



[L to R] Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, Chairman, National Co-operative Federation of Nepal, Mr. Li Chunsheng, President, ICA-Asia and Pacific and Mr. Vo Kim Cu, President, Vietnam Co-operative Alliance visiting the UCA Mart.



Hanoi Co-operative Mart exhibiting its produce at the Trade Fair

Annexures

10th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference

"Visioning Ahead to 2030: Promoting Stronger Partnerships between Government and Co-operative Stakeholders in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

April 18 to 21, 2017
Hotel Melia, Hanoi, Vietnam
www.vca.org.vn/coop2017

A. BACKGROUND PAPER

1. Introduction

The Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference (APCMC) established in 1990 by the International Co-operative Alliance Asia Pacific (ICA-AP), is a quadrennial event organized to provide a platform for co-operatives and governments to discuss current and emerging issues and set a common agenda towards the establishment of new forms of co-operation between governments and co-operatives. The APCMC helps to create a sustained and enabling policy and regulatory environment that is conducive to co-operative development.

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets a course to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all by 2030. Co-operatives have been recognized as important players to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), because they foster democracy, practice social inclusion and operate with concern for the environment. The 2030 Agenda explicitly recognizes co-operative enterprises as important players within the private sector to achieve the SDGs. Considering this, the 10th APCMC has set forth the theme: "Visioning Ahead to 2030: Promoting Stronger Partnerships between Government and Co-operative Stakeholders in realizing the SDGs."

The 10th APCMC is being hosted by the ICA-AP, together with the Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA), and the Government of Vietnam from April 18-21, 2017 in Melia Hotel, Hanoi.

2. The hosts of the 10th APCMC

The International Co-operative Alliance is an independent, non-governmental organization established in 1895 to unite, represent and serve co-operatives worldwide. The ICA-AP regional office was established in New Delhi in 1960 to provide a voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and coordinated action for and about co-operatives in the region. The 96 ICA-AP members are national co-operative organizations across 30 countries from all sectors of the economy, including agriculture, industry, services, banking, retail, fisheries, health, housing and insurance.

A member of ICA, the VCA is the apex organization of the Vietnam Co-operative Movement and promotes the development of co-operatives. The conference is supported by the Ministry of Planning and Investment of Vietnam

The 9th APCMC was held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2012, hosted by the government of Thailand and attended by 14 Co-operative Ministers and 300 delegates including government representatives, international delegates and ICA members from 21 countries.

3. Developments since 2012

2012, the “International Year of Co-operatives” created an earnest reflection, on how co-operatives can contribute in reducing poverty, generating employment, and advancing social integration. The momentum in 2012 generated further in-depth thinking towards the creation of the “ICA Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade”, incorporating five distinct elements (participation, sustainability, identity, legal framework and capital), which need to be advanced in a coherent manner in order to foster growth and development of co-operatives.

Co-operatives need to usher into a new era where traditional approaches in co-operative development give way to fresh co-operative thinking and approaches. There is need to recognize and promote the new concept of food sovereignty, which has been gaining popularity, as a number of governments have officially adopted its framework and principles on a national level. The implications of rising urbanization, where a surge of unorganized labor in the informal economy has occurred needs to be addressed. There are opportunities provided in ILO Recommendation 193, including the presence of ILO Recommendation 204 concerning the transition from Informal to the Formal Economy, the conclusions concerning SMEs and decent and productive employment creation adopted at the 2015 session of the International Labor Conference. Since the APCMC held in 1997 in Chiangmai, the ICA-AP has raised the issue of gender equality in earnest. However, equality has yet to be attained, as there remains under-representation of qualified women in co-operative leadership positions. Questions still linger as to whether limited opportunities for women in leadership positions are due to systemic gender bias,

organizational structures and practices, or cultural and socialization patterns that drive men and women into differential rewards and status. So also, youth have begun to espouse the values and principles of co-operatives as they become gradually engaged in co-operative activities.

The inadequacies of parochial approaches need to be corrected by engaging and integrating co-operatives more into the regional and global sphere of actions. In the end analysis, deeper comprehension of these critical issues will only create more space and capacity for governments and co-operative movements to frame more enabling and favorable co-operative legislation and policies. Co-operatives, once again, must be resilient and proactive in undertaking the needed transformations to move forward and become sustainable.

4. Regional Consultations

ICA-AP conducted Regional Consultations in preparation for the agenda of the 10th Co-operative Ministers' Conference and to collect information on issues, challenges and new trends confronting co-operatives in the region since the last Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand, and to assess the need of the sectors across the region to feed on to the discussions. Intensive Regional Consultations were held among co-operative leaders, high-ranking government officials, and organizations involved with co-operatives, namely in Jakarta for the ASEAN ++ Region (October, 2015), Kathmandu for the SAARC ++ Region (December, 2015) and in Kuwait (January 2016). The latter was held among the Council of Ministers of Labor and Council of Ministers of Social Affairs in GCC States.

The uniting voice from all Regional Consultations was that the success of co-operatives relies altogether on healthy member-based co-operatives, as well as good governance, but expansion and further advancement must be grounded in communities and further supported by strong and strategic partnerships with respective governments and international and national organizations in the Asia Pacific Region.

5. Roadmap to the 10th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference

The Regional Consultations came up with 16 conclusions and 9 distinct recommendations, while discussing the five thematic issues that were proposed at the beginning of the consultations. The issues were: (a) Food Sovereignty (and security), (b) New Co-operative Approaches (Innovation), (c) Co-operatives and the Transition from the Informal into the Formal economy, (d) Regional and Global engagement of Co-operatives, and (e) Enabling Environment (Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks).

Emerging from the discussions were the following priorities: (1) "Young Country" engagements; (2) Access to food and social/economic services; (3) Co-operative Rating Agency; (4) Green Economy (5) Public-Private Partnerships.

The priority areas area essentially an abstraction derived from conclusions and recommendations, to which cross-cutting issues such as education, training and empowerment, women and youth, digital technology, care for the socially marginalized people (incl. migrants), demographic trends, political capacity, and network engagements are to be taken into account.

6. International Summit of Co-operatives and 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Forum

At the 3rd edition of International Summit of Co-operatives held in Quebec, Canada from October 11 to 13, 2016, the focus was on co-operatives' capacity to act on social, environmental and economic issues. In response to the UN's SDGs, co-operatives and mutuals recognized that they are in a position of influence in terms of being able to introduce sustainable development strategies and help resolve major world issues. The Declaration from the Summit commits that by 2030, the co-operative movement hopes to include:

- 2 billion members, and
- 4 million enterprises.

The Asia Pacific region has an important role to play in ensuring that the commitment of co-operatives at the Summit can be met. In order to best do this, co-operatives need to align their work with the SDGs, and the targets and indicators that will track achievement of the Goals leading up to 2030. Co-ops for 2030 (<http://www.coopsfor2030.coop/en>) is a campaign for co-operatives to learn more about the SDGs, commit to pledges to contribute to achieving the SDGs and report their progress. Members from Australia, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Japan, Palestine, Philippines, and Timor Leste have made their pledges.

At the 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Forum held on 18th November 2016 in New Delhi, with the theme "Co-operatives: The Power to Act for a Sustainable Future", members of the ICA Asia Pacific re-emphasized the importance of issues raised at the Regional Consultations as mentioned in item 13 above, and resolved to effect a paradigm shift that also includes ecological integrity, renewable energy, disaster management, demographic changes (such as "youth bulge" and the "aging population") and entrepreneurship. The Forum also resolved to collaborate with policy makers and legislators in line with ILO Recommendation 193 and overall ICA Strategy to create and maintain an enabling climate for a sustainable co-operative movement. The Forum concluded with a firm determination that the DNA of Co-operatives has come of age, which are members-owned, value-based, and sustainable.

7. Review of Co-operatives in Asia and Pacific

A detailed survey to capture succinctly the current conditions of co-operatives in the Asia Pacific region, with focus on countries involved in the Regional Consultations in ASEAN (++), SAARC (++) regions, and the Gulf, has been conducted by ICA-AP. The survey received good responses from member organizations, made in collaboration with their respective governments. The results of the Regional Consultations and a compilation of this comprehensive survey will form a solid portrayal of the situation in the Asia Pacific region, which is to be presented at the 10th Co-op Ministers' Conference in Vietnam.

8. Objectives of the APCMC

- To deliberate on the extent of collaboration between government and the co-operative movement in addressing current socio-economic issues and working toward attainment of SDGs based on the findings of the recent inclusive membership survey.
- To develop new co-operative thinking and innovative approaches to grow and sustain the co-operative movement based on recommendations from the Regional Consultations.
- To devise a set of concrete action items to forge stronger partnership between the Government and Co-operative Stakeholders that are implementable within a mutually agreed time frame.

9. Program Information

The 10th APCMC will commence on 18th April with an Official Opening Ceremony at the Melia Hotel in Hanoi followed by an overview session on the Roadmap to 2030 Implementation and SDGs.

This will be followed by substantive comments/statements by the Ministers, international speakers and members subsequent focused discussions. The conference will conclude with a joint declaration and action items to implement the recommendations. A more detailed program schedule will be sent in the coming days.

9. Registration

A registration form along with invitation has been sent out to all ICA member countries in Asia Pacific and their respective governments, as well as International Organizations. Last submission date of the registration form to the ICA AP will be March 10, 2017.

10. Venue

The Conference will be held at the Melia Hotel, Hanoi.
Please visit www.vca.org.vn/coop2017

11. Accommodation

A number of adjoining hotels have been identified by VCA with special negotiated rates for conference participants who wish to stay outside the Melia Hotel. Please visit www.vca.org.vn/coop2017 to make the bookings. Last date for booking is 10 March 2017.

12. Logistics

As host, VCA will provide airport pick-up and drop off, and will cover all local hospitalities (working lunches, welcome and farewell dinner, coop/site visit on April 21, 2017). The remaining costs (airfare and hotel accommodation) will be covered by the participants.

