



ICA Regional Co-operative Youth Seminar 2004

“Co-op Youth Participation in the Changing Environment”



International Co-operative Alliance
Asia and Pacific, New Delhi.



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**“Co-op Youth Participation
in the Changing Environment”**

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: 5-7 September 2004

Compiled by:

JIRO ITO

Director - Special Programs
ICA-Asia & Pacific

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International Co-operative Alliance

Asia and Pacific

9, Aradhana Enclave, Sector-13,
R.K. Puram, New Delhi - 110066

Telephone : (91-11) 26888250
TeleFax : (91-11) 26888241
E-mail : icaroap@vsnl.com

World Headquarters

International Co-operative Alliance

15 Route des Morillons,
CH-1218 Grand Saconnex
Geneva, Switzerland.

Telephone : (41-22) 929-8888
TeleFax : (41-22) 798-4122
E-mail : ica@coop.org

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Foreword

I was very privileged to participate in the Youth Seminar in Kuala Lumpur in September 2004. Of all ICA Regions, I have noticed a greater degree of participation of young people from Asia. Indeed the decision to set up a youth steering committee is leading the way for young people to be involved in the ICA.

We all have a vested interest in ensuring youth participation – they are the future, but also the present. The ICA Board now has a youth representative but we must ensure that this is not just a token gesture but represents a real willingness to engage with young people – their needs and aspirations.

And we are trying very hard to establish a world wide youth network which will assist in this process and allow for genuine involvement.

I am particularly keen to emphasise practical participation in enterprise. Employment and enterprise go hand in hand so we are not just trying to have young people believe and support our values and principles but to carry them out in practice through cooperative enterprise.

Both globally and regionally, employees or members we believe young people have a crucial role to play in the Co-operative Movement. I hope other regions will follow the excellent example of Asia & Pacific in making this a reality.

Iain Macdonald



ICA Director-General

Background of the ICA Regional Youth Seminar and Youth activities in Asia-Pacific

Prepared by: Jiro Ito and P. Nair

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) is an independent, non-governmental association, which unites, represents and serves co-operatives worldwide.

A co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common social and cultural needs and aspirations through jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprises. Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality and solidarity.

Co-operatives put into practice these values through the seven co-operative principles. The International Co-operative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICA ROAP) is one of the operating regional offices of the ICA. It serves 54 national level member organizations and one international organization in 22 countries.

The International Co-operative Alliance, and its Asia-Pacific Regional office, particularly, has been pioneers in promoting co-operatives among youth. Youth have all along been a priority with ICA's developmental efforts. To this end, the ICA has organized several youth conferences, seminars and workshops since 1988.

Youth constitutes almost 18 percent of the total population of Asia and the Pacific. It is estimated that the youth population on this region. By 2030, the youth population is expected to rise to over 700 million. The sheer size of youth population in the region underscores the magnitude of challenges the governments, countries and the youth themselves face in integrating themselves to their full potential.

It is, therefore, no surprise that university/campus/youth co-operatives have been set up in the Asia-Pacific region in almost all countries.

The first university co-operative in Malaysia was established at the university in Malaya in 1968 as a co-operative bookshop. At present there 8 university co-

operatives affiliated to the National Federation of University Co-operatives (GAKUB) which has been established in 1988. At this moment, students cannot be members of University Co-operative due to the restriction by law except one university co-operative. There are also 1,300 school co-operatives which are very active in the secondary schools in Malaysia.

The first university co-operative in the Philippines was set up in 1916, at the University of the Philippines, College of Agriculture, which is still in operation. The Philippine Science High School Consumers Coop (PSHSCC) which was established in 1977 allowed 15 year old to vote in 1986 and elect a student to the management committee. The expansion of the student participation in university co-operatives started in 1985 as a follow up to the ICA ROAP/NFUCA/JCCU Seminar held at Tokyo. Now in the Philippines, activity of the Youth networking has started among all types of co-operative.

The first university co-operative in Singapore was established in 1969 at the National University of Singapore. Being a small country with very few universities, Singapore adopted a different strategy than other countries by identifying a separate sector of co-operatives called campus co-operatives which include high school co-operatives. The SNCF Campus Co-operative Sector Committee was set up in 1994. The SNCF campus co-operative sector is one of the four sectoral groups within the SNCF.

In Thailand, The Kasetsart University took the lead to establish the first university consumer co-operative in 1956 at present, there are 17 consumer co-operatives and 18 savings and credit co-operatives in the universities. The Thailand Consumer Co-operative Federation in Educational Institutions (TCFE) was established in 1994.

The youth cooperative in Indonesia consist of student cooperative (university and senior high school), "pondok pesantren" cooperative (Islamic boarding school), and youth cooperatives (multi purpose coop. The usual activities of the youth co-operators (other than campus youth) are running Mini markets (small shop); Saving and loan (credit union); Copy centre; Telecom-munication centre; Canteens; Postal service; etc.

The NATCCO in the Philippines has engineered the Coop YouthPlanet Program (CYP) aimed to build strong coops with empowered youth groups whose leaders and members are competent, responsible, and productive contributors in community building. CYP is a creative means for young people aged 7-25 to spend time and money through its three essential elements: capability-building, savings and youth center. NATCCO is on to polishing this program in order to replicate it in as many coops in the Philippines as possible and create positive results. As a start, the Lamac Multi-Purpose Cooperative (LMPC) in Cebu pilots CYP and is showing great results despite trials and tribulations. CYP

helps coop leaders recognize the worth of having the young generation live up to the same values and exemplify the same, if not better, kind of leadership and concern for other people in the community, as the true essence of leadership is growing people who are better than they are.

Youth in Sri Lanka has formed themselves in to a co-operative organization, venturing into organic farming. This provides self-employment and also provide organic food for a healthy living. The youth are also working in other areas and sectors, other than campus co-operatives, in Sri Lanka.

The status of the university co-operative sector in the Region depends on four factors:

1. Participation of the students
2. Alliance among the university co-operatives
3. Legal and economic environment for university co-operative
4. Relationship with the main consumer co-operative sector

Principally university co-operative is the organization which meets the needs and supports the life of the members; i.e. students and faculties. Such successful stories can be found in Japan and Indonesia to a certain extent. It is necessary that both students and faculties become members of the co-operative and provide the services that they want. Also understanding and cooperation of the university will be important.

Several ICA Conferences, including Co-operative Ministers' Conferences, regional and general assemblies, have all advocated for promoting youth/campus co-operatives to develop and nurture entrepreneurial activities among the youth.

Against this background, the ICA Regional Office, in collaboration with the National Federation of University Co-operative Associations – NFUCA – organized the 1st Asia-Pacific Regional Youth Seminar in Tokyo, during 25-27 June, 2001, wherein more than 200 youth from the Region participated. Several international youth seminars were also held in Stockholm, Seoul, Oslo, etc. During the Oslo General Assembly of the ICA, the youth seminar was so successful that the ICA board has granted a place for a youth in its board, and this person is amongst you today – Ms. Jo Bo Scallian.

The ICA is also has a specialized committee – the ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives. The Committee has been in existence for a number of years now. The committee met 9 times in the past and the next meeting – 10th meeting – is scheduled to be held in Chiangmai, Thailand, on 29 November, 2004. The meeting will be followed by a half-day workshop for the leaders of University/Campus Co-operative movements. During the past meeting, several committee members felt that the committee should not be

restricted only to university/campus co-operatives, but essentially a Committee for the Youth in all sectors of co-operatives. Meanwhile, here is also another debate that there should be a separate committee for youth co-operatives from all sectors.

While selecting delegates for this Youth Seminar – the 2nd ICA Regional Youth Seminar – special efforts were made to include youth delegates from sectors other than the consumer sector. We expect that this seminar would also see more than 200 delegates from various countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, India, Iran, UK, USA, Philippines, Pakistan, Korea, Japan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, etc.

Opening Speech by
Y. B. Dato' Khamsiyah Bt Yeop
Deputy Minister of Entrepreneur and
Co-operative Development
at the
ICA Regional Co-operative Youth Seminar
Intekma Resort, Shah Alam : 5th September 2004

Assalamualaikum and very Good Morning,

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP); Royal Professor Ungku Abdul Aziz, President of ANGKASA; Puan Hajah Rahaiah bt. Baهران, Vice President of ANGKASA cum Board Member of ICA; ICA and ANGKASA officials; Seminar Participants, Distinguished Guests, Delegates, Co-operators, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Initially, on behalf Malaysian Government and its people, allow me to say “**Selamat Datang ke Malaysia**” and Welcome to Malaysia. Hopefully, you will enjoy staying in our multi-ethnic and charming country during your visits. And I would like to welcome you, participants, to the **ICA Regional Co-operative Youth Seminar 2004**.

Since we are the host country for this important event, Malaysia is extremely pleased to be with you during the seminar.

2. It is an enjoyment and privilege for me to be with you this morning, particularly the intercontinental young co-operators, as you are the new potential co-operative leaders and administrators in this millennium. I do wish this program could expose us with immeasurable knowledge and experiences to further enhance and sharpen our leadership and management qualities.
3. I congratulate jointly organizing committee; that is, ROAP and ANGKASA for successfully managing today's Seminar. The selection of seminar theme “Co-operative Participation in the Changing Environment”, I think may

contribute some futuristic vision and realistic strategies toward better co-operative movements.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Historically, co-operative movements have been introduced and coined in the late 19th Century in England and the United States. The introduction of the movements were started at the rural areas which mainly practicing agricultural activities. Perhaps, most of the co-operative movements in our own nation are also experiencing the same phenomenon. Currently, there are about 800 millions people across the world are the members of the co-operative societies. In Malaysia, we have more than 4,000 co-operative organizations whereby 20 percents of 25 millions population of this nation, are registered member or co-operators.
5. After nearly 160 years of the establishment, co-operative movements do some changes in their activities. In some European countries, the movements contribute at least 9% of the country's GNP, dominate most of local food product in the domestic market and the most remarkable success of this organization when they can establishing own commercial bank. Thus we have to do some re-focusing and re-engineering. Those changing have to be intimately monitored and observed as the patterns occurred could help us to review our own.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. Due to this matter, allow me to quote words of Malaysian Premier early of this year during commencement of the **National Co-operative Policy or DKN**. He says: "*Co-operative movement is an important catalyst in the economic development of the nation equally with government services and private sectors*".
7. Such connotations reflect the major role of co-operative in helping economic growth hand-in-hand with other sectors. Having looked at these changes, roles and patterns lately, I supposed we have to adopt **ENTREPRENEURSHIP CO-OPERATIVE**. One could ask me what is this notion like and how we are going to go about it.
8. What **Co-operative Entrepreneurship** seeks to achieve is to bring into the co-operative creativity and innovation, market orientation and strategic management. We may borrow some recommendations pointed by the **Conference of Co-operative Ministers** sometimes ago. For co-operative to be entrepreneurial it has to be:
 - Creative, innovative, proactive and calculated risk takers,
 - Driven by market opportunities and customer preferences,
 - Business-like in their decision-making processes,

- Efficient in the production of goods and services to reduce cost and enhance quality, and
 - Driven by profits and growth so that members can optimize their benefits and welfare.
9. Though these recommendations sound like converting the movements into business or corporate unit, I believe, if one could increase the earnings in the group, the socio-economic status and welfare of the members will be at better quality.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. Youth entrepreneurship programs are proliferating in schools and communities across the country and globe and on the Internet. An inquiry through one Internet search engine, as reported by Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Clearinghouse on Entrepreneurship Education (CELCEE) recently, brought up 11,200 hits under the topic youth entrepreneurship, another search engine brought up over a million! A new generation of youth is seeking independence along with income as they choose to start businesses rather than work the variety of low jobs open to young people.
11. Certainly, it is inspiring to study that youths of today are being exposed to the co-operative cultural more sensible, hands-on and synchronize way. Co-operative seemed to be a very precious organization and its task to look after socio-economic and welfare status is remained. Nevertheless, its principles were a little bit skewed according to nearby elements. These matters have to be addressed promptly in this semiar as they concern all of us in this room.
12. In Malaysia, ANGKASA has introduced co-operative associations at most of our secondary schools which then could benefit more than two million young co- operators throughout the country. The conduction of trainings for school co-operative board and audit committee members by the ANGKASA helped those movements for better operational management. The introduction of an integrated software package, namely the “SEKKOP 123”, which consists of members database, inventory and stock control system, point of sale system, and financial statement generator gives some added values for co-operatives.
13. “School Co-operative Tourism Project” pioneered in some selected school co-operatives currently, allows the schools to host and prepare an appropriate “tourism package” which includes local educational figures. ANGKASA also gives hand to co-operatives which are in need of some professional advises and assistance. I wish to congratulate schools, ANGKASA and the Ministry of Education for their effort.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

14. Due to this matter, the Ministry of Entrepreneur and Co-operative Development (MECD), Malaysia has provided a series of programs and financial assistance to help teens and youths in entrepreneurship career. It includes Young Entrepreneur's Program, University's Student Entrepreneurship Program, and others. Apart of financial assistance from its agencies, MECD also provides low-rental business strategic premises for potential young entrepreneurs in this nation. Entrepreneurship has to be inculcated amongst the youths near the beginning of their age. The government provides our youngsters with well-equipped training centers such as MARA Colleges, Professional Colleges, Kuala Lumpur University and its twinning branches and so forth. We strongly believe that by doing so, the entrepreneurship culture is subsequently can be personalized by our young generation soon.
15. Before I end, I hope you will enjoy and success in the training and the knowledge and skills gained could benefit us in improving our co-operative movements in rural farm area. Once again, welcome to Malaysia and have a pleasant stay in Malaysia.
16. To conclude this speech, allow me to express some words to be thought for, that is, what is the different between NECESSITY ENTREPRENEUR and OPPORTUNITY ENTREPRENEUR?
17. With that remarks, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to declare: **The ICA REGIONAL CO-OPERATIVE YOUTH SEMINAR 2004**, officially open.

I. thank you.

Keynote Address by
YBh. Dato' Professor Dr Hasim Yaacob
Naib Canselor, Universiti Malaya

YBhg. Dato' Professor Dr Shaharil b. Talib
Pengarah, Institut Asia Eropah, Universiti Malaya

Introduction

On behalf of University of Malaya, I am extremely honoured to be able to speak on this auspicious occasion in front of our distinguished guests and our young co-operators from countries in the Asia-Pacific Region. Welcome to Malaysia. I trust that you will have lively and fruitful discussions over the next three days and, in doing so, advance the ideas, interests and institutions that have made the co-operative movement such a vital and vibrant force of social advancement for more than a century and-a-half. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr Mohd Said Mohd Kadis, Chairman of the University of Malaya Co-operative Bookshop, who shared some of his experiences that helped me form the ideas of today's talk.

At the outset, I also want to acknowledge what a privilege it is to speak in front of Royal Professor Ungku Abdul Aziz, the father of the modern co-operative movement in Malaysia. I hope that my observations are consistent with the principles of co-operation he has so fervently espoused as well as the broader values articulated by the International Co-operative Alliance as they meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

The young co-operators assembled here today have the potential to be the true ambassadors of the future. In that regard, it is perhaps a truism to say that the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. However, the kind of future that can be imagined and then built is not simply a given of history. It is a future that has to be fought for, to be struggled over, so that the "co-operative identity" embodied in the work of the ICA can become the common sense of our age.

This will be no easy task. It is not an exaggeration to suggest that your presence today is a symbol of one kind of future - the quest for understanding among young co-operative leaders in promoting the spirit of self-help, mutuality, social responsibility and ethical values. But the principles, values and aspirations of co-operation are, of course, not the only model of organisation and development on offer today, especially during this period of change in the world order.

We are all surely aware that the era usually characterised by reference to globalisation has not seen the fulfilment of the prospectus of opportunity, prosperity and peace that was offered by some of its strongest advocates.

Rather the global age has been marked equally by the growing development gap between rich and poor with poverty as its most visible manifestation. The global age has seen the unprecedented power and scope of footloose transnational corporations pursuing the logic of profit maximisation and with only tenuous linkages with the societies in which they locate. At the same time, the global age has also worsened a growing sense of uncertainty and vulnerability for many of the world's workers, as a report published this week by the International Labour Organisation (one of the ICA's key partners) makes abundantly clear. Last, but by no means least, the global age has seen a heightening of conflict both within states and between different groups of states, fuelled by what many perceive as an absence of effective international law and governance mechanisms.

As a result the world order is already in very grave danger - globalisation has many discontents. In light of this reality, the challenge of overcoming new conflicts, new inequalities and new injustices remains an extremely pressing task.

And it is against this backdrop that the young co-operators of today must map out the terrain of the struggles that lie ahead. At the heart of the co-operative vision, therefore, must be the worldview that takes co-operation and not conflict as its watchword. This will not be easy, as I have already suggested. But with respect to the historical struggles to implant the co-operative vision across the world, often in unpromising circumstances, the youthful leaders of the future will carry the burden of taking that vision into the new millennium.

Let me focus on some of the core issues confronting the co-operative movement today, drawing in part on history in order to suggest ways in which the co-operative endeavour can remain a vehicle for progressive human change. I want to touch briefly on three main issues:

- An appreciation of co-operative values and principles
- The historical legacies of the co-operative movement and their contemporary significance
- Practical recommendations for the future of the co-operative movement

Understanding of Co-operative Values and Principles

Although I am sure that all of you are deeply committed to the core ideals of co-operation, I do still think there is some value in rehearsing the meaning of co-operation, and its underlying values and principles, which form the fundamental ingredients of the co-operative movement. A co-operative basically means an organization that works for the common interest of its members in meeting their needs. But more than this, and as the ICA reminds us, a co-operative enterprise is built on deeply-entrenched values that have remained remarkably consistent over time. These values include self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity.

Furthermore, there is also a deep self-consciousness about the ethical or moral basis for co-operation so that the values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others are considered to be prerequisites for building effective co-operative associations.

In simple terms, then, co-operation means organization of the members, by the members and for the members. Many years ago when Royal Professor Ungku Aziz was talking about the co-operative principles, he simply said that a co-operative is an institution that is established to conduct activities by working together for common needs. In our Malay Language: *'koperasi adalah organisasi yang diwujudkan untuk menjalankan kegiatan bekerjasama bersama-sama untuk kepentingan bersama'*. It is not easy to translate these words directly into English, but the spirit of them is unmistakable in highlighting the values of working together for mutual advancement. It is a very simple statement but one pregnant with deep cultural resonance, embedded in all societies across the region and across time.

I want to be sure that every one of us is clear in our minds about these basic definitions of the "co-operative identity". Only then can we speak of the **seven noble co-operative principles** which we all know very well.

Knowing the meaning of co-operative and the principles of co-operation, however, is a necessary but insufficient starting-point for our reflections over the next three days. We also need to translate these principles into real practical terms - the **'how to'** of co-operatives. I will return to these practical issues in my concluding comments.

Let me also say this in my initial remarks. The real strength of your co-operative movement lies in your shared experiences, shared values, shared sense of purpose and shared results. This sense of reciprocal relationships - as well as mutual understanding - has brought the movement forward over more than a century and-a-half and has become more relevant in meeting today's challenges where there is every danger of alienation from one's distinct culture leading to what

Marcuse once called “one-dimensional man”. In light of this, then, the main elements of co-operation must embody:

- A sense of sincerity of purpose
- The element of consensus and working together
- A sense of mutual respect for the common good
- Above all, co-operation must be about the social advancement of all members of society

By digging deeply into your culture and social instincts, the spirit and soul of the co-operative movement can rise to meet the challenges posed by today’s uncertain environment.

The historical legacies of the Co-operative movement and their contemporary significance

Let me come to the second point of my presentation today. As an historian, I want to suggest to you that an important way of mapping out today’s challenges is to go back to the future. What this means is that we need to dig deeply into your roots in order to uncover and to rediscover what is valuable and meaningful from the past.

The roots of the co-operative movement, of course, lie in the discontents of another age - but one with remarkable parallels with our own. The conventional story of the formal beginnings are well-known. Just as Great Britain was at the zenith of its economic, political and naval power in the middle of the nineteenth century so the contradictions of the new industrial world were becoming increasingly apparent. On the one hand, the great icon of British imperial power - the East India Company - was producing and reproducing wealth on an unprecedented scale. But on the other hand, as Engels so graphically described, the condition of the working class in England was subjected to conditions of extreme destitution. But these oppressive conditions were not simply accepted in a fatalistic manner. The working people also began to organise. This, then, was the beginning of the formal co-operative movement arising from the activities of the Rochdale Pioneers almost 160 years ago, when they formed the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society on 24 October 1844. From its very beginnings, then, there was a profound sense that the injustices of the industrial society could be redressed by the self-help and self-organisation of working people themselves.

With your permission, I would like to dwell a little on why Manchester - the heart of the industrial revolution - was the birthplace of the modern co-operative movement. Of course it was the cotton industry that spurred the fabulous growth of wealth and the parallel immiseration and gave rise to workers’ self-

organisation. But this history is also rooted in the wider picture of British imperialism in the nineteenth century. After all, it was the East India Company that had destroyed the flourishing Indian textile industry over the previous century - not least by cutting off the thumbs of weavers and forcing them into the penury of cotton production for the mills of Manchester. The results were two-fold: the centuries-old culture of fine cloth production - of muslin, calico, damask and chintz - was decimated. At the same time, India became the single most important market for the manufactured cotton produced by those destitute English mill operatives.

In today's era of globalisation, I hope that this piece of history sets you thinking about the ways in which our histories, our conditions and our struggles are all deeply interwoven. But that is not the only lesson of history I want to draw your attention to. While the formal history of the co-operative movement is well-known to all of you, I want to take you in another direction - one that brings us closer to Asia. Was there no co-operative spirit in Asia? Was there no self-help organisation of ordinary people shaping their own struggles and destinies? The answer, of course, is that the co-operative spirit and methods of organisation are in fact deeply embedded in Asian cultures and societies. For example, the guilds of artisans celebrated the births of new members, took them through the rites of passage, married off their kind, and buried their dead. In the economic domain, worker's self-organisation maintained standards of production, organised market networks, engaged in training through elaborate apprenticeship systems and thus ensured the vitality and sustainability of the economic systems on which many Asian polities - in India, in China, in Java - were based. Surely, there are tremendous lessons from this rich, autonomous history for the organisation of the co-operative movement today. So one of the great challenges for you today is precisely to galvanise - to touch the pulse - of this spirit of self-help and self-reliance in Asia.

Just as Asia has deep roots of co-operation, I want to share a few moments with you about the co-operative movement here in Malaysia. On a personal level, I myself grew up in a co-operative household which sheltered me. My neighbours included the legendary P. Ramlee, the father of Malaysian cinema, and Jins Shamsuddin who were integral members of the early co-operative community in Setapak. At the height of the 13 May 1969 crisis - where the Malay heartland of Gombak interfaced with the Chinese new village of Setapak - in our community there was stability and social cohesion, and this can be attributed to the spirit of self-help and mutuality that brought us together. In fact, the co-operative Muhibah (Goodwill) Committee organised the food for the victims in Gombak and Setapak irrespective of which community they came from.

This kind of self-help organisation I have described from my personal experiences of course had its roots in earlier examples of co-operation in

Malaysian society. Let me offer you three historical illustrations, the first of which was still-born, but the latter two showcases the strength and diversity of the Co-operative identity in this country.

The first example comes from 1929, at the beginning of a major economic crisis that affected colonial Malaya very badly, when a cooperator named Radin Hannafi, village headman of Mukim VII, Tanjung Sembrong, proposed to form a Malay-based general trading company on co-operative principles. The members were to come from the families of the district. However, the application was turned down by the colonial authorities as the state saw itself as the benevolent provider and not the people organising themselves.

Secondly, moving forward to 1952, in the prelude to Malaysian independence, the existing uneven economic balance in the countryside was addressed and rural poverty was identified as perhaps the most pressing issue of the day. A high-powered committee was set up, chaired by the Chief Minister of Perak, and whose members included the Honourable Member for Education, Member for Economic Affairs, Member for Agriculture and Forestry and a senior civil servant.

Last, but not least, there was a young academic from the University of Malaya who is now our mentor in the co-operative movement, Ungku Abdul Aziz. Out of this came the Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA) which was formally incorporated in 1956 under the Land and Co-operative Act and became the main instrument for the redistribution of wealth, resources and opportunities in the countryside. *This historical snippet demonstrates the role of the youthful visionary and the way in which the co-operative method, sponsored in this instance by the state, could be used to address a really pressing issue of social marginalisation and poverty.*

And thirdly, there is the establishment of the Malaysian Pilgrims Management and Fund Board (Tabung Haji) in November 1962 in order to prevent the exploitation of ordinary pilgrims by middlemen - a situation which had been rife during the colonial period. This example of voluntary resource mobilization had been prefaced in a working paper produced by Ungku Aziz in 1959 entitled "A Programme for the Economic Improvement of Pilgrims". Since its formation, Tabung Haji has been able to eliminate the middleman at all levels, help make the pilgrimage more orderly and provide better facilities for tens of thousands of pilgrims each year. Before the establishment of Tabung Haji, Muslims in Malaysia, 70 percent of whom live in the rural areas and make up the poorest section of the population, used to save for the haj by keeping their money in pillows, under the bed, in cupboards or in jars buried in the ground. These traditional methods of saving—designed to avoid having their money tainted by interest which is forbidden by Islam—were not only detrimental to the rural economy but also to national economic growth. In addition, Tabung Haji's

economic activities in oil palm and cocoa plantations, housing and industrial concerns bring benefit not only to the depositors who receive a yearly share of the profits, but also to the economy of the country, creating thousands of jobs for Muslims and non-Muslims alike. The Tabung Haji is not only an institution serving the needs of Muslims but the population at large.

The purpose of taking some time to talk about these historical precedents is to demonstrate - in concrete terms - the ways in which the co-operative spirit and co-operative modes of organization resonate throughout the society. In each case, these examples emerged directly from the social landscape and sought to redefine ways of addressing the social and economic needs of local communities in ways that were consistent with deeply-held cultural values. I can think of no better illustration of how Co-operatives provide effective solutions to pressing problems.

Practical recommendations for the future of the Co-operative movement

Today, the co-operative movement - represented first and foremost by the ICA which has more than 230 member organisations from over 100 countries, representing more than 760 million individuals worldwide - is an organisation to be reckoned with. One out of eight people in the globe therefore are a part of this vibrant and vital community of interests.

Drawing from the inspiring legacies of the past, the question before us over the next three days is how can we leave a mark for future generations. How can the Co-operative movement - with its awesome strength - really come of age on the world stage and begin to flex its muscles to meet the challenges posed by globalisation that I outlined at the beginning. From the many issues highlighted by the work of the ICA - especially in addressing the demands of the UN Millennium Development Goals - I want to propose two areas for our consideration.

The first is to recognise that education is a primary tool and an imperative to progressive social change. Goals should be set to establish co-operative institutions in all the leading universities in the Asia-Pacific region. In this light, it might be innovative to marry the co-operative movement with the entrepreneurship spirit. That is to say, the university co-operative institution can develop programmes to train entrepreneurs who then carry the values of mutuality, social responsibility, transparency and good governance into wealth-creating and value-adding activities. One practical measure could be the establishment of prizes and other incentives for the most innovative schemes coming out of the region's universities, ones which can demonstrate the application of the co-operative principles. In the long run, this marriage of co-operation and entrepreneurship will offer a tangible alternative to the unfettered

power of carpetbaggers - those global firms who believe they don't owe anything to anybody but who own everything.

The second recommendation is recognising that tourism is a fast-growing sector in developing economies in the region and thus we could establish co-operative emporiums in all our cities to release the goods of artisans that are now currently locked up in limited markets of New Delhi, Beijing, Manila and Jakarta. A visit to these cities and their state-sponsored arcades will immediately demonstrate how much work of artisans are stored on the shelves and not released into the global market. The new global emporium will house in one space all the creativity of the world's artisans and open to the tourist sector the sounds and smells of Asia.

In welcoming you once again to our country and in invoking the spirit of Asia - both its past and its present - the young co-operators gathered in Kuala Lumpur for the next three days have a wonderful opportunity to enhance networking in the region. But more than this, you should dare to imagine new futures.

