

Report of the ICA Global Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives



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ICA Global Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives

Singapore, 16th October 2007

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**International Co-operative Alliance
Asia Pacific**



**ICA Global Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives
– Report**

Singapore, 16th October 2007

International Cooperative Alliance

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November 2008

Typeset & printed at Diamond Offset, HS-14, Kailash Colony Market, New Delhi-110048. Phones : 91-11-29232836, 91-9811172786 Email : amin_zaidi@yahoo.com

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Foreword

Dear Co-operative colleagues, students and other participants,

I am glad the ICA Sub-Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives could organize a Global Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives in Singapore, on 16 October, 2008. The Global workshop was held in conjunction with the ICA General Assembly there. In all 76 delegates from 17 countries participated at this workshop.

It was also useful that several speakers from Singapore, ILO Bangkok, Dr. Zenaida Diola from Philippines, Mr. Patrice Blais from Quebec, Canada and others spoke at the Workshop.

Mr. Fitzgerald Aguila from the Philippines and Ms. Shweta Wilson from India ably anchored the workshop.

I was happy that the participants at the workshop were very keen to hear the speeches and they were able to interact with each other on university/campus co-operative development in various countries of the world.

I was particularly happy that the ICA President, Mr. Ivano Barberini, the Youth representative on the ICA Board, Mr. Teo Say Hong, Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, the ICA Regional Director, etc. addressed the Workshop.

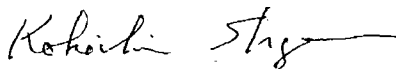
The group discussions, coordinated by Dr. Yashawantha Dongre from India was particularly useful.

Though this was the first time such a workshop was held, the Committee has plans to organize such activities in the future also.

We thought it would be useful if the proceedings of the workshop is published as a booklet for future reference to students, academicians and others who are associated with university/campus co-operative activities.

I would request the delegates of the workshop and others to kindly go through this booklet and send us their feedback.

With co-operative greetings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kôkichi Shoji', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Prof. Kôkichi SHOJI

Chairperson, ICA Consumer Sub Committee on University/College Co-operatives for Asia and the Pacific

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

ICA Global Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives

**Raffles City Convention Centre,
Singapore, 16th October 2007**

BACKGROUND

Youth integration in cooperatives has been an issue of great significance world over. Cooperative movement needs infusing of young blood for greater vitality in the movement. Similarly the youth stand to gain a lot and find solutions to a lot many of their problems, by involving in the cooperative movement. It is this understanding that prompted ICA to have a youth member on its Board. The ICA (RAP) has gone a step further by setting up a Youth Committee. For ICA (AP) it all began with the establishment in 1994 of the ICA Consumer Sub Committee on Campus/University Cooperatives. This Sub-Committee currently consist of Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, India, Singapore and Indonesia as members.

It is important to note that cooperatives where youth take part actively, such as the Campus or University Cooperatives have been playing a significant role in making the young people learn through and benefit from the cooperative movement. Such cooperatives are found not only in the College/University setting but at the High School level as well. The ICA Sub Committee has contributed im-

mensely in strengthening these endeavours, by creating platforms for mutual learning and sharing experiences.

It is observed that campus cooperatives or campus support systems to students and faculty similar to campus cooperatives exist in many countries outside Asia Pacific region also. All these initiatives may not have been organised as cooperative ventures, but they aim at serving the needy youth. There is immense scope for establishing campus cooperatives in these regions also, which would be of the obvious benefits both for the campus population and for the cooperative movement. This could be facilitated by creating an opportunity for representatives across globe to get together and learn from each other.

The experience of the ICA Sub Committee clearly indicate that such exercises have paid rich dividends in motivating many countries in the region to either start such cooperatives or revitalise those which were not active. For example countries like Korea and Vietnam have now started University cooperatives, Thailand and India have started Federation/Forum of such cooperatives, after the initiatives taken by the sub committee.

The 12th meeting of the Sub-Committee held in Colombo during August 2005 evaluated the past performances and experiences and agreed that it is time to organise a Workshop on Student/University Cooperatives involving participants from across the globe. Hence it is proposed that ICA Global Workshop on University/Campus Cooperatives be held at Singapore on 15th and 16th October 2006 in conjunction with the ICA Congress.