13. Contact persons

1. Ms. Savitri Singh, Programme Director, ICA-AP at savitrisingh@icaroap.coop
2. Ms. Tran Thu Hang, Vice Director of International Cooperation Department, VCA at vcahtqt@gmail.com; thuhangvca@yahoo.com

10th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference

April 18-21, 2017, Melia Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam

VISIONING AHEAD TO 2030:

Promoting Stronger Partnership between Government and
Co-operative Stakeholders in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals

<http://www.vca.org.vn/coop2017>

PROGRAM

DAY 1 – MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017

ARRIVAL OF DELEGATES

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2017

08:00 – 09:00 Registration at Melia Hotel

09:00 – 10:30 **INAUGURATION OF THE CONFERENCE**

1. Vietnamese Cultural Performance
2. Introduction of the VIP Delegates
3. Welcome Address – **Hon. Madam Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh**, Honorable Vice President, Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
4. Inaugural Address – **Mr. Li Chunsheng**, President, International Co-operative Alliance-Asia and Pacific
5. Welcome Message (via video) – **Ms. Monique Leroux**, President, International Co-operative Alliance
6. Appreciation – **Mr. Vo Kim Cu**, President, Vietnam Co-operative Alliance

10:30 – 11:00

*Presentations:
15 minutes
each*

KEYNOTE SPEECH

- **Dr. Martin Lowery**, ICA Global Board member; Executive Vice President, Member and Association Relationship, National Rural Electric Co-operative Association (NRECA), USA.
- **Mr. Phan Duc Hieu**, Vice Director, Central Economic Research and Management Institute, Vietnam.

11:00 – 11:20	Tea Break/Group Photo
11:20 – 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of the Conference by Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP. • Statutory Proceedings - Agenda • Election of Conference Chair • Adoption of Rules and Procedures • Selection of Drafting Committee
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Break
Session 1 – Roadmap to 2030 Implementation and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	
<p>Session Chair – Dr. Martin Lowery, ICA Global Board member; Executive Vice President, Member and Association Relationship, National Rural Electric Co-operative Association (NRECA), USA.</p>	
13:30 – 15:00 <i>Presentations: 25 minutes each</i> <i>Q & A/ Open floor 15 minutes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of ICA Strategic Plan to achieve the ICA Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade – 2020 by Mr. Charles Gould, Director General, ICA. • European Union Engagement with Civil Society Organizations active in the implementation of SDGs with emphasis on Consensus on Development by Mr. Bruno Angelet – Ambassador, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Vietnam. • Presentation of findings of draft Study on Strengthening Multi-Stakeholders’ Partnership of Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific by Drs. Robby Tulus, Former Regional Director, ICA-AP.
15:00 – 15:15	Tea Break
Session 2 – Role of co-operatives as producers and consumers in ensuring food sovereignty	
<p>Sufficient, safe and nutritious food for a healthy lifestyle is simply not enough. More attention needs to be given to where, how, by and for whom food was produced, and how co-operatives as producers and consumers could play an important role in this regard.</p> <p>Session Chair - Mr. Charles Gould, Director General, ICA</p>	

<p>15:15 – 17:00</p> <p><i>Presentations: 10 to 12 minutes each</i></p> <p><i>Q & A/ Open floor 15 minutes</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspective from FAO by Ms. Clara Mi Young Park, Gender Rural and Social Development Officer, Regional Focal Point Rural Poverty Reduction and Family Farming, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. • Statement by Hon. Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Bangladesh. • Presentation by Mr. Khin Maung Aye, Chairman, Central Co-operative Society (CCS), Myanmar – representing Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar. • Presentation by Ms. Esther Penunia, Secretary General, Asian Farmer's Association for Sustainable Rural Development. • Presentation by Mr. Shigeshi Onishi, Executive Director, Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (JA-ZENCHU), Japan. • Presentation by Eng. Wassfi Hassan El-Sreihin, Secretary General, African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), India. • Statement by Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Australia (read out by Ms. Melina Morrison, CEO, Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM), Australia). • Statement by Hon. Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Second Minister for Ministry of Communications and Information, Singapore (read out by Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong, Chairman, Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF)).
<p>17:30 – 19:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SIDE EVENT</p> <p>Opening the Trade Fair on "Safe and Organic Agricultural Products and Handi-craft Items" at Thong Nhat Park, Hanoi.</p> <p><i>{Assemble at Melia hotel lobby at 17:30 and proceed to the Trade Fair venue by bus; 18:00~18:30 address by leaders of Vietnam; 18:30~19:30 visiting around the trade fair (300 booths); and return to the hotel}.</i></p>

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017

Session 3 – Approaches in areas of health, education, green economy and care for the aged with emphasis on women and youth

Co-operatives must devise new ways to move from their more traditional and consolidated approaches and sectors such as agriculture, consumer and financial co-operatives, and start

<p>innovating in new approaches and sectors to include health, education, social security, green economy, care for the aged, children, people living with chronic illness and disabilities</p> <p>Session Chair - Mr. Suresh Pradhan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives and Poverty Alleviation, Nepal.</p>	
<p>9:00 – 12:00</p> <p><i>Presentations: 10 to 12 minutes each</i></p> <p><i>Q & A/ Open floor 15 minutes</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement by Mr. Toru Yamamoto, Director, Office of Consumers' Co-operative Societies, Community Welfare and Services Division, Social Welfare and War Victims' Relief Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan. • Statement by Hon. Joe Natuman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, Tourism, Commerce and Business, Vanuatu.
11:00 – 11:15	Tea Break
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the ICA-AP Data Study by Dr. Nandini Azad, Chairperson, Indian Co-operative Network for Women (ICNW), India. • Presentation by Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong, Chairman, Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF), Singapore. • Presentation by Ms. Om Devi Malla, Vice Chair, National Co-operative Federation of Nepal (NCF), Nepal. • Presentation by Mr. Tarun Bhargava, Deputy General Manager (CR), Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative (IFFCO), India. • Presentation by Mr. Maizan Ahmed Manik, Chairman, Maldives Fishermen's Association (MFA), Maldives.
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Break
<p>Session 4 – Public- Private Partnership: government and co-operatives as stakeholders in innovating new approaches</p> <p>Co-operatives must initiate and enhance engagement with the government in expanding their scope of business and delivery of quality services to members as well as the community by embracing innovative new approaches. Co-operatives should enter into partnership to create tangible impact on the development of a society.</p> <p>Session Chair – Ms. Mercedes D. Castillo, Administrator, Co-operative Development Authority (CDA), Philippines.</p>	
<p>13:30 – 17:00</p> <p><i>Presentations: 10 to 12</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspective by International Agency – Mr. Magnus Persson, Regional Director, WeEffect, Hanoi, Vietnam • Statement by Hon. Dr. Syed Kalantari Hemmat Abadi, Deputy Minister of Co-operatives, Labour and Social Welfare, Islamic Republic of Iran.

<p><i>minutes each</i></p> <p><i>Q & A/ Open floor</i></p> <p><i>15 minutes</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement by Hon. Abdul Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Sri Lanka. • Statement by Mr. Osamu Hashiramoto, Dy. Director General for International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan. • Statement by Mr. Teguh Boediyana, Special Staff to the Minister, Ministry of Co-operatives and Small & Medium Enterprises, Indonesia.
<p>15:00 – 15:30</p>	<p>Tea Break</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President, National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI), India. • Presentation by Dato Hj Kamarudin Ismail, Vice President, Malaysian National Co-operative Movement (ANGKASA), Malaysia. • Presentation by Mr. Raul M. Calayan, Chief Operating Officer, National Confederation of Co-operatives (NATCCO), Philippines. • Presentation by Dr. Burhanuddin Abdullah, Senior Advisor, Indonesian Co-operative Council (DEKOPIN), Indonesia. • Presentation by Mr. Alireza Gharagozlou, International Business Developer, Iran Chamber Central of Cooperatives (ICC), Iran. • Presentation by Ms. Xiaohong Zhang(Helen), All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Coops(ACFSMC), China.
<p>17:30– 20:00</p>	<p>Welcome Reception hosted by VCA</p>

DAY 4 – THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017

Session 5 - Role of Co-operatives in transition from informal to formal Economy: decent work and sustainable economic activities for unorganized workers

In the era of rapid urbanization, co-operatives can and should play an important role to ensure that decent work and sustainable economic activities are created for the unorganized workers in the informal sector economy, and that these workers can thereby gradually move towards the formal economy and formal employment. This would include shared service co-operatives of enterprises in the informal economy as well as worker co-operatives of those segments of work that are largely undertaken in the informal economy (domestic work, home based work, street vending, waste picking, transport).

Session Chair – Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, Chairman, National Co-operative Federation of Nepal

<p>9:00 – 10:30</p> <p><i>Presentations: 15 minutes each</i></p> <p><i>Q & A/Open floor 15 minutes</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement by Hon. Lyonpo Yeshey Dorji, Minister of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan. • Presentation by Mr. Bruno Roelants, Secretary General, CICOPA. • Presentation by Dr. Tran Dinh Thien, Director of Economic Institute of Vietnam. • Declaration by Youth Committee (Mr. Santosh Kumar) • Declaration by Women Committee (Dr. Nandini Azad)
<p>10:30 – 10:45</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tea Break</p>

Thursday, April 20, 2017

SIDE EVENT(by invitation)

10:00-11:00 - Meeting with **H.E. Mr. Phung Quoc Hen**, Vice Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam.

17:00-17:30 - Brief meeting with **H.E. Mr. Nguyen XuanPhuc**, Prime Minister of Vietnam.

Session 6 – Enabling Environment: co-operative legislation, policies and regulations to facilitate growth and development

Co-operative legislation, policies and regulations must continuously be reviewed and renewed to make them more enabling and favorable for the entire co-operative movement. It is important to recognize legislative, policy and regulatory advancements as they now exist in the country concerned, as well as at the ASEAN, SAARC, GCC and MSG, to facilitate co-operative growth and development.