Case Studies - India

Self Employment and Entrepreneurship

Presented by : **YASHAVANTHA DONGRE**

University of Mysore, Mysore

VENKATESH I.

Natesan Institute of Cooperative Management, Chennai

&

SURESH RAMANA MAYYA

MGM College, Udupi

It has been well demonstrated world over that Cooperatives have great potential in realizing the varied needs of member communities. Therefore, cooperative initiatives have emerged in all walks of life. Indeed India is the live example to demonstrate this potential. In India cooperatives are seen in the areas of production, marketing, processing, service and even in non-business areas such as sports, orphanages, old age homes etc. Cooperative efforts are found among the most elite groups of the society as well as the most marginalized, such as the indigenous people.

Innovations are the hallmark of cooperative movement. Whenever common people are found in crisis, there has been a cooperative solution attempted. The present day situation is yet another crisis period for people throughout the world. The unleashing of globalization and embracing of market oriented policies by governments have aggravated the domestic contradictions, especially in the developing countries. Exit policies, downsizing, retrenchment, contract labour etc., have become the catch phrase for the corporates and they have miseries for the common people which cooperatives may have to address. Self Employment and Entrepreneurship through cooperative endeavors are therefore the most important issues of the day.

The Cooperative Entrepreneurship

Self-help is a basic cooperative value. It is obvious that cooperatives innovate and come out with new solutions through mutual help. The cooperative enterprise

today has to reinvent itself on two primary counts. The first is the creation of employment opportunities for the member community. Here the adage would be that people will have to create their own job opportunities through cooperative efforts. Similarly a cooperative enterprise need to work as a 'constructive competitor' to the otherwise ruthless private sector. The entrepreneurial qualities of the cooperative movement will have to be fully exploited today, to answer the many ills of globalization.

There are examples of innovative entrepreneurial experiments under the Indian cooperative movement, which have been working well. Generally led by the skilled workers, these cooperatives have dug out the best entrepreneurial skills out of them. The old and the new experiments cited here would demonstrate that entrepreneurship under cooperative umbrella have a lot to offer to this world. There are three cases cited here. Each one has its own distinct characteristics. Together these cases demonstrate that entrepreneurial skills of any group of people can find a realization under the cooperative banner.

INDIAN COFFEE HOUSE

(The Case of joint entrepreneurship of the skilled and the unskilled)

The Indian Coffee House is an enterprise launched in 1957-58 by the workers expelled from Indian Coffee Board. At present Indian Coffee House (ICH) has branches in six states and two union territories within India. The employee's Cooperative Society of the Indian Coffee Board runs Indian Coffee House. Nearly 4818 employees are working in the 158 branches of Indian Coffee House all over the country. Out of this, 63 of these branches operate in Kerala. All over the country, Indian Coffee House is run in the same style and maintains the same standards. We present here a profile of the Kannur Unit of ICH in Kerala.

The Background

Formerly, Indian coffee was almost entirely exported. Very little was consumed within the country. The export market completely collapsed on account of the II World War. The coffee planters panicked. The only way out was to popularise coffee within the country. The British opened Coffee Houses all over the country in order to encourage the beverage among the natives. That's how the first Coffee Houses were established in Bombay and Hyderabad during the year 1936. The Indian Coffee Promotion Board was established in 1940, which was reconstituted in 1944 as Indian Coffee Board. By 1948, there were 48 coffee houses, one coffee van, three depots which together employed 1500 employees. "The coffee house employees did not have any justifiable scale of pay. After working long hours, they often had to do odd jobs for the top officers of the Board." said MR N S Parameswaran Pillai who took the initiative of rehabilitating employees who were dismissed.

In 1956, the Plantation Enquiry Commission report recommended the closing down of all the coffee houses and retrenching all employees. The commission said that the objective of popularising coffee had already been achieved. AK Gopalan, MP protested but could not prevail upon the government to revoke the decision. He suggested that the coffee houses should be run by the employees themselves as cooperatives. In January 1958, the first Coffee Board Workers' Cooperative Society was registered at Bangalore.

Organisational Structure

A cooperative society named as All India Coffee Workers Cooperative Societies Federation Limited coordinates all the ICH across India. In the wake of the formation of Coffee Workers' Cooperative Societies in most of the Indian States by the ex-employees of the Coffee Board, it was of common interest and a matter of necessity to organize an All-India Body to co-ordinate the activities of the Coffee Workers' Societies and also to formulate a joint committee to voice the problems faced by them. The Federation also supplies raw coffee seeds to the member societies.

The following table shows details of Indian coffee houses affiliated to the Federation.

**Indian Coffee Houses Affiliated to the All India Coffee
Worker Co-op Societies Federation Limited**

S. No	Registered Office	Number of Indian Coffee Houses Affiliated	Number of Staff
1.	New Delhi	12	353
2.	Bangalore	02	61
3.	Calcutta	02	25
4.	Jabalpur	55*	1600
5.	Kannur	13	282
6.	Lucknow	01	10
7.	Mumbai	06	430
8.	Nagpur	09	90
9.	Pondicherry	08	217
10.	Trissur	50	1750
Total		158	4,818

* Includes 5 lodges run by the Society.

Source: Office Records of the Federation, New Delhi.

The above table shows that Indian Coffee Houses affiliated to the federation are spread in different parts of the country. The Trissur unit is having the maximum number of workers. The Federation is directly running one coffee house, which is situated at Maulanal Azad Medical College, New Delhi. There are many

concrete programmes and member societies strengthen the hands of the Federation to combat the common problems and hurdles faced by societies.

To study the socio-economic contribution of Indian Coffee House, we have focussed our attention on Kannur Unit of Indian Coffee House. The Kannur unit of Indian Coffee House was established during the year 1958 with the following objectives:

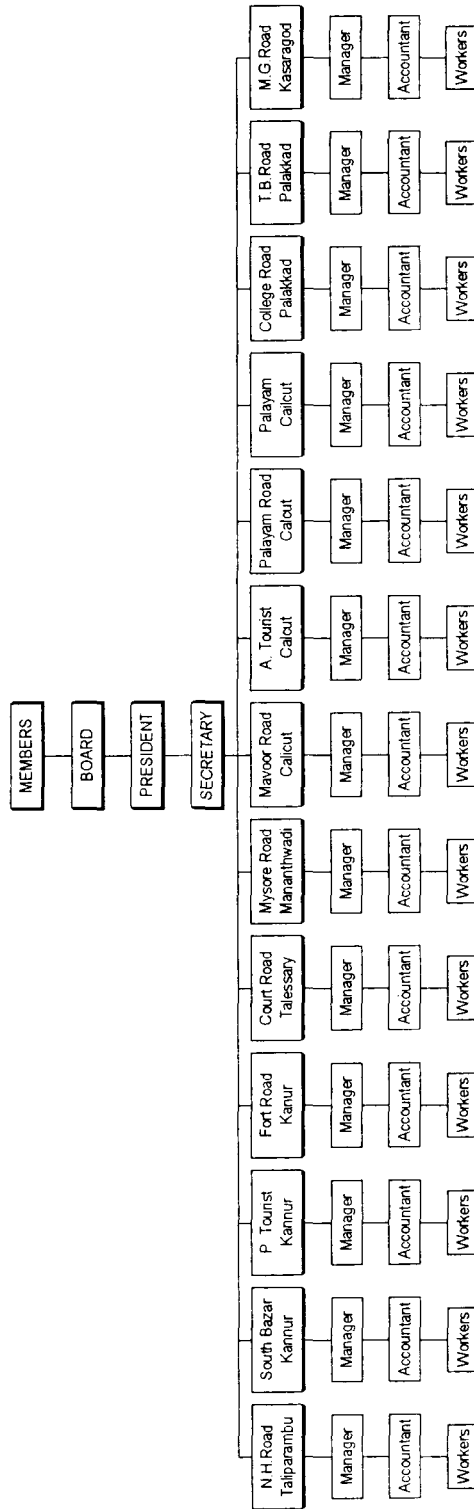
1. To impart cooperative culture so that self-sufficiency and economy can be achieved among members.
2. To give employment opportunities to those workers who had been laid off from the Indian Coffee Board in hotel and other allied industries.
3. To deal in the business of coffee beans.
4. To undertake business connected with hotel such as dairy, bakery and confectionary.
5. To assist the workers of Indian Coffee House through bulk purchases of their requirements and providing them the required quantity of such goods.
6. To run the agency of coffee board and to negotiate with the Government.

The managing committee of the society has got nine members, eight from the workers and one from the sympathizers. Government is not having any representation in the managing committee. Election is held once in every three years.

Ich, The Kannur Unit

At present the Kannur unit of Indian Coffee Workers Cooperative Society is having 13 branches. The administration of the society has been decentralised. Every unit is required to submit its accounts to the head office regularly. The manager and accountant are responsible for the smooth running of the branches. They have got various rights like rotation of duties, procurement of raw materials, fixation of overtime and maintenance of accounts of branches. The organisational structure of the sample unit is projected in the following chart.

**Indian Coffee Workers Cooperative Society Limited
Organisational Structure**



Present Position

Indian Coffee Workers Cooperative Society Limited has been making profits besides extending various socio-economic benefits to workers. The society has already constructed its administrative office at Kannur at a cost of Rs. 9 lakhs and started operating from the newly constructed office. It has taken all the positive measures for the consolidation and strengthening of its branches and at the same time new branches are also being started. It has initiated measures to start a new branch at Malappuram, where there is no branch at present.

The present position of the society can be understood from the table given below:

Statistics at a Glance (ICH - KANNUR)

Date of Commencement	: 7 th August, 1958
Date of Registration	: 2 nd July, 1958
Number of members as on 31st March, 2000	: 373
Business turnover during 1999-2000 (Rs)	: 7.2 Crores.
Simple average annual growth in turnover since 1995-96	: 42%
Profit during 1999-2000 (Rs)	: 3 Lakhs.
Number of employees during 1999-2000	: 349
Audit Classification since 1993-94	: B
Share Capital (Rs)	
Authorised (Rs)	: 3 Lakhs
Paid-up (Rs)	: 2.76 Lakhs.

Source: Audited Annual Accounts of the Co-op. Society.

For the year 1999-2000, the society registered an average monthly turnover of Rs. 60 lakhs. The management works on the principle of instilling faith and cooperation among the employees. The general body consisting of all permanent employees make up the decision-making unit. An executive committee consisting of 9 members is elected by the general body through secret ballot, once in two years. Political parties do not play a role in election merit and commitment alone are the considerations.

All coffeehouses maintain a uniform standard. Some things never change. The dawn of the day, the sequence of the seasons and perhaps the Indian Coffee House. The aroma, the ambience and the furniture present a truly nostalgic picture. Incidentally, the old timers say that even the photographs on the wall have remained the same. Mahatma Gandhi, a cup of fresh brewing coffee and a photograph of an old time actress from down South, Ragini, continue to

adorn the walls. One has to only enter the Coffee House to feel the still lurking presence of its past glory. The spare walls, old but sturdy furniture and the reeking smell of coffee compliment the historical lineage of the place, a glaring contrast to the Coffee Shops in five-star hotels that are gaining momentum today. The youth may have shifted their loyalties to the fast food joints but the diehard loyalists still refuse to hear a word against their all time favourite joint. The menu consists of Dosa, Idli, Vada, Sandwiches, Porota, Cutlets and the rest. But what stands out is that true to its name, the Coffee House offers a wide choice where coffee is concerned. Cold coffee, cold cream coffee, hot cream coffee, tray coffee - it's all there.

The various benefits offered to the member workers in ICH are listed in the Table below:

Table 4. 1. Benefits at a Glance (ICH)

1.	Dearness Allowance	:	Based on Cost of Living Index. Now it is more than 229%. Increase twice in a year.
2.	Bonus	:	Continuously paying. 20 % from the year 1996-97.
3.	Dividend	:	Based on profit. 20% from 1997 onwards.
4.	Uniform	:	Yearly three pairs, each pair worth of Rs.300.
5.	Provident Fund	:	12 % by employees, equal amount by the Society.
6.	Special Duty Allowance	:	Based on work, Average salary for holiday work, Rs. 9 per hour for overtime work.
7.	Medical Facility	:	Medical Assistance is given from Employees Benefit Fund set up by appropriation of profit.
8.	Gratuity	:	Paid at the time of retirement as per rules.
9.	Earned Leave	:	One day for every 11 days of work in the previous calendar year.
10.	Casual Leave	:	20 days in a year.
11.	National Holidays	:	13 days leave on important National Holidays and Festivals.
12.	Personnel Insurance and Accident Compensation Insurance.	:	Rs. 80,000.00 compensation on death.
13.	Group Insurance	:	Rs. 35,000.00 on death.

Source: Office Records of Society.

The turnover of most of the branches have been increasing, which can be seen from the above table. It registered a percentage of increase of 20.83 during the year 1998-99 and 19.98 in the year 1999-2000. In the last three years ICH Kannur has shown steady growth. There is greater job security for the workers and no retrenchments. In fact with the help of existing members new ICH type of enterprises are coming up. Indeed the hotel industry in states like Kerala, which is generally the domain of the private sector, has to put up with the high level of benchmarks set by cooperative enterprises like ICH.

IRULA SNAKE CATCHERS COOPERATIVE SOCIETY (Entrepreneurship exhibition by illiterate indigenous people)

Introduction

Irula Snake Catchers society is primarily formed by Irula tribes who are engaged in catching of snakes and selling it. They were mostly found in southern states and in particular in Kancheepuram district of Tamilnadu. According to a survey conducted in Tamil Nadu there is a population of about 5.74 lakhs scheduled tribes and among them 36 sub tribal communities are existing in Tamil Nadu of which Irulas are predominant community having a population of 1,16,850.

About Irulas

The Irula communities have been dwelling in the dark forests since ancient time. Their food mainly consists of fruits, tubers, lizards and jungle cat which are found in forests. They have been called in different names viz., Hunters, Forest Naickers, Snake Charmers, Snake Catchers, Snake Man etc. Today due to deforestation and extinction of several animals and plants the Irulas were forced to migrate from forests to villages and towns in search of food, shelter and employment. Wild life protection act and environmental acts made life still worst for Irulas.

The woes of Irulas multiplied when the government banned the snakeskin trade in 1976. The snake catchers of chengalpattu district suffered a lot since they were prevented from continuing their traditional work. The government did not permit snake catching since the snakes were killed indiscriminately and their skin was sold. This practice went against the principles of wild life protection and preservation act.

The credit for starting the Irula snake catchers industrial cooperative society goes to Dr. Ramulas Whitakar an American who settled in India. After his education in Kodaikanal he evinced keen interest in living with Irulas and catching snakes in chengalpattu district. He then went on to New York and worked with Dr. William Haste, who did research on snakes. Afterwards he came down to Chitlapakam and lived with Irulas.

Dr. Ramulas Whitakar was the founder of Madras Snake Park at Adayar and later the madras Crocodile Bank near Vada Nemmeli Mahabalipuram. He along with Tmt. Revathi Mukerjee a social welfare activist met the registrar of cooperative societies and Department of Industries and Commerce and sought the help to promote downtrodden unemployed youth of Irulas and obtained self-employment schemes. On his proposal to form a snake catcher's cooperative society, the government of Tamil nadu gave their assent and the Irulas Snake Catchers Industrial Cooperative Society. Was registered on 22nd December 1978 with an initial membership of 26 Irula snake catchers.

Objectives of The Society

1. The main object of the society is to improve the economic condition of the Irulas by providing sales outlet.
2. To establish a centre for maintenance of snakes and extraction of venom
3. To capture and sell live snakes.
4. To collect and sell minor forest produce like medicinal herbs, honey etc.
5. To sell snakes and rodents to government institutions wherever it is required.
6. Capture, mount and sale of biological specimens for zoology departments of schools and colleges.
7. Control of rodents, termites and other pests through biological methods.
8. To make the Irulas natural history skill available for technical field assistance to naturalists colleges and government agencies involved in wildlife study and collection.
9. To provide essential basic services such as medical, educational thrift and savings and credit facilities.

Business Performance Year	Sales of Venom Venom Sales
1999 – 2000	32,05,700
2000 – 2001	58,45,500
2001 – 2002	41,58,850
2002 – 2003	35,72,750
2003 – 2004	56,36,500

At the time of starting the society in 1978-79, income from the sale of venom was Rs.6000/- only. But in the year 2003-04 the society had a turnover of Rs.56,36,500. The sales of venom are ever increasing because of its increasing requirement throughout the world.

Financial Viability

The funds of the society are through membership fee, entrance fee and gate collections of the Snake Park and income from sale of venom. The society also generates money through catching of snakes from areas where there is snake menace for a nominal fee.

Profit / Loss

<u>Year</u>	<u>Profit / Loss</u>
1999 – 2000	11,76,061
2000 – 2001	28,82,474
2001 – 2002	14,82,474
2002 – 2003	10,50,565
2003 – 2004	8,52,161

The society is making continuous profits but when we look at the above table where the performance of recent years were given the profit is seen slowly declining but growing steadily because of the dwindling snake population due to illegal poaching of snakes for the skin and its export.

Operational Efficiency

The society is involved in purchase of snakes, extraction of venom from snakes, preserves and maintain it then finally it is supplied to various institutions involved in manufacture of anti-venom serum. And no stage in the process of venom extraction heavy equipment, instruments and modern technology is used but only after venom is extracted freezer is used to preserve the venom. The society is able to sell the venom at competitive prices. It also gives them better bargaining power and made the business a viable proposition.

Eco-friendly Technology

The society does not involve in any activity that is against nature. All the techniques and process involved here is indigenous, user friendly and Eco friendly. Which greatly helps the people of this world by maintaining the ecological balance through catching of snakes and controlling rodent and frog population and preventing it from becoming a menace.

Promotion and Benefits of Members and Employees

The Irula Snake Catchers Cooperative Society renders various services to its members for their economic and social development. A member having a licence to capture snake can earn Rs.3000 to Rs.4000/- per month.

The members are provided with following instruments at free of cost every year crow bar, knife, cotton bag, shoe, umbrella, wire bag, vessel, anti venom bottle and uniforms which helps the members in catching and supply of snakes to the society.

The society arranges for its members to get a terraced house with all infrastructure facilities in the locality. As the embers have a permanent settlement after joining the society they have started living peaceful life in a particular area instead of migrating from one place to another place.

The society has made Irulas feel comfortable about their profession and confident about their life. It has increased the bargaining power of the members.

Contribution in Rural Transformation

Mostly the Irula tribes are found in rural areas and in forest areas, which in turn is isolated and several kilometers away from main road or village. The people were illiterate and migratory in nature. Since the starting of this society they were able to overcome poverty, uncertainty of income and employment and made their trade legal.

Democratic practices in choosing leaders have granted a new found confidence among the Irulas and made them vociferous, dedicated and willing to take up the responsibility for the welfare of the community. The label cooperative has given their profession a legitimacy

Income and Employment Generation

Irula get better prices for their catches. There is a great demand for venom and the cooperative society takes the responsibility of collecting and selling the venom to various research centres. Hence the Irulas are able to engage continuously in catching the snakes and earn stable income. More and more people from Irula community are forced to catch snakes and supply it to the society as members. The society also employs people who can handle various poisonous snakes in extraction of venom, preservation and maintenance of venom working in the society as well as in demonstrations.

Social Responsibility

Ecological balance is maintained when the snakes are extracted and the left in the forests. The government and private institutions where there is a problem of snake menace can request the society to send the members to capture the snakes. Which the society will ask the members to capture the snakes and release them safely into the remote areas of the forests for a fee. The society pays Rs.140/- per day to the members and was able to generate more than 4 lakhs of rupees in this way.

The society also make arrangement for demonstration of snake venom extraction which is shown the public from morning 9.30 AM to 4.30 PM in the evening at the snake venom collection centre. During demonstration 4 species of venomous snakes is shown along with venom extraction procedures. Where during the show importance of snakes and clarify doubts of the people regarding snakes and its value and utility. The society charges entrance fee to the people visiting the society.

Business Activities

Snakes and their Varieties

There are about 250 species of snakes found in India of which 50 species are poisonous snakes. The four commonly found varieties among the 50 species are i) Indian Cobra ii) Russell Viper iii) Common Krait iv) Saw Scaled Viper. These varieties are very lethal and poisonous killing hundreds of people every year.

Purchase of Snakes and Rodents from Members

The snakes of the licenced members are purchased by the society at the following rates:

1. Indian Cobra – Rs.1000/-
2. Russell Viper – Rs. 500/-
3. Common Krait – Rs. 400/-
4. Saw Scaled Krait – Rs.100/-

The snakes are purchased only from the dates 15th to 31st of every month. The required number of snakes will be announced by the society on 10th of every month. The society also procures rats from the members, which is the main food of snakes. The rates fixed for the rats are in the range of rupees 3, 2, 1, and 25 paise per big, medium, small and young rats respectively.

Production of Anti Venom Serum from Snake Venom

The anti venom injection is manufactured from the four poisonous snake varieties Cobra, Russell Viper, Krait and Saw Scaled Viper. The venom of snakes is collected and a particular quantity is injected into the horse body. When it reaches the blood stream of horse, the blood produces the anti-bodies. After the required antibodies is produced the blood serum is collected from the horse and antibodies is separated, then the antibodies is made into a form of powder and stored which is called anti-venom injection. When anti-venom injection is administered to the person through veins who is bitten by the snakebite then he will be cured.

Self Reliant Institution

Irula snake catcher's cooperative society is being run more successfully with its own fund and without any borrowings. The profit earned by the society has been invested in cooperative banks, which is giving them better returns.

Welfare Measures To Employees / Members

1. 50 % bonus and 50 % incentive is provided every year.
2. Rs.5000/- interest free credit is provided to the members to construct house.
1. Free transport facility is provided to the members for bringing snakes.
3. 14 % dividend is given to the members on their share.
4. If a member dies Rs.1000/- is provided for his funeral expenses.
5. A medical allowance of Rs.2000/- is given every year for the members.
6. The children's of the members are provided with Rs. 1000/- as educational loan.
7. If any member is bitten by snake or dies of snake bite, then the treatment expenses will be covered by the society and Rs.10,000/- will be provided to his family in case of death.

Future Plans Of The Society

The society plans to establish herbal medicine plant grooves to develop and sell medicinal plants to people. Collection and storing of seeds to create a gene bank and sell seeds. Manufacturing handicraft with rat skins and Extracting venom from the Scorpions.

Conclusion

The society has played a very important role in improving the social, economic and cultural aspirations of the snake catchers. The society has given them a sense of an identity to their profession and provided an opportunity to live together, work together and share the ideas. It has also increased their bargaining power so as to get better price for their catches, thus rendering better services to the members. The Irulas now are confident and has come to the mainstream of the society.

The snake catcher's society is one of the successful innovative cooperative which can emulated in other parts of our country so that we make better use of the snake population available in our country in maintaining the ecological balance as well as people who were dependent on that.

Highlights Of The Society

- The society is one of the rare and innovative cooperative successfully run in the country.
- The society is in its 26th year of its existence.
- The society has transformed the lives of irula community economically and socially by providing better price for their catches and stable income.
- The society is running without any external assistance and funding.
- One of the largest supplier of snake venom to King's Institute and Haffkins Institute, Pune.
- The society is running in profit and provides bonus and dividend to the members to the tune of 59% on the profit of the society.
- The society runs a snake park called Madras Snake park in its premises.
- The society handles four major types of poisonous snakes namely Indian Cobra, Russell Viper, common Krait and Saw Scaled Viper.
- It acts as a treasure house for enthusiasts of snakes and helps various school, colleges and research institutions for educational purposes.

THE TRANSPORT COOPERATIVE SOCIETY (TCS) KOPPA

(A modern enterprise by educated young people)

The Background

Transport Cooperative Society, Koppa is a cooperative started as a breakaway enterprise from the erstwhile Shankar Transport company (Private) Limited. During those years, Shankar Transport Company was considered to be one of the efficient bus services in Shimoga, Chikkamagalur and some parts of South Kanara Districts, comprising nearly 85 routes. Around 350 workers were employed by that company.

It was a well-known fact that the workers in this company were paid low. But not much resistance was seen from the workers for almost two decades. However, the genesis and rise of any movement is greatly influenced by the economic and social system in which it operates. Low wages, a rising cost of living, pay hike in other similar private undertakings etc., brought about an awakening among the workers and accordingly, they resorted to strike on July 1987. The management dealt the strike very harshly by removing 27 workers who were in the forefront of the agitation. It also suspended certain workers and initiated various other tactics to crush even the smallest resistance.

In spite of repeated requests and negotiations, the management of Shankar Transport Company failed to respond positively to the workers' demand. Finally the workers led by Sri. Chikke Gowda, supported by All India Trade Union congress (AITUC) and contemporary trade union leaders like Sri B.K. Sunderesh and Sri. Renukaradhya, started encroaching on the sacred territory of management prerogative. However, nothing positive came out from the "Demand Week", or "Hunger Strike" and many rounds of discussions held between workers and management. Even the conciliation efforts conducted by Labour Commissioner, Bangalore and Assistant Labour commissioner, Chikkamagalore district under Section 12(1) of Industrial Disputes Act of 1947 failed to settle the dispute between the management and workers.

When there was no more space for negotiations the workers again resorted to a peaceful strike which strike lasted 53 days. However, the Management was very firm on its stand and did not agree to pay salary equal to that of other transport companies. Instead, the Management declared lock out on 7-2-91 and retrenched all the workers. Within a few days the management of Shankar Transport Company surrendered 67 permits of 80 routes to the Government (Kannada Prabaha, 1991). This amounted to the closure of the unit.

Now, it had become imperative on their part to strive hard to save their jobs. Sri. B.K.Sunderesh, local communist leader was mainly responsible for promoting the ideals of cooperation- specifically of common ownership - among the unemployed employees of Shankar Transport Company. A fraction of employees decided to mobilise their compensation amount and sought permission to run buses on cooperative basis. Accordingly, in the Meeting of Regional Transport Authority held on 11-2-91, under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Subramanya, the Employees Union of Shankar Transport Company got six permits and permission to run seven buses, on cooperative basis and also sought permission to run 35 to 40 buses (Malanada Sangathi, 1991). All the 273 workers got their compensation amount from Shankar Transport Company, out of which a group consisting of 130 workers agreed to invest their compensation amount of Rs.4.85 lakhs to strengthen TCS.

Thus, the TCS started its operations in the selected routes of Malanadu region from 8th March 1991. The Union Leader and former Mechanic of Shankar Transport Company Sri Chikke Gowda was the Chief Promoter along with ten other workers as Co-promoters. Later, on May 16th 1991, the TCS got registered with Joint Registrar, Chikkamagalur and started its efficient operations and various expansion programs.

The important objectives of the society as stated in its by laws are:

1. Furtherance of economic interest of the members, to provide appropriate and profitable employment avenues to members.

2. To establish workshop, service station and tire retreading unit.
3. To obtain and establish agency to deal with oil, lubricants and spare parts.
4. To impart training to employees in the repairing of motor vehicles and other machinery connected with transportation industry.
5. To involve members in the bodybuilding and automobile industry.
6. To inculcate the feeling of mutual help, economy and cooperative idea among the members.
7. To provide more and more employment opportunities to members.
8. To purchase or otherwise acquire any properties, goodwill, assets, liability in order to fulfil the objectives of the cooperative.
9. To raise money by the issue of shares to conduct the business of the cooperative society after adhering to the rules and regulations of Companies Act or any provisions of the Central Government and orders passed by the Registrar of the Cooperative Society.
10. To provide bus service to rural areas.

The Executive Committee

In order to manage the day today affairs of the society, the society is also authorised by its by-laws to constitute an executive committee, consisting of chairman, vice-chairman and three other directors. Subject to the terms and conditions stated in the by-laws, the Executive Committee can exercise powers and take decisions on the following:

1. Purchase of vehicles, machineries, spare parts and other equipments.
2. Appointment of workers, fixing their remuneration, determining the security deposit, if any, subject to the approval of Registrar of Cooperatives.
3. Initiate any punitive action for alleged misbehaviour, impose any fine, suspend any worker or any other disciplinary action.