The workshop was envisaged to pursue the following objectives;

1. To create awareness on the need for youth/students' participation in co-operatives
2. To exchange information and learn on the role and significance of university/campus co-operatives
3. To contribute to the growth of students through university/campus co-operatives

Proceedings of the ICA Global Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives

The ICA Global Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives was hosted by the ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives for Asia and the Pacific, for the first time at international level. Seventy-six delegates from 17 countries participated in the workshop. The participating countries include Canada, France, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UAE, USA, and Vietnam.

The workshop began at 9.30 in the morning with two student participants, Mr. Fitzgerald Aguila from the Philippines and Ms. Shweta Wilson from India, anchoring as Master of Ceremonies.

Prof. Poo Gee Swee, Chairperson of Singapore National Co-operative Federation Campus Committee representing the host country, delivered the welcome address. Prof. Poo expressed happiness about the university/campus co-operatives evolving in to an important sub sector of the co-operative movement and wished that the workshop would pave the way for further networking at the international level.

Prof. Kokichi Shoji, President of National Federation of University Co-operative Association (NFUCA), Japan and Chairperson of the Sub-Committee made the opening remarks. He dwelt on the issue of youth participation in co-operatives and enumerated as to how university/campus co-operatives could be an effective instrument to enable this. In the light of the changing educational environment

as well as new challenges faced by the youth, he felt, these co-operatives need to be strengthened world over. He drew from the example of university co-operatives in Japan and said that they have developed a new vision document to make the co-operatives more effectively respond to the changing situation.

The first technical session followed immediately after the opening address. This session focused on introducing the organization and role of university/campus co-operatives to the participants. Three countries made a presentation of the overview of university/campus co-operatives in their respective countries.

The first presentation was on University Co-operatives in Canada, Quebec province in particular, made by Mr. Patrice Blais, President of the Quebec Federation of University and Colleges Co-operatives. He narrated the organizational structure and the nature of business handled by the university co-operatives in Quebec. He also explained the role played by the students especially their role as members of the Board. Through the networking of these co-operatives the federation has facilitated better business development as well as support for university co-operatives in Quebec province as the main business model for university bookstores, computer stores and more and more food services as well.

The second presentation was on University Co-operatives in Japan. A detailed presentation on this theme was made by Prof. Yasuyuki Hamada. He spoke about the evolution of university co-operative system in post war Japan and said that these co-operatives have been making continuous innovations to meet the needs of the campus community. The information about the nature of student participation, peace activities, business associations and their role, the role of NFUCA and the evolution of the new vision document etc., drew the attention of the participants.

The final presentation was about School Co-operatives in Malaysia, made by Prof. Ali Hasan. Prof. Ali gave an overview of the campus co-operative system in Malaysia and narrated as to how the

co-operatives in schools play a key role. He felt that such co-operatives are facilitating in imbuing among young people a sense of co-operative living and thus are indirectly contributing for a better co-operative movement in the country. He also made many suggestions for strengthening the university/student/school co-operatives in different regions of the world.

The presentations followed a question and answer session in which the participants took active part. It was interesting to note many countries where the student/university co-operative movement is yet to evolve evinced greater interest and tried to know the subtleties of organizing and running such co-operatives.

After this very productive technical session, Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA Asia and Pacific gave his inspirational message for the participants. Mr. Lee narrated the role of ICA in promoting co-operative movement and expressed his happiness about the sound university/campus co-operative movement emerging in Asia Pacific Region. He stressed on the need for strengthening co-operative movement from the grassroots and felt that sound university/campus co-operatives would be the foundations on which the new generation co-operatives have to emerge in the future.

In the Second technical session, the delegates from participating countries made brief presentations giving an overview of the university/campus co-operative movement or the co-operative movement in general in their respective countries. Delegates from India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Russia, Thailand, UAE, and USA made presentations in this session. This helped in gauging the overall picture of university/campus co-operatives in different parts of the world.

The third technical session began after the lunch break and this session focused on the three chosen themes of the conference. The objective of this session was to give a background to the participants on the themes that they were supposed to discuss during the group discussion.

tives, innovating new ways and means to strengthen them and using them as channels of addressing the youth problem. The report of the group discussion is appended.