Session Chair – Drs. Robby Tulus, Former Regional Director, ICA-Asia and Pacific

<p>11:00 – 12:30</p> <p><i>Presentations: 10 to 12 minutes each</i></p> <p><i>Q & A/ Open floor 15 minutes</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Ms. Simel Esim, Head Co-operative Department, ILO Geneva. • Statement by Dr. Eulogio T. Castillo, Administrator, Co-operative Development Authority (CDA), Philippines. • Statement by Hon. Dato Henry Sum Agong, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism, Malaysia. • Statement by Hon. Hridayaram Thani, Minister of Co-operatives and Poverty Alleviation, Nepal (read out by Mr. Suresh Pradhan, Joint Secretary). • Statement by Dr. Vinaroj Supsongsuk, Director General, Co-operative Promotion Department (CPD), Thailand.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Mr. Nguyen Dinh Long, Vice Director, Policy and Co-operative Development Department, Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA), Vietnam.
12:30–14:00	Lunch Break
Session 7 – Concluding Session	
14:30 – 16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the drafting committee • Joint Declaration and Recommendations • Closing speech by Mr. Vo Kim Cu, President, Vietnam Co-operative Alliance • Vote of thanks by Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP
18:00 – 20:00	Farewell Dinner hosted by ICA-AP at Melia Hotel

DAY 5 – FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017

VISIT TO CO-OPERATIVES, ORGANISED BY VCA	
07:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave Melia Hotel
08:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to BAT TRANG traditional ceramic village and ceramic production handmade co-operative (20 km from Hanoi).
12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch
13:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to VAN PHUC silk traditional village and silk handmade co-operative (30 km from Hanoi).
17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back to Melia hotel

DAY 6 – SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

DEPARTURE	
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B. Profiles of Dignitaries and Speakers

10th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference



H.E. Madam Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh is the current Honourable Vice President of Vietnam. She was an official member of the Party Central Member in the 11th and 12 tenures and NA deputy in the 11th and 13th tenures. Ms. Thinh has assumed different positions throughout her career including; Permanent Vice Chairwoman of the Vietnam Women Union, Deputy Secretary of the Vinh Long provincial Party Committee, Secretary of the Vinh Long provincial Party Committee and Deputy Head of the Party Central Committee's Office.



Mr. Li Chunsheng is the President of ICA Asia-Pacific, Vice-President ICA Global, and Vice President of the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC), holding the rank of Deputy Minister. Mr. Li is committed to promoting win-win cooperation and mutual development between co-operatives in the Asia-Pacific Region and around the world. During his long period of service, he worked with Helihe farm in Heilongjiang Province, Ministry of Forestry, and the State Council in China. In 1995, he joined ACFSMC as the Deputy Secretary General and Director of Farm-inputs Bureau. He later assumed office as the Secretary General and the Director of International Co-operation Department before being elected the Vice President of ACFSMC in 2000.



Ms. Monique F. Leroux is the President of the International Cooperative Alliance, a global organization representing over 2.5 million enterprises and generating over 3 trillion in revenue in more than 100 countries. She chairs the High Level Contact Group of the European Association of Co-operative Banks. She is also the founder and Chair of the International Summit of Co-operatives, a world economic and cooperative event. Ms. Leroux is also Chair of the Board of Investissement Québec and Chair of the Quebec Economic and Innovation Council. She has served as the Chair of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of Desjardins Group, the leading co-operative financial group in Canada.



Mr. Vo Kim Cu is the former President of the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance. Mr. Cu has had a long and distinguished career in the Ha Tinh province of Vietnam. Starting in 1978 as a member of Cam Xuyen district Executive Party Committee and Secretary of Cam Xuyen district Youth Executive Committee he has risen-up the ranks and currently is the Secretary of Ha Tinh Province Party Committee, President of Ha Tinh province People's Committee and Head of Parliament Delegation of Ha Tinh province (XIII session).



Dr. Martin Lowery is Executive Vice President, Member and Association Relations, of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He is an inductee to the U.S. Cooperative Hall of Fame, the highest honor bestowed on individuals who have made heroic contributions to the cooperative community. He serves on the boards of the National Cooperative Business Association and the National Cooperative Bank and is the U.S. representative to the board of the International Cooperative Alliance headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. Dr. Lowery is a graduate of DePaul University and holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from Duke University.



Mr. Phan Duc Hieu is the Vice Director of the Central Economic Research and Management Institute, Vietnam. He completed his Bachelors in Law from the Faculty of Law, Vietnam National University, Vietnam, and his LL.M. from University of Maastricht, the Netherlands. Previously he was the legal advisor at the Hoang Long Law firm, Ha Noi, Vietnam. He has been conducting a number of policy assessments such as policy review and whitebook. He has been the head of investment policy reviewing group of the Advisory Council under the Government Project 30 on administrative reform. He is in charge of programme on enhancing regulatory quality initiated by CIEM.



Mr. Balasubramanian (Balu) Iyer is the Regional Director for the International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific. Balu worked in India in co-operative development before moving abroad to work on Asian regional concerns for overseas agencies. He has worked with the Asia Foundation, the International Development Exchange, ActionAid India, and the Aga Khan Rural Support Program; and served as Adjunct Faculty at Southern New Hampshire University. Balu has a degree in Civil Engineering from the National Institute of Technology, Durgapur, India; a Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Management from the Institute of Rural Management at Anand, India; Masters in Public Policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley; and Masters in Community Development from the at Southern New Hampshire University.



Mr. Charles Gould has served as Director-General of the International Co-operative Alliance since September 2010. Prior to his appointment, Charles Gould served as Chief Executive Officer of Volunteers of America, a health care, housing and human services organisation in the United States where he provided leadership to its 16,000 staff and oversaw an annual budget of USD 1 billion. Before joining Volunteers of America, Mr. Gould practiced as an attorney-at-law with Arnold & Porter and with Hogan & Hartson in Washington D.C. He has a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Minnesota Law School (USA), and a Master of Studies in International Human Rights Law from Oxford University (UK).



Ambassador Mr. Bruno Angelet is the Ambassador of the European Union to Vietnam. Earlier, he was the Belgian Ambassador to Vietnam. In his capacity as a Belgian diplomat for over 20 years, he has served in crisis situations (Rwanda 1994, Turkey earthquake 1999), was involved in international negotiations (OSCE – 1992, 1993; EU Foreign Policy and Défense 2002-2005, EU (Belgian Presidency of the Council) 2010-2011); participated in policy making and strategic planning (Belgian Government, deputy chief of cabinet); held leadership and management positions (Embassy in Berlin, Embassy in Hanoi). He holds a Licence in International Relations, Political Sciences from the Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve and a Bachelor Degree in Political Sciences from Rijksuniversiteit Gent.



Drs. Robby is Chief Advisor of the Karl Albrecht Foundation. Robby Tulus pioneered the Credit Union Movement in Indonesia in the late 1960s, co-founded the Credit Union Central Organization in Indonesia, and subsequently the Asian Confederation of Credit Unions in 1971. He has served as managing director of CUCO Indonesia (Jakarta 1971-80), Training Specialist of ACCU (Seoul, Korea 1981-83), Asia Region Director of the Canadian Co-operative Association (Ottawa, Canada, 1983-1993), Senior Policy Advisor of the International Co-operative Alliance, and Regional Director for Asia Pacific of the International Co-operative Alliance (based in Geneva, New Delhi and Singapore 1996-2001). Robby is currently engaged in pioneering co-operative multi-stakeholder innovations as outgrowths of the Credit Union Movement in Indonesia.



Ms. Clara Mi Young Park is the Regional Gender Rural and Social Development Officer and Regional Focal Point for Rural Poverty Reduction and Family Farming with the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok. She is currently completing her PhD in Political Economy of Resources, Environment and Population at the International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, Netherlands. Much of her work has been interdisciplinary in focus looking at agricultural and land policy, tenure and property rights, rural employment, gender and social inequalities

and women and minorities' rights. She has written and published extensively on the gender and generational implications of agrarian transformations, food sovereignty and environmental and agrarian movements. She has received her MA from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles and her BA from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.



H.E. Mr. Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, was given the charge of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Bangladesh on 09 July 2015. He has earlier served as Minister for the Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment and Minister for Ministry of Labor and Employment. Mr. Hossain was the first Chief Engineer of Rural Works' Programme in Bangladesh. He worked as the Chief Technical Consultant of the International Labor Organization in Sierra Leone (1980-89) and Uganda (1989-90). He obtained his Engineering (Civil) degree from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka and Masters in Engineering from the Strathclyde University, UK



Mr. U. Khin Maung Aye is the Chairman of the Central Co-operative Society, Myanmar since 2006. His association with the cooperative movement of Myanmar is since the early 90s. From 1992 to 1996, he was the Chairman of Htet Arkar Kyaw Cooperative Syndicate in Taung Gu Township, Bago Division; and from 1996 to 2005 he remained Vice-Chairman of the Union of Agricultural Production Cooperative Federation for successive terms. U Khin Maung Aye was elected as Chairman of Myanmar Bank Association at the Annual General Meeting that took place on 4 December 2015, and continues until now. He is also the Chairman of Cooperative Bank Limited (CB Bank) since 2002. Mr Khin received his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Master Degree from the University of Yangon, Myanmar.



Ms. Ma. Estrella "Esther" Penunia is Secretary General of the Asian Farmers' Association or AFA, a regional alliance of national farmers organizations in Asia. Established in 2002, AFA is currently composed of twenty national FOs in sixteen countries, representing around 13 million small scale men and women farmers, fishers and indigenous peoples. Esther was appointed FAO Special Ambassador for the 2014 International Year of Family Farming. As a social development worker, Esther spent more than three decades of professional years in the field of rural development, working with farmers, fishers and indigenous people. She and her husband are currently working in partnership with a farming family in developing a 2-hectare upland farm through sustainable, integrated, diversified, organic practices.