The administration of the society has been decentralised by opening various sections and running of these sections has been entrusted to efficient officials. It is expected that while designing these sections, due care is bestowed to ensure that work groups consisting of people with common tasks are brought together so that they could achieve better goal orientation. The structure is also expected to ensure division of labour, specialisation, and greater efficiency. When an organisation grows, diversifies into different activities, adopts newer technology or enters newer markets, the organisational structure undergoes changes to keep phase with the phases of development. In the absence of such changes, the structure itself could become the major hurdle for growth of the

organisation. The following are the duties and responsibilities of various sections.

For the purpose of operational convenience the society is divided in to eight sections viz., Personnel section, Gate pass and verification section, Accounts section, Transport section, Traffic section, Checking section, Mechanical section and Stores section. The heads of respective sections are held directly responsible for any lapses. Each section works independently and hence there is greater accountability.

It is observed that the drivers and conductors constitute the integral aspect of any transport unit. The success of transport unit, to a greater extent, depends upon them. Hence, they constitute “A” category members. Mechanics encompass “D” category members, as they are pivotal to transport unit. In order to accommodate booking agents and other office workers “C” category has been created. Sympathisers and those who deal with cooperative, such as tyre dealers, vehicle dealers etc, are not left out, but included under “D” category members. It also helps in the capital growth of their cooperative, without adversely affecting their gearing ratio.

The idealism to usher in total democratisation on decision-making, apprehensions has paved way for misusing this democratisation process. On the one hand it has to open up the channels of vital decision making to all its employees. on the other, it has to guard itself from the problems of leakage of crucial information about the cooperative’s operations. It is observed this in only one case, where in an unusual case, the membership rights were withdrawn.

The TCS has adopted, more or less, the management structure in the old firm. The study revealed that, although founder members were able to help define managerial responsibilities and to influence key decisions in setting up the cooperative, they remained quite heavily dependent on Sri.Chikke Gowda, the President of Cooperative Society. The involvement of workers in participatory forum has not been achieved to the fullest extent due to lack of training. Though the issue of training was often discussed, it never got off the ground so far.

Membership

It may be recalled that TCS was started with a workforce of 126 employees for the unit. The society had recruited a total of 274 employees by the end of the tenth year. Out of 274 employees, only 116 workers are members of cooperative society.

We have seen that membership rights are not automatically conferred on every worker. TCS regard membership as conferring certain responsibilities as well as rights. Hence, all those employees who joined the society at its inception were granted membership. Before granting membership to new workers, the

Society wants to make sure that they will act responsibly within the cooperative. In this case, the length of time to become members is not formalised. Probably, the existing members might not wish to see their profit share diluted. So, membership can still be an important and sometimes contentious issue.

Service Conditions

The cooperative has developed well-set service conditions, categorising various wage scales under different grades. These wage scales are given in the following table:

Grade and Category-wise Wages (TCS)				
	Total Number of Workers	Salary 1991 Rs.	Salary 2001 Rs.	Difference Rs.
Driver	42	1,991.00	4,870.00	2,879.00
Conductor	35	961.00	3,638.00	2,677.00
Mechanic	26	1,300.00	4,485.00	3,185.00
Office	19	1,256.00	4,304.00	3,048.00
Checking	17	1,031.00	4,116.00	3,085.00
Watchmen	03	700.00	2,707.00	2,007.00

Source: Office Records of the Society.

It is clear from the above table that there has been considerable increase in the salary of workers during the period of 6 years. Compared to others, the founder members got more benefit.

With the relentless efforts of the employees, who built the society from scratch and are now on the board of management too, the society's annual transactions have crossed Rs. 6.37 crores. While fleet strength has touched 60, from only 5 during 1991, the number of employees has gone up to 274. The hard work and determination in developing this organisation has started paying dividend to worker and to the community at large.

The backward 'Malanad' regions owe a lot to TCS. But when the society was established ten years ago, nobody imagined that it would be a success. With its impressive performance, the society managed to get a grant of Rs. 1 lakh, from the State Government in 1993-94. The Government of Karnataka gives this grant to the best cooperative societies of Karnataka. This daring attempt by the workers to shape their own destiny also enabled them to be classified as 'A'

grade Cooperative Society from 1993-94 onwards by the Cooperative Audit Department.

The following table sums up the position of the Society by the end of its 10th year of its establishment.

Statistics at a Glance (TCS)

Date of Commencement	:	8th March, 1991
Date of Registration	:	16th May, 1991
Number of members as on 31st March, 2000	:	116
Business turnover during 1999-2000 (Rs)	:	11 Crores.
Simple average annual growth in turnover since 1999-92	:	46%
Profit during 1999-2000 (Rs)	:	2.19 Lakhs.
Number of employees during 1998-99	:	284
Employee benefits during 1999-2000 (Rs)	:	75.65 Lakhs.
Audit Classification since 1993-94	:	A
Share Capital (Rs)		
Authorised (Rs)	:	19 Lakhs
Paid-up (Rs)	:	8.09 Lakhs.
Number of Buses as on March, 2000	:	60 Buses.
Value of Buses as on 31st March, 2000 (Rs)	:	2.60 Crores
Investments (Rs)	:	4.03 Lakhs.
Assets as on 31-3-2000 (Rs)	:	3.61 Crores.

Source: Audited Annual Accounts of the Transport Coop. Society.

The constant efforts of employees are responsible for increasing the society's annual turnover, which increased from 50.46 lakhs in 1991-92 to 6.37 crores in 1999-2000. Barring the year 1991-92, the society earned net profit in all the years. The net profit of the society reached Rs.3.40 lakhs, Rs.1.12 lakhs, Rs.1.73 lakhs, 2.95 lakhs, 1.92 lakhs and 2.19 lakhs during the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 respectively.

In addition to good salary, the following benefits have been given to members and employees of the Society. The benefits are summed up in the Table below.

Benefits to Members and Employees (TCS)

1. Dearness Allowance	: Based on Cost of Living Index. Now it is more than 100%. Increase twice in a year.
2. Bonus	: Continuously paying. 25 % during 1999-2000.
3. Dividend	: Based on profit. Paid 9 % during 1999-2000.
4. Uniform	: Yearly two pairs, worth Rs.600.
5. Provident Fund	: 12 % by employees, equal amount by the Society.
6. Special Allowance	: Based on work
7. Medical Facility	: Rs. 500.00 per year or actual expenditure, whichever is less.
8. Gratuity	: Paid at the time of retirement as per rules.
9. Earned Leave	: One day for every 11 days of work in the previous calendar year.
10. Casual Leave	: 12 days in a year.
11. National Holidays	: 10 days leave on important National Holidays.
12. Free Pass Facility	: 2 seats per month to all the family members.
13. Personnel Insurance and Accident Compensation Insurance	: Rs. 80,000 compensation on death.
14. Group Insurance	: Rs. 35,000 on death.
15. Financial Assistance to the Children for study.	: Rs. 100 to Rs. 500 per year, based on course and class.
16. Free Pass Facility to the Children	: To travel to their Educational Institutions
17. Special Deposit Scheme	: A minimum deposit of Rs. 2,000 becomes Rs. 4,000 within 50 months.
18. Loan Facility	: On the basis of their salary.

Source: Office Records of Transport Society.

As a result of the above and other statutory benefits, all the workers have got a sense of belongingness to this society. Every year 3,000 students who commute in these buses avail 50 percent concession on the daily fare. The society, according to its President, loses nearly Rs. 10 lakhs due to social benefit. In spite of all these commitments, the society has been making profits, developing its operations and fleet strength.

Expansion Plans

After ten years of its useful existence, the society is now all set to establish many industries to reduce the unemployment problems of Chikkamagalur District to certain extent. Initially, by using the worn out spare parts of the buses, the society intends to set up a unit to manufacture agricultural equipments. Some other ambitious plans on the card are establishment of tyre retreading unit, workers quarters, automobile spare parts shop, body building unit, petrol bunk, service station etc. The construction work of office building, a workshop and service station is already completed in the newly acquired land measuring 2.5 acres.

TCS is a great success story in modern public road transportation. A group of young people striving to carve out their own destiny have today created an organisation from which both the Private and Government transport services are learning a lot.

The Background and Present Situation of Central Organization for Rural Cooperatives of Iran (CORC) and the Cooperatives Network

Presented by : **SYED JAVID MOUSAVINIA**

In 1933, for rescuing the farmers from the exploitation claws of forward purchasers, usurers and local peddlers and paying loans to farmers, the industry and Agriculture Bank established in provinces and some cities. Unfortunately, only proprietors and landowners profited by these loans and petty farmers because of long distance and having no required property security and other problems could not.

In 1946, cooperative funds were established by the ((Agriculture, Crafts and Arts Bank (present Agriculture Bank) in different points of country and landowners and farmers became the member of these funds by purchasing shares. The purpose of establishment of cooperative funds was paying loans to farmers in a simple way by collecting little capitals of farmers. On the other hand these funds were providing credits for their members by taking loans from the bank, but unfortunately these funds did not meet their purposes because of influence of the influential men and long distance between farmers and funds.

Up to year 1957, the number of cooperative funds reached to 103 funds. Since Agriculture Bank formed for improving of farmers' life situation developing agricultural affairs in rural areas, from then on the bank dispatched certain expert teams due to study and prepare the way for forming rural cooperative societies and encouraging villagers to participate and become cooperative members.

In 1958, based on the results of this study it was determined to establish the first rural cooperative society in the village Jilard (Damavand city) as a sample.

More same cooperative societies established in the various parts of the country after the acquisition of enough experience in this filed .Up to year 1962 the number of 990 rural cooperative societies were established by the Agriculture Bank in Iran.

In 1963, concordant with the execution of (land reform law), **Central Organization for Rural Cooperatives of Iran (CORC)** was formed as a company (Limited) with the share capital of 1341 millions Rials divided in 134100 shares valued at 10000 Rials each, for the unlimited time in order to provide the means of improving, developing and supporting cooperatives in villages on the field of economic, business, marketing affairs and also for guiding, leading and supervising rural cooperatives.

The CORC s articles of association was approved on 9 March 1969. The CORC s activities for developing rural cooperatives caused a rise in the number of cooperatives to 8361 in 1972. During that period the focus was only on rising of the number of cooperative societies, therefore the rural cooperatives could not effectively solve the Villagers' problems, finally in 1973 the combination of cooperative societies was propounded and after combination the number was reduced to 2617 cooperative societies.

According to extant information and statistics, until 2002 the number of 2948 cooperative societies with a total membership of 4476685 and share capital of 388548 millions Rials have been activating in the rural society of Iran.

From 1985, the CORC started to establish and develop some special organization in the from of "agricultural cooperative societies" and at the end of 2002, the number of these societies reached 1854 with a total membership of 1044434 and share capital of 236904 millions Rials. In 1992, the establishment of "Rural women cooperatives" as new special organization for rural women was considered by concerned planners. Since the CORC had proper experience and precedence in establishing and developing rural and agricultural cooperatives, has been pledged to establish, supervise and support rural women cooperatives. In 1993, the articles of association for rural women cooperative was approved and presented to the candidates. The first rural women cooperative was established in kokadeh village a suburb of Amol city (Mazandaran province) in 1994 and commenced its activities. From then on up to the end of 2002, about 143 rural women cooperatives with 29643 members and share capital of 3455 million Rials have been established.

It is worth mentioning that the cooperative societies under CORC have started to establish cooperative unions at the level of town, province and center (Tehran). Statistical information of these unions is shown in the table below (up to year 2002):

Union	No.	Members (societies)	share capital (million Rials)
Town cooperative unions	256	3005	122953
Provincial cooperative unions	27	250	26267
Agricultural cooperative unions	55	707	27607

and in addition to the unions mentioned in the table there are two animal unions in center (Tehran):

1. Central Union for Agricultural and Rural cooperatives of Iran (CUARCI).
2. Central Union for husbandry cooperatives of Iran which are the head of Agricultural between government and agricultural rural cooperatives network. and unions and also as a defender Generally, CORC as a liaison affairs, has vital role in achieving the rural cooperative societies goals and growth in rural economy with the purpose in their guilds 340 of supporting, leading and supervising on about 4945 cooperatives rural Women, agricultural and rural cooperatives and the importance cooperative unions (4) at the different level.

And the cooperatives in the area of national and rural development, and necessity of this organization and activities of CORC and net work had been increased day by day.

The acquaintance with the services situation of CORC and rural cooperatives network during year 2002: and rural cooperatives network was As the background and present in this part we try to acquaint you with the major women, agricultural activities of the mentioned network and CORC during year explained 2002.

Cooperative Training and rural cooperatives developing services:

Training and education services, as one of the principles of global cooperative movement have a superior place in CORC programs. These services provided and executed in two sections:

Training for villagers and organization's personnel:

In the section of villagers training, there are separated training courses include, training for managing director, board of directors, and inspector, members, groups representatives and the personnel to of rural women, agricultural and rural cooperative societies centers or unions. These training courses are planned according person's training needs and are disposed in training includes: on-the job and be for job in cooperative societies and unions.

In the year 2002, the training activities function the personnel training was 704367 (person/day) for villagers trainings. During has 5 active and 17548 (person/day) for personnel training. Cities: Uromia, Esfahan, Ahwaz. It is mentionable that the organization and Karaj and on in Keraman city that is under training centers in the Zanjan development means promoting the situation of construction.

Attempting cooperatives to achieve their favorite situation and meet their goals is the most important responsibility of CORC. Department of development of cooperatives evaluates strength and weak points of societies and unions by

statistical agricultural and rural scientific methods and finally offering proper solutions determining and plans in order to solve cooperatives problems and weak and this department is also responsible for performing expert points.

Establishment affairs by applying development standards to establish survey on plans and the shop, societies and unions and issue the in the combine of inefficient cooperatives licenses and also for having and solving the probable disagreements between the cases concerned cooperatives.

Marketing services for agricultural products:

One of the important duties of rural women, agricultural and rural cooperatives is marketing and supplying agricultural products and other rural productions.

For many years the cooperatives network through its expanded appearance in different parts of the country and by applying its authorized facilities has undertake the transaction of agricultural products in order to support producers and farmers and also attempt to settle balance in the market. During the last year, the amount of 6708153 tones of wheat to the value of 8731025 millions Rials and 471166 tones of guaranteed products include: cotton, dates, chickpea, raisins, rice, tomato and potato have been purchased. More than 500000 tones of non-guaranteed products are purchased annually through the cooperatives network depended on different situations of market.

Credit services:

The credits paid to cooperative societies are from interest free credit resources and other resources. During year 2002, an amount of 170700 millions Rials from interest free credit resources and 396500 millions Rials from other resources have been paid to rural cooperative societies and unions. One of the credit activities of cooperatives network is to establish interest free credit funds which is entertained by rural people in the last recent years and the number of these funds has increased by 150 semi – active funds to 446 active funds (up to the end of last year) with 285975 members and the members' deposits of 39979 millions Rials in the funds. During the last year, an amount of 395949 millions Rials loans have been paid to 167405 members through these funds.

Goods distribution services:

Providence and distribution of consumer and living goods are one of the major operational duties of rural cooperatives organization and its cooperatives network.

In 2002, an amount of 1613727 millions Rials goods has been distributed through the network. This cooperatives network is also active in distributing of fuel materials in villages. In 2002, the amount of 6618 millions liters of oil materials

to the value of 973721 million Rials and the amount of 6394 tones of liquid gas to the value of 2164 million Rials have been distributed in villages through the distributing shops of oil materials.

Providing and distributing services:

Agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, machinery, etc.):

In 2002, the amount of 22296 tones of pesticides and 82037 tones the seeds of different kind of agricultural products and 1542095 tones of different kind of fertilizers and 1347 tones of other inputs and also 872 sets of agricultural machinery(tractor, combine, loader, tiller, reaper,...) to the value of 51410 millions Rials and 4074 sets of trail – fixed tools and other tools to the value of 7694 millions Rials and also 62654 units of spare parts to the value of 3628 millionRials has been distributed in the network.

Technical and executive supports for producing, processing, packaging and service plans: One of the other major activities of the “department of agricultural and technical services” is technical and executing supports for producing, processing, packaging and service plans in the agricultural and rural cooperatives net work.

During the year 2002, there were 28 poultry units and 83 milk collection centers belonged to the cooperatives network and 17 mechanization centers and also the number of 12 workshops and producing units and processing, packaging factories have been established in the cooperatives network and 72 producing and processing plans have been accomplished by rural women cooperatives.

Auditory services:

One of the supervisory activities of the organization is auditing, budgeting and budget auditing, working out the profit and loss account, auditing annual statement of accounts, protesting and prosecuting auditory reports of rural women, agricultural and rural cooperative societies and unions.

The auditory operations in the network during year 1381 consist: - 3631 cooperative societies (72% of total number of existent societies) have been audited.

- The budgets of 3850 cooperative societies (78% of total number) have been audited.
- The profit and loss of 3990 societies (81% of total number) have been calculated and collected.
- 328 cooperative unions (96% of total number) have been audited.
- The budgets of 324 unions (95% of total number) have been audited.
- The profit and loss of 326 unions (96% of total number) have been calculated and collected.

Civil engineering services:

At present, the civil engineering services of the organization are mostly in the field of the major constructional activities and projects include: the establishment projects of multi-purpose storages and cold storages, equipment projects of wheat purchasing centers which are counted among national projects and their required credits are provided from the public budget of the country.

In 2002, the number of 23 multi-purpose storages with the capacity of 20750 tones and 11880 millions Rials investment provided from government credits have been established. The wheat purchasing centers are also equipped with the investment of 9800 millions Rials and establishment of 19 steelyards of 60 tones and yard building about 18810 square meters and fencing about 5282 meters.

Information and marketing services for agricultural products:

CORC's Agricultural Products Marketing Information Center (APMIC) has started its activities since 1993. In 2002, this center created a private website for CORC in the global network "Internet": www.corc.ir and a wide area network (WAN) in all provinces and 5 local area network (LAN) in the CORC building and perform all CORC's required software and hardware and design and write the application systems and programs for different departments of CORC.

APMIC also provides and presents update information about wholesale prices of agricultural products in the world's major market and also information about foreign importers of agricultural products for Iranian producers and exporters and also information about Iranian exporter and producers for foreign importers in order to facilitate foreign business affairs through Internet and correspondence with international information centers, trade centers of foreign countries and authorized websites like FAO, WTO, JICA, UNCTAD.

**Central Organization for Rural Cooperatives of Iran (CORC)
Central Union of Rural and Agricultural
Cooperatives of Iran (CURACI)**

Rural Cooperatives of Bam (Iran)

and the role of young members of cooperatives in supporting people
and rehabilitating cooperatives after earthquake (Sept. 2003)

IN THE NAME OF GOD

The original fact hidden in cooperation springs from humanistic or instinctive and innate human tendencies or it springs from kind of his education and learning or needs and necessities of his life or his wisdom and his tendency to success cooperation , is in fact to apply the philosophy of brotherhood in economical affairs . The first one who has spoken about cooperation in universal socialism is Ebne – khaldoon (732-808) who in a part of his book with a clear statement refers to the problem of cooperation. He believes a human being does not work and live alone and human beings cooperate with each other in order to obtain instruments of their livelihood. The movement of cooperation which its aim is to improve the economical and social situation of the most deprived section of society people can roles effectively in the affair of improvement.

The true antecedent of cooperative organizations in Iran is not clear. However, it is obvious that Iranian people do believe in council and cooperation, religiously and nationally so in Iran like most of other countries cooperation has had an important role in various kinds of economical and social activities.

Formation of small and large enterprises and aid centers in the shape of nowadays well known co-operations has last a half of century and people received them so gladly as now we have Central Union of Rural and Agricultural Cooperatives of Iran (CURACI) that leads, supports and manages all Cooperative societies in Iran and other unions which are activate with the subject of cooperation. Further more farmers' sureness about cooperative societies is one of the most important causes of improvement of cooperatives. The most successful cooperative societies in Iran are rural cooperative societies, which are the widest

section and the most populated of cooperative societies in Iran. In Kerman province, it is nearly 40 years that cooperative societies are working. There are totally 8 unions in cities of the province, 115 cooperative societies which cover and support 746 villages with 145000 members and 716 consumer stores to supply consumer goods to the farmers and rural people. According to Bam earthquake which happened on 26 December 2003 which was one of the important events in the world in 2003 and according to its importance for us we are going to speak about the role of young members of cooperative societies in this important event. For better understanding the extent of the earthquake disaster, it is worthy to mention that Bam is a city with 17750 km² extension, which has 5 sections and 750 villages, and it is settled in the east of Kerman province. Rural cooperatives in this city contain one union and 18 cooperative societies and 104 stores in villages and further more this city has 6 producing cooperatives, 90 agricultural cooperatives and some other cooperatives for teachers and mobilization members. In Bam earthquake according to statistical instances which are mentioned, because of the great number of members the greatest non-private damages belong to cooperative societies of this city.

In spite of damages of these cooperative societies, the movement of assistance and cooperation and saving has had an effective role. The assistance army staff of rural cooperative societies with support of sides and with an accurate plan from the earliest hours settled in Bam. Because Bam is more than 130 km and these are villages which directly and indirectly receive their goods from Bam. After earthquake happened the economical section was omitted and supports from Bam stopped, therefore rural cooperative societies were the only agents for help to people. They started their work as soon as possible with accurate plan so that during two months after earthquake more than 2500 ton of flour and more than 150 ton of rice and nearly 100 ton of oil and other things was bought and distributed by them.

Further more union of rural cooperation gave 4000 prints of books to children and teenagers survivors from earthquake. And also those unions during first days of earthquake took action 4 bakeries to put in working order. When the period of reconstructing and people temporary settling started, Bam rural cooperatives, teachers and mobilization members cooperatives were supposed to plan and supply and distribute an amount of necessary goods for life. For example rural cooperative union supplied and distributed more than 12000 necessities of life such as refrigerators, coolers and etc. This help was very important because living in 20 meters temporary rooms and camps in the hot weather of Bam's summer is very difficult.

After this stage the most important need of Bam's people was the suitable situation for harvesting their most vital production which is Mazafati date. This kind of date is the most delicious kind in the world and Bam economy is

completely dependant on it. The internal consumption of this kind of date is very high because Iranian people like it very much so the export of the date to other countries is less than 10%. Rural cooperative union bought nearly 1/3 of required boxes (more than 40 millions pieces of boxes) and gave them to farmers.

Furthermore this union is going supply and distribute boxes and other tools for packing Bam's citrus and in this way this union has not received any help from any where.

The next plan of Bam rural union cooperatives is to organize a factory of date packing and to make a refrigerator warehouse with the capacity of 3000 tons and other projects and plans for rehabilitation of Bam's Cooperatives societies and distribution the farmers which are required financial supports and helps from the organizations and cooperatives of other countries to help and cooperate it.

At the end we invite all people of the world to come visit Bam because it has the oldest and biggest mud-building in the world.

Case Study - Japan

University Co-operatives in Japan (NFUCA)

Presented by:

YOUHEI OHKOSHI & MAKI NONOMIYA

National Federation of University Co-operative Associations
(NFUCA), JAPAN

Hello everyone. My name is Youhei Ohkoshi.

I'm a committee member of the Student Committee National Federation of University Co-operatives Associations (NFUCA) of Japan. Today, I'd like to present a short speech about the activities that are carried out by the Student Committee of NFUCA, Japan and what kind of aspirations the students possess throughout the activities that they had carried out.

After that, Ms. Ayumi Nonomiya will make a presentation of Welcome Events at new school term of her university co-operative, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) Co-op Student Committee activity.

Today, my speech mainly covers on the introduction of University Co-operatives in Japan, the activities that are carried out by the Students Committee, the joint activities that are carried out by the Students Committee and University Co-operatives, and lastly, I'd like to talk on the charm that the University Co-operative possess.

Firstly, I would like to introduce on the activities of the University Co-operatives of Japan.

After World War II, when the situation in Japan was in a chaos situation, the NFUCA was established in the year of 1947.

The number of University Co-operatives that belongs to the NFUCA is 225 in Japan, for the 4-year course university, 29 percent of the universities. The total membership of the university co-ops in Japan is 1.4 million. This is 41% of all university population.

The University Co-operative of Japan basically operates in the following organization.

- A Director is chosen from member and there is a student more than a half.
- The organizing committees are set up under the Board of Directors.
- They mainly engaged in the activities of the members.
- Many students are concerned with the important scene of making decisions.

The University Co-operation mainly operates on 4 major businesses, which are:

1. Study, Education and Research
2. Health Care and Safety
3. Daily Lives
4. Self Development

And at the same time, manages the business of canteen and bookstores at their respective university co-operatives.

For these 4 main businesses, we need individual members who always strive for the best for the improvement of the University Co-operatives that includes better services and better selection of items in the book stores and canteen based on the feedback of the individual members and students. The University Co-operative always improves the service of the canteens and bookstores by reviewing on the needs of the individual members. Individual members of the University Co-operatives always involve in the improvement of the Co-op by taking part in various activities and daily events of the University Co-operatives. By taking account the needs of the individual members and students, we strive to make the services of the University Co-operative a better one so that they can always enjoy the good services of the University Co-operative from time to time.

Now, I'd like to show to three examples of members activities.

For the following section, I would like to introduce the activities of the Students Committee of University Co-operation.

The University Co-operative induces friendship among students by organizing "Making Fellowship" events such as "New Students Welcome Events" and "Sports Recreation Events".

The University Co-op in Japan organizes Mutual Benefit Activities to protect the welfare of the students and "Kyosai" forms the main pillar of the Mutual Benefit Activities. Students pay a minimal amount of insurance installment

and the “Kyosai” protects their welfare. About 60 percent of the student members of the University Co-op participate in this “Kyosai” program. Moreover, the University Co-op also organizes “Prevention Awareness Activities” to increase the awareness among students about taking precautions to prevent sickness and injuries.

The University Co-operative always organizes various activities, which supports the “Learning” of individual members. There are many students who constantly improve themselves by taking up many self-improvement courses, which includes qualification acquisition support seminar and career development support seminar. Therefore, the University Co-operative always takes care of the students’ benefits and welfare by organizing such seminars, which aims to improve the “Learning” mentality of the students.

The University Co-op also involves in many activities that supports “Peace Activities”. Through the University Co-op, “Peace Now” Activities are carried out in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and these activities have continued for 20 years. The “Peace Now” activities are carried out in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the cities that were devastated by the Atomic Bomb during World War II and also in Okinawa, which suffered the aftermath of the World War II. Moreover, the University Co-op also organizes UNICEF fund raising activities and the funds that were collected for the UNICEF fund were used for programs that take care the welfare of children from all over the world.

The University Co-op also participates in environmental issues activities. Students who are interested in protecting the environment gather together to form the “Environment Circles” and work together with the University Co-op to form the corner, which sells books and stationary that are friendly to the environment.

Now, I would like to show how students are involved with the activities of university co-operatives.

Firstly, I’ll explain about Opinion Card. The University Co-operative always listens to the feedbacks and voices of the students in order to improve the services and activities of the Co-op. Through the distribution of “Opinion Card”, the University Co-operative always upgrade the services to meet the requirements and growing demands of the students and the implementation of the “Opinion Card” system is carried out by most of the University Co-operative in Japan.

Secondly, I’ll explain about Mutual help activities. In Fukui University Co-op, “Alcohol Sensitive Test” is carried out by the Students Committee to increase the awareness of health care and prevention of alcohol abuse among students.

This picture shows the atmosphere of “Prevention Awareness” activities that are carried out by Fukui University Co-op and they used machines to demonstrate

the impact that will hit on the body to increase the awareness among students to prevent accidents from happening and at the same time, it also increase the awareness to prevent diseases among students. Students constantly hope that the members of the university can lead a healthy life among each other.

Thirdly, I talk about Peace activities. This is the Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima, Japan. By joining the Peace Now activities, participants can visit the “wounds” that were left behind due to the war and by knowing the history of the past; this provides a good opportunity to the participants to think about war and peace in the world.

Peace activities in social issues are carried out by way and idea “to know, inform, think and discuss” together to be able to participate in freely.

As you can see in the previous slides, I had talked about the various activities that are carried out by the University Co-op and I would like to touch on the solidarity activities that are carried out by the University Co-op.