The final session focused on summarizing the days' proceedings and passing resolutions. Dr. Yashavantha Dongre of University of Mysore, India coordinated this session. Based on the days' proceedings he presented the draft resolution to the house and the house endorsed them with some modifications. The resolutions unanimously accepted by the house include the following –

“We the participants of the ICA Global Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives held at Singapore on 16th October 2007 do here by unanimously resolve that:

1. Co-operatives in educational institutions can make a difference and can create a more positive environment in the campuses and therefore formation of such co-operatives be encouraged in all the countries
2. ICA through its ministerial conferences or other appropriate bodies/platforms should endeavor to create an enabling environment in all the member countries for the formation of university/campus co-operatives
3. University/Campus co-operatives should give equal opportunities and participatory rights to all constituents of campus community including students
4. University/Campus co-operatives in countries with stronger movements and business strength shall consciously take initiatives to set up/strengthen similar co-operatives both domestically and internationally.
5. Similar to periodic Asia Pacific regional university co-operative conference/workshop there shall be periodic global conference/workshop to facilitate better exchange of information and transfer of technology.
6. University/campus co-operatives shall continuously engage in innovations to facilitate improve the existing services and introduce new business/services.

7. In order to promote co-operative values, there shall be efforts within each co-operative to facilitate interaction between members and staff and mutual trust and understanding
8. Co-operatives should constitute part of the curriculum at school/university level to create general awareness among students.
9. Efforts should be made towards resource mobilization, application of technology and networking among university/student co-operative to enable better business prospects
10. The house unanimously endorses the move to upgrade the existing ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives for Asia and the Pacific in to a Full Committee under ICA Asia and Pacific since such a move would enhance the promotional capabilities as well as set new example for other regions to follow.

The workshop came to an end with thanks giving to all those who worked for the organization of the event. The general mood of the participants was that the workshop opened up new possibilities and enhanced existing knowledge. The main feature of the workshop is that majority of the participants were students representing campus co-operatives or universities. This it is hoped would help dissemination of information on the focus area.

Opening Address

by **Kôkichi SHOJI**

Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo, and
Professor, Seisen University
President, National Federation of University
Co-operative Associations
Chairperson, ICA Consumer Sub Committee on
University/College Co-operatives for Asia and the Pacific

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen!

I am happy and indeed very grateful for getting this opportunity to deliver an address at the opening of the first ICA Global Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives.

I am a sociologist, a Professor Emeritus of University of Tokyo and currently hold the academic position of Professor of Global Citizenship Studies at Seisen University, Tokyo.

I am here in my capacity as President of the National Federation of University Co-operative Associations, NFUCA, of Japan, a position on which I am serving since December 2005.

The membership of University Co-operatives in Japan comprises of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty members and other staff and it has been a tradition that the post of the President is held by a faculty member.

I understand that almost one hundred participants from about 15

countries have enrolled for this workshop. I would like to express my appreciation to all of you, especially those from North America, South America and Europe, for making this long and tiresome journey to be here in Singapore.

On behalf of the host organization, I record my deep gratitude to all the participants. At the same time, I take this opportunity to congratulate and express my appreciation to SNCF, and the Campus co-operatives of Singapore for hosting this workshop.

Permit me, ladies and gentlemen, to use this opportunity to brief you on the objectives and the structure of this Workshop, the situation of University Co-operatives in the present era of globalization and my expectations about this Workshop.

Background and Objectives of the Workshop

Let me begin by giving you the background and objectives of this Workshop.

There are a wide variety of student support or student service organizations serving the university/college students around the world.

In Europe, they are mainly Non-Governmental organizations, while in North America, such services are predominately offered as a business by the university itself in collaboration with the private sector.

In the Asian region, as in Japan, consumer co-operatives provide on campus student welfare and student support services. In Asia, university co-operative system is quite advanced and contributes greatly towards facilitating higher education and development of students.