Mr. Shigeshi Onishi is the Executive Director, JA-Zenchu (Central Union of Japan Agricultural Co-operatives) since August 2011. Prior to joining JA-Zenchu, he served as the General Manager of JA-Zen-noh (National Federation of Agricultural Co-operatives). Mr. Onishi is a graduate of the School of Agriculture at Hokkaido University.



H.E. Eng. Mr. Wassfi Hassan El-Sreihin, who hails from Jordan, is the Secretary General of African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), an inter-governmental Organization in the field of agricultural and rural development, headquartered in New Delhi. He served as the Secretary General, AARDO from 2011 to 2015, and has been re-elected for another term of four years effective from 3 September 2015. Prior to joining AARDO, he had been Adviser/Director General in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Government of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Honorary Regional Representative of AARDO for the Middle East Regional Office (MERO). He has done his graduation in "Civil Engineering" from the University of Kashmir, India in 1982 and completed his Post-graduation in "Roads and Transportation Engineering" in 1992 from the University of Jordan.



Mr. Toru Yamamoto is the Head of the Office of Consumers' Cooperative Societies, Community Welfare and Services Division, Social Welfare and War Victims' Relief Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.



H.E. Mr. Lyonpo Yeshey Dorji is Bhutan's second democratically elected Minister of Agriculture and Forests from the People's Democratic Party. His Excellency was appointed as the Minister for Agriculture and Forests on July 27, 2013. He served as a senior planning officer in the agriculture ministry before joining politics in 2008. He then worked at the UN office of project operations (UNOP) as team leader for four years and resigned to contest in politics again. He has a Masters in biology specialising in plant systematics from University of Missouri, USA.



H.E. Mr. Joe Natuman is the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Tourism, Commerce and Business in Vanuatu. In the 1980s, he worked in the highest ranks of the civil service, culminating with the position of First Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office from 1987 to 1991, at the time of Prime Minister Walter Lini. He then worked as assistant registrar at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji, until 1995. He entered national politics when he was elected MP for Tanna, representing the Vanua'aku, in the 1995 general election. He is a graduate of the University of the South Pacific, and was also an exchange student at the University of Papua New Guinea.



Dr. Nandini Azad is a senior women leader in the cooperative movement. She is currently elected Vice Chairperson of the ICA-AP women's Committee and a special invitee on gender diversity to the International Raiffeison Union board. An elected President of the Indian Cooperative Network for Women with a membership of over 5,00,000 poor women in the informal sector. A member of the National Cooperative Union of India's Women's Empowerment Committee, she is a board member of the National Women's Credit Fund (Ministry of Women, Govt of India) and Chairperson of its Revitalization Committee. Dr. Azad holds a Ph.D from Syracuse University, USA and has worked extensively at senior levels with the Planning Commission of India, IFAD, ADB, UNDP, ILO, and FAO.



Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong is the CEO, NTUC LearningHub CO-operatives since February 2013. In the last four years, he has led LearningHub to be a leading training organization and cooperative in Singapore, training more than 10,000 workers per month in various areas like trade skills, soft skills, IT, safety and health, service excellence, and innovation so that they remain relevant to market needs. He believes in lifelong learning, graduating in Mathematics, Public Administration and is now a certified Neuro-Linguistic Programming practitioner. Prior to joining NTUC, Kok Kwong served with distinction in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) for 27 years till 31 July 2012. He was elected as member of the ICA-AP Regional Board in November 2016



Ms. Om Devi Malla, Vice Chair, National Cooperative Federation, Nepal. She completed Master Degree on Sociology from Tribhuvan University and is the first woman from Nepal to obtain a Diploma in Co-operative Education and Management from NCCE, India. Being the first woman vice chairperson of National Cooperative Federation of Nepal, she entered the cooperative sector in 1999 from primary co-operatives and district level union. She is a co-operative expert in the National Cooperative Development Board (NCDB). She actively participates in the International Cooperative Alliance's programs and exposure events. Ms. Malla has received co-operative training and education from more

than 10 countries. She is also an activist for inclusion of participation of women in the co-operative sector. She is a member of the legislative parliament, and is the first woman from Nepal to represent the co-operative movement of Nepal. She has received awards from various national and international organizations for the continuous contribution in the co-operative sector.



Mr. Tarun Bhargava is presently working as Dy. General Manger (Cooperative Relations) with Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO) at New Delhi, India. His present portfolio involves working with approx. 35,000 member cooperative societies in agriculture sector in India. A technocrat by profession, he is a Chemical Engineer and has graduated from BITS, Pilani in India. With a wide experience at various important locations of IFFCO, he has worked in process plants, manufacturing phosphatic and nitrogenous fertilizers. He has contributed in developing IT based business solutions for the organization and has experience in project procurement, import & logistics management and cooperative development.



Mr. Maizan Ahmed Manik is the Chairman of Maldives Fishermen's Association (MFA) since 2011. Under his guidance, MFA has reached new heights in the development and education of the fisher community. Mr. Manik is an engineer by profession, specialized in communication, and runs a business in marine communication and navigation. He has worked in many senior posts of the government of Maldives and the last post he held, when he retired in 2008, was the Deputy Executive Director, at the Ministry of Information, Arts and Culture. Mr. Maizan has received several awards including the commemorative plaque presented by the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture in recognition of the work to advance the fisheries industry (2014) and the National Award of Honour in the field of fisheries; capacity building and creating community awareness in fisheries in 2015.



Mr. Magnus Persson is currently working as the Regional Director for We Effect (former Swedish Cooperative Centre) in Asia. He moved to Vietnam in 2014 to start up the regional office and is supervising the programmes in Palestine, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam and the Philippines. He has been with We Effect since 2003 in different positions in the head office and in Eastern Africa before working with Asia. He holds a Master in International Business and has a special interest in financial inclusion and co-operatives.



H.E. Dr. Kalantari is the Deputy Minister of Co-operatives in the Labour and social welfare ministry of Iran. He studied economy at the Faculty of Economics of Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran. He has previously worked as the Deputy minister of social affairs of the ministry of agriculture, Consultant at the ministry of culture, Deputy Minister of research in the affairs related to youth, Deputy Minister of the ministry of agriculture and head of Iran forestry organization. He was also the Governor of Yazd province.



H.E. Mr. Abdul Rishad Bathiudeen holds the portfolio of Minister for Industry and Commerce of Sri Lanka since April 2010. The Cooperative Department is situated with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Mr. Bathiudeen is the Leader of the All Ceylon Makkal Congress. He was elected as a Member of Parliament from the Vanni Electoral District in December 2001 and since been re-elected a number of times. Mr. Bathiudeen holds a National Diploma in Technology in Civil Engineering from the University of Moratuwa and is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Engineering, UK.



Mr. Osamu Hashiramoto is the Deputy Director-General for International Affairs, Minister's Secretariat, at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery (MAFF), Government of Japan. He joined MAFF in 1984 and has served in various positions, some of which include, Director for International Trade Policy Negotiations, International Economic Affairs Division; Director, Wood Products Trade Office, Wood Utilization Division, Forest Policy Planning Department; Director, International Cooperation Division, International Affairs Department; and Director, Regional Affairs Division, International Affairs Department. He is a graduate of the Faculty of Agriculture from Kyoto Prefectural University



Mr. Teguh Boediyana, Special Staff to the Minister Anak Agung Gede Ngurah PUSPAYOGA, Minister of Co-operatives and Small & Medium Enterprises. Mr. Boediyana studied animal husbandry from the Gadjah Mada University, and a Masters in Agribusiness from the Arizona State University, USA. He was the Operations Manager OF Taurus Dairy Farm in West Java Indonesia, and has also worked as the Director for Livestock Cooperatives Development and Director of Public Relation, for the ministry of Co-operative and SMEs. Currently he also holds the posts of Chairman of Indonesian National Dairy Board and Chairman of Indonesian Beef and Buffalo Farmers Association.



Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, a Member of the Upper House of Indian Parliament (Rajya Sabha), is the Chairman of Krishak Bharti Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO) and all its subsidiaries. He is also the President of NCUI, the apex institution of cooperative movement in India. In addition, Dr. Yadav is presently the Vice Chairperson of International Cooperative Alliance - Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) region. He is also on the Boards of among other the International Raiffeisen Union (IRU), Germany, National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF), National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED), National Federation of Urban Coop Banks & Credit Societies (NAFCUB), National Federation of State Coop Banks (NAFSCOB). Dr. Yadav, holds M.Sc, B.Ed, L.L.B and PhD degrees.



Dato' KAMARUDIN Ismail is the Vice President of Malaysian National Cooperative Movement (ANGKASA) since 2012. For nearly two decades, he has contributed to the development of School Co-operatives in Malaysia as he was appointed by the Ministry of Education to serve in the Education Committee of ANGKASA. Currently, he serves as Board of ANGKASA, leading two Sector-Lead Committees, Financial & Investment Sector and Wholesale & Retail Sector. He is also the Board of Director of Farmer's Organization Authority. He is also very active at the international level and has participated in briefings and workshops in India, Korea, Japan, Iran and Indonesia. He was the representative in "Voices of Future Apec" in Santiago, Chile. He holds a Degree in TESL from University of Edinburgh (Scotland).



Mr. Raul M. Calayan Jr., is the Chief Operating Officer of the National Confederation of Co-operatives (NATCCO). He's been with NATCCO for the last 15 years. Before joining NATCCO, he spent 7 years in the banking industry particularly in the field of Trust Banking and Funds Investment Management. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Santo Tomas. He graduated Silver Medalist in 2013 with a Master's Degree in Entrepreneurship from the Ateneo de Manila Graduate School of Business. He is a member of the Fund Managers Association of the Philippines and currently the Treasurer of the Network Consolidated Cooperative Bank.