By joining hands with many University Co-ops of the respective universities, we increase the number of solidarity activities and through all these solidarity activities that are held from time to time; we had the golden opportunity to exchange views among each other and the problems they faced when carrying out their daily activities. Many universities co-ops from various places gather together to discuss about daily events and services of respective co-ops and this enhance co-operation among universities from various places. The previous activity that I introduced just now, “Peace Now” is the best example because this activity can only succeed with the co-operation of various university co-operative. With the co-operation of various university co-operatives, the most obvious example is joint-buying businesses, training programs for students and the university co-operatives also support universities who are interested in setting up co-operatives for their university staffs and students.

The NFUCA plays an important role to connect the university co-operatives from ten “local centers” and also acts as an intermediate to support the activities of various university co-operatives. A concrete example is the organizing of joint seminars such as “Leaders Seminar”, holding national joint buying and making national policies that decides the organizing system of various university co-operatives. The policies of the NFUCA is similar to the organizing system of the conventional university co-operative and students, staffs of the respective universities become the representative of the university co-operatives and they gather together to decide on the policies, budgets and the organizing system of the NFUCA. The highest deciding board of the NFUCA gathers together once a year to decide on the policy of the NFUCA and the AGM implements the policy of the university co-operatives. Moreover, Japan is divided into ten regions and there is a “Local Center” that plays an important role in inspecting

the activities of the university co-operatives in their respective regions. Furthermore, besides carrying out the regular activities of the NFUCA, the “Local Center” also supports the setting up of new university co-operatives.

Until now, I had introduced about the various events that are carried out by the University Co-operatives and I would like to conclude on the charm of the University Co-operatives, and also what do I personally feel about the University Co-op.

Through my past experiences with the University Co-operative, I summarized the charm of the University Co-op into 5 main points.

No.1, I and my colleagues have made our university lives attractive by realizing together.

No.2, each of us has been able to grow through various experiences in the co-operatives.

No.3, each of us could make many friends and wider points of view, through interaction with over one’s university.

No.4. It has been helpful for us that many co-op staffs who have sincerely supported students.

No.5, a co-operative itself has made a campus active and cheerful.

Now, I’m going to finish my presentation. Thank you for your kind attention. *(As the next presenter, I’d like to call Ms. Ayumi Nonomiya. Ayumi please.)*

1. Introduction: What is Shinkan (welcome events)? Why do we do them?

The purpose of Shinkan (welcome events) is to encourage freshmen by telling them what campus life is like and to accustom them to new surroundings. All of the events are taken place before the entrance ceremony.

TUFS (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) CO-OP have three welcome events: a welcome magazine named “Niji”, which means “rainbow” in Japanese: the Gatherings by Majors: Hello! Freshmen Festival. All of them are planned by TUFS Co-op Student Committee (TuCos) under the auspices of TUFS CO-OP. The Co-op’s representatives (Soudai) and some other volunteers support the events. I explain them one by one.

2. “Niji”(Rainbow), a magazine for freshmen

First, I talk about the welcome magazine, “Niji”. “Niji” plays a roll of “a compass for freshmen in their campus life”. Freshmen receive “Niji” at the enrollment procedure. They read it before the entrance ceremony and know about the university and the Co-op beforehand. So, with the magazine, they can relieve their anxiety about their new life.

The magazine contains two main topics: information about the university and that about the Co-op. The former is gathered mainly from the seniors. For example, some seniors show the freshmen how they spent a year at the campus in a round-table style. Perhaps freshmen are interested only in the information about the university, not in the information about Co-op. It might not be right to include information which reader doesn't seem to be interested. However, the information on the Co-op is essential to them at the campus. The Co-op provides various kinds of services to students. If they don't know about the Co-op, they might not be able to utilize its services. Since the Co-op exists for students, it hopes students make the most of its services. Therefore, "Niji" contains such information.

As I mentioned above, the magazine is written by the members of TUFS Co-op Student Committee. Some information is based on questionnaires answered by Co-op representatives.

3. The Gathering by Majors (Gokakon)

Second, I explain "the Gathering by Majors". Its main event is the Gathering for freshmen and their seniors in the same major. The freshmen can talk over matters which are unknown to them, or which they are uncertain about, concerning the university, and in the process, ease their worries and tensions before starting classes.

In addition to it, the freshmen undergo "Procedure for Univ Co-op subscription", "group order for the textbooks", and "Introduction of clubs". In "Group order for the textbooks", the Representatives of Co-op are elected. They order the textbooks for all of the freshmen in their class to the Co-op shop and distribute the books when they are arrived. It is because they can buy books at 12% discount if more than 9 people order the same book. Since some textbooks are hard to find (for example, Cambodian is taught only at TUFS except in Cambodia), it's much safer and easier to order the books to the Co-op shop than buy it for themselves.

Univ. Co-op gains profit from the Gatherings. As the freshmen can learn how to use Co-op's services, they are encouraged to use them. Also, most freshmen join the Univ. Co-op at the Gatherings every year.

4. Hello! Freshmen Festival (HFF)

Last but not least, I show you "Hello! Freshmen Festival" or HFF is like. Though as many as 26 languages are majored at TUFS, the students rarely touch all of them. HFF gives them a chance to touch all of the languages. Also, students in all majors come to a same place, so they can make friends with students in other majors than theirs.

At HFF, the senior representatives of each major show the characteristics of their major language and the countries where it is spoken. They deliver a speech on the topics, show pictures of the countries, play a tape record made by themselves, or perform a traditional dance in the country. For example, Lao Major students showed the pictures taken during their home stay in Laos.

HFF gives profit to the members of Univ. Co-op. The seniors can welcome their juniors with such a big event and tell them the charm of their major language. Also, the seniors can know the joy of uniting together to perform a big event. Moreover, both the freshmen and the seniors can recognize they can perform such a big event for themselves with the CO-OP.

5. Closing

Welcome events have an influence on the freshmen, their seniors, and Univ. Co-op. The events remove uneasiness from the freshmen and help them to get ready to lead a full campus life. The seniors are given a good opportunity to welcome the freshmen. The Co-op can gain a profit through the events and give a profit to the members of the Co-op, namely, the students at the university.

This is the end of my presentation. Thank you for listening.

The Languages majored at TUFS

Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Cambodian (or Khmer), Czech, German, English, French, Hindi, Italian, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Lao, Mongolian, Malay, Filipino (or Tagalog), Polish, Portuguese, Persian, Russian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, Urdu, Vietnamese

Case Study - Philippines

Why NATCCO Network came up with the Coop Youth Planet Program

Presented by: Ms. MARGARET V.T. FORTALEZA

In the latter part of 2002, through the help of some research professionals, NATCCO Network launched in-depth studies on four cooperatives from Luzon and Visayas, which we believed had commendable youth initiatives. Two were campus-based – the PUP Students Credit and Services Cooperative and La Consolacion-Balagtas, and the other two were community-based – Claveria Agri-Based MPC and PHCCI-Tacloban. The researches focused on their activities, their strategies, their challenges, the results they got, and the frequency and continuity of their initiatives.

The results revealed more facts and at the same time, more challenges. Each of them had notable initiatives, which were compared and differentiated also with other countries' initiatives. Researches conducted by reputable institutions regarding the youth were also used as support information. NATCCO Network understood the lifestage process, what the youth want, how they think, how they spend, where they get their money, including the issues confronting them. All of those provided valuable details. The big challenge after that was how to put all those things together into a program that would work for the youth.

As they say, more brains are a lot better than one. The subjects for the studies – more knowledgeable and experienced – then became the Technical Working Group members, represented by adult and youth leaders. During the first two quarters of 2003, the technical work began. Grueling days of sitting down, dissecting ideas, chipping up details – moments of endless talks and thoughts, the TWG members put forth in order to make this program possible. The TWG output became the basis for the writing of the concept and operations manuals.

Why NATCCO Network Invests on the Youth

NATCCO Network realized that cooperatives must set-up a “succession” program to ensure continuity in the development and implementation of their activities. Current coop leaders must secure their organization’s future by developing competent individuals who will eventually carry on the tasks and responsibilities of coop building and management. NATCCO Network understood that it is the responsibility of every cooperative to create a pool of quality members and leaders.

Vision of CYP and NATCCO Network’s Mission

CYP aims to build strong cooperatives with empowered youth groups whose members and leaders are dedicated, responsible, competent, effective and productive contributors in community building.

It is NATCCO Network’s mission therefore to organize and strengthen youth groups through the implementation of a sustainable, youth-oriented, youth-responsive development program – and that is the Coop YouthPlanet Program.

Objectives of CYP

Quantitatively, we want the cooperative to:

- ◆ Increase membership from the youth sector
- ◆ Increase deposits from the youth sector
- ◆ Implement capability-building programs

Qualitatively, we want the youth to have:

- ◆ A means to improve their way of life through the various capability-building programs
- ◆ Enhanced knowledge and capabilities regarding coops
- ◆ Get more actively involved in coop activities
- ◆ Be thrifty and keep savings
- ◆ Go to a safe and secure place where they can enjoy, relax, and at the same time hone their skills

What is the Coop YouthPlanet Program?

CYP is for young people aged 7-25, which provides them a creative means to spend time and money. It integrates three essential elements: C-Build, Savings, and The Hub.

Savings: CYP provides the youth with accessible, sustainable, and attractive savings facility. It aims to instill the value of thrift and industry among the youth while providing the coop with a steady and reliable fund source to finance its various activities.

The youth who voluntarily joins as a regular or associate member of the coop can open a savings account with an initial deposit of P20. He or she must have the willingness and capacity to regularly save and abide by the rules and regulations governing the savings account.

C-Build: Competent youth leaders are not formed overnight. They have to go through intensive and continuous capability-building programs that shall lead them towards the full realization of their potentials.

These C-Build programs shall equip the youth with skills, knowledge, beliefs and values that will mold them into becoming responsible, competent, and empowered individuals. The following training activities shall compose the C-Build program:

- a. Coop Basics
- b. Leadership
- c. Personality Development
- d. Life Skills and Values Enhancement
- e. C-Build Special (scheduled events in a year)
 - ◆ Sports
 - ◆ Skills (computer operations, technical writing, etc.)
 - ◆ Livelihood
 - ◆ Entrepreneurship
 - ◆ Arts (music, performing, creative arts)
 - ◆ Recreation (exchange programs, camps)
 - ◆ Community development/outreach programs

The Hub: The Hub is a place that the youth can truly call their own. It is a safe and stimulating place for young people to go to. The Hub provides the youth with opportunities to explore, excel, contribute, lead, and have fun with their peers.

The Hub is a regulated environment where the staff strictly monitors that members do not drink, gamble or smoke inside the premises.

Why the name Coop YouthPlanet. The name **Coop YouthPlanet** is an output of discussions with different progressive primary cooperatives in the country. The idea behind was that cooperatives should be open for the youth, a place where they can stay and feel comfortable in.

CYP Logo. CYP carries this logo. (Flash logo) The logo is also an output of different minds, which was refined during the TWG sessions.

The logo has three human figures drawn out from the letter “Y” (as in Youth). It is in three different colors, which symbolize certain characteristics of the youth:

Red – power and potentials

Green – agility and dynamism

Blue – teamwork and integration

The Partnership Between NATCCO Network and the Lamac MPC

IN THE BEGINNING...

The youth in Lamac lack awareness and involvement in the cooperative although the coop has been very progressive. Even many of the children of the cooperators used not to understand what their parents in the cooperative are doing. The main problems that the youth in our community face are lack of enough education, poverty and unemployment. Many lack direction in life and lack the needed skills for their future. Then came the Coop YouthPlanet Program. Lamac grabbed the opportunity to be the pilot cooperative for the program due to the belief of the cooperative to youth empowerment. The aforementioned areas of concern became the focus of most of our youth activities. We aim to develop the youth holistically. We want to tap the potentials of the youth. We desire to empower them.

Organizational diagnosis, trainings, and adjustments were done. The partnership has provided us and is continuously providing us rich experience about the peaks and pitfalls of the youth program. We learned what to do and what not to do.

The activities conducted in LMPC:

- ◆ We had the basic orientation course, which was attended by different representatives from all five branches of the cooperative. It was during this event that the whole cooperative leadership and staff were given the background, the vision, and the mission of the program as well as the role of the cooperative to the success of the program.
- ◆ This event was quickly followed by the General Staff Training to facilitate the interface of the youth program to the cooperative’s operations. This was also participated by the MAKRO Board members.
- ◆ Training for Trainers followed. It was attended by selected staff and officers of the coop and trained them on how to conduct the PMES to the youth.
- ◆ They started conducting PMES for the youth simultaneously from March 6 until the month of July. Around 2, 000 young people underwent the orientation. Today, the youth leaders work with the adults in conducting

the Pre-Membership seminars for the youth. In the near future, these youth leaders shall be given the full responsibility in membership expansion, the conduct of trainings and in running the program.

- ◆ CYP launched in their respective branches. Through intense weather of hard rain and hot sun, 1,026 youth eagerly joined in the day long launching activities to claim a stake as pioneers of CYP
- ◆ The CYP held its grand launch last April 18, 2004, which was the highlight of the 13th General Assembly. This assembly, the CYP members played a big role.
- ◆ Youth representation was also attended to. The CYP structure was set up. Now there are 5 youth leaders in the board of chapter leaders that included adult leaders in each branch. These 5 youth leaders elect a youth chairperson in the branch. Among the chairpersons from each branch was elected an overall chairperson that represents the youth to the macro board. This person brings the voice of the youth to the coop decision-making body.
- ◆ The Summer youth camp was held at the resort owned by the coop. The purpose of this activity is to enhance the youth's skills, abilities and talents, get connected with each other, share information and experience, enhance values and attitude, enrich artistic potential, and utilize the gift of entrepreneurship.
- ◆ The Lamac MPC has undergone a 3-year strategic planning, and was participated for the first time, by the youth. The youth were involved in this activity to be more aware of what the cooperative does through first hand experience and to consolidate our plans with them. The cooperative was very supportive of the plans of the youth for the upcoming years.
- ◆ The Membership education seminar was attended by 25 CYP leaders and the trainers pool. This aimed to teach both the adult and youth leaders how to conduct Membership Education Seminar to all CYP members. Such seminar is essential for all youth members to have deeper awareness, understanding and appreciation of cooperativism and for the youth to eventually inculcate the cooperative values and principles in their lives.
- ◆ The Leadership education seminar was attended by 25 CYP leaders with the participation of the trainers pool in each office. It aimed on how to become an effective communicator, and responsible and authentic leaders. In connection with this, we have also an activity entitled "Once upon a journey.... A life assessment workshop." Its purpose is to be more aware of ourselves, to look forward to our dreams and to become more effective youth leaders.

After five (5) months of operation, there are now more than 1,100 CYP members, 25 youth in leadership positions within the cooperative, one (1) youth representative in the Board of Directors, a pool of dynamic trainers, and approximately US\$7,100 in pooled savings from the youth.

Our future plans include:

- ◆ Conduct of Ownership meeting for the Youth on October 2004
- ◆ Continue monthly meetings and evaluation of past month's activities
- ◆ Conduct of socially relevant activities/community extension services
- ◆ Continue monthly trainings for the youth
- ◆ Increase awareness of youth to the operations of the coop
- ◆ Increase membership
- ◆ Encourage higher savings
- ◆ Partnership with local government units
- ◆ Conduct fund-raising activities
- ◆ Set-up youth enterprise
- ◆ Set-up youth center in all branches
- ◆ Conduct skills training program for out of school youth
- ◆ Strengthen both local and international linkages

For the Coop YouthPlanet Program: we plan to promote a network of coops with youth groups operating all over the Philippines under:

- ~ *one concept*
- ~ *one name*
- ~ *one brand image*
- ~ *one operating system*

This program promotes Youth-Friendly Coop Image wherein the Coop becomes a community model who strives to make cooperativism a part of people's lives starting on the early stages

The youth program has kept the momentum and desire of the youth to actively participate and take part in the development of the cooperative and its initiatives for the community through regular activities. The youth program has developed our self-confidence and self-esteem. We have realized that we can do something, that we can contribute to the improvement not only to our lives, but also to our surroundings.

The Lamac experience is just the beginning. The Lamac experience has proved that such a program is possible. It has shown that cooperatives must be open to changes to experience improvement, to experience development. This program

has shown that the adult and the youth could really work hand in hand towards achieving a common goal. We could build better communities through an empowered youth sector. There is so much opportunities to develop the youth in the communities, if only such opportunities are made available to them. May we always remember that the youth's involvement in the cooperative today shall shape the cooperative movement of tomorrow.

Thank you.

ICA-ROAP Regional Youth Seminar 2004

–A Moment to Reckon

Presented by : **CLARISSA TRAMPE**
(Resource Person)

It was a moment past – three days of a remarkable addition to the pages of the book of our lives. Different experiences abound as one hundred and seventy (170) young people and a few adult leaders from countries like India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam and some guests from UK and USA gathered in the seminar.

A Time To Meet Friends

What a wonderful way to meet different peoples from different parts of the world! It was a time to renew ties with old friends and meet new ones. It was a time to learn other cultures, languages, and hopes and dreams. It was a perfect time for a fruitful networking.

A Time To Laud Significant Initiatives

Each participating country shared its notable accomplishments with regards to youth involvement and development.

India inspired us with the entrepreneurial spirit of the indigenous people of the Irula tribes who catch snake and collect venoms as a means of living, the retrenched employees of the Indian Coffee Promotion Board who now operate 158 branches of the Indian Coffee House, and the modestly paid workers of the Shankar Transport Company who went into strike, lost their jobs and started to operate their own transport facility which now pays dividends to its workers and the community.

Indonesia discussed about its putting up of the Young Cooperative Communicative Body in nearly all its provinces which facilitate different trainings in the areas of leadership, management, business and entrepreneurship.

Iran showed how grateful their members were for the young people who have helped excavate bodies and appease grieving relatives of victims of the killer earthquake which devastated rural communities, claiming lives and damaging properties.

Japan presented a number of activities of university students in cooperatives who are members of the National Federation of University Cooperative Associations (NFUCA), the environmental awareness drive of the Japan Association of FCA Youth Groups (GYOSEIREN), the management training run by the National Council of Agricultural Cooperative Youth Associations (JA Youth), and the setting up of the Youth Committee in the Japanese Workers' Cooperative Union (ROKYOREN).

Malaysia drew us close to its school cooperatives as it launched the School Coop Tourism project that developed packages about prominent national personalities in order to help school children and youth know and love their country more.

The Philippines highlighted the Coop Youth Planet program designed by NATCCO exclusively for cooperatives intending to develop the potentials of youth members aged 7-25. There were also the numerous school children generating savings and applying their management skills through laboratory coops assisted by the Cooperative Education and Development Center (CEDC), the enterprises and community services facilitated by young people in the Visayas Region through the VICTO Youth Net, and the campus cooperatives belonging to the Metro Manila Federation of Consumers Cooperative (MMAFECO) which encouraged youth participation.

Singapore satiated us with its innovative campus cooperatives formerly selling mere books and stationeries now venturing into the operation of internet games and bubble tea café. It also spoke about the bonus points earned by students participating in cooperative activities which are supported by the Ministry of Education, the different campus seminars, the job attachment program that provided working experience to students prior to their graduation, and the Inter-Campus Cooperatives BizChallenge, an online business simulation game for entrepreneurship training.

Sri Lanka shared the variety of activities facilitated by the National Youth Services Cooperative Union Ltd. such as trainings in different areas particularly on entrepreneurship, financial assistance and consultancy services, the Sanasa Movement that not only encouraged savings but also included Children's Committees to provide more opportunities to young people aside from what the schools offer.

Thailand talked about the three independent cooperative federations whose memberships include youth: the vocational school coops, the university coops, and the consumers coops. Their strategy is to strengthen the businesses of each federation and then linking with other types of cooperative federations such as the thrift and credit coops to facilitate their other business transactions. The establishment of a common coop member card for all is advantageous to achieving their goal of unifying their business systems.

United Kingdom underscored the contributions of the informal community organizations that aim to educate young people based on the cooperative principles through facilitating weekly meetings, playing group games, and setting camps. Youth voices were heard as they supported campaigns for issues relevant to environment and equality and participating in various decision-making boards.

The United States of America, through the North American Students of Cooperation (NASCO), recognized the role campus and community cooperatives play especially in the lives of students. The housing cooperatives offer affordable housing to students who own and operate them at the same time. As owners, they share in the costs, partake in the household chores, and take control of their immediate environment.

Vietnam told about the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance's Youth Union which organized meetings, sports competitions, writing contests, cultural activities, and study tours for the further learning of youngsters. And also of the university consumers cooperative which earned good reputation in providing services to students including housing.

A Time To Thread The Needle's Eye

We triumph without glory when we conquer without danger.¹

We have gained those victories because we decided to fight. It is worth noting, without doubt, the problems that we have encountered, the battles that we have fought, in order to savor our feats.

It's interesting to realize that the problems besetting the countries in this region² are, to a certain point, similar. Following are some of the significant areas of concern³:

Legal Basis: All participating countries have set of laws pertaining to the organization and development of cooperatives. However, the verses of these laws differ from one country to another. Some policies are seemingly lax which make it easy to put up cooperatives, while others are strict and inhibit growth. Despite this, determined people still find ways to pursue the goal of putting up legitimate cooperatives.

Age and Membership: Since membership in a cooperative is a contract in itself, it is but normal to find that only persons at the age of majority (at least 18 years old) are accepted as members.

In some countries, young people like students are encouraged to put up laboratory cooperative instead, which has to be attached to a primary cooperative to oversee its operations. Since a laboratory cooperative is a self-contained organization, the youth are left on their own to handle the operations. However, the laboratory cooperative charter (as in the case of the Philippines) limits the scope of

businesses in which the youth can engage in. Furthermore, since laboratory cooperative owners are minors, they still have to be represented in case they need to undertake a business agreement. This situation also deprives them contact with adults (except for their adviser) from whom they could learn as well.

While there are those that support the participation of the young, which, at some point, make it compulsory for school children, there are also those that explicitly disallow the membership of young people, particularly students, in the cooperative.

A lot of cooperatives in the communities (other than the schools), on the other hand, have engaged young people mostly through their savings programs. To “comply” with legality, some cooperatives consider their youth members as associates. This serves as their pass to do business with the youth.

Participation and Leadership: In countries where young people are accepted as members of cooperatives, provision of access to get involved in activities, to voice out their opinions, to take part in the discussion and decision-making processes, or to be chosen for any leadership or management positions, are not yet well established.

Since a lot of cooperatives in the communities still tend to cater to the adult population, more often than not, the young members play a passive role in the operations of cooperatives. Ignored is the fact that their needs might be different from their adult co-members.

Nevertheless, it is good to note that there are organizations which have already started opening up these critical positions to the youth by creating youth committees or allocating seats for the youth in their leadership pool.

Training: Trainings provided for the youth come in different forms depending on the countries where they are in. These usually cover entrepreneurship, leadership, management, and bookkeeping and are done through classroom-type sessions or on-the-job activities. Most of the participants said that the trainings were not enough or sometimes not suitable for them. Whether these trainings were coherently planned or not is hard to determine at this point yet it is a concern that each country needs to address.

It's obvious that the young people have a number of needs waiting to be addressed. We can't help but appreciate the efforts of some proactive cooperative organizations which have seen the value of carrying out this training job in any way they can.

Awareness and Appreciation: Mostly, young people have no idea that cooperatives exist and what their reasons for existence are. Further, if they have any idea at all, more often than not, it is distorted. Ask a random number

of young people in the streets about coops and you'll know that their top-of-the-mind idea is that coops are for aged folks who have nothing much to do in life, selling different stuffs from a dusty store, or lending money with hope of recovering it but to no avail⁴. This might be funny, but this basically reflects how coops are in the eyes of the youth. The lack of strategy for disseminating the right information about cooperatives is common to most countries. Facilities and services of, and benefits from the cooperatives cannot, at times, match what other forms of business organizations can have and give. It is fair to say [personally] that in the eyes of the ordinary youth, cooperatives are a pale choice for an investment of time and money.

We are lucky that there are some active youth members and leaders in a number of cooperatives in the region. Commonly, these are young men and women who are children, relatives, or friends of active adult leaders or employees of cooperatives.

Financial Resources: Implementing programs for the youth require costs that somebody has to take charge of, if not the youth themselves, then the cooperative. A lot of plans remained as plans due to limited funds, to no funds at all, or to improper allocation of funds. It is true however that there are cooperatives which are willingly financing youth activities, and in these areas, the youth are more active.

Programs: Almost every country has organizations facilitating programs for the youth. Common is the fact these programs were conceived by adults and implemented by adults for the youth, or at times, implemented by the youth themselves with the supervision of some adults. Most of what we have are savings programs, trainings, seminars, fairs, gatherings, and exchanges. Although there are a number of programs running in the region, there is no common program that exists for all. Whether the youth were consulted or involved in the conceptualization phase is difficult to establish unless declared and proven by the facilitating organization. A means of knowing if a program is based on the needs of the youth is on the way they respond to this. Some programs were well patronized by youth; the others did not receive much attention.

Key People: Effectively implementing a program means having the right people to run it. Given that most cooperatives experience shortage of human resources in operations, finding people to handle youth programs often becomes a problem, moreover, getting the right ones. Finances and the availability of qualified resources often get in the way.

Reviewing history, youth involvement is fairly a new concept under test since the last few years. Not many persons are excited to take charge of the responsibilities especially so if they are already occupied with unrelated tasks.

Sometimes, cooperatives choose young people believing that they can establish rapport with their fellow youth and make the program work. Sometimes, the tasks are given to women representatives whose motherly care is seen an asset. Sometimes, to anyone who doesn't seem to have much work.

Lucky are we if we find the willing whose skills are enough, who have the ability to relate well and garner youth participation effectively, or those who are eager to learn more in order to get qualified.

A Time To Unravel Our Strength

Every generation has underestimated the potential for finding new ideas. Possibilities do not add up. They multiply.⁵

And they multiply . . . In 2003, there are about 3.69 billion inhabitants in Asia, accounting for three-fifths of the world's population. About 47.66% or 1.758 billion⁶ of the Asian population are from the participant countries to this seminar⁷. All over Asia, youth population is estimated at around 18%⁸. You can just imagine the number of young people existing in this region and whose potentials we can possibly tap.

Collectively, at present, how many lives of young people have we touched through our cooperatives? How much difference have we made in their lives, in other's lives through the programs we initiated? Or should we still need to ask ourselves how much difference do we really want to make in the lives of these young people? It's never too late.

Picking from the speech of Dato Shaharil Talib, Director, Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya, he said "The young cooperators have the potential to be the true ambassadors of the future... the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. However, the kind of future that can be imagined and then built is not simply a given of history. It is a future that has to be fought for, to be struggled over... [But] This will be no easy task... We have to work together for mutual advancement [because] the real strength of the cooperative movement lies in shared experiences, shared values, shared sense of purpose and shared results."

The flowers or weeds that will spring up tomorrow are in the seeds we sow today. If we plant good seeds in well prepared soil, heaven's sun and rain will do their part until harvest comes.⁹ But if we miss one of these elements, we are sure to reap a lesser grade stuff.

Do we have the seeds to sow? Do we know their quality? Are we going to grow flowers or weeds? Have we prepared the soil where to plant them? Will we have the benefits of the sun and rain to expect a good harvest? We only have today.

A Time to Dare and Conquer

I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb.¹⁰

Our moment of victory is too short to content ourselves with it. We must never stop seizing the opportunities for time is not always on our side. Youth hood is not forever. It is just a state we pass through. We are mere passersby on a road we can travel but once.

Remember Alfred, Lord Tennyson's "The Charge of the Light Brigade?"

*Flashed all their sabers bare, flashed as they turned in air
Sab'ring the gunners there, charging an army, while all the world
wondered.
Plunged in the battery smoke, right through the line they broke;
Cossack and Russian reeled from the saber stroke shattered and sundered.
Then they rode back, but not, not the six hundred...
They that had fought so well came through the jaws of Death,
Back from the mouth of hell, all that was left of them, left of six hundred.
When can their glory fade? O the wild charge they made! All the world
wondered.
Honor the charge they made! Honor the Light Brigade, noble six hundred!*

But only a hundred and fifty men were able to come back.