Dr. (HC) Ir. Burhanuddin Abdullah is Senior Advisor to DEKOPIN (The Indonesian Co-operative Council). He also serves as President of Cooperative University of IKOPIN Bandung – Indonesia. Dr. Abdullah is the former Governor of the Bank Indonesia (2003-2008). In 2001, he has served as Minister for Coordinating the Economy Republic of Indonesia. Dr. Burhanuddin obtained his Bachelor of Agriculture from the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Padjadjaran in Bandung in 1974; Master of Arts in Economics from Michigan State University of USA

(1984), and Doctor Honoris Causa in Economics from Diponegoro University of Indonesia in 2006.



Dr. Alireza Gharagozlou is the Deputy of Economic and International Affairs at the Iran Chamber of Co-operatives (ICC). He has 16 years of experience in International Business Development and Business Matching having made more than 100 international business travels to all continents. He is a real international practitioner with good understanding of global business environment. He holds a PhD in international business and is a Pragmatic University lecturer. He was elected as member of the ICA-AP Regional Board in November 2016



Ms. Zhang Xiaohong (Helen) is the Division Chief at the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC). ACFSMC is the apex body of all supply and marketing co-operatives in China, plus 32 provincial, 342 prefecture, 2,377 county federations and 20,050 primary cooperative. Ms. Helen has been with the International Department of ACFSMC for the past 14 years and is responsible for economic trade affair between China and other countries in Asia- Pacific. From August 2014 to August 2015, she was appointed to work in the Malaysia Business Office, the ICA-AP Representative Office in Malaysia and responsible for recycling and IT, and e-commerce related work.



Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal holds the position of Chairman of the National Cooperative Federation of Nepal (NCFN). He is a former minister of Ministry of Industry, Nepal Government and is currently a Member of Parliament. Mr. Badal has been part of the cooperative movement for a long time as a cooperative leader who played a key role in drafting the Cooperative Act 1992. He has a BA in economics from Tribhuvan University in Nepal. Mr. Badal is an advisor at Nepal Agricultural Co-operative Central Federation Ltd. (NACCFL). He was a coordinator at National Advocacy Center for Natural Resources and Chairman of the High Level Land Reform Commission of the Government of Nepal. Mr. Badal was elected as member of the ICA-AP Regional Board in November 2016



Mr. Bruno Roelants has been Secretary General of CICOPA since 2002 and of the regional organization CECOP CICOPA-Europe since 2006. He has worked on development projects in China, India, and Eastern Europe, and coordinated the 2002 cooperative movement negotiating group on the ILO Recommendation on the Promotion of Co-operatives (no. 193). He holds a Master's degree in Labour Studies, has taught courses on co-operatives in Italy, and is the co-author of *Co-operatives, Territories and Jobs* (2011), as well as *Capital and the Debt Trap – Learning from Co-operatives in the Global Crisis* (2013). He also coordinated the report *Cooperative Growth for the 21st Century* (2013).



Dr. Tran Dinh Thien is Director at the Vietnam Economic Institute. He has participated in many national research programs and projects at the ministerial level on socio-economic development of Vietnam. He has authored more than 50 studies which have been published in economic research and world economic Issues. He has written many books, which include, ASEAN linkages in the context of globalization (2002); Renovation and Human Development in Vietnam (2001); Model of Industrialization and Modernization of Vietnam (2009). He holds a Bachelor of Political Economics (1979) from Hanoi University and a Doctor for Political Economics at the Economic Institute, Russian Scientific Academy.



Ms. Simel Esim is a political economist, working in social and economic development for the past 25 years. She is the Head of the Co-operatives Unit at the ILO in Geneva. Prior to that, she was a Senior Technical Specialist in the ILO's Regional Office for Arab States. She has policy advocacy, research, capacity building, program management and M&E skills. She works on cooperative and social and solidarity economy development, informal employment and women's economic empowerment issues. She holds an M.A. in International Economics and Middle East Studies and a Ph.D. in economics. She speaks Turkish and English, and has working knowledge of Italian and Arabic.



H.E. YB Dato' Henry Sum Agong was appointed as Deputy Minister, Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism, Malaysia on 4 July 2016. He has previously served as Chairman, Malaysian Pepper Board; Secretary, Lawas District Council; Treasurer, Lawas District Council; Enforcement Officer, Road Transport Department; and Officer, Limbang Division Resident Office. He is a Lawas Member of Parliament from 2008 and has served twice Bukit Mas Member of Parliament in 2004–2008 and 1999-2004. He is Honorary Colonel, RELA (2008–present) and President, The Sarawak Archery Association (2013-present). Dato' Henry Sum Agong has been recognized as Darjah Yang Amat Mulia Bintang Sarawak (PSBS in 2008; Pegawai Bintang Sarawak in 2003; and Bintang Khidmat Setia in 1996.



Dr. Vinaroj Supsongsuk, Director General of Co-operative Promotion Department, Representative of Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Thailand. He completed his Bachelors in Public Administration from Thammasat University, along with a Masters in Public Policy and Project Management, along with a D.PA in Public Administration. In the past he has worked as the Director General of the Co-operative Auditing Department, the Inspector General in the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, as well as the Deputy Director General of the National bureau OF Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards. He has received special training from the Thailand National Defence College.



Mr. Nguyen Dinh Long is Vice Director of Policy and Cooperative Development Dept of Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA). He graduated from the Hanoi Trading University in 1999; he holds a degree from the Hanoi Law University (2004); and a Master of Social Security in China University (2012).



Ms. Mercedes D. Castillo joined the Co-operative Development Authority (CDA), Philippines as Administrator (member of the Board of Administrators in 2013. As an Administrator, she chairs the oversight committee on workers and labor service co-operatives, savings and credit co-operatives, health co-operatives and gender and development. Prior to joining CDA, she worked with a co-operative federation, VICTO National for 25 years.



Mr. Eulogio T. Castillo is one of the Administrators at the Co-operative Development Authority (CDA), Philippines. He has more than 42 years' experience in co-operative education, training and research. He has served as Professor in Agricultural Economics, University of the Philippines and Vice Chancellor, University of the Philippines, Los Banos. He holds a Ph. D. in Agriculture Economics from the University of Illinois; and M.S. and B.S. in Agriculture from the University of the Philippines, Los Banos.



Mr. Suresh Pradhan is the Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Co-operatives and Poverty Alleviation, Kathmandu. He has previously serve as Joint Secretary at the Office of Financial Controller General and at the Large Taxpayer Office. Mr. Pradhan had led the work in drafting the National Poverty Alleviation Policy 2073 (now in circulation for suggestions); served on the team developing the Co-operative Act 2073 (now in Parliament); and developing web-based Conceptualized and Development web-based database for Co-operative/Poverty MIS. He holds a Master in Economics in Public Policy and Management from the Institute of Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester, United Kingdom; Master in Business Administration from the Institute of Management, Shanker Dev Campus, Tribhuvan University; Bachelor of Law from the Nepal Law Campus; and Bachelor in Business Administration from the Institute of Management, Nepal Commerce Campus. Tribhuvan University.



Mr. P. Santosh Kumar serves as the ICA-AP as the Program Manager for the Asia Pacific Unit of the ICA-EU Partnership on Co-operatives in Development. He co-authored the ICA-AP study on By laws of Primary Co-operatives in Asia and Pacific along with Mr. Rangan Dutta I.A.S (Retd.) in 2013 and supported the 4th Critical Study on Co-operative Legislations and Policy Reforms in 2012. Santosh holds an LL.M in International Trade Law (Contracts & Dispute Resolution) from the University of Turin (International Training Center of the International Labour Organization, Italy, LL.B (Hons.) from Indraprastha University (Amity Law School, New Delhi, India) and post graduate diplomas in International Law and Diplomacy, International Trade and Business Laws (Indian Academy of International Law) and Cyber Law (Amity Law School).

C. MEMBERS OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

1. **Dr. Robby Tulus**
Senior Consultant
ICA-AP
2. **Dr. Nandini Azad**
Chairperson, The Independent Commission for People's Rights and Development
3. **Mr. Suresh Pradhan**
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives and Poverty Alleviation, Nepal
4. **Ms. Heira Hardiyanti**
ICA-AP Researcher, DEKOPIN (The Indonesian Coop Council)
5. **Ms. Nguyet Minh**
Vietnam Co-operative Alliance, Vietnam
6. **Mr. P. Santosh Kumar**
Program Manager, ICA-AP

With contribution from CICOPA, ILO, JA ZENCHU, NRECA.

D. LIST OF HONORABLE MINISTERS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

No.	Country	Name	Position	Organization
1	Bangladesh	H.E. Khandker Masharruf Hossain	Minister	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives
2	Bangladesh	Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim	Secretary	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives
3	Bangladesh	Mr. MD Abdul Majid	Director General	Department of Co-operatives, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives
4	Bangladesh	Mr. Mohammad Helal Uddin	Deputy Registrar	Department of Co-operatives, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives
5	Bhutan	His Excellency Yeshey Dorji	Minister	Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
6	Bhutan	Mr. Ugyen Penjore	Director General	Department of Agro-Marketing and Co-operatives, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
7	Bhutan	Ms. Sonam Wangmo	Deputy Chief	Department of Agro-Marketing and Co-operatives, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
8	Cambodia	H.E. Mam Amnot	Secretary of State	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)
9	Cambodia	Mr. Say Prumny	High rank Government Official	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)
10	Canada	Mr. Maxime Prud Homme	Co-Project Coordinator	SOCODEVI
11	Canada	Ms. Ginette Carre	Program Manager	SOCODEVI
12	Vietnam	Ms. Vo Thi Kim Sa	Project Manager	SOCODEVI
13	Canada	Ms. Gaby Breton	Specialist	SOCODEVI

No.	Country	Name	Position	Organization
14	India	Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav	Member of Parliament, President	National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI)
15	India	H.E. Eng. Wassfi Hassan El Sreihin	Secretary General	African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO)
16	India	Mr. Abdul Waheed Anwer	Executive Secretary and Head PPP Division	African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO)
17	Iran	His Excellency Dr. Ali Rabiei	Minister	Ministry of Co-operatives, Labour and Social Welfare
18	Iran	H.E. Dr. Seyed Kalantari Hemmat Abadi	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Co-operatives, Labour and Social Welfare
19	Iran	Mr. Hojatollah Mahdian Marani	Managing Director	T.T. Bank, Ministry of Co-operatives, Labour and Social Welfare
20	Indonesia	Mr. Teguh Boediyana	Secretary to Minister	Ministry of smes and Co-operatives
21	Japan	Mr. Shingo Suzuki	Chief	Office of Consumers' Co-operative Societies Organization, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
22	Japan	Mr. Toru Yamamoto	Director	Office of Consumers' Co-operative Societies Organization, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
23	Malaysia	Mr. Dato' Henry Sum Agong	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism
24	Malaysia	Mr. Muhammad Salimi Bin Sajari	Director of Policy and Strategic Planning Division	Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism
25	Malaysia	Mr. Norazli Bin Mohamad Daud	Principal Private Secretary to Deputy Minister	Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism
26	Malaysia	Mr. Mohtar Bin Mohd Abd Rahman	Deputy Director General	Public Service Department of Malaysia
27	Malaysia	H.E. Dato Dr. Noor Zari Bin Hamat	Executive Chairman	Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission

Honourable Ministers, Government Officials and Representatives of International Organisations

No.	Country	Name	Position	Organization
28	Malaysia	Mr. Rozdeen Bin Mohd Jaafar	Director of Corporate Affairs and International	Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission
29	Nepal	Mr. Suresh Pradhan	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Co-operatives and Poverty Alleviation
30	Nepal	Mr. Purna Prasad Rijal	Under Secretary	Ministry of Co-operatives and Poverty Alleviation
31	Nepal	H.E. Ms. Om Devi Malla	Member of Parliament, Vice Chairperson	National Co-operative Federation of Nepal
32	Philippines	Dr. Eulogio T. Castillo	Administrator	Co-operative Development Authority (CDA)
33	Philippines	Ms. Mercedes D. Castillo	Administrator	Co-operative Development Authority (CDA)
34	Philippines	Ms. Esther Penunia	Secretary General	Asia Farmer's Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA)
35	Philippines	Mr. Cresente Cris Paez	Co-operative program Director	Asia Farmer's Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA)
36	Sri Lanka	H.E. Mr. Rishad Bathiudeen	Minister	Ministry of Industry and Commerce
37	Sri Lanka	H.E. Mr. Krishnapillai Thurairasasingham	Minister	Co-operative Ministry of Eastern province
38	Sri Lanka	Mr. S.R.M. Mohamed Irshad	Secretary	Ministry of Industry and Commerce
39	Thailand	Dr. Vinaroj Supsongasuk	Director General	Co-operative Promotion Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives
40	Thailand	Ms. Kornnapa Chaiyawat	Director of Planning	Co-operative Promotion Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives
41	Thailand	Ms. Chamlong Vimsuan	Senior Officer	Co-operative Promotion Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives

No.	Country	Name	Position	Organization
42	Thailand	Mr. Pongpakorn Piyawatpaphada	Officer	Co-operative Promotion Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives
43	Vanuatu	H.E. Mr. Joe Natuman	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Commerce, Trades and Ni Vanuata Business	Ministry for Tourism, Trades and Commerce
44	Vanuatu	Mr. Ati Nov	Security	Ministry for Tourism, Trades and Commerce
45	Vanuatu	Mr. George Iapson	First political Advisor	Ministry for Tourism, Trades and Commerce
46	Vanuatu	Mr. Ridley Mannasseh Joseph	Director	Office of Registrar of Co-operatives and Business Development Services
47	Sweden	Mr. Magnus Tommy Persson	Regional Director Asia	WeEffect
48	Vietnam	Ms. Nguyen Ngoc Thuy	PME-Resource Mobilisation	WeEffect
49	FAO	Ms. Clara Mi Young Park	Officer	FAO Regional Office
50	CICOPA	Mr. Bruno Roelants	Secretary General	CICOPA
51	ILO Geneva	Ms. Simel Esim	Head	Co-operative Development-ILO
52	EU	Mr. Bruno Angelet	Head	Delegation of EU to Vietnam
53	Germany	Ms. Antje Regite	Chief Representative	DGRV
54	Germany	Mr. Christian Staacke	Program Officer	DGRV
55	Germany	Mr. Helmut Pabst	Senior Consultant	DGRV
56	ILO	Mr. Chang Hee Lee	Country Director	ILO in Vietnam
57	ILO	Ms. Nguyen Thi Huyen	Officer	ILO in Vietnam
58	Korea	Mr. Lee Dae Joong	Director	KCC, Korean Embassy in Vietnam
59	Timor Leste	Ms. Pascoela Barres Santos	Ambassador	Embassy of Timor-Lester in Vietnam
60	Agriterra	Mr. Harm Haverkort	Country Director	Agriterra
61	Palestine	H.E. Mr. Saadi Salama	Ambassador	Embassy of the State of Palestine

Honourable Ministers, Government Officials and Representatives of International Organisations

No.	Country	Name	Position	Organization
62	Malaysia	H.E. Mr. Zamruni Khalid	Ambassador	Embassy of Malaysia
63	Malaysia	Ms. Vanitha Gopalaksishnan	Second Secretary	Embassy of Malaysia
64	UAE	Mr. Khalid Shohail Algahtami	Ambassador	Embassy of UAE
65	UAE	Mr. Ali Zayed Al Zeyoudi	First Secretary	Embassy of UAE
66	UAE	Mr. Ezzat Abdulwahed	Political Analyst	Embassy of UAE
67	UAE	Mr. Vu Huy Dinh	Economic Researcher	Embassy of UAE
68	Nonghyup Bank	Mr. Lee Woo Sik	General Director	Nonghyup Bank Hanoi Branch
69	USAID	Mr. Truong Duc Tung	Director	USAID
70	USAID	Ms. Le Thi Thu Hien	Program Manager	USAID
71	UNDP	Mr. Kamal Malhotra	Resident Coordinator	UNDP
72	Indonesia	Mr. Ibnu Hadi	Ambassador	Embassy of Indonesia
73	Indonesia	Ms. Ariestya Dwi Cahyani	Third Secretary	Embassy of Indonesia
74	Bangladesh	Mr. Mohammad Shahab Ullah	Ambassador	Embassy of Bangladesh
75	Bangladesh	Mr. MD. Azizur Rahman	COUNSELLOR	Embassy of Bangladesh
76	KOICA	Ms. Le Thanh Hang	OFFICER	KOICA
77	Netherland	Ms. Nguyen Huong Lan	Senior Trade Advisor	Embassy of Netherlands
78	Iran	Mr. Mahdi Farazin	Third Secretary	Embassy of Islamic of Iran
79	Iran	Ms. Nguyen Ti Hien Giang		Embassy of Islamic of Iran
80	Timor Leste	Mr. Mantinhocla Gruis Lepen	Second Secretary	Embassy of Timor- Lester
81	Timor Leste	Ms. Tran Van Anh	Secretary	Embassy of Timor- Lester
82	Japan	Mr. Kosaburo Shimose	Economic Secretary	Embassy of Japan

E. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No.	Country	Name	Position	Organization
1	America	Mr. Charles Gould	Director General	ICA
2	America	Mr. Martin Lowery	Executive VP	NRECA
3	Australia	Ms. Melina Morrison	CEO	Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals
4	Australia	Mr. Mark Egelstaff	Director, Mutuo Asia Pacific	Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals
5	Bangladesh	Ms. O.N. Siddiqua Khanam	Additional Secretary	Rural Development and Co-operative
6	Canada	Dr. Robby Tulus	Senior Consultant	ICA-AP
7	China	Mr. Li Chunsheng	President, ICA-AP	All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Coops (ACFSMC)
8	China	Ms. Zhang Xiaohong	Division Chief	ACFSMC
9	China	Ms. Cao Wei	Program Officer	ACFSMC
10	Danish	Ms. Ruth Skafgaard	Officer	NRECA
11	India	Dr. Nandini Azad	Chairperson	The Independent Commission for People's Rights and Development
12	India	Mr. Balu Iyer	ICA-AP Director	ICA-AP
13	India	Mr. K. Sethumadhavan	ICA-AP Officer	ICA-AP
14	India	Mr. P. Santosh Kumar	ICA-AP Officer	ICA-AP
15	India	Mr. Satyanarayana Nagotu	Chief Executive Officer	National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI)
16	India	Dr. Bhagwati Prasad	Vice Chairman	Co-operative House Building & Finance Corporation Ltd. (Sahakari Awas-Nirman Evam Vitt Nigam Ltd.)
17	India	Mr. Bhima Subrahmanyam	Managing Director	National Federation of State Coop Banks Ltd. (NAFSCOB)
18	India	Mrs. Manikyamba Bhima	Officer	NAFSCOB
19	India	Mr. Dileep Sanghani	Chairman	NAFSCOB
20	India	Mr. Karnad Pramod	MD	NAFSCOB
21	India	Mrs. Karnad Tapasya Pramod	Officer	NAFSCOB