Tragedies and disasters are not the result of a single decision, a single event, or a single mistake. They are the culmination of things in our lives. Something happens and it becomes a catalyst for all the things we've had at risk.¹¹

Our lives will be long or short. We cannot leave our future to chance. We cannot simply talk. We cannot simply gather. We have to move, take action together. We have to collectively envision the future that we want for ourselves, for our children, and for our grandchildren.

Like the Light Brigade, we can go valiantly through the battle without further thought and offer ourselves for our cause. Or we could sit down and, like generals, map out a plan of invasion, and then charge when we are ready.

The throng of one hundred and seventy who were in the seminar sharing notions, tactics, trials and triumphs, where will they be after some time? Will we have them during the battle? Are we assured of winning in this war?

The cost of the underdevelopment of our youth is more than the loss of the youth victims themselves. The major price we pay is in the loss of lives and dreams. Every one of us pays some emotional price as well for this sluggishness

in terms of anxiety, insecurity, and the haunting thought of a probably bleak future.

Youth development is everybody's responsibility, our responsibility. If we're not satisfied with what we have, we need to do something about it. We can.

A Time to Heed the Call

Have we ever asked ourselves why we do exist? We exist because there are more young people waiting for guidance. We exist to continue paving the way for our children and their children. We exist because there are people who cannot move on in life on their own and they need us to tug them along to safer grounds. We exist because there are people waiting to be loved, to be heard, to be cheered on, to be encouraged, to be inspired. We exist to help build bridges for other to cross and get their dreams. We exist for others – and that fulfills our goals and reveals our real worth.

We are co-partners, co-sharers of responsibilities. We have needs to address and a lot of potentials to harness. Let our networking efforts come to fruition. Let us stand up and get moving after our pencil pushing. Only action will lead us to wherever we want to go.

Let us all dare to imagine new futures¹². We have today.

References

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- 2 Asia and the Pacific Region
- 3 Based on the country papers and sub-theme reports
- 4 Based on personal interview conducted by the author in some areas in the Philippines
- 5 Paul M. Romer, a U.S. academic
- 6 Population figures based on 2000 estimates from the Microsoft Encarta Reference Library © 1993-2003 Microsoft Corporation
- 7 India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam
- 8 Figure based on paragraph 5 of the article, Background of the ICA Regional Youth Seminar and Youth Activities in Asia-Pacific. seminar material, ICA-Regional Cooperative Youth Seminar 2004
- 9 Seeds – youth, Soil – community, Sun and Rain – environmental forces
- 10 Nelson Mandela, South African president and lawyer, from his speech, Long Walk to Freedom.
- 11 Neal Beidleman
- 12 Dato Shaharil Talib, Director, Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya

Student Cooperatives in India

A Status Paper Country Report

Persented by:

**Forum For Cooperatives in Educational Institutions
Natesan Institute of Cooperative Management, Chennai**

Student Consumer Cooperatives (SCCs):

Cooperatives in Schools, Colleges and Universities, with students and teachers as members, were initiated in India during the era of freedom struggle. This had a dual objective of creating a self-help movement within the educational institutions and *imbibing among the students the much needed cooperative culture*. Most of these cooperatives today are run as student consumer stores. If the designated role of these SCCs were to have been performed well, they would have supplied all necessities of student life at reasonable costs and would have prepared committed and enlightened consumer cooperators. However, in India neither of the two objectives was fulfilled in the past decades. SCCs should have sound business in order to sustain themselves and work as laboratories to give the student members a practical insight into running a cooperative venture. While suggesting measures towards this end is the primary focus of this paper, it is imperative that we begin by looking at the present status of SCCs in India.

Youth involvement in cooperatives in India is not very encouraging. An earlier study on Youth Integration in Cooperatives in India had established that only 14 percent of the members of the Board are below the age of 38. Young people do not seem to regard cooperatives as an attractive field. This is mainly due to a comparatively weak Student Cooperative Movement.

However, of late this issue has been realized by the Apex cooperative bodies and the National Cooperative Union of India, has initiated series of youth seminars and other related activities to popularize the movement and attract youth to its fold. Given the size and spread of student cooperatives, it is still the best option to strengthen them and use them as the foundation to vitalize the cooperative movement in general.

Features and Problems

Even though SCCs are a notable segment of CCs in India, very little attention is paid towards them. Notwithstanding some support packages from NCDC and in some states by the State Governments, there seem to be a general apathy towards attending to the needs of these cooperatives. There is no uniform pattern in their membership, management and business dealings. In most cases, a teacher in the educational institution is made responsible to run the activities of the cooperative and he does it with lot of reluctance. Many times, students are members but they do not know about it. Sometimes, they don't find a place in the BOD.

SCCs in India confront series of problems. The major problems of SCCs in India are both 'Structural' and 'Perceptual'. The former includes the different ways in which they are organized, there by restricting the participation to students or staff only. The later refers to the very understanding of these cooperatives. The specific problems include small size and limited business, absolute lack of interaction among such cooperatives, lack of regional or national networks, unclear view of the importance of these cooperatives, run on ad-hoc basis with no full timer to manage the store, inadequate capital base, lack of member participation, inadequate support by the institution or its management, lack of clear-cut government policy, lack of cooperative culture both among teachers and students and lack of data base.

The Spread of SCCs:

It is estimated that there exist around 10,000 SCCs in India at present. However the state cooperative departments do not collect separate information about their number and status. They are treated within the number of consumer cooperatives or put under the category of others. This makes it difficult to assess the exact number. The table below gives figures for some of the select states only.

Position of SCCs in Selected States of India

(Position by the end of 2003)

State	No. of ScCs	No. of Members	Share Capital (Rs. in 000s)
Andra Pradesh	160	90,000	1,115
Goa	22	15,000	210
Gujarath	23	—	—
Karnataka	258	282,880	13,700
Kerala	3,752	9,500,000	25,800

Maharashtra	402	281,918	15,133
Orissa	123	111,000	29
Tamilnadu	3,258	—	14,430
West Bengal	82	—	700
North East	20	12,500	—
TOTAL	8,100	11,500,298	71,117

DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES:

In India the first National Seminar on University/Student Cooperatives was held in November, 1990 at Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VMNICM), Pune in collaboration with National Federation of University Cooperative Association (NFUCA), Japan and International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), Regional Office for Asia and Pacific. It was in this background that efforts were taken to promote development of student cooperatives in India. A number of Workshops and Seminars and exchange visits took place. This write up focuses on the activities related to youth and student cooperatives after the Regional Youth Seminar in Tokyo, Japan in 2001.

The National Seminar on Consumer Cooperatives in Educational Institutions in 1997 resolved to form a National Forum for Cooperatives in Educational Institutions. Accordingly, in May, 1998 the Forum for Cooperatives in Educational Institutions was established with the following objectives:

- a. Bringing the cooperatives in Educational Institutions in India together for interaction among them by conducting meeting, seminars, workshops and training programmes.
- b. Liaisoning with them to coordinate activities of mutual interest in them.
- c. To represent the cooperatives in Educational Institutions in India in the National and International Forums.
- d. To disseminate information of common interest to the members by publishing booklets and manuals.

The Forum has participated in the Sub-Committee Meetings held at Seoul, Japan and Philippines and Singapore. The students representatives have participated in the Youth Seminar held at Tokyo. The Forum for Cooperatives in Educational Institutions had organized the Regional Youth Seminar in collaboration with National Cooperative Union of India in Chennai and Guwahati. The Forum took initiative in drafting the bye-laws of the Federation for Cooperatives in Educational Institutions to get it registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2000. The proposal for registration has been submitted and it is hoped that the Federation would be registered at the earliest.

The Coordination Committee of the Forum for Cooperatives in Educational Institutions decided to convene the National Seminar on Student/Youth Cooperatives in India at Regional Institute of Cooperative Management, Bangalore. Accordingly, the National Seminar was organized in Bangalore during 26-28th of February, 2004. Though it was a National Seminar pertaining to India there were student representatives from Japan, Indonesia and Sri Lanka also. The Seminar was also attended by the representatives from International Cooperative Alliance and Chairperson of the ICA Consumer Sub-Committee for University and College Cooperatives. The Seminar discussed the strategies for development, enhancing student participation, re-designing national youth policy and developing a national youth cooperative policy. The following action plan has been contemplated to promote the student youth cooperatives in India.

1. Make in roads in states wherever the student/youth cooperatives are not in existence by arranging Workshops/Seminars
2. Develop linkages with cooperative federations in the State and National level and promote the cooperatives in Educational Institutions
3. Try to develop linkages with the cooperatives in other countries and arrange for exchange visits
4. Enroll more members in the Federation
5. Circulation of Model Bye-laws
6. Initiate steps to build up a Corpus Fund
7. Proposal to bring out a newsletter with a view to disseminate the activities relating to youth/student cooperatives
8. Identifying and implementing income generating projects for student/youth in the following areas through the youth/student cooperatives
 - a) Traditional Business like distribution of Text Books, Stationeries, Home needs, Cosmetics, etc.
 - b) Patronage Business like Laboratory equipments, Sports goods, requirements of Canteens, Office stationeries, etc.
 - c) Works that could be assigned to Cooperative Societies by Department both Central and State, Municipalities, Town Panchayats, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Large corporates, etc.
 - d) Small Scale Industrial (SSI) projects and service sector projects and later in:
 - e) High-Tech Projects covering Information Technology (IT), Communication Technology (CT), Bio-Technology, etc.

Indeed there is a long way to go to achieve the above plans. None the less all the stakeholders seem to have understood that it is time for action. So we hope the above plans will be implemented step by step.

National Federation and its Role:

As mentioned earlier, the FCEI is being registered under the Multi State Cooperative Act. It will soon get the legal status as the National Federation of Campus Cooperatives. The members of FCEI will automatically become the members of the new federation. Then new members will be enrolled and the first General Meeting will be held to start elect the first Board and launch the activities. The draft agenda of activities envisaged for the new Federation are two fold, as mentioned below.

1. *Promotional Activities:*

- 1.1 Enrolling at least 1,000 member organizations during the first two years
- 1.2 Conducting at least one awareness workshop in all the states not covered so far. These workshops are to be conducted in local languages.
- 1.3 Identifying contact organizations in each state and through them reach out to all the student/youth cooperatives - both registered and unregistered
- 1.4 Building proper data base on the status of these cooperatives
- 1.5 Initiating liaison activities with the NCUI, NCCF and ministries of HRD and Youth Affairs.

2. *Business Development:*

- 2.1 Designing Business Development Plans (BDPs) for Campus Cooperatives and provide proper training for its implementation.
- 2.2 Lobbying with the Central and State government departments to provide various tax and other exemptions to Campus Cooperatives
- 2.3 Promoting regional and sub-regional networks for achieving economies of scale
- 2.4 Developing distinct campus cooperative brands and promoting them throughout the country
- 2.5 Providing technical service to member organizations in times of need.

The New Beginning

The efforts initiated in the last decade has succeeded in spreading general awareness and now even the apex cooperative organizations in India recognize the need for a strong youth base for the cooperatives. Obviously, there is all-round realization that we have to strengthen campus cooperatives. The present decade will see a new era in campus cooperative movement and hopefully much stronger campus cooperatives and much enlightened youth cooperative leaders.

Indonesia Cooperative Council (DEKOPIN) Young Cooperative Communicative Body (BKPK)

ACTIVITY REPORT 2001-2004

A. Introduction

During the last five year, cooperatives in Indonesia has entered new paradigm along the reformation era in stimulating the growth and development of democratic system in a better government. However, that better atmosphere of democracy has not yet brought the change in cooperative in Indonesia. Cooperative movement in Indonesia is still trapped in various past government polices that to make cooperative as sub-ordinate power, that is why cooperative true DEKOPIN initiate ides and strategic program among this program development of young cooperative potential to be a leader of cooperative in the future. Young Cooperative Communicative Body (BKPK) of DEKOPIN is one institution developed by DEKOPIN to facilitate youth co-op as: KOPINDO, KOPMA, KOPRAM, KOPONTREN, KOPSIS. BKPK established in 1985, at this recent time has seen established in nearly all provinces by Regional Cooperative Councils and even formed in District. The new spirit has given hope for cooperative movement in Indonesia, specially in the process of regeneration of cooperative leaders as well as stimulate youth to give attention in cooperative development in Indonesia.

Indonesia Cooperative Council (DEKOPIN) for the five years has facilitated major development for BKPK at the national level and regional as well as local. The following are a brief description of BKPK activities in 2001-2004.

B. Year 2001

1. Management Training for Cooperative Youth, held in Cibodas, West Java, 24-28 July, participants: 45 persons.
2. Sending a delegate for Seminar for Youth Coop for Asia and the Pacific, held in Tokyo, Japan, 18-21 June. Participants from BKPK-DEKOPIN is

Wiwini Winarti (Konsumer Cooperative of Bandung), Aditya Dharma (KOPMA UPI Bandung), and Dasril (KOPMA UI Jakarta).

3. Attending invitation of NFUCA Japan and SNCF Singapore in the mission of potential development of youth coop.

C. Year 2002

Activities held in the period of July-December 2002 were Management Training for Regional/Local BKPK Committee and Student Committee in 8 Provinces. The objective of this activity is to create youth whose prospective producer that process business mentality, creative, innovative and independent. Held in 8 provinces participant of 20 persons by youth coop and students coop.

D. Year 2003

1. Held training "Quantum Entrepreneurship by Cash Flow Game 101 Robert T Kiyosaki" with an objective increasing financial shrewdness among youth coop and students coop participants:

- a. KOPMA "Bumi Siliwangi" UPI, Bandung
- b. KOPMA Pasundan University, Bandung
- c. KOPMA Kebangsaan University, Bandung
- d. Student Welfare Cooperative of Bandung (KKMB)

2. Sending Mr. Agus Suherman (Chairman of BKPK) in Holly mass, 10 July held by student's coop of JABOTABEK.

3. Held "Leadership Training for Youth Coop for National Level" objective to increase leadership quantity of youth coop in Indonesia, held in Bandung as 40 participant came from :

- a. BKPK Aceh Darussalam Province
- b. BKPK West Sumatera Province
- c. BKPK Jambi Province
- d. BKPK Lampung Province
- e. BKPK North Sumatera Province
- f. BKPK West Kalimantan Province
- g. BKPK West Java Province
- h. BKPK of District of West Java Province
- i. BKPK of Central Java Province
- j. BKPK of Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta Province
- k. BKPK of Bali Province
- l. BKPK of Nusa Tenggara Barat Province

- m. BKPK of Southeast Sulawesi
- 4. Held BKPK Management, objective to increasing managerial quality of Regional and District BKPK, Bandung 27-30 September, participant :
 - a. BKPK of North Sulawesi Province
 - b. BKPK of South Kalimantan Province
 - c. BKPK of West Sumatera Province
 - d. BKPK of West Java Province
- 5. Sending Mr. Wildan Ahmad and Mr. Musri Ma'waleda in "9th Meeting of the ICA Consumer Coop. Sub-Committee on University/College Cooperative for Asia and the Pacific" 12-14 November.
- 6. To facilitate "Cash Flow Game 101 by Robert T. Kiyosaki" for 8 BKPK Province/Regional. The following BKPK to procure as :
 - a. BKPK of DKI Jakarta Province
 - b. BKPK of Central Java Province
 - c. BKPK of Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta Province
 - d. BKPK of East Java Province
 - e. BKPK of South Sumatera Province
 - f. BKPK of West Kalimantan Province
 - g. BKPK of South Kalimantan
 - h. BKPK of North Sulawesi

E. Year 2004

- 1. We had an unexpected visitor from NFUCA (The National Federation of University Cooperative Association) Mr. Toshifumi Kuriki and Mr. Jiro Ito Special Director ICAROAP.
- 2. Held Training "Quantum Entrepreneurship by Cash Flow Game 101 Robert T. Kiyosaki" with an objective the increasing financial shrewdness as special training program for students in KOPONTEN Darul Tauhid, Bandung in May 2004.
- 3. Held Management Training for 6 (six) BKPK Organizer of District at Bengkulu Province, 18-20 June. The following participants as :
 - a. BKPK Organizer of Bengkulu City. District
 - b. BKPK Organizer of Rejang Lebong District
 - c. BKPK Organizer of Kepahiang District
 - d. BKPK Organizer of Bengkulu Selatan District
 - e. BKPK Organizer of Bengkulu Utara District

- f. KOPMA Bengkulu University
4. Held BKPK Management-training in Central of Jawa Province, with 25 participants from KOPMA and BKPK of District in Central of Jawa in 29-30 Jun 2004.
 5. Held BKPK Management training in South Kalimantan Province, with 25 participants from KOPMA Lambung Mangkurat University, KOPMA Sekolah Tinggi Ekoomi and BKPK of District in South Kalimantan.

Thank you very much for your attention and cooperation, (*Amen*).

Indonesian Youth Cooperative and the Changed Environment*

Presented by : MR. SUROTO

Director of Lembaga Pengkajian dan Pengembangan Koperasi (LePpeK),
Former Chairman of Cooperative “Koperma Unsoed” 2000-2003

Introduction

The co-operative in developing countries has different characteristic with the cooperative in developed countries. The difference is not only because the social structure of the people in developing countries that is still traditional but also influenced by social system, economic and politic that is implemented. In developed countries co-operatives are able to show themselves as an autonomy and independent institution, in some developing countries like Indonesia, the role of most cooperatives are dominated by the government. Cooperatives in local or even national level have the tendency to be functioned as a government tool instead of autonomous and independent institution from its members.

The awareness of Indonesian people to co-op is also still low. From 215 million people in Indonesia right now, only around 27 million individuals of co-operative members joined in 103.000 primary cooperative spread all over Indonesia (Minister of Cooperative : 2003). From the amount of cooperative exist right now there are still a lot of them that are fictitious.

Reality in the field also shows there are a lot of co-operatives in Indonesia that hasn't implemented the principles of co-operative like it suppose to be according to the International Co-operative Identity Statement (ICIS). We can see this from the system of co-operative's membership that is still top down and not based on the personal consciousness to take the advantages in co-operating. Participation from member in co-operative is also still low and run inefficiently. Many co-operatives running without the control from its members and do businesses like conventional company and only concern about looking for profit.

In the competition, co-operative can not compete with another form of capitalist company and hasn't succeeded yet in taking the opinions. Many corruption

cases, fraud and manipulation that happened in co-operative make the decreasing of people's trust upon the co-operative.

This kind of condition of course giving influence to the role of youth in co-operative. Cooperative for the youth is still consider as an uninteresting activity and only a few that has take the advantages from co-operative. We can see this from the minimum level of participation from the youth in co-operative. Meanwhile some of them who are active in some sectors of cooperative is still not showing a strong level of commitment towards the continuity of the cooperative. The gap between the youth and co-operative in Indonesia is still feels far.

Youth Cooperative Organization and Its Achievements

In age, the number of youth co-operative in Indonesia is approximately 5 million people (Kuncoro: 2004). This condition shows that they are small in number if we compare it with the number of youth in general that is approximately 90.352.501 million people¹. The role of youth co-operative in Indonesia is consist of models. First, those who are joined in many kinds of cooperative sectors in general like credit co-operative, Rural Unit Co-operative, Farming cooperative, milk co-operative and others. Second, those who are joined, form exclusive cooperative that has a specific member only for youth like university student co-operative, student co-operative, youth co-operative, and others.

Those who are joined in many kinds of general peoples co-operative organization sectors like credit co-operative, milk co-operative, farming co-operative and others, the contribution is not significant. Their involvement in these cooperative hasn't been made the policy of commitment to co-operative. It is shown by the minimum budget allocation and the program commitment for the youth. In economic activity they are also ignored.

Meanwhile, positive activities that they had done like becoming the education facilitator, held the "pamer pedet" in milk co-operative, held competitions, manage co-operative magazines, taking care of cows et cetera. But generally, they haven't involved much in taking policies in co-operative. In the case of some co-operative, they form their own forum to actualize what they want. Meanwhile, for those who are active in exclusive co-operative had succeed in compiling good apex organization in local and national level. In national level, youth co-operative joined in many organization. The organizations are: Badan Komunikasi Pemuda Koperasi (BKPK) which is youth co-operative organization underneath the Board of Indonesian Co-operative (Dekopin), and Koperasi Pemuda Indonesia (Kopindo) which is a secondary youth co-operative in Indonesia.

While university students co-operative in national level formed a cooperation

network in Forum Komunikasi Koperasi Mahasiswa Indonesia (FKKMI). Meanwhile in local there is Himpunan Koperasi Mahasiswa Yogyakarta (HKMY), Akomas (Asosiasi Koperasi Mahasiswa Semarang), Akukopma (Asosiasi Koperasi Mahasiswa Jakarta), ASBIKOM (Asosiasi Bisnis Koperasi Mahasiswa Bandung). In their activity (except kopindo which is a secondary youth co-operative), the other organization only running non-business organization activity, like congress, seminar, workshop, education and training, etcetera.

While the form of business activity done by co-operative in the level of primary consist of conventional business like establishing mini market, copy center, cafe, private phone, saving and loan, computer course and foreign languages, and some organized students dormitory. Organizational activities that is done consist of seminar, co-operative education and trainings, management, etcetera. University students co-operatives are not able to maximize their resources and live by the facility provided by their "landlord", the university where they exist.

University Students Cooperative and the Discourse of Changes

For the organization of university student co-operative especially, until now shows the activity of around 139 cooperative². This kind of co-operative was first establish in 1974, that is "Bumi Siliwangi" IKIP Bandung or now change into University of Indonesia Education (UPI) Bandung.

Then followed by other university in Indonesia. Yet there is an interesting note that according to Darsono (2002) this co-operative was establish because of the effort to "muzzle" the voice of university students that demand changes in social and politic in the era of 1970's which later strengthened by the Decision Letter Minister of Education and Culture Number.

01/V/1978 about the Bringing Normal Condition of Campus Life and the forming of Campus Coordination Corps. This co-operative lived as a part of small satellite from University to put in order university students to go back to their campus and become a part of universities "tusk tower". So there are often accusation from the other university students that says that university students cooperative as a servant of the capitalist. It is shown only as an actualization institution in developing entrepreneurship to work in capitalist sectors. The reality above is also supported by the analysis result from The Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) in its research done in 1996 toward 6 big university students cooperatives in Indonesia as follows:

We didn't see the service provided by these co-operative as instrument of democracy or change, but rather as a means of satisfying tangible or consumable needs. Perhaps we didn't see these co-operatives as a part of something larger, such as a consumer co-operative movement³.

The trend of establishing University students co-operative until 1995, 12% established between the year 1975-1979, 68% established between the year 1980-1986 and 21% established between the year 1986-1995. While if we see from the behavior of its member, most of them are still automatic, that is the system of membership happens automatically to the students who are accepted in that university. There are 68% still automatic or top down and only 32% are voluntary (Darsono: 2003). Even though lately there are some co-operative show some changes in their membership system to the voluntary or based on their consciousness. Even some of them open themselves to be public co-operative and the membership is open to anyone like the ordinary Consumption co-operative model with a principle reason. The changes to the "radical" system by making it as consumption co-operative at least can be seen from the result of Seminar and Workshop of Indonesia University Student Co-operative conclusion about "portrait of university students co-operative model" as follows: 1) The model of University Students Cooperative that exist in its natural form, that is co-operative with limited the membership only for university students, 2) The model of University Students co-operative that still keep the but they open their membership to the society, 3) Consider that the model of University students cooperative become inappropriate again with the demand of self improvement or co-operative that is done by mixing the society to be the member of their co-operative and changed its name not as a university students co-operative again.

Principle Problems

Internally, there are several main problems in the effort to empower youth in peoples cooperative sectors generally in Indonesia. The problems are:

- ♦ The youth don't realize the importance of co-operative well. And otherwise co-operative and its organizers doesn't understand much about the importance of youth in co-operative
- ♦ Co-operative does not show their image yet to attract the youth to join in co-operative
- ♦ The average education level of co-operative youth is still low and some still have to finish their school
- ♦ Co-operative doesn't have the capacity to give economic benefit or vacancy for the youths future.

Meanwhile, the problems faced by functional co-operative like university students co-operative, student co-operative, and youth co-operative internally are :

- ♦ The average membership of co-operative is still automatic and not based on their own willingness
- ♦ The participation level of member in co-operative is still low with the average of less than 50%

- ◆ The organizing of resources is less optimal and the management pattern is less professional
- ◆ High co-operatives dependency towards “landlord”
- ◆ Weak communication relation with the member
- ◆ Inappropriate co-operative management education and training
- ◆ Weak cooperation network and minimum direct benefit towards the member in general
- ◆ Less sensitivity from “co-operative elite” towards their surroundings.
- ◆ The discourse of “Campus Autonomy” is consider by some leader of university as an effort to take away the business ground of university students co-operative and not seeing the importance of university students co-operative as an important part of university.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The role of youth in co-operative still seems small and not taking much role in decision making. The distance between co-operative and youth still feels far. Co-operative is not able to formulate bigger vision that gives the chance for youth involvement. Meanwhile, some which are active in exclusive functional co-operative still having principle problems and not responsive towards the changes that happens surround them.

Therefore, as an important recommendation to empower youth in co-operative we need the effort as follows:

- ◆ Arranging program strategy that are more directed and continued in the project of changing mindset trough co-operative education and training, workshop and seminar and also publishing.
- ◆ Change of fetter rules and strove policy commitment in the form of support on budget and clear program for youth in peoples co-operative generally stronger youth co-operative network in local, national or even international level, in the form of facilitator network, youth camping, seminar etcetera for the sake of communication among co-operative youth across border and in sector.
- ◆ Another model is the form of workshop to develop youth creativity and the creation of job vacancy and entrepreneurship based on co-operative. Giving guarantee towards the continuity of youth program in co-operative and to the purpose of co-operative development in the future. The changes of empowerment pattern for the youth in the society system that happens in Indonesia and in co-operative. On the other hand co-operative in youth environment must be able to change themselves and open themselves to their environment.

References:

- 1 Statistic Center Bureau , 2000. In age class grouping is based on national standard according to Komite Nasional Pemuda Indonesia (KNPI) between 15 - 40 years old.
- 2 The valid statistic number until this paper is compile hasn't been found, according to the Office of Minister of Cooperative there are about 500 primary co-operative. Meanwhile the data that writer used is university student cooperative listed to be the member of FKKMI until 2004 3 See CCA : INCODAP Co-operative Youth Programs : technical Co-operant Report, Study Mission to Indonesia, CCA, 1996, not published.

Singapore National Co-operative Federation

Country Report from Singapore

Prepared by: **TEO SAY HONG and KAREN LIM**
Youth Leader SNCF Manager
Member/Secretary, SNCF Campus Sector Committee

Campus Co-operatives in Singapore

Campus co-operatives are co-operative societies operating in the campuses of schools, colleges, polytechnics and universities. With the advice and assistance of teachers, campus co-operative offers students first-hand experience of running a co-operative on sound economic and cooperative principles.

Campus co-operatives' membership is open to students, teachers, lecturers and staff of secondary schools, junior colleges, polytechnics and universities. These co-operatives provide a variety of services to their members such as sale of books, stationery, IT services, sports goods, canteen services, travel etc.

Traditionally, campus co-operatives were in the business of the sale of books and stationary but nowadays, our innovative teacher advisors and enterprising student co-operators are branching out to new and creative businesses like running a bubble tea café and operating an internet game business.

Objectives of Campus Co-operatives

- To promote the economic interests of its members.
- To encourage thrift, co-operation, self-help and mutual assistance among its members.
- To promote and popularize the buying and selling of educational materials, consumer goods and services on a co-operative basis.
- To establish and operate such co-operative schemes, ventures or projects subject to the approval of the registrar.
- To develop entrepreneurial skills of members through exposure to various types of co-operative activities.

To inculcate in members self-discipline, self-reliance, responsibility and accountability and to provide opportunities for total character development.

Campus Co-operative as a Co-curriculum Activity

The educational values and experience gained by the students were also recognised by Ministry of Education. The Ministry has in fact endorsed the students' participation in campus cooperative as a Co-Curriculum Activity. Students who involve in this activity can qualify for bonus points in the CCA Grading Scheme. The Ministry has also left the formation of such cooperatives to schools and colleges.