No.	Country	Name	Position	Organization
22	India	Mr. Panda Tusarkanti	MD	NAFSCOB
23	India	Mrs. Panda Jyotsnarani	Officer	NAFSCOB
24	India	Mr. Mohanty Akshaya Kumar	President	NAFSCOB
25	India	Mrs. Sarangi Basanti	Officer	NAFSCOB
26	India	Mr. Konduru Ravinder Rao	President	NAFSCOB
27	India	Mr. Pinnamaneni Venkateswara Rao	President	NAFSCOB
28	India	Mr. Nethi Muralidhar	Managing Director	NAFSCOB
29	India	Mr. Kyathasandra Nanjappa Rajanna	President	NAFSCOB
30	India	Mr. K.K. Ravindran	Managing Director	National Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd (NAFCARD)
31	India	Mr. Tarun Bhargava	Deputy General Manager	Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd.
32	India	Mr. Dalip Singh Yadav	Vice Chairman	National Coop Agriculture & Rural Development Banks' Federation
33	Indonesia	Mr. Agung Sudjatmoko	Deputy President	DEKOPIN
34	Indonesia	Ms. Himmatul Auliya	Board member	DEKOPIN
35	Indonesia	Mr. Burhanuddin Abdullah	Senior Advisor of Chairman	DEKOPIN
36	Indonesia	Ms. Ike Djulyawati Burhanuddin	Officer	DEKOPIN
37	Indonesia	Ms. Syarifah Noor Hidayati	Board member	DEKOPIN
38	Indonesia	Ms. Heira Hardiyanti	ICA-AP Resercher	DEKOPIN
39	Indonesia	Mr. Ilham Nasai		DEKOPIN
40	Indonesia	Mr. H.A.M. Nurdin Halid		DEKOPIN
41	Iran	Mr. Alireza Banaeifar	Director	International Affairs, ICC
42	Japan	Mr. Sung Joon Kang	MBO Staff	ICA-AP
43	Japan	Mr. Shigeshi Onishi	Executive Director	JA-ZENCHU

No.	Country	Name	Position	Organization
44	Japan	Mr. Yasuyuki Kobayashi	Manager	JA-ZENCHU
45	Japan	Ms. Chitose Arai	Vice President	JCCU
46	Japan	Mr. Haruyoshi Amano	Director	International Relations Dept, JCCU
47	Japan	Ms. Kanako Miyazawa	Officer	International Relations Dept, JCCU
48	Japan	Mr. Keiji Matsumoto	Director	Public Relations Division, JCCU
49	Japan	Ms. Minako Kuwahata	Interpreter	Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives
50	Japan	Ms. Shiho Kawamura	Interpreter	Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives
51	Japan	Ms. Yuri Sunaba	Interpreter	Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives
52	Korea	Mr. Heo Sik	Vice Chairman	National Agricultural Co-operative Federation (NACF)
53	Korea	Mr. Lee Sam Seob	Team Head	NACF
54	Korea	Chae Soo Byeong	Manager	NACF
55	Korea	Mr. Bogwi Kim	Senior Staff	Korean Federation of Community Credit Coops (KFCCC)
56	Korea	Mr. Hwan Young Lee	CEO	National Credit Union Federation of Korea (NACUFOK)
57	Korea	Mr. Seok Jo Son	Team Manager	NACUFOK
58	Korea	Mr. Jae Woon Park	Officer	NACUFOK
59	Malaysia	Haji Nasir Khan Bin Yahaya	Group Chief Executive Officer	Malaysian National Co-operative Movement (ANGKASA)
60	Malaysia	Mr. Mutadho Bin Bahri	Deputy President	ANGKASA
61	Malaysia	Mr. Kamarudin Bin Ismail	Vice President	ANGKASA
62	Malaysia	Dr. Abdul Rahman Bin Abdul Razak Shaik	Director General	Co-operative College of Malaysia (CCM)
63	Malaysia	Mrs. Hamidah Jos	Senior Deputy Director	CCM
64	Malaysia	Ms. Noraesyah Saari	Regional Director	CCM

No.	Country	Name	Position	Organization
65	Maldives	Mr. Maizan Ahmed Manik	Chairman	Maldives Fishermen's Association (MFA)
66	Myanmar	Mr. Khin Maung Aye	Chairman	Central Co-operative Society Limited (CCS)
67	Myanmar	Mr. Zaw Lwin OO	General Manager	CCS
68	Myanmar	Mr. Rajiv Ishwar Datt Mehta	Senior Advisor of Chairman	CCS
69	Myanmar	Mr. Sai Moe San	Officer	CCS
70	Myanmar	Mr. Kaung Htet Tun	Managing Director	CCS
71	Nepal	Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal	Chairman	National Co-operative Federation of Nepal (NCF)
72	Nepal	Mr. Ramsaran Sharma Ghimire	Managing Director	National Co-operative Bank Limited (NCBL)
73	Nepal	Mr. Ramesh Prasad Pokhrel	Chairman	(NCBL)
74	Nepal	Mr. Surendra Bhandari	Chairman	Nepal Multi-purpose Central Co-operative Union
75	Nepal	Mr. Saroj Kumar Sharma	Co-chairman	National Co-operative Development Board (NCDB)
76	Philippines	Dr. Adolfo Abillar Ibanez	Chairperson	National Confederation of Coops Inc. (NATCCO)
77	Philippines	Mr. Raul Malate Calayan Jr	Chief Operating Officer	National Confederation of Coops Inc. (NATCCO)
78	Singapore	Mr. Kwek Kok Kwong	Chairman	Singapore National Co-operative Federation Ltd. (SNCF)
79	Sri Lanka	Mr. Jaysekara Hiralu Pathirannehelage Asanka Supun Thilakarathna	Assistant General Manager	National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL)
80	Sri Lanka	Mr. Suleima Lebbe Naseer	Commissioner	Department of Co-operative Development
81	Thailand	Mr. Mongkalat Pukanat	Chairman	Co-operative League of Thailand (CLT)
82	Thailand	Mr. Phanuwat Wanraway	Director	Co-operative League of Thailand (CLT)

F. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FROM VIETNAM

No.	Name	Position	Organization
1	Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh	Vice President	The Socialist Republic of Vietnam
2	Nguyen Thi Phuong Thuy	Secretary	The Socialist Republic of Vietnam
3	Nguyen Huy Hiep	International Department	The Socialist Republic of Vietnam
4	Huynh Dac Thang	Vice Director	The Planning Department - Ministry of Industry and Trade
5	Ho Thu Giang		The State Bank of Vietnam
6	Cao Thi Thanh Thuy		Ministry of Health
7	Mai Quang Trung	Director	Cooperative Economic Department
8	Trinh Tran Minh	Vice Director	Cooperative Economic Development
9	Nguyen Xuan Dinh	Director	International Cooperation Department - Vietnam Farmer's Union
10	Thuy Lien	Reporter	Investment newspaper
11	Nguyen Dong Tien	Vice Director	The State Bank of Vietnam
12	Nguyen Minh Vu	Secretary of the Minister	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
13	Le Son Hai	Deputy Minister, Vice chairman	Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs
14	Nguyen Cao Cuong	Vice Director	The Office of Central Party Committee
15	Nguyen Thi Thach Lam	First Director	Department of Enterprises
16	Tran Dinh Thien	Director	Vietnam Economic Institute
17	Nguyen Chi Dung	Minister	Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)
18	Dang Huy Dong	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Planning and Investment
19	Nguyen Duc Canh	Secretary Minister	Ministry of Planning and Investment
20	Nguyen Duc Chung	Secretary Minister	Ministry of Planning and Investment
21	Nguyen Van Doan	Director	Cooperative Department – MPI
22	Bui Nghi	Vice Director	Cooperative Department – MPI
23	Nguyen Quoc Chi	Vice Director	Cooperative Department – MPI
24	Nguyen Thi Mai Huong	Officer	Cooperative Department – MPI
25	Nguyen Thi Thu Huong	Officer	Cooperative Department – MPI
26	Chu Thi Vinh	Officer	Cooperative Department – MPI
27	Pham Viet Son	Officer	Cooperative Department – MPI
28	Ngo Thuy Dung	Officer	Cooperative Department – MPI
29	Pham Thi Thuy Hong	Officer	Cooperative Department – MPI

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No.	Name	Position	Organization
30	Nguyen Thi Phuong Thuy	Officer	Cooperative Department – MPI
31	Quach Thai Son	Officer	Cooperative Department – MPI
32	Ho Thanh Ha	Director	Research Centre on Climate Change in the central
33	Nguyen Hoang Anh	Officer	Strategy Institute on Propaganda and Information
34	Nguyen Tuan Phong	Vice Director	Central Foreign Relation Commission
35	Nguyen Minh Son	Vice Chairman	Economic Committee of the Government
36	Nguyen Van Thinh	Officer	The Government Office
37	Bui Pham Khanh	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Construction
38	Vu Ngoc Binh		Veterans' Association of Vietnam
39	Le Van Lich		Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment
40	Bui Duy Thien		The central organizing committee
41	Truong Thi Ngoc Anh	Vice Chairman	Vietnam Fartherland Front
42	Bui Quang Vinh	Vice Director	Vietnam Bank For Social Policies
43	Nguyen Thi Thu Hoai	Vice Director	Propaganda Dept.- Central Propaganda Committee
44	Ho Thi Quy	Director	Economic Dept. - Vietnam Woman's Union
45	Hoang Anh Tho		Vocational Centre
46	Nguyen Manh Dung	General Secretary	Youth Union
47	Truong Quang Huy		Youth Union
48	Tran Quoc Khanh	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Science and Technology
49	Nguyen Quoc Cuong	Vice Director	Cooperative bank
50	Mai Duc Loc	Vice Chairman	Vietnam Journalists Association
51	Tran Van Thuan	Reporter	Vietnam Journalists Association
52	Duong Van Mao	Director	Industrial and Commercial Television
53	Nguyen Van Thong		Central Economic Committee
54	Bui Khac Son	Vice Chairman	The Vietnamese Union of the Friendship Organizations
55	Nguyen Huu Tho		The Central Institute for Economic Management
56	Nguyen Huy Tho	Vice Director	The Central Institute for Economic Management
57	Nguyen Van Tien	Director	Central Economic Committee

No.	Name	Position	Organization
58	Hoang Dinh Vinh	Vice Director	Agricultural Department - Central Economic Committee
59	To Lam	Minister	Ministry of Public Security
60	Nguyen Doan Toan	Vice Chairman	Hanoi People Committee
61	Nguyen Kieu Trang		Office of the President
62	Tran Van Cung	President	An Giang Cooperative Alliance
63	Nguyen Tai Thang	Vice President	Ba Ria - Vung Tau Cooperative Alliance
64	Ly Hoang Minh	President	Bac Lieu Cooperative Alliance
65	Nong Quoc Doi	President	Bac Can Cooperative Alliance
66	Hoang Minh Tuan	President	Bac Giang Cooperative Alliance
67	Nghi Quang Toan	President	Bac Ninh Cooperative Alliance
68	Phan Chanh Thi	President	Ben Tre Cooperative Alliance
69	Ngo Thanh Ly	President	Binh Dinh Cooperative Alliance
70	Tran Van Thay	President	Binh Duong Cooperative Alliance
71	Tran Van Phung	President	Binh Phuoc Cooperative Alliance
72	Nguyen Phu Hoang	President	Binh Thuan Cooperative Alliance
73	Do Van So	President	Ca Mau Cooperative Alliance
74	Nguyen Duc Phuong	President	Can Tho Cooperative Alliance
75	Nguyen Dinh Viet	President	Cao Bang Cooperative Alliance
76	Nguyen Hong Van	President	Da Nang Cooperative Alliance
77	Tran Van Duc	President	Dak Nong Cooperative Alliance
78	Nguyen Thien Van	President	Dak Lak Cooperative Alliance
79	Tran Binh Canh	President	Dien Bien Cooperative Alliance
80	Nguyen Van Thang	Vice President	Dong Nai Cooperative Alliance
81	Nguyen Van Hieu	President	Dong Thap Cooperative Alliance
82	Nguyen Van Tiep	President	Gia Lai Cooperative Alliance
83	Nguyen Tien Hung	President	Ha Giang Cooperative Alliance
84	Do Xuan Truong	President	Ha Nam Cooperative Alliance
85	Nguyen Quang Manh	President	Ha Noi Cooperative Alliance
86	Nguyen Ngoc Hung	President	Ha Tinh Cooperative Alliance
87	Nguyen Van Quang	President	Hai Duong Cooperative Alliance
88	Dao Quoc Khanh	President	Hai Phong Cooperative Alliance
89	Tran Van Thang	President	Hau Giang Cooperative Alliance
90	Le Thi Hoang Yen	President	Ho Chi Minh city Cooperative Alliance

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No.	Name	Position	Organization
91	Hoang Van Thuy	President	Hung Yen Cooperative Alliance
92	Tran Van Thanh	President	Hoa Binh Cooperative Alliance
93	Trinh Cong An	President	Khanh Hoa Cooperative Alliance
94	Tran Thanh Dung	President	Kien Gang Cooperative Alliance
95	Vu Huu Tuan	President	Kon Tum Cooperative Alliance
96	Bui Van Thu	President	Lai Chau Cooperative Alliance
97	Pham Van Tuong	President	Lam Dong Cooperative Alliance
98	Hoang Van Song	President	Lang Son Cooperative Alliance
99	Pham Duc Cuong	President	Lao Cai Cooperative Alliance
100	Nguyen Thanh Hai	President	Long An Cooperative Alliance
101	Vu Dinh Mac	President	Nam Dinh Cooperative Alliance
102	Le Quoc An	President	Nghe An Cooperative Alliance
103	Le Thi Tam	President	Ninh Binh Cooperative Alliance
104	Do Van Minh	President	Ninh Thuan Cooperative Alliance
105	Nguyen Thanh Nam	President	PhuTho Cooperative Alliance
106	Pham Trong Yem	Vice President	Phu Yen Cooperative Alliance
107	Ngo Gia Thoi	President	Quang Binh Cooperative Alliance
108	Doan Van Len	President	Quang Nam Cooperative Alliance
109	Le Hanh	President	Quang Ngai Cooperative Alliance
110	Nguyen Van Nghi	President	QuangNinh Cooperative Alliance
111	Cap Kim Thanh	President	Quang Tri Cooperative Alliance
112	Dinh Quoc Bon	President	Soc Trang Cooperative Alliance
113	Nguyen The Phuong	President	Son La Cooperative Alliance
114	La Huu Nghi	President	Tay Ninh Cooperative Alliance
115	Luu Thi Chi	President	Thai Binh Cooperative Alliance
116	Le Huy Nhon	President	Thai Nguyen Cooperative Alliance
117	Nguyen Van Hung	President	Thanh Hoa Cooperative Alliance
118	Tran Le Quoc Doan	Vice President	Thua Thien Hue Cooperative Alliance
119	Nguyen Van Hong	President	Tien Giang Cooperative Alliance
120	Le Hoang Y	President	Tra Vinh Cooperative Alliance
121	Dao Van Hue	President	Tuyen Quang Cooperative Alliance
122	Nguyen Thanh Long	President	Vinh Long Cooperative Alliance
123	Nguyen Van Kiem	President	Vinh Phuc Cooperative Alliance
124	Do Nhan Dao	President	Yen Bai Cooperative Alliance

No.	Name	Position	Organization
125	Vo Kim Cu	President	Vietnam Cooperative Alliance
126	Nguyen Dac Thang	Vice President	Vietnam Cooperative Alliance
127	Le Van Nghi	Vice President	Vietnam Cooperative Alliance
128	Nguyen Manh Cuong	Vice President	Vietnam Cooperative Alliance
129	Nguyen Van Thinh	Vice President	Vietnam Cooperative Alliance
130	Nguyen Hai Giang	General Director	Victoria Corporation Co. Ltd.
131	Pham Ngoc Toai	Director	Administrative Department - VCA
132	Nguyen Manh Thao	Director	Supervision Department - VCA
133	Nguyen Ngoc Dung	Former Director	International Cooperation Department - VCA
134	Nguyen Minh Tuan	Director	Policy and Cooperative Development - VCA
135	Nguyen Manh Cuong	Director	Cooperative Economic Development Institute
136	Le Minh Tan	Rector	Vietnam Institute for Cooperatives and Enterprises Management
137	Do Xuan Canh	Director	Economic and Development Department - VCA
138	Nguyen Danh Hung	Vice Director	Economic and Development Department - VCA
139	Le Binh Hung	Head of representative office in the South	Vietnam Cooperative Alliance
140	Phan Hanh	Rector	National Economic and Technical College
141	Nguyen Dinh Long	Vice Director	Policy and Cooperative Development - VCA
142	Nguyen The Phuong	Vice Director	Propaganda and information Department - VCA
143	Do Tung Thanh	Director	Planning and Supporting Department - VCA
144	Pham Thi Ha	Vice Editor in Chief	Daily Business Times
145	Pham Cong Bang	Director	Cooperative Development Fund - VCA
146	Vu Quang Phong	General Director	Centre of Science Technology and Environment
147	Hoang Thi Kim Huong	Vice Director	Administrative Department - VCA

List of Participants from Vietnam

No.	Name	Position	Organization
148	Pham Thanh Hung	Vice Director	Administrative Department - VCA
149	Nguyen Thi Duyen	Vice Director	Administrative Department - VCA
150	Duong Tuan Cuong	Vice Director	Planning and Supporting Department – VCA
151	Tran Thu Hang	Vice Director	International Cooperation Department - VCA
152	Tran Dinh Tuan	Vice Director	International Cooperation Department - VCA
153	Doan Van Anh	Vice Director	Supervision Department - VCA
154	Dao Duc Tuan	Vice Director	Supervision Department - VCA
155	Le Thang Long	Vice Director	Policy and Cooperative Development - VCA
156	Do Bich Huong	Vice Director	Reward Department - VCA
157	Nguyen Thi Kim Oanh	Vice Director	Organization and Personnel Department - VCA
158	Ngo Kim Dung	Vice Director	Propaganda and information Department - VCA
159	Phung Viet Nam	Vice Director	Economic and Development Department - VCA
160	Pham Thi To Oanh	General Director	Social-economic Programs Centre
161	Vu Thi Ha	Vice Rector	Economic and Technical vocational training college in the Northern region in Hai Phong
162	Tran Viet Hung	Rector	Vietnam technical and handicraft vocational training College
163	Nguyen Huu Khoi	Representative	Representative office of VCA in the central highland
164	Nguyen Le Duc Thang	Director	Centre for supporting cooperative development, Small and medium enterprises in the Central Highland
165	Phan Van Doi	Director	School for Economic – Technical vocational training in highland central
166	Do Danh Hau	Director	Management of Constructing and Investment Department
167	Nguyen Van Thanh	Former Director	Centre of Science Technology and Environment
168	Phan Vinh Dien	Director	Reward Department - VCA

ICA Co-operative Identity Statement

DEFINITION

A Co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

VALUES

Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, Co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

PRINCIPLES

The Principles of Co-operation are guidelines by which Co-operatives put their values into practice.

First Principle: Voluntary and Open Membership: Co-operatives are voluntary organisations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

Second Principle: Democratic Member Control: Co-operatives are democratic organisations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women, serving as elected representatives, are accountable to the membership. In primary Co-operatives, members have equal voting rights [one member one vote], and Co-operatives at other levels are also organised in a democratic manner.

Third Principle: Member Economic Participation: Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their Co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the Co-operative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their Co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the Co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Fourth Principle: Autonomy and Independence: Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their Co-operative autonomy.

Fifth Principle: Education, Training and Information: Co-operative provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees, so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their Co-operatives. They inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of Co-operation.

Sixth Principle: Co-operation among Co-operatives: Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the Co-operative Movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Seventh Principle: Concern for the Community: Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.



International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific

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