SNCF Campus Co-operative Sector Committee

The Campus Co-operative Sector Committee, led by Associate Professor Poo Gee Swee from NUS Co-operative, was set up in 1994 following a Co-operative Strategic Review. The Committee consists of members representing all categories of campus co-operatives - University, Polytechnic, junior college and secondary school co-operatives.

The Campus Co-operative Sector Committee meets regularly to identify relevant problems and formulate ways and means to overcome problems.

Highlights of Past Programmes/Activities

The National Campus Co-operative Seminar 2002/ Inter Campus Cooperatives' Innovative Business Ideas Competition

To promote co-operatives among the Educational Institutions in Singapore, the Campus Sector Committee had organized several seminars over the last few years. All secondary schools, JCs & tertiary institutions were invited to send their teachers and students to participate in the seminars.

The National Co-operative Seminar 2002 was held on 25 May 2002 at the Ngee Ann Polytechnic. It was attended by 300 principals, teachers and students from 35 secondary schools, junior colleges and tertiary institutions.

At the seminar, Mr Hawazi Daipi, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Manpower was invited to grace the occasion. In conjunction with the theme of the seminar "Promoting Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the campus co-operative", the campus sector committee also organised an Inter-Campus cooperatives' Innovative Business Ideas Competition which aimed at promoting creative thinking among the youth group of the campus cooperatives in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Each participating team was required to submit an innovative business idea paper based on the following:

- Product/service idea
- Business Concept – summarize key technology, concept or strategy on which your business is based
- Goals and objective
- Unique selling point of the idea
- Target Market
- Competition
- Strength and weakness/Opportunity and Threat of the idea
- Estimate the start-up cost and financial plan for the first three years
- Resource requirements

SNCF Book Keeping Course

During the last year's March School Holiday and this year's June holiday, SNCF conducted a two-day free course on Book-Keeping for the teacher-advisors and students from the campus cooperatives who do not have any accounting knowledge. It aimed to provide the participants an overview of the basic accounting and enable them to apply what they learn from the course to their co-operatives.

Campus Co-operatives Weekend Bazaar cum Competition at NTUC

More than 70 enthusiastic student co-operators from 9 campus co-operatives manned the 11 stalls at a bazaar on Saturday, 16 August 2003 at the NTUC Hougang Mall. These student cooperators are in the age ranging from 13 to 20 years old. Sale of items on that day included art pieces, handicrafts, household appliances, second-hand goods, hand-made accessories and many more. There were also two stalls that offered henna paintings. These 11 stalls were competing with each other in a competition organized by the Campus Sector Committee of Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF). The participating teams were judged by sale of the day, profit, customer service and marketing presentation. The National Campus Co-operatives Bazaar Competition aimed to promote entrepreneurial spirit and innovative ideas among the youth group, encourage active involvement of students in selling, learn how to work as a team and instil the spirit of community service among the student co-operators. The one-day Bazaar raised \$1,600 for the SNCF's adopted voluntary welfare organisation – the Children At-Risk Empowerment Association (CARE). The donation was half the total profit made by the participating student co-operators on that day. The Bazaar Competition was organised in conjunction with the Co-operative Awareness Road Show. In his opening message at the Co-operative Awareness Road Show, Mayor Zainul Abidin Rasheed, North East Community Development Council, the Guest-of-Honour said, "The economic downturn teaches us to be prudent. This is especially so for the younger generation.

Running a co-operative is a unique educational opportunity for students. The co-operatives not only gives them an opportunity to run a business, but it also inculcates values and attitudes that help steer them along life's paths." The Bazaar was covered by Mediacorp TV 8 News on the same day.

Media Publicity for Campus Sector

To generate the awareness of our Campus Co-operatives in Singapore, SNCF had requested for some media publicity. Two journalists from Channel U and Lianhe Zaobao went to Orchid Park Secondary School Co-operative on 26 September 2003 for an interview. The purpose of the media coverage was to promote entrepreneurship among the students. During the interview, the teacher advisor and a few student co-operators were asked about the objectives of setting up the co-operative as well as what they have learnt from the co-operative-related activities.

The Channel U News' coverage was aired on 1 September 2003 and the Lianhe Zaobao's coverage was published on 14 October 2003.

Student Co-operators Job Attachment Programme

During last year's December school holiday, SNCF coordinated the Job Attachment Programme for some of the student co-operators to work in a few co-operatives. The Programme aimed to provide our student co-operators work experience prior to graduation. More importantly, it also helped them to develop for greater understanding in other people and greater skills in human relations.

'Managing Effective Meeting' Training Course for Campus Co-operatives

'Managing Effective Meeting' course was conducted on 15 March 2004 at the Ong Teng Cheong Training Institute (OTC). The one-day course aimed to train the student cooperative leaders to be able to turn meetings into effective forms for proposing and generating ideas, and reaching consensus on future directions and actions plans. The course attracted 25 participants from two junior college cooperatives and five school co-operatives. About 60 percent of the course fee was subsidized by SNCF.

National Campus Co-operative Seminar 2004

The National Campus Co-operative Seminar 2004 was held on Saturday, 21 August 2004 at Ngee Ann Polytechnic. The theme of the seminar was "Promoting Innovation & Enterprise through a Co-operative Way". The Guest-of-Honour, Mr Hawazi Daipi, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Manpower was there to grace the occasion. Mr Seah Kian Peng, SNCF Chairman, NTUC FairPrice Deputy CEO and NTUC Media CEO, addressed the thematic paper. The Organising Committee also invited a

guest speaker Ms Elim Chew to share with the participants her entrepreneurial experience in the retail business. Ms Chew, one of the very successful young entrepreneurs in Singapore, is the founder and Managing Director of 77th Street, which was set up in 1988. Students from two campus co-operatives will talk on what they have learnt from the cooperative activities.

Inter Campus Co-operatives' Bizchallenge Simulation Game Competition

The Inter-Campus Co-operatives BizChallenge Simulation Game Competition was held in conjunction with the National Campus Co-operative Seminar. The BizChallenge is an online business simulation game for entrepreneurship training. As a web-based game, it operates in real time and the winner's criteria include accumulated profit, sales growth, net profit margin, product attractiveness, return on equity, market share and plant capacity. The competition was categorized into two groups ie ITE/JC/Polytechnic and secondary school.

Country Report from Sri Lanka

Presented by : **MR. A. ASOKA SEPALA**
National Coordinator, NYCC, Sri Lanka.

Honourable guests, distinguished youth participants from Asia Pacific region, ICA officials, on behalf of the Sri Lankan delegates, let me greet you in the traditional Sri Lankan way by saying “Ayubowan”- May you all live long. It is a great privilege to me to address you all today. I am thankful to the National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka and the ICA ROAP for this wonderful opportunity given to us. I have prepared a comprehensive report for presentation, but I will briefly highlight the important issues to be discussed.

General Description of the Country

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is an Island situated between latitudes 6 and 10 North and longitude 79 and 82 East and at the Southern tip of India. It is well known as the “Pearl of the Indian Ocean”. The Country m with a land area of approximately 65,610 square Kilometers and m 432 Kilometers m length and 224 Kilometers wide. The climate is tropical with temperatures at around 26 to 32 Celsius through-out the year. The annual rain fall is around 80 inches mainly during the two monsoonal periods of the South-West and North-East monsoons. Also we experience inter-monsoonal ram through-out the year enriching rivers with plenty of abundant water adding more beauty to the environment. Thus agricultural activities are facilitated through out the year.

The central hills demarcate the Island into a number of ecological regions. The South-West region is wet and humid through out the year. North-East part of the country covers two third of the land area in the Dry Zone. A very calm and cool climatic condition prevails in the central region.

Sri Lanka has a population of around 19 million and an annual growth rate of 1.3 percent. 75% of the population live in rural areas.

Since 1944 facility of free education from kindergarten to university level has been enjoyed by the students of Sri Lanka. The rate of literacy is above 89%.

Sri Lanka is a free sovereign independent and Democratic socialist Republic.

Territory of Sri Lanka consists of 9 provinces with 25 administrative districts. Legislative power is exercised by the parliament elected by universal franchise on a proportional representation basis.

The Co-operative Movement in Sri Lanka

Cooperation in its wider sense has been always in existence in Sri Lanka. It was called the “Aththam” system, in the rural areas. The co-operative movement was introduced to Sri Lanka by the British rulers at the beginning of the 20th century to overcome rural indebtedness mainly in the agricultural sector. The first credit society was formed in 1906 in order to provide cultivation loans to members as well as non members. The then Governor Sir Hemy McCallum appointed an Agricultural Bank Committee of inquiry which among other matters examined farmer indebtedness, farmer needs and assistance required by them and the suitability of introducing a proper system for credit disbursement.

On the basis of the recommendations of this Committee, co-operative Credit Societies Ordinance was enacted as the Government Ordinance No.7 of 1911, thus providing a legal foundation for the co-operative movement in Sri Lanka.

The history of the co-operative movement in Sri Lanka is generally discussed under five phases of development, namely:-

- First Phase - from 1911-1942 (credit phase)
- Second Phase - from 1942-1957 (consumer & agricultural phase)
- Third Phase - from 1957-1971 (multi-purpose co-operatives)
- Fourth Phase - from 1971 (re-organization and after)
- Fifth Phase - from 1978 - Sanasa re-organization of Credit Societies

Phase One (1911- 1942) - Credit Co-operatives

The Co-operative Credit Societies Ordinance of 1911 gave recognition to establish rural credit societies. The growth of co-operatives in the early period was slow and the formation of co-operatives became a governmental move. Since most of the societies were of unlimited liability the average peasant cultivator had no access to become a member and remain indebted all the time. These societies besides lending money for agricultural purposes inculcated the habit saving among village people.

Phase Two (1942 - 1957) - Stores Drive

During this period a remarkable change was witnessed in the pattern and orientation of the co-operative movement in the country. The consumer co-operative movement which started with the stores societies in 1942 had to meet the situation created by the World War II. The food scarcity during this period tempted the traders to profiteer in consumer goods. Therefore in 1942 the

government made a decision to establish a network of consumer co-operatives throughout the country to undertake the distribution of food and other essential commodities.

Phase Three (1957 -1971) - Multi-purpose Co-operatives

Following a government policy decision in 1957 a program was launched to establish large primary Multi-Purpose Co-operatives amalgamating the small consumer societies into larger units. It was decided to establish a MPCS in every village in the country. The objective of the above action was to provide various multi faceted services to members from a single unit. But due to various reasons these societies did not perform according to expectations and many remained single purpose societies engaged in distribution of consumer goods.

Phase Four - Re-organization And After (1970)

The government appointed a Royal commission in 1968 to examine and recommend measures for strengthening and improving the co-operative movement in the country. A special legislation was passed in 1970 giving statutory powers to the Commissioner of Co-operative Development to amalgamate societies and to close down weak societies. Therefore, during the period of 1971 to 1972 the existing 5818 single purpose co-operatives were amalgamated into 372 large multi-purpose societies. During this period changes took place in the national level organizations too. The Co-operative Federation of Ceylon, the ideological apex organization was re constituted and named the *National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka (NCC)*. In 1973 *Sri Lanka Co-operative Marketing Federation (MARKFED)* was formed as the agricultural marketing apex in the country.

Today there are 13 Apex Unions and 30 all Island Co-operative Societies which are basically thrift and credit, consumer, agricultural and industrial types by nature. At the end of year 2002 the total number of societies engaged in specific activities was 11080, with a total membership of 59 lakhs. There are 306 multi-purpose co-operatives, 8000 Sanasa Societies at grass root level and District and Regional Unions in each administrative division of the county.

Phase Five - From 1978 - Sanasa Thrift And ~Credit Movement

The re-organization of the Thrift & Credit Movement took place in 1978 with the arrival of Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, who re-engineered the Thrift & Credit movement under the acronym 'SANASA'. The number of societies increased from 760 to the present number 8000 and with the number of Members and District Unions increased accordingly. The overall development contributes substantially to the national economy.

Table I: Number of Co-operative Societies, 1999 – 2002

By type of society	1999	2000	2001	2002
All Societies	11,850	11,793	11,864	12,693
Primary Societies				
Total	11,706	11,649	1,1721	12,549
Credit	7,735	7,607	7,658	8,423
Agriculture	553	560	561	564
Industrial	176	195	200	202
School Co-operatives	993	1,004	1,016	1,027
Multi-Purpose	311	311	311	311
Fisheries	658	673	674	682
Others	1,280	1,299	1,301	1,340
Secondary Societies				
Total	144	144	143	144
Banking Unions	16	16	14	14
National Co-operative Council	1	1	1	1
District Co-operative Council	27	27	27	27
Multi-Purpose Unions	9	9	9	9
Other Unions	91	91	92	93

Table II: Membership of Co-operative Societies, 1999 – 2002

By type of society	1999	2000	2001	2002
Primary Societies (Thousands)				
Total	5,554	5,687	5,599	5,871
Credit	826	880	816	842
Agriculture	112	112	105	119
Industrial	43	43	39	41
School Co-operatives	236	246	216	210
Multi-Purpose	3,745	3,881	3,704	3,891
Fisheries	61	61	80	86
Others	531	464	639	682
Secondary Societies (Units)				
Total	11,520	11,548	11,910	12,551
Banking Unions	272	274	288	290
National Co-operative Council	40	40	40	40
District Co-operative Council	1,296	1,301	1,301	1,335
Multi-Purpose Unions	275	298	301	316
Other Unions	9,637	9,635	9,980	10,570

Co-operative Youth Activities In Sri Lanka

1. National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka (Ncc)

As the National Apex for the entire co-operative movement the NCC conducts educational program for all members as well as employees. At national level NCC has been assigned the task of planning and monitoring education activities for members at national level. All programmes are aimed at increasing the co-operative knowledge and professional efficiency of all concerned in the movement form Board of Directors, officers, women, youth and children.

Leadership development courses are being conducted for Society Chairmen, directors, committee members, co-operative women youth & student leaders. Field officers who are engaged educational activities at district levels are being trained to develop their subject knowledge, to improve the methodology of teaching and to educate them on supervision & evaluation. Special training programs are conducted for selected leaders in schools to emphasize the value of co-operation and its activities as a solution for problems that school children are facing in their day to day activities and education and to increase the habit of thrift & savings from their young age.

The NCC conducts special programmes for youth and school children. The island wide competitions conducted during truly to commemorate the International Co-operative Day are very popular. The best performing students are given the chance to attend national and international youth programmes.

District Level youth forums and programmes are conducted to promote organize farming and self-employment. Leadership training is given to school children to popularize cooperation among them and to teach the principles of values of the Movement.

2. The School Co-operatives In Sri Lanka

The very first school co-operative was stated in 1927 in Jaffna at the Arunthai College in Alaveddy. In the Western province school co-operative was started in Kiriwattuduwa in 1933. By 1938 the government took a lot of interest in forming and developing school co-operatives as there was general acceptance that co-operation should be included as a subject in the school curriculum. It is now included in the advanced level syllabus.

At the beginning these societies were known as “Juvenile Societies” and “School Supply Co-operatives”. These societies were not registered due to the fact that membership was given only to persons under 18 years of age. However, as the concept of democracy spread wide and forth within the country, and special attention was given to increasing the membership in school co-operatives. Membership is open to all school children and teaching staff in a school.

Before 1960 there was a rapid development in this sector, which declined from 1965 as more attention was paid to the development of Consumer Co-operatives. In 1969 a Commission was appointed, headed by Mr. Laidlow to re-organize the co-operative sector. As a consequence a by-law for school co-operatives was introduced in 1971. Along with the re- organization of the movement based on the recommendation of the above Commission, registration of school co-operative was approved.

Present trends and development of school co-operatives

- i. In 1990 the Department of Education introduced the subject of Co-operation in the grade nine syllabus of the school curriculum. Recently the Co-operation was introduced to the A/L syllabus. Subjects such as Handicrafts, home gardening etc., were also introduced.
- ii. Through this program Education Officers involved in teaching of Commerce as a subject is introduced to the co-operative movement and its activities.
- iii. The National Co-operative Council joined with the Education Development to select Assistance Teachers from selected schools from each district to be trained finally to set up Model school co-operative in the District.
- iv. Based on the above Model Co-operatives 5-6 student leaders to be trained from each school to eventually extend activities of school co-operative within each district
- v. Co-ordination between school co-operative, school development society and parents is encouraged for the benefit of the school co-operatives.
- vi. School co-operatives provide stationary, school uniforms, etc, to the students at reasonable prices. They conduct books and stationery shops, canteen and mini banks for the benefit of the students of the school.
- vii. Thrift and savings is encouraged through saving campaigns and contests.
- viii. School co-operatives are encouraged to deposit their savings in the closest Co-operative Rural Bank.

3. Sanasa Movement

Vision : A modern society based on co-operative principles & values.

Mission : To strengthen & develop the community to establish the modern society aspired by the vision

Sanasa Movement has a unique feature in its structure called the "Children's Committees" Children of members and neighborhood families are the members of these grass root level children's organization.

These committees are being conducted under the guidance of the Women's Committee of the society. The aims of the Children's Committee is to develop future leadership and good citizens, to develop the inherent talents, skills and

abilities of the children who do not get such opportunity in their schools and to encourage thrift & savings among the children. In most primary societies there are Youth Committees for member of ages between 18-35.

They conduct sports activities, literary contests, quiz competitions, voluntary social welfare activities etc. The Sanasa by-law states that 2 members on the Board/Committee should be youth between the ages 18-35.

Table III : Vital Statistics of Co-operative Rural Bank, 1998 – 2002

Particulars	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total Number of Rural Banks (Units)	1,351	1,367	1,416	1,507	1,554
Value of Total Assets	13,242.3	23,367.1	19,106.0	20,856.0	24,505.5
Value of Deposits	11,233.6	12,917.4	14,258.0	16,575.0	18,687.3
Loan Balance at the end of the Year	3,278.6	4,408.6	4,848.0	4,280.6	5,818.2
Pawning Advances	2,776.2	2,776.2	3,104.0	1,625.9	1,501.6
Structures of Loans					
Total	3,278.6	3,361.5	4,828.0	4,280.6	3,325.9
Housing	213.3	201.0	2,838.0	2,396.2	1,861.5
Self-employed	2,010.5	2,070.5	668.0	333.0	258.7
Production	406.1	418.0	291.0	385.1	299.2
Miscellaneous	648.7	672.0	1,031.0	1,166.3	906.5

4. *The Universities In Sri Lanka*

The Universities in Sri Lanka conduct a Development studies graduate course where Co- operation in a subject in the Arts and Social studies programme.

5. *Nysco - National Youth Services Co-operative Union Ltd.*

This Apex Level Union was registered in 1980 with 25 district unions as its members. Today there are over 425,500 members spread all over the country all between the ages of 15-35. The main objective of the Union is to fulfill the aspiration of economic, education, social cultural and sports needs of the youth members and according to the new cooperative concepts to encourage thrift and credit, self reliancy and mutual understanding.

They also identify, plan and conduct many projects to uplift the position of youth in our country. It is registered as the only Apex for Youth Cooperatives. NYSCO not only guides its members on the development of their socio-economic situation, but also provides equipment, skills training for self-employment, credit and financial assistance and consultancy services. Youth are also provided special

leadership training, computer knowledge training in home economics, food preservation, beauty culture, bridal and hair dressing.

They are given training in agriculture, poultry and animal husbandry and the milk and milk products are sold at their milk bars. Their furnished products are sold through their mobile units and retail sales outlets. Their savings are deposited in the Youth Bank which have close banks with the Co-operative Rural Banks. The NYSCO maintains a printing press as it's main source of income.

They hold annual events such as the Sri Lanka and New Year Pola (fair) to promote their products, and also conduct educational seminars and quiz competition to involve more youth in the Movement.

Some Recommendations - To Improve Youth Co-operatives

- The Government and Co-operative Ministry, Department and Co-operative Institute to introduce and put into practice cooperation among Youth and provide them more facilities for their development
- Develop management skills, leadership abilities of youth office bearers to groom them for future employment within the co-operatives.
- Conduct educational programs, seminars for youth members with view to widen their knowledge and awareness of the co-operatives and encourage them to contribute towards the development of the Movement.
- Steps to inculcate co-operative concepts in the minds of all youth through which process a spiritual and materialistic development of their personalities could be encouraged.
- To launch a very effective publicity campaign to high light co-operative youth organizations their potential and strength so that all youth members and potential members will gain by such organizations.
- Encourage thrift, savings and investment among youth so that they will be strong and able to face the adult world.
- To conduct inter-school inter-university, inter-youth co-operatives to promote understanding cooperation and active participation of youth in the development process of the country.
- National and International exposure programmes for youth to meet their counterparts in the other countries for their mutual benefit.
- To include planning, investment, credit control and management in the training programmes along with skills development
- Create new business accounting system. Provide Information Technology for youth Co-operators to develop their skill.
- Restructure of Co-operative sector according to the economic policies of the country as a solution to the sustainable development, unemployment and poverty alleviation.

- To implement ICA/ILO 192/193 Recommendation to the co-operative sector through National Youth Co-operators Congress (NYCC).
- Utilizing NYCC involvement to states that two members for the Board/ Committee should be presented by youth between ages of 18-39.

Prepared and presented by:

1. Mr. D S K Pathirana - General Manager COOPFED, Chairman of NYCC
2. Mr. A. Asoka Sepala - Chairman, Nawa Thalawakele MPCs Ltd, National Coordinator of NYCC
3. Mr. Jatila De Silva - Chairman Vijaya Sanasa Society Ltd
4. Mr. A G P Chandrasiri - Chairman of Tangalle MPCs Ltd, Leader of NYCC (Hmbantota District)
5. Mr. W RL J Rathnayake - Leader of NYCC (Galle District)
6. Mr. M P S Fernando - Director of Negombo MPCs Ltd
7. Mr. RM C Pradeep - Vice Chairman of NYSCO
8. Mr. P A Ruwanthilaka - Secretary of NYSCO
9. Mr. D M Sumith Kumara - Director of NYSCO
10. Mr. W R P De Silva - Youth Co-ordinate of COOPFED
11. Mr. Sumith Liyanage - Member of NYCC
12. Mr. Lalith Gangewatte - Consultant of NYCC

Filipino Youth in Co-operatives' Participation in the Changing Environment

Presented by :

MARGARET VALERIE FORTALEZA

National Youth Coordinator, NATCCO Network, Philippines

Background

The Philippines is home to around 80 million people. Today, about 1/3 of the total population is composed of the youth below 30 years of age. With a 2.36% annual growth rate, the population is expected to increase 50% in the next 20 years (National Statistics Office:2000). By then, majority of the Filipinos will be young people—the youth, which is considered the hope of the nation, the country's future leaders.

The National Youth Commission (NYC) reported that there are approximately 20.3 million in-school youth distributed in the elementary, secondary and tertiary levels of education, while there are roughly 9.5 million out-of-school youth aged 7-24 years. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), on the other hand, reported that about 49.9 % of the Philippine labor force is composed of young people aged 15-24 years.

It is an open challenge to the government and to other development workers to harness the economic potential of the young, as well as develop their ingenuity and leadership abilities and make use of these attributes as potent ingredients in nation building.

The cooperative sector has responded to this challenge and continues to strengthen the participation of the youth. After the Regional Youth Seminar held in Japan last June 2001, various co-operative initiatives for the youth were done at the primary to the tertiary cooperative levels in the Philippines. Discussions, fora, congresses, social action and advocacy were conducted by proactive cooperatives. Many primary cooperatives included youth in the leadership positions, while establishing capability building programs for the youth leaders that aim to develop their management and leadership skills and mold them into productive community and cooperative leaders.

On-going Youth Initiatives

NATCCO: Coop YouthPlanet Program

The National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) Network has realized that cooperatives must set-up a “succession” program to ensure continuity in the development and implementation of their activities by developing competent individuals who will eventually carry on the tasks and responsibilities of co-op building and management. NATCCO understood that it is the responsibility of every co-operative to create a pool of quality members and leaders, and firmly believes in empowering the youth. NATCCO affirms the importance for young people to take part in and to share the discourse regarding growth and development, especially in the cooperative sector. Thus, the Coop YouthPlanet program was developed with the aim of developing and strengthening the youth’s (young Filipinos aged 7 to 25 years) full potentials and leadership abilities that would ensure highly credible and competent successors of the cooperatives in the country. The program aims to draw the youth to be active participants and leaders into the cooperative movement. The program puts emphasis on membership as it seeks to draw young people to the cooperative as active members and leaders, participating in different organizational events as well as in decision-making.

It integrates three essential elements: Savings, C-Build (Capability Building), and the Hub. The savings program aims to instill the value of personal financial management; the C-Build involves activities/programs to equip the youth with cooperative and leadership skills, knowledge, beliefs and values; and the Hub is a safe and stimulating place for young people to go to, and provides the youth with opportunities to explore, excel, contribute, lead, and have fun with their peers.

It is the NATCCO Network’s mission therefore to organize and strengthen youth groups through the implementation of a holistic, sustainable, youth-oriented, youth-responsive development program – and that is the Coop YouthPlanet Program. Through this program, NATCCO intends to establish an integrated chain of strong cooperatives with empowered youth groups throughout the country.

In March 2004, NATCCO piloted the “Coop Youth Planet (CYP)” in the Lamac Multi-Purpose Cooperative (LMPC) in Cebu. Such initiative, in fact, showed remarkable results and has proved to be a success. After five (5) months of operation, there are already more than 1,100 CYP members, 25 youth in leadership positions within the cooperative, one (1) youth representative in the Board of Directors, a pool of very dynamic trainers distributed among the cooperative’s five (5) branches in the Cebu province and approximately P400,000 (\$7,100) pooled savings from the youth. LMPC has also involved the youth in

its 3-year strategic planning and included programs and plans as well as budget allocation for the youth.

By the last quarter of the year, NATCCO and LMPC plan to launch the program in schools and also through another partner cooperative, Koop Balikabayani International. NATCCO shall also conduct trainers' training with the different Regional Development Centers' (RDCs) youth point persons for a more efficient implementation of the program and to promote stronger partnership within the network.

Two members of the NATCCO Network, VICTO and CEDC, also have active youth programs.

VICTO: Youth Net

The Central Philippines' Visayas Cooperative Development Center's (VICTO) Youth Net remains strong with the vision of promoting, protecting and advancing the ideals and aspirations of the youth with mutual acceptance, trust and open and dynamic communication for total human development.

The agenda of the VICTO Youth Net includes:

Information, education and communication

- ♦ include youth agenda in the Pre-Membership Education Seminar,
- ♦ reach out to schools via symposia,
- ♦ hold youth camps and give trainings to the youth

Youth savings and development

- ♦ promote youth savings
- ♦ provide technical assistance in the design, establishment, promotion and management of specialized savings program

Youth enterprise development

- ♦ entrepreneurship training series for the youth
- ♦ provide funding for youth enterprises
- ♦ technical assistance for youth entrepreneurs and coops assisting them

Local governance

- ♦ Civic action like calamity assistance, tree planting and youth missions
- ♦ Legislative support through and for the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK)

Institutional support

- ♦ VICTO establishes and maintains youth coordinators at region and head office to work for the institutionalization of the youth agenda for VICTO

as well as to function as secretariat for the youth network

- ◆ Coops adopt a youth agenda to provide framework for planning and budgeting
- ◆ VICTO and primary coops develop local and international linkages
- ◆ VICTO implements incentive schemes for coops with youth programs

CEDC: Laboratory Cooperative Junior Youth (LAB COJY)

One of the Youth Programs of the Cooperatives Education and Development Center (CEDC) is the Savings Program extended to the youth of all schools operated by the Order of Saint Augustine (OSA) or the Augustinian Sisters. CEDC is the Cooperative Apostolate of the Augustinians that is focused on promoting, developing and overseeing Lab COJY in Augustinian schools. There are 24 Augustinian schools all over the Philippines from Luzon to Visayas.

The primary reasons for organizing the Lab COJY were to promote the values of savings and thrift among students and to teach them management and accounting skills in preparation for the real work environment. The Lab COJY also becomes a training ground for future leaders.

The Lab COJY

1. Membership with the coop was voluntary for all students of the schools from elementary to college.
2. During their Annual General Assembly the members elect qualified officers who are willing to render service to the coop.
3. The officers and Teacher-Manager of Lab COJY conducted room-to-room campaign to inform/educate students about the benefits of joining the cooperatives. Prior consultations were made with parents of students through Parents Teacher's Association (PTA) initiated by the school to organize and promote Lab COJY.
4. The elected officers have their respective duties and responsibilities. A series of trainings/seminars are conducted for the new officers. CEDC, when requested, give these seminars.
5. For the daily operation of the COJY, members of the management staff were chosen to take care of the day-to-day transactions.

Regular monthly BOD meeting is strictly mandated to all the Lab COJYs to monitor their operation and address problems. Each committee representative must present their reports to the BOD during the regular monthly meeting.

Part of CEDC's- Regional Education Cooperative Assistants' (RECA) work is to sit down with the officers during regular monthly BOD meeting. The RECAs

have to go to different schools as per schedule, 2-3 days before the meeting to check that all necessary reports and documents are already prepared.

CEDC's experience testifies to the importance of the regularity and prompt preparation for this monthly meeting. Leadership and cooperatives values and skills are honed during this meeting, which need the presence of the RECA's, to be more effective.

Seminars And Trainings

During the 2nd and 3rd week after opening of classes, a school orientation is held for freshmen and all new students inviting them to join the cooperative. A workshop is held and supplemented by short talks from the officers and the Teacher-Manager. However, the COJY's officers request CEDC to give them a more comprehensive seminars and trainings. CEDC, as requested will conduct and facilitate seminars and trainings for these Lab COJYS to enhance their knowledge and skills.

As of December 2003, there are approximately 6,000 COJY members and about P2 million (US\$35,700) pooled in savings deposits.

The coop is a venue for the students to practice and hone responsibility building and to build their dreams for a better future. The laboratory cooperative allows the members to participate and get involved in the real life issues. The value of cooperation is being highlighted through the collective efforts of the students in their effort to make their coop grow and progress. This allows the students early on to see and experience in a manifold ways the dynamics of different variables in real life situations, and an up close understanding of how these things impact on people's lives and the community.

MMAFECCO: University Cooperatives

Present Situation and Set-up of Campus Youth Co-op Structure and Relationship with School Administration

Presented by Mr. Roberto Clarianes San Jose, Jr.

The commitment to the formation of the youth cooperative in the campus started way back in 1994 when the Metro Manila Federation of Consumers Cooperatives (MMAFECCO) organized a core of 11 State Colleges & Universities nationwide. Rising up to the challenge amidst cultural, economic and political changes through the years, MMAFECCO continues to work with the young whom it truly believes as the stakeholders of the future.

MMAFECCO envisions a University that is a medium for social transformation, seeking need of inculcating social consciousness among the students, and acts as the center in which the students could apply the values of the University into a cooperative way.

The campus youth coop's mission is rooted in the vision and mission of the University to produce well rounded men and women who are competent, conscientious, and committed generously to serve the cooperative movement, and strengthen the structure and the capability of the University to effectively impart its vision and mission to the community.

The Campus Youth Coop organizational structure believes in the necessity of democracy and independence, where the youth have been recognized as a potential force for socio-economic and political changes.

MMAFECCO affirms the need to build the youth's capacity to become active cooperators of the movement, but there are issues and concerns besetting the youth coop in the campus.

First, instead of helping the youth to be independent in decision-making, higher authorities dictate what they want in their operation even it is not possible.

Secondly, The Student Board of Directors experience various pressures from their guardian co-op or school administration. Thirdly, there have been cases of misappropriation of funds deposited to the guardian coop. Fourthly, they used the campus youth coop as a show window for their development. Fifth, diversification of youth coop fund allocated from guardian coop budget. Sixth, compulsory membership and capitalization among student, which violated the principle of voluntary and open membership. And lastly, lack of training for the youth as a future entrepreneur.

These issues and concerns illustrated are not only experienced by one youth coop in the campus, but in general.

Network building and Participation in the National and Regional Events

The First National Multi-Sectoral Youth Cooperative Congress

Mactan, Cebu, April 5-7, 2002

This event was attended by cooperative youth leaders from Iloilo, Iligan, Manila, Quezon City and Caloocan City. It was a segment of a series of consultative meetings started in the year 2000.

First National Cooperative Youth Leaders' Conference

North Olympus, Quezon City, May 6-8, 2002

Youth delegates from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao converged to exchange information on youth activities, scrutinize youth directions, and facilitate the implementation of the Integrated Plan of Action that the Technical Working Group on Youth Committee of the National Youth in Cooperatives Network (NYCN) proposed to achieve. This assembly of youth delegates became a venue for the dynamic meeting of the minds for comprehensive planning sessions and deliberations on long, medium, and short-term plans.

ICA Regional Representatives' Meeting

Hanoi, Vietnam in July 17-19, 2002

Both MMAFECCO and the NATCCO Network attended the ICA Regional Representatives' Meeting. During the meeting, it was conferred that the Philippines is still the only country in Asia that has established a network of youth in cooperatives. Other cooperatives are interested in developing their own networks.

NATCCO National Youth Congress

Davao City, April 30, 2004

The event was attended by the youth and adult leaders from different primary cooperatives around the Philippines. It was also in this event that the youth

passed a resolution that was adopted by NATCCO General Assembly. It included a resolution on the implementation of the Coop YouthPlanet program to qualified primary cooperatives belonging in the NATCCO Network and the allotment of one (1) seat for a youth representative in the NATCCO Board of Directors.

Current Issues

Amid meaningful progress on improving the lives of young people, a lot still needs to be done in the cooperative movement, especially now that only few of the youth are involved in it.

There is still the inability of adult leaders to give way to youth in the leadership and management of coops for fear that the youth might topple them from their position. Other adult leaders doubt that the youth's capability, thinking that they do not know anything about coops and lack vision and discernment about the coop's future.

There is also the growing concern of the youth's inability to perform well due to the lack of knowledge and expertise about coops and its operations, the lack of experience (since there were not much training grounds for young people relative to coops), the lack of opportunity for training, unassertiveness during meetings and in decision-making.

Due to the fact that the youth sector is transient in nature, (limited span of time [youthhood]) there is lack of time to highly invest in the coop. There are also limited programs that co-ops offer which is mostly focused on savings. There is also sporadic implementation – not particular on continuity, no follow-up and inappropriate to youth's requirement.

Upcoming Activities and Plans

Cooperative Summit

A youth pre-summit round-table discussion convened by NATCCO and the Philippine Cooperative Center (PCC) was held last July 7, 2004. Different cooperatives involved in or interested in mainstreaming youth's active participation/involvement in the cooperative sector participated in this discussion. The group formulated an agenda for the cooperative sector that involves budget allocation by cooperatives for youth programs/activities, inclusion of youth representative/s in the decision-making/leadership positions, institutionalization of the study of cooperatives in the educational system, establishment of a data banking system on cooperative youth information that shall be updated on a regular basis, and awareness-raising among Philippine government agencies regarding youth in co-operatives. Such proposals shall be included in the proposed resolutions for the Philippine Cooperative Summit to be held in October 2004.

The pre-summit also served as an opportunity for the different co-operative federations with youth programs to open new windows/possibilities in re-establishing a network of youth in cooperatives.

National Youth Commission's (NYC) creation of the Council for the Development of Youth and Student Cooperatives

The NYC is the sole youth policy-making body of the Philippine government, tasked with the creation of policies and advocacies for youth development. The NYC recently formed a Council for the Development of Youth and Student Cooperatives which aims to promote and develop youth in cooperatives.

This serves as an opportunity for the youth in co-operative movement to be more involved in the government initiatives and to promote the organization. It also aims to develop the youth in cooperatives both in the schools and in the communities, improve linkage of different co-operatives to agencies and institutions who can give financial and technical assistance, to document the best practices of such co-operatives for emulation by other co-operatives, to provide an avenue among such co-operatives for discussion of problems, solutions and issues. It would also be a medium wherein the youth could recommend policies and legislations that would enhance co-operatives as well as support the creation of a network of youth in co-operatives in the country. NATCCO has already met with Commissioner Richard Nalupta and discussed possible areas of partnership with the Commission and with the different local government units in the country.

National Anti-Poverty Commission Sectoral Assembly

The National Anti-Poverty Commission exercises oversight functions in the implementation of the Social Reform Agenda (SRA) and creates programs/policies geared towards poverty reduction in the country. It also operates on the principle and strategy of institutionalizing the basic sector and NGO participation in the SRA management cycle. Among the 14 basic sector components of NAPC is the youth and students sector.

The Youth and Students Sectoral Assembly of the National Anti-Poverty Commission shall be held in December 2004. NATCCO would be participating in the Assembly to mainstream the youth in cooperatives' agenda and issues.

COOP-NATCCO Partylist

The Cooperative NATCCO Network Party (COOP-NATCCO) which won a seat in Congress as a Party List organization last May 2004 Elections in the Philippines, aims to move towards the realization of economic democratization, political democratization, cultural revaluation and sustainable development in the Philippines and shall work for the attainment of the Cooperative Sector's

Legislative and Policy agenda. Mr. Guillermo Cua, former NATCCO CEO, seats as the congress representative of the party.

Through the COOP-NATCCO Partylist, agenda of the youth [ie. Magna Carta of Students (House Bill 17), Comprehensive Youth Development Act (House Bill 622), Youth in Nation Building Act (House Bill 912), etc.] shall be given legislative action.

The youth constitute the future of any nation. The extent of youth development and their participation in various social, economical and educational segments is indicative of the direction in which a country is destined to move in the future.

The cooperative movement has been considered as an effective instrument for imparting training to the youth in self-help, teamwork, cooperation, planning, decision-making and organization of socio-economic activities. It has the potential to teach them on self-realization, human relationship, economic efficiency and civic responsibility. Their involvement in the co-operative, therefore, will be highly useful for the co-operative movement of the Philippine society tomorrow.

Youth empowerment means not only participation in decision-making, but also access of young men and women in society—access to educations, employment and health, as well as resources such as land and credit. Empowering young people means allowing them the opportunity to make decisions affecting their lives. Young people are not passive, but are rather active agents for development and change! (<http://un.org/youth>)

It is not yet too late for the adults to work hand-in-hand with the young in pursuing our co-operative dreams and goals. It is not yet too late to support assertive young people participating in deliberations and making a stand during decision-making sessions. It is not yet too late to develop proactive youth leaders capable of rallying other youth members to do and accomplish tasks. It is not yet too late to witness enthusiastic young people continually enjoying the benefits provided by the cooperative. Now is the time to take action and make a difference.

Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA)

Country Report on the Operation Situation of Vietnam Youth in the Cooperative sector

Presented by: **Mr. TRAN BA SON**
Expert of Int'l Relation Dept. - VCA

1. Brief introduction of Vietnam Cooperative Alliance

Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) is a national socio-economic organization, which represents all types of cooperatives in various professions and sectors throughout Vietnam.

Established since 1991, VCA has become an extensively organized system, with the network from Central to 64 provinces and cities in Vietnam. The Alliance of Cooperatives have the following functions:

- Represent and protect legitimate rights and interests of member cooperatives and unions of member cooperatives;
- Conduct propaganda, campaign for development of cooperatives;
- Support and provide necessary services for formation and development of cooperatives, unions of cooperatives; carry out programs of development promotion for cooperatives assigned by the Government; provide training and fostering the cooperative cadres according to the provisions of the Government;
- Participate in making policies, laws on cooperatives;
- Represent cooperatives and unions of cooperatives in coordinating and operating relations of its members with domestic and foreign organizations according to laws.

VCA is a member of two international organizations: the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the World Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME), and represents the Vietnam Employers Circle in the International Labour Organization (ILO). The Vietnam Cooperative Alliance has established relations with Cooperative Federations in the region and other

countries and cooperatives to exchange information between VCA with international and non-governmental organizations in the world.

2. Status of cooperative movement in Vietnam.

In the recent years, cooperative movement in Vietnam has remarkably developed in term of form, scale and level in various professions and sectors, especially in rural areas. Presently in Vietnam, there are totally 16,899 cooperatives operating in all professions and sectors of the economy such as agriculture, fishery, transportation... in which there are 9,313 agricultural cooperatives, 36 salt producing cooperatives, 591 fishery cooperatives, 2,325 industrial and handicraft cooperatives, 542 construction cooperatives, 1086 transportation cooperatives, 515 trading cooperatives and 898 credit cooperatives. In 2000, cooperatives have gained the growth rate of 4.6%, accounted for 8.5% of national GDP, created employment for about 70.000 laborers, making up 33.1% of the labour force of the country. Beside their achievement in economic development, cooperatives have made important contributions to developing local infrastructure and public welfare such as traffic ways, electricity systems, irrigational canals, irrigational works, clinics, ...; resolving social problems and developing the community.

3. Role of young people in promoting cooperatives.

In Vietnam, "youth" is defined as people who are at the ages from 15 to 30. According to the General Statistic Office, at the end of 2003, Vietnam had the population of 81.2 millions people, in which youth accounted for 25%. This is a very vigorous group which is playing an important role in the process of socio-economic development of the country. In comparison with the older group, youth are more well-educated. They are devoted to work with the enthusiasm of the young, the solidarity and learning passion of people who are proceeding their first steps in career. They are capable of quickly mastering new technology, willing to be coped with challenges and difficulties, flexible in adapting to the viability of the surrounding environment. It is youth who act as the impetus to make renovation, are resources to promote development and fuel to keep cooperatives flare brightly in the 21st century.

4. Difficulties of youth in cooperatives.

Cooperative is developing its members in community. However, regarding to the economic status, cooperatives are currently faced with a lot of difficulties, such as obsolete technology, poor management skills (average salary of an employee in cooperative is ranging between VND 300,000 – 400,000 per month). Hence, cooperatives are not attractive to educated younger. Most of students do not want to work for cooperatives after graduating from University, instead of that they try to look for opportunities in foreign and joint venture companies,

state organizations or private enterprises. Though, the proportion of youth in the cooperatives is considerably big, accounting for about 35%, most of them come from rural areas and are chiefly manual laborers.

5. Youth's activities in developing cooperative movement:

1. Vietnam Cooperative Alliance's Youth Union.

Vietnam Cooperative Alliance's Youth Union was founded in 1996, functioning as an organization, which represent and assist younger to improve their professional knowledge and understandings, to develop their spiritual and physical activities, by that facilitating them to better implement their professional work and contribute successfully to the mission of cooperative development of the organization. In addition, the Youth Union is also entrusted with responsibility of giving advance to VCA Leading Board in Youth related activities, participating in social events and voluntary movements at their localities. This year, the Vietnam Cooperative Alliance's Youth Union has implemented some of the noticeable activities as follows:

- Organizing meetings to enable younger to meet and exchange experiences and information.
- Organizing writing contest subjected cooperative movement in the country and abroad.
- Organizing sport competitions, cultural activities, study tours to facilitate younger to expand their relations and stabilize solidarity as well as exchange their experiences.

2. Establishment of University Cooperative, a model of younger:

In early 1998, a Consumer Cooperative of the National Economic University was established, attracting 484 members, who were mainly students. With the initial legal capital of VND 226 millions (in which VND 26 millions were contributed share capital and the remains were borrowed from the University), the cooperative provided services of retailing consumer goods and stationary, food and beverage, photocopying, entertaining and house renting for students. After 5 years of operation, the Cooperative has achieved the considerable success, made good reputation to the students and drawn more and more members participating. Beside that, in some provinces of Vietnam, there are new forms of Youth Cooperatives, such as: Tuoi Tre Youth Cooperative in Vinh Phuc, ...

6. Recommendations

- *To the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)*
 - Creating best opportunities for younger to promote their ability and

knowledge; organizing forums for younger to raise their voice and opinions; encouraging them to develop new ideas; enabling them to participate in management activities and get used to leading positions in cooperatives.

- Designing long-term strategies and programs for young managers in cooperatives.
- Establishing Youth Committee being responsible in coordinating activities of younger in cooperative in the regions and in the world.
- Creating Youth Development Fund to support Youth activities, especially in training, science research...;
- Facilitating younger to have their representatives in different Committees, to participate in international, regional seminars, conferences and forums...

Thank you!

Presentation at ICA Asia-Pacific Regional Youth Conference

by: **JO BIBBY-SCULLION**

ICA Board Youth Representative

Why am I here?

I am here on behalf of the International Co-operative Alliance as the Youth Representative on the ICA Board, but I'd also like to use this opportunity to share my experiences of being a young co-operator, within Britain but also within Europe. Quite often people find it hard to look outside their own experiences which is why conferences like this are so important to enable us all to share ideas, learn from each other or even just make friends!

I'd like to say thank you for being invited here and given a chance to talk. Let me first briefly say for those of you who aren't familiar with the ICA what it is. It was set up in 1895 to unite and represent co-operative organisations across the world. It has 230 member organisations from over 100 countries. The board that I sit on has 22 members from across the world and makes the decisions for the whole of the ICA.

I've been involved in the co-operative movement since I was six years old. I've grown up with the co-operative values and principles, but I didn't realise that the co-operative movement existed outside of my country. The first ICA conference I attended really opened my eyes. I suddenly realised that there was a whole world out there filled with people who believed in the same things as me and I wanted to try and help the co-operative movement play the important role it deserves in modern society.

But young people face a number of problems

In Britain we have a very ageing co-operative movement. A lot of the members are very old and there is no fresh blood coming into the movement. It is only recently that people have started to notice this and attempt to encourage young people to get involved.

So why aren't young people more involved in co-operatives in Britain?

There is a lack of information available about co-operatives. Young people quite simply do not know that they exist. I'm a student of economics and politics at Edinburgh University and even amongst my fellow students and professors there is a lack of knowledge about what the co-operative model really stands for.

Even when young people have heard of co-operatives, they are often perceived as very old fashioned and traditional. We have some very long established co-operatives in Britain, in fact Britain was the birthplace of the modern co-operative movement, and in some cases these movements are very traditional and the membership is very old. There is a real lack of visible young people to act as role models for their next generation. There is a move towards change at the moment, but it is moving very slowly.

Where young people are involved it can be hard for them to gain any real power. Too often there are token gestures towards encouraging young people, but no real back-up.

There is also a problem with organisation. Within Britain we have several youth organisations, but there are no links between them. There is lack of a coherent overall structure.

However it is not all problems!

I first got involved in co-operatives through an organisation called the Woodcraft Folk. This is a youth organisation that aims to educate young people in the co-operative principles. It has traditionally had links with the consumer co-operative sector. Children attend weekly meetings, play co-operative games, go away on camps together and, when they get older, take over the running of the movement themselves. Everyone from the smallest child to the oldest adult works together, co-operates, each doing what they are able. I've had some amazing experiences with the Woodcraft Folk and made some great friends.

As I've got older and moved away from home I've joined a youth network in Scotland. This aims to link up people who are interested in the co-operative movement and its values and principles. It is not very formally organised, but has 2 part time staff who aim to organise events and chances for young people to become more involved. At the moment we are campaigning about Fair Trade, which is a scheme that makes sure producers are being paid a living wage for their produce. We have also got a number of our members onto various decision-making boards in Britain. This is a real example of how young people are starting to find a voice for themselves and how we have been encouraged to share our ideas.

Of course we have many different types of co-operatives that young people are

involved in: housing co-operatives and worker co-operatives to name just two. At the moment we are working on linking up the different organisations to enable each of the different parts to become stronger and so we can work on collective action.

I understand I am being very country specific here but it can often be interesting to find out about other countries problems and how they deal with them. Other countries face different problems, but I know that a few of the European countries are facing similar issues to Britain. Being able to share these problems means that collectively we can search for a solution.

Since I have been on the Board I have learn that different regions involve young people in different ways. In my country the idea of school and university co-operatives is very unusual, but I know in this region they are very strong. I was fascinated by a book about the Malaysian school co-operative movement, because it is so different to anything going on in my country. I'd really like to learn more about all the different types of youth co-operatives there are in this region.

How did I end up on the Board?

I'd attended a few ICA conferences and was surprised at the lack of a co-ordinated youth network. I'd learnt so much from the conferences that I wanted this sharing of ideas to continue. Some of the people I'd met there agreed with me and we attempted to try and set up a youth network. This started off being very Euro-centric, but since then we have tried expanding outwards and now we have at least some representation in all the regions. This has been a very slow process as people put their time in voluntarily and we have no funding, however we have a working email discussion group that enables us to keep in contact with each other.

After the Oslo ICA Conference a position on the board was made available for a young person, as an observer, and I ended up being elected through this discussion group. Democracy is very important and we understand that this was somewhat missing in the last election so within the next year we are looking towards having a more representative and democratic way of electing a young person onto the board.

I was very nervous before my first ever board meeting. I didn't know what to expect and if people would listen to my points of view. I needn't of worried, everyone was very friendly and said it was great to see a young person on the board. I was the youngest by a long way, but people didn't make me feel as though my lack of experience was against me.

Since then i have realised what a great chance this is for young people to get their voices heard. Too often things can be decided for young people without them having a say in what they want to happen. The ICA isn't just an organisation

for people who have had years of experience. It's **our** organisation and we should make ourselves heard. We may not always get what we want, but at least we have tried.

At the moment I've been working on drawing up a plan for the next year on how we can increase youth participation and also work on strengthening communication and links between young people. These are relatively small steps, but we want them to be achievable given our limited resources.

Firstly we want to start compiling a database of the youth activities across the world. There are a lot of things going on out there, but a lot of the information is spread out. We want to bring all this information together to enable easier communication between people. I think this is one of the key purposes of the youth network. Conferences are a wonderful way of meeting people and linking up, but they only happen once a year and we need some form of system for the rest of the year.

Linked to this we want to work on producing a newsletter 3 times a year. This should hopefully aim to share projects of best practice and will be a tool of communication throughout the year. At the moment it is hard to know what is happening in other parts of the world and this newsletter aims to shed a little light on youth initiatives.

In addition I believe that the development of a support network of young people is very important. We don't want young people, especially if they are taking on positions of responsibility, to be isolated. Hopefully once we have a database collated we will be able to see who would like to become more involved and possibly take on positions of responsibility.

And finally we want to develop stronger links with regional directors. Obviously we can't be everywhere at once so we are going to need to strengthen and develop youth networks on a regional and national level.

So how can you all help? You can share your own experiences

The Asia Pacific region has the strongest set of co-operative youth organisations in the world and the rest of us could learn a great deal from you. Maybe you could share some of your experiences with other youth organisations who are struggling to get off the ground and attract members. By working together, co-operating, we could strengthen how young people are perceived, increase our experiences and build a stronger future for the co-operative movement.

We want you to get involved in the ICA Youth Network!!! This is your network, we want you to have a say in how it runs and what happens to it and I'm sure you all have a lot of experience, energy and enthusiasm to give to it. Another thing to mention is that next summer I will be stepping down from the board.

And I have a question for each one of you today...!

Could you be the next youth representative on the Board ?

It is an amazing experience and I really would recommend it to anyone. If anyone has any questions I would be happy to answer them after my presentation.

Once again thank you so much for inviting me here and have a wonderful conference.

Cooperatives in Canada and the United States¹

Presented by : **MR. JAMES RUSSELL JONES**

and

MS. YUKA MAKIOKA

North American Students of Co-op (NASCO)

“Co-operatives exist in every sector of the economy and can touch every aspect of our lives. You can be born in a health care co-op and buried by a funeral co-op. In between you can work in a worker’s co-op, live in a housing co-op, buy your groceries, clothing and other items from retail co-ops, send your children to a child care co-op, do all your banking at a credit union, and purchase your insurance from an insurance co-op.”²

The motivations for establishment of and membership in cooperative organizations are not particular to Canada and the United States. They include basic desires for equity, value, community, and empowerment. As described above, cooperatives exist in many forms in Canada and the U.S. The most common types of cooperatives are:

Agricultural

Agricultural cooperatives unite farmers in order to exercise collective market power. This ensures that farmers are compensated fairly by market means. Meanwhile, farm supply cooperatives provide farmers with equipment, fertilizer, feed, and seed.

Collectively, Canadian farm cooperatives had gross revenues exceeding \$US 10 billion in 2000. Almost 50% of western grains and oilseeds, about 60% of milk products, and 49% of all poultry and eggs produced in Canada were sold through agricultural cooperatives. In the U.S., there are almost 2 million members of agricultural cooperatives and a similar number are members of agriculture related retail cooperatives³. Roughly 30% of agricultural products in the U.S. are marketed through farmer-owned cooperatives.

Retail

Retail cooperatives unite consumers of particular products and services, who collectively obtain large quantities of product or service in wholesale markets. Surplus revenues are redistributed to the members. Retail cooperatives range in size from small shops to large organizations with multiple stores, sometimes covering large geographic region. Retail cooperatives enable consumers to purchase products that support their own environmental, political, and other objectives. Additionally, retail cooperatives enable consumers to get competitively priced products and services without patronizing giant retail chain stores, which can drain communities of cash flow and employment.

In the U.S. 50,000 businesses belong to purchasing cooperatives, 2 million people receive telephone service through a cooperative, and 36 million people are members of electricity cooperatives.

Credit Unions

Credit unions provide the same financial services as banks, but are member owned. Decisions are made by member voting, with each member having one vote. This is unlike traditional banking institutions, where voting weights are proportional to shareholdings. Equal voting ensures that credit unions meet the needs of their members. Credit unions offer a more personal alternative to the standardized banking outlets of today's gigantic banking conglomerates.

1 in 3 Canadians is a member of a credit union (10 million members). In many small towns, the credit union is the only financial institution. The proportion of credit union members in the U.S. is similar, with 83 million members in approximately 10,000 credit unions.

Housing

Housing cooperatives provide member-owned and operated living communities. Housing cooperatives may literally be one house with many member-residents or may be several buildings or apartments. Some housing cooperatives can be specific to students, retirees, or artists. Members share duties such as cleaning, maintenance, and often cooking, and decisions are made collectively at the house level and board level.

The 2,200 Canadian housing cooperatives have approximately 250,000 members. In the U.S., approximately 1.5 million people live in cooperative housing[†].

Insurance

Insurance collectives have been developed so that risks are distributed evenly amongst many. There are approximately 10 million policies in Canada through

insurance cooperatives and approximately 1000 insurance cooperatives in the U.S.

Worker

Worker cooperatives are businesses that are owned and operated by the workers. Workers are empowered to set their own working conditions and share equally the profits of their business. Any business can be established as a worker cooperative. Approximately 11,500 Canadians are employed in worker cooperatives.

Youth Involvement in Canadian and U.S. Cooperatives:

Youth Training

Youth programs are organized by cooperatives to educate the next generation of cooperative founders, members, and leaders. In Canada, 3rd tier⁵ cooperatives in each region organize summer camps for teenagers. Here, teenagers learn about the history, principles, and embodiments of cooperatives. Through activities, they learn leadership and communication skills, and collective decision making through consensus. Attendees are generally sponsored by a local cooperative⁶. Many thousands of youth across Canada attend such camps each year.

In the U.S., similar programs have been developed by 1st and 2nd tier cooperatives. Additionally, camps in both countries exist that are developed as worker cooperatives, where youth can learn about the cooperative principles.

Aside from ensuring another generation of cooperatives, participants in these programs are empowered to be active participants and leaders in *any* democracy, including school councils and governments.

Cooperative Programs For At-Risk Youth

Programs have also been developed to tend to target groups of youth who are at larger risk than most to become involved in drugs and violence. Programs teach their members skills such as craft making, bicycle repair, and gardening. Members then operate their own worker cooperatives to sell their products or services. These organizations provide safe, productive venues for their members and teach them trade, leadership, and business skills.

Youth Leadership

The governing boards of some cooperatives have a Youth Board Member position. These positions ensure a youth voice in the leadership of the cooperative and train the member in cooperative leadership skills.

University Students

Universities provide an excellent environment for cooperatives. Students tend to have small budgets and a large interest in social living. Often, they are living away from their family for the first time, and may desire a similar feeling of community. Many are interested in having some control over their living, working, and purchasing environments. Student housing cooperatives⁷ exist at many campuses and range from informal collections of students renting a house together and sharing chores such as cleaning, shopping, and cooking to large associations that collectively own multiple buildings and hire staff members to address organizational needs. Student retail cooperatives exist to for the collective purchase of food, textbooks, school supplies, and sporting equipment. Student worker cooperatives organize students together to provide services to the community such as moving residences, painting, and child-care.

The North American Students of Cooperation (NASCO) is the 3rd tier association uniting student cooperatives throughout Canada and the U.S. NASCO also organizes annual conferences both regionally and internationally (NASCO Institute in Fall) to unite students of cooperatives to network, share resources, and educate one another.

References:

1. Canadian statistics are provided by the Canadian Co-operative Association, <http://www.coopcanada.coop>
U.S. statistics are provided by the National Cooperative Business Association, http://nba.coop/abcoop_stats, unless otherwise noted
2. Canadian Co-operative Association, <http://www.coopcanada.coop/aboutcoop/>
3. Source: United States Department of Agriculture. Individual farmers may be a member of more than one cooperative and are counted multiple times in this figure.
4. Source: National Association of Housing Cooperatives
5. Cooperative institutions are referred to as *1st tier* cooperatives. Associations of similar types of cooperatives are known as *2nd tier* cooperatives. Additionally, 2nd tier cooperatives are often part of a larger association uniting cooperatives in many sectors in specific regions such as a province, state, or country. These are known as *3rd tier* cooperatives.
6. Canada's current economic downturn has reduced the number of attendees in recent years.
7. It should be noted that the North American delegates to this conference are all members of student housing cooperatives and are sponsored by the North American Students of Cooperation (NASCO).

GROUP REPORTS

Self Employment and Entrepreneurship

Presented by: Group 1

Veejay (Philippines)

Agung (Indonesia)

Countries Present: Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Japan, North America, Sri Lanka, India, Iran.

I. Introduction

Discuss Case study of India about Transport Cooperative Society

Entrepreneurship is the drive and the passion to realize one's dreams and aspirations with the goal of profit maximization.

Let's differentiate Private Model and cooperative model of entrepreneurship. In Private model majority of the profit goes to the owner of the business. While in cooperative model, the profit is divided among the members equally. Decisions in a private model is done by only one person or an executive group. In cooperative model, democracy is exercised. The ideas of all the members are consolidated to make a final decision.

These are the common problems that are encountered in the represented countries that lead to self-employment of the people:

1. *Government policies and restrictions*

There are some government policies that restrict cooperatives in their activities. Full support from the government is not given. Instead of

2. *Lack of:*

◆ Education

Due to high cost of education, not all people can continue their studies up to college level. As we can see, one of the requirements of companies is a college degree.

◆ Awareness of Coop benefits

◆ Funds

◆ Skills and support

- ◆ Ability to identify business opportunities and common needs.
- ◆ Technical skills

Solutions

- ◆ IT education for the rural provinces
- ◆ Trade fairs and Talks by successful entrepreneurs
- ◆ Seminar and training programs
- ◆ Technical and Financial support
- ◆ Proper monitoring and supervision

What can we do?

- ◆ Create more job opportunities
- ◆ Skills impartment
- ◆ Let innovation and motivation be the driver
- ◆ Lead by example
- ◆ Embrace Risk-taking
- ◆ Be open to suggestions and changes

Conclusion

- ◆ Given the opportunities, youth must be able to recognize and grab it!
- ◆ Co-operatives in various countries must apply concepts and ideas suitable to their own culture
- ◆ Do not be satisfied with your status quo, keep improving and keep learning!

Campus Cooperative Activities

Presented by: Group 2

Asoka Sepala and Mr. Lalit Gangewatte (Sri Lanka)

I. Extent of youth involvement

- a. Students are basically customers; they are hardly involved as leaders.
- b. Teachers and non-teaching staff largely run the cooperatives, but in some countries students can hold a position in the Board of Directors.
- c. Credit, service, and consumers cooperatives are managed by students in some countries.
- d. In few countries, students can be regular or associate members.
- e. In a few cooperatives in Indonesia, students serve as managers or directors.
- f. In Japan, foreign and post-graduate students can be members or directors.
- g. In some countries, students evaluate the cooperatives thru the Opinion Card, during the General Meeting, and student personnel services evaluation.
- h. In Japan and a few other countries, students are involved as student committee members.

II. Strategies

Working together

- ◆ The Kapihan – gathering of students, faculty, non-teaching staff, and administration co-sponsored by the Student Affairs Office, the University Student Council and University Consumers Cooperative done over a cup of coffee.
- ◆ Search for the Most Cooperative Student Council – based on the total amount of purchases for a prescribed period of time.
- ◆ Raffle for both regular and associate members
- ◆ News Letter/magazine in most countries to update the members and costumers about the co-op activities

- ◆ Tuition fee grants
 - ◆ Integration of Co-operativism in both formal and non-formal curricula
 - ◆ Welcome Party and Field Trip
 - ◆ Leadership Trainings, Loan Services, Trade Fairs, Housing Services, T-shirt Printings, School Bus Services, Cafeteria and Restaurant Services, Sale of Books and Groceries, CD and VCD Sale, Photocopying, Insurances, Youth Entrepreneur Program, Cyber Café, Mini-market, Food and Crafts, Mini-hostels.
 - ◆ In Japan, Making Fellowship, Mutual Help Activities, Supporting Learning, Peace Activities, Environmental Issues
- a. Good Governance in Cooperative Movements
 - b. Improvement of the quality of cooperative products and services
 - c. Solidarity Activities – exchanging of successful experiences or problems, learning together among many members, realizing better activities together.
 - d. Use of media publicity to create awareness of cooperative events
 - e. Promote inter-campus cooperative activities

III. Problems

- a. Strong competitors (stores and restaurants) in areas surrounding the university campus.
- b. Lack of interest on the part of students
- c. Lack of information from other big cooperatives regarding seminars and trainings for the coop youth.
- d. Inability to provide the coop youth free trainings or training at minimal cost.
- e. Lack of assistance or support from the university/lack of space/rental fee
- f. Lack of confidence in the capability of the youth to assume leadership roles.
- g. Ineffective communication dissemination regarding coop activities.
- h. Minimal benefits extended to students
- i. Gender bias
- j. Inappropriate trainings
- k. Lack of understanding of the committee members of their roles in the cooperative
- l. Lack of time due to academic activities in school

- m. Competition in the school activities
- n. Selling of obsolete or out-dated products
- o. Lack of marketing strategies

IV. Recommendations

- a. Amendment of the University Law which prohibits students to be members of cooperative (Malaysia)
- b. Franchising
- c. Consistency and continuity of co-op youth activities
- d. ICA-ROAP Assistance (financial, material, human)
- e. Creation of committee where the 12 participating countries are represented by at least one student representative so that they remain connected with ICA-ROAP
- f. Employment of better strategies for the recruitment of more student members
- g. Creation of a website or publication for the coop
- h. Provision of technical services
- i. Conducting workshops in local language
- j. Greater administrative support for the cooperatives
- k. Direct communication of government to the presidents of the universities or schools regarding student membership in the cooperative
- l. Wider information dissemination of the seven principles of cooperativism
- m. Creation of activities towards the holistic growth and development of students
- n. Work together with their colleagues and try many experiences
- o. Existence of helpful coop staff to students
- p. Confidence in introducing the cooperative and its benefits
- q. Giving opportunity for the youth to be involved in campus coop activities
- r. Provision of trainings and seminars for coop youth for free or at minimal cost
- s. Equal opportunities for coop employment for males and females
- t. Greater and more effective coop linkages to make supplies available at lower purchase cost
- u. Creation of a think-tank committee or brainstorming group to come up with new ideas.

- v. The youth must be given opportunities to manage the cooperatives

V. Conclusions

The ICA should play a major role to strengthen the cooperation among cooperatives throughout the world

If the youth work together and support each other, we will achieve more.
Let the coop spirit shine brightly.

Report of Group Discussion

Presented by: Group 3

Pravin Joseph and Shijith Kumar (India)

- ◆ talked about issues in the community
- ◆ why the youth should be involved
- ◆ how to get involved

Issues:

- physical → environmental (h₂O, pollution), creating buildings(houses, schools), rebuilding after natural disasters (earthquakes, floods)
- social → developing a sense of community, encourage optimism, empowerment of the youth, educating the under privilege, volunteerism
- economic: mutual benefit, helping less fortunate, insurance programs

Why get involved?

- youth empowerment – confidence, making a difference in communities, more energy
- next generation of leaders
- carry on value of helping
- could easily adapt to changes and make a difference
- one of the coop principles: concern for the community
- hands on experience
- skills enhancement
- the young are more idealistic
- youth adapt to changes and accept new ideas more easily than older people (i.e. they're more flexible)
- develop sense of “connectedness”; sense of harmony with other people
- youth are the majority of the population in many countries, they can have a lot of influence

How to get the youth involved?

- collect funds for emergency financial assistance
- give time for volunteer activities
- cooperatives can allocated part of their budget for youth activities
- cooperatives can provide technical support for youth activities
- tap available resources (from the gov't, etc)
- help train other youth (livelihood progs, etc)
- educate young people how cooperatives work
- youth to inform others on youth issues
- allocating seat/position for youth on cooperative board (i.e. give youth leadership positions)
- creation of youth in cooperatives network
- youth can educate their community and other youth about issues
- Youth can get involved with hands-on activities when they're not capable of providing economic support

Group 2

Sri Lanka

- Recreational progs in campuses

UK

- peace and ethical movements
- environmental issues

Phils

- youth empowerment

India

- Tribal co-operatives with low education levels doing well

Malaysia

- vocational skills
- Co-op tourism as a form of business/ activity

Indonesia

- boy scouts

Issue:

What is the definition of community?

- school itself (campus)
- district, province, country (at large)

How easy is it to form coops in your country?

- govt support à in the region, the govt is supportive of the coop movement; every country has set of laws for coops

What can the youth do?

- Focus on social problems (lack of education, unemployment, social unrest, gender bias etc)
- Apathy, lack of interest, lack of motivation for the youth to join in the coop movement
- Set up youth centers
- Promote coops to the youth: exposure, marketing materials (brochures, fliers, celebrity endorsement, songs about coops, t-shirts), fund-raising activities at the same time increasing public awareness on coops
- Gender bias: women empowerment (increasing representation in the top echelons of the Co-op mgt)
- Age bias: provide capability building programs (leadership training, management, etc)
- Provision of information on the pros and cons of mixing politics with the Co-operative ideology
- Annual youth assemblies for coop members and non-members

Group 3

1. Perspective on youth in community
 - Awareness among youth
 - youth empowerment
 - appraising resources
2. Identified issues
 - awareness and info
 - existence of coops
 - importance of coops

- lack of interest in coops
- students more engrossed in studies
- sustenance of membership

3. Solutions

4. Activities for the community

- rational and importance of coops
- create activities that would suite youth interest
- empower youth through informing adults on youth's capabilities, and enhancing these capabilities
- collaborative effort with the other organizations in schools and community activities.

Marketing goods – bookstore, bakery

- immersion programs
- education loans
- environmental seminars
- capability building
- community building

Education programs – scholarships and loans

- management: under ICA
- student scholars – involve in coops
- immersion programs – tie up with other organizations
- pax shall be trained first
- organization

Capability building – development of skills

- organize leadership trainings
- camps/contests to be conducted by the youth
- media as an important factor

Programme

Theme: “Co-op Youth Participation in the Changing Environment”

Sub Themes:

1. To promote the organization of entrepreneurship through the co-operative way.
2. To identify campus co-op activities that will enhance the total development of the youth.
3. To involve the youth activities that will help in the growth and development of the community.

Saturday, 4th September 2004:

Arrivals of Participants/Registration

Day 1: Sunday, 5th September 2004

9.00–10.30	Opening/Plenary session <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Welcome Address by Royal Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, President, ANGKASA- Inaugural Address by Mr. Shil-Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA-ROAP- Opening Speech by Y. B. Dato’ Khamsiyah Bt Yeop, Deputy Minister of Entrepreneur and Co-operative Development, Malaysia- Introduction of the participants (by countrywise)- Group photo session
10.30–11.00	Tea break
11.00–11.45	Keynote address by YBhg. Dato’ Prof. Dr. Shahril b. Talib, Director, Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya “Co-op Youth Participation in the Changing Environment”
11.45–12.30	Icebreaking – small group exchanging
12.30–13.30	Lunch

13.30–15.00	Country reports Focus on the progress after the Tokyo Seminar 2001
15.00–15.30	Tea break
15.30–17.00	Country reports - (Continued)
17.00–17.15	Organizing the Youth Steering Group (one Rep./country)
17.15–17.30	Brief orientation of the Group Sessions
20.00–	Dinner (Hosted by Ministry of Entrepreneur and Co-operative Development of Malaysia)

Day 2: Monday, 6th September 2004

9.00–11.00	Plenary Session: Case Studies related to the sub-themes <i>Topic 1: Self-employment, entrepreneurship</i> The Transport Cooperative Society (TCS) KOPPA (A modern enterprise by educated young people, India) <i>Topic 2: Campus Co-op Activities</i> University Co-operative Activity, by NFUCA, Japan <i>Topic 3: Activities of Youth for Community</i> Coop Youth Planet Program with Lamac Multi-purpose Co-op, NATCCO, Philippines
13.00–17.00	Group Sessions related to the sub-themes
20.00–	Dinner hosted by ANGKASA

Day 3: Tuesday, 7th September 2004

8.30–12.00	Field visit 1. Selangor Secondary Science School Co-op and Int'l Youth Centre Cheras 2. University of Malaya Co-op 3. Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) 4. Putra Jaya and wetland
12.00–13.00	Preparation of Presentation
13.00–14.00	Lunch
14.00–16.30	Plenary session organized by Youth Steering Committee - Presentations of group discussions - Discussion on Regional Youth Development Plans and Recommendations - Comment by Dr. Y. Dongre

16.30–17.00

Closing session

- Speech by Mr. Iain MacDonald, Director General, ICA
- Speech by Mr. Shil-Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA-ROAP
- Closing speech by Y. Bhg Mdm Hajah Rahaiah Baheran, Board member, ICA, Vice President, ANGKASA
- Presentation of Certificates (by country)

20.00–

Farewell Dinner and Cultural Programme

Wednesday, 8th September 2004:

Departures

List of Participants

No.	Name	Organisation	Country	E-mail address
INDIA				
1	Mr. Rathnam Srinivasan	Acharya Institute of Mgmt & Sciences, Bangalore	India	cheenu_er_83@yahoo.com
2	Mr. Anand Choukse	Bhartiya Shakarita Sangh, Indore	India	amit_choukse111@yahoo.co.in
3	Mr. Amit Choukse	Bhartiya Shakarita Sangh, Indore	India	amit_choukse111@yahoo.co.in
4	Mr. Abhishek Choukse	Bhartiya Shakarita Sangh, Indore	India	amit_choukse111@yahoo.co.in
5	Mr. Pravin Joseph	College of Co-operation, Bnkg & Mgmt, Kerala	India	pravin2001batch@yahoo.co.in
6	Mr. J. V. Ramachandran	College of Co-operation, Bnkg & Mgmt, Kerala	India	jayaramvt@yahoo.com
7	Mr. Shijith Kumar K.	College of Co-operation, Bnkg & Mgmt, Kerala	India	shijithkumar@rediffmail.com
8	Mr. Sharan Sunder Shetty	Coorg Pre-University College, Karnataka	India	cops@sancharnet.in
9	Mr. Prateek Khare	Development Co-operative Bank, Kanpur	India	
10	Mr. Amol Gupta	Development Co-operative Bank, Kanpur	India	
11	Mr. Jitendra Verma	Kumawat Shakari Sankh, Indore	India	agmanish@hotmail.com
12	Nr. Manish Agrawal	Pragati Sahakari Sankh, Indore	India	agmanish@hotmail.com
13	Mr. Vaibhav Bajpai	United Commercial Co-op Bank, Kanpur	India	vaibhavbajpai@Mail.com
14	Mr. Rohit Massey	United Commercial Co-op Bank, Kanpur	India	Rohitmassey21@Indiatimes.com
15	Mr. Amit Srivastava	United Commercial Co-op Bank, Kanpur	India	amitsrivastava@Mail.co
16	Mr. Rajiv Mishra	United Commercial Co-op Bank, Kanpur	India	rajivmishra@Mail.co
17	Mr. Sidhartha Sahai	United Mercantile Co-op Bank, Kanpur	India	siddharthasahai2@hotmail.com
18	Mr. Vishal Sahai	United Mercantile Co-op Bank, Kanpur	India	vishalsahai@rediffmail.com
INDONESIA				
19	Mr. Agus Budiono	Kopma UGM Student Cooperation	Indonesia	Agus25354@yahoo.com
20	Mr. A. A. Kartiwa Sutisna	LAPENKOP	Indonesia	lpkjbr@lapenkop.coop
21	Mr. Musri Mawaleda	National Youth Coop Coordinator, BKPK-DEKOPIN	Indonesia	mawaleda@yahoo.com
22	Mr. Yulfarizi	National Youth Coop Coordinator, BKPK-DEKOPIN	Indonesia	
22	Mr. Suroto	I.eppek, Boersa Kampus Swalayan	Indonesia	sutoto_1112@yahoo.com
23	Mr. Agung Hidayatullah	KKMB	Indonesia	agung@kkmb.com
24	Mr. Asep Nugraha	KKMB	Indonesia	

25	Ms. Ary Wahyuni	KOPMA UPI			Indonesia
26	Mr. Surachman	KOPMA UNISBA			Indonesia
IRAN					
27	Mr. Syed Javid Mousavinia	CORC		mousavinia@corc.ir	Iran
28	Mr. Mohammad Arab	CORC		kerman_etr@yahoo.com	Iran
29	Mr. Abbas Masnavipour	CORC		sjavidm@hotmail.com	Iran
JAPAN					
30	Mr. Masaya Toguchi	Japan Workers' Co-operative Union		gembam@roukyou.gr.jp	Japan
31	Mr. Okoshi Yohei	NFUCA		kuriki@univcoop.or.jp	Japan
32	Mr. Yamamoto Kazumasa	NFUCA/Nagoya Univ Coop		t.kidoaki@city-net.com	Japan
33	Mr. Kidoaki Tsuyoshi	NFUCA/Kitakyushu Univ Coop		mihocat@mail.goo.ne.jp	Japan
34	Ms. Chiba Miho	NFUCA/Tokyo Univ of Foreign Studies Coop		stepjua@mail.goo.ne.jp	Japan
35	Ms. Nonomiya Ayumi	NFUCA/Tokyo Univ of Foreign Studies Coop		b503589@bio-s.cc.mie-u.ac.jp	Japan
36	Ms. Mimata Tomoko	NFUCA/Mie Univ Coop		sanpepe@hotmail.com	Japan
37	Ms. Kinno Tomomi	NFUCA/Tokyo Kaiyo Univ Coop			Japan
38	Ms. Tanaka Mari	NFUCA/Ritsumeikan Univ Coop			Japan
39	Ms. Matsuda Satoko	NFUCA/Ritsumeikan Univ Coop			Japan
40	Mr. Sasao Keigo	NFUCA/Akita Univ Coop			Japan
41	Ms. Yamada Sayumi	NFUCA			Japan
PHILIPPINES					
42	Mr. Valle Eretzlsrel	MMAFECO/De La Salle Univ		soujiro_sensei@yahoo.com	Philippines
43	Mr. Vale Donvito	MMAFECO/De La Salle Univ		dbvalle@yahoo.com	Philippines
44	Mr. Pagsuyuin, Alan	MMAFECO/De La Salle Univ		alanya@yahoo.com	Philippines
45	Ms. Saludo Cely	MMAFECO/De La Salle Univ		cel_saludo@yahoo.com	Philippines
46	Mr. Manalo Tani John	MMAFECO/Centro Escolar Univ		czmanalo@ceu.edu.ph	Philippines
47	Ms. Guiao Chona	MMAFECO/Centro Escolar Univ			Philippines
48	Ms. Manalo Claire	MMAFECO/Centro Escolar Univ			Philippines
49	Ms. Vicente Alma	MMAFECO/Benguet State Univ			Philippines
50	Ms. Catao Marfelyn	MMAFECO/Benguet State Univ			Philippines

51	Mr. Jan Vincent Galas	MMAFECO/Far Eastern Univ Coop	Philippines
52	Mr. Mora, Jeffrey Pascion	MMAFECO/Far Eastern Univ Coop	Philippines
53	Mr. Belar, Nolan	MMAFECO/Bicol Univ	Philippines
54	Ms. Logronio Mary Anne	MMAFECO/Bicol Univ	Philippines
55	Mr. Lee Mark Dave	MMAFECO/Bicol Univ	Philippines
56	Ms. Bacud Maria Myriam	MMAFECO/Centro Escolar Univ	Philippines
57	Mr. Faustino Jose	MMAFECO/Far Eastern Univ Coop	Philippines
58	Ms. Cabredo Susan	MMAFECO/Bicol Univ	Philippines
59	Mr. Bagares Arthur	Centro Escolar University	Philippines
60	Ms. Marlou Ibita Pajarillo	NATCCO	Philippines
61	Ms. Koolen P. Reyes	NATCCO	Philippines
62	Ms. Veejay B. Ping-ay	NATCCO	Philippines
63	Ms. Margaret V.T.Fortaleza	NATCCO	Philippines
64	Mr. Ryan Berdon	VICTO/Lamac MPC	Philippines
65	Mr. Bernard Den T. Ballenas	VICTO/Barbaza MPC	Philippines
66	Ms. Alma S. Vittorillo	VICTO	Philippines
67	Mr. Richard Alvin N.Japson	VICTO/PHCCI Tacloban	Philippines
68	Mr. Ernest Andrew Idello	VICTO/Lamac MPC	Philippines
69	Ms. Justine Lynn Limocan	VICTO/Lamac MPC	Philippines
70	Ms. Delmar Jenn Tuquit	VICTO/Lamac MPC	Philippines
71	Mr. Glenn Tajanlangit	VICTO/Cordova MPC	Philippines
72	Mr. Erwin Garcia	VICTO/Lear Employees	Philippines

SINGAPORE

73	Mr. Yang Enming Isaac	SNCF/ACS(I) MPCS	Singapore
74	Mr. Chan Jia Qi, Gerald	SNCF/ACS(I) MPCS	Singapore
75	Mr. Boey Ee Noeh, Joel	SNCF/ACS(I) MPCS	Singapore
76	Ms. Ang Suat Kuan	SNCF/ACS(I) MPCS	Singapore
77	Ms. Haslina Hansen	SNCF/NTUC Income	Singapore
78	Mr. Mohd. Suhaimi bin Ismail	SNCF/NTUC Income	Singapore
79	Ms. Chen Weilin	SNCF/NTUC Income	Singapore

81	Ms. Karen Lim	Singapore National Co-op Federation	Singapore	karenlim@sncf.org.sg
82	Mr. Teo Say Hong	Singapore National Co-op Federation	Singapore	sayhong@surbana.com
83	Ms. Siti R. Bte Abdul Rahim	SNCF/Singapore Teachers' Co-op Society	Singapore	siti@teachersco-op.org.sg
84	Ms. Tay Yi Ting	SNCF/Singapore Teachers' Co-op Society	Singapore	yiting@email.com
85	Mr. Tan Tian Leng	Singapore National Co-op Federation	Singapore	tianleng@sncf.org.sg
86	Ms. Monisha Abby Dorai	SNCF/Theresian Co-op Society	Singapore	monishadorai@hotmail.com
87	Ms. Ong Jia Wei	SNCF/Theresian Co-op Society	Singapore	september_gurlL23@hotmail.com
88	Ms. Low Sze Kai, Bernie	SNCF/Theresian Co-op Society	Singapore	bernie_lsk25@hotmail.com
89	Ms. Koh Jing Yi	SNCF/Theresian Co-op Society	Singapore	jingyi824@hotmail.com
90	Ms. Tan Piek Wah	SNCF/Theresian Co-op Society	Singapore	
SRI LANKA				
91	Mr. D.S.K. Pathirana	COOPFED	Sri Lanka	coopfed@sol.lk
92	Mr. Lalith Gangewatte	COOPFED	Sri Lanka	softinfo@sol.lk
93	Mr. W.R. Lakshman Jayathissa	COOPFED	Sri Lanka	coopfed@sol.lk
94	Mr. M.B. Suranga Fernando	COOPFED	Sri Lanka	coopfed@sol.lk
95	Mr. Sumedha Lijvanage	COOPFED	Sri Lanka	coopfed@sol.lk
96	Mr. W.R.P. De Silva	COOPFED	Sri Lanka	coopfed@sol.lk
97	Mr. A.G.P. Chandrasiri	COOPFED	Sri Lanka	coopfed@sol.lk
98	Mr. Jatila De Silva	NCC/Vijaya Sanasa	Sri Lanka	VJD@panlanka.lk
99	Mr. Anagipura Asoka Sepala	NCC/Nawa Thalawakele MPSC	Sri Lanka	
100	Mr. R.M. Chaminda Pradeep	National Youth Cooperative Services Union	Sri Lanka	chamin4rm@yahoo.com
101	Mr. P.A. Ruwanthilaka	National Youth Cooperative Services Union	Sri Lanka	ruwanthilaka2004@yahoo.com
102	Mr. D.M. S. Pushpa Kumara	National Youth Cooperative Services Union	Sri Lanka	ruwanthilaka2004@yahoo.com
103	Ms. D. M. Asoka Lakshmi	NICD/Mahamaya Girls College Co-op	Sri Lanka	ursncid@sitnet.lk
THAILAND				
104	Mrs. Chanakan Muennarin	Kasetsart University	Thailand	fgraesn@ku.ac.th
105	Mr. Ekasit Wandpusit	TCOFU/KU Co-op	Thailand	agrngr@ku.ac.th
106	Ms. Ngarmchuen Ratanadilok	TCOFU/KU Co-op	Thailand	fgraesn@ku.ac.th
107	Mr. Charoen Chochai	Thailand Consumer Co-op Fed in University	Thailand	

UNITED KINGDOM

108 Ms. Jo Bibby Scullion

Youth Board Member

UK

s3047030@sms.ed.ac.uk

NORTH AMERICA

109 Ms. Yuka Makioka

North American Students of Co-op (NASCO)

ymakioka@hotmail.com

110 Mr. Ryan Firestone

North American Students of Co-op (NASCO)

Ryan_firestone@hotmail.com

111 Mr. T. Andrew Meinhover

North American Students of Co-op (NASCO)

mein0058@umn.edu

112 Mr. James Russell Jones

North American Students of Co-op (NASCO)

jim@nasco.coop

VIETNAM

113 Mr. Tran Ba Son

Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA)

Vietnam

sonvca@yahoo.com

RESOURCE PERSON/OFFICIAL

114 Mr. Ohno Kiyotaka

NFUCA, Chairperson of the Committee

Japan

ohno5555@at.wakwak.com

115 Mr. Lee Shil Kwan

ICA-AP, Regional Director

Korea

sklee@icaroop.coop

116 Mr. MacDonald Iain

ICA, Geneva, Director General

UK

iain.macdonald@ica.coop

117 Mr. Apsoro

LAPENKOP Nasional

Indonesia

apsoro01@yahoo.com

118 Ms. Diola Zenaida S.

MMAFEKO, Vice Chair of the Committee

Philippines

zen3798@yahoo.com

119 Ms. Clarissa Trampe

NATCCO

Philippines

jag1229@yahoo.com

120 Dr. Dongre Yashawantha

FCEI, Mysore University

India

Y_dongre@hotmail.com

121 Mr. Ir H Moh Iqbal

Vice Chair of Consumer Committee

Indonesia

iqbalindo@hotmail.com

122 Mr. Ito Jiro

ICA-AP

Japan

jiroito@icaroop.org.sg

123 Mr. Nair P.

ICA-AP

India

nair@icaroop.coop

124 Mr. Kim Sung-Chul

ICA-AP

Korea

andrew.k@icaroop.org.sg

125 Mr. Kuriki Toshifumi

NFUCA

Japan

kuriki@univcoop.or.jp

126 Mr. Nakano Boku

JCCU

Japan

boku.nakano@jccu.coop

127 Mr. Nakamura Yoshimitsu

JCCU

Japan

yoshimitsu.nakamura@jccu.coop

NOTE:

In addition to these there were about 50 participants from Malaysia.



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