In recent years, youth participation in co-operatives has become a major issue. The need for creating successors through a new generation of co-operators lies in the backdrop of this development. Therefore, in the ensuing ICA General Assembly, we plan to discuss the indispensability of sustained youth participation in co-operative movement. In order to promote this idea, ICA has co-opted a youth representative on its Board and there is already a youth committee in ICA, Asia Pacific Region.

I believe that University Co-operatives, whose membership comprise of mostly students, can play a very important role in promoting youth participation in co-operative movement.

This was the aim with which the ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University/College Co-operatives for Asia and the Pacific was created in 1994, which includes India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam as members.

This global workshop, which is the first one to be held in conjunction with ICA General Assembly, is organized by the Sub-committee.

The primary objectives of this workshop are to promote exchange and interaction between university co-operatives across the globe, to bring together on a common platform the students, faculty, university administrators, co-op staff and all those who are interested in university/campus co-operatives activities, to learn from each other's experiences and facilitate expanding the university co-operatives in the world.

Program of Today's Workshop

With this background, I shall give you a brief overview of today's program.

This inaugural would be followed by a Plenary Session, where we will hear experiences from Canada, Japan and Malaysia. Canadian presentation will be the experience of co-operative in educational institutions from Quebec province , Japanese presentation will focus on contemporary situation and the role of university co-operatives that came into vogue after the World War II, while Malaysian paper dwells on school co-operatives.

The second plenary which starts after the tea break will have brief country reports that help you understand the situation of university/campus co-operatives in different countries.

During the post lunch session, first you will have presentations on the three chosen topics viz., innovations in university/campus co-

operatives, co-operative approach to youth problems, and participation of students in the management of University Co-operatives. After this, the participants will discuss the themes in three separate groups. Then the group reports will be presented in yet another plenary session and resolutions will be passed. The workshop will end with the presentation of certificates.

University Co-ops in Japan and its measures coping with the Globalization

Dear friends, since I am the President of NFUCA, it may not be out of place for me to talk something on University Co-operatives in Japan.

Numerous University Co-operatives were established in Japan after the World War II. Today, they together have a membership of 1,480,000 individual members and a turnover of over 200 billion yen. There are active co-operatives in almost all major public and private universities. We can say that, the practices of Japanese University Co-ops and citizen co-ops demonstrate that co-operatives can be alternatives to globalized market economies.

Japanese University Co-operatives carry on a great deal of international activities. They have exchange activities with Asian university co-operatives as well as DSW and CNOUS in Europe, and NACS in USA.

We have learned a lot through our exchange programs with their student support organizations. We have also learned that Japanese and Asian University Co-ops occupy an important place at the global level in supporting students and serving their needs. We take pride with our role in the students' life in the campus.

In Closing

Let me conclude my speech with some of my own observations.

Even though there is a lot of difference between developed and developing countries, I believe that it is possible to create co-opera-

tives that match well and operate suitably in the conditions prevalent in different countries and universities.

The role of universities is to engage in high quality research and nurture talented people who would in turn contribute to the culture, society, country and the world at large. Many students blossom on humane values not just by curricular but also through extra-curricular activities. This is clearly visible among students taking active role in the university co-operatives. We have many co-operative staff today who have grown into co-operative leaders because as students they took active interest in the activities of university co-operatives.

University co-operatives are, therefore, undoubtedly attractive organizations for nurturing future leaders in the field of cooperation.

We hope this workshop will help you to further understand the role of University Co-ops and facilitate expanding the scope of University Co-operatives in the world.

Thank you very much for your attention!

Report from COOPSCO

by Mr. Patrice Blais

President, Quebec Federation of University
and College Co-operatives, Canada

The COOPSCO Group is composed of 60 co-operatives. It is present in 70 school establishments and operating 90 service points. It has 1200 employees providing services to 400,000 members. It has achieved an annual sale of more than \$129 M in 2006.

The COOPSCO mission is to contribute to the development of each of the members of the educational community. Its privileged partnership with the community gives it the opportunity to deliver specialized services that are complementary to its mission.

The products provided by COOPSCO to its members are books, furnitures, computers, food and others. It also provides services such as convenience stores, residence management, parking management, printing and reprography. It is also into condom distributorship with its co-operative slogan, "At the Co-op, We protect our members."

COOPSCO's presence in Francophone Universities is 100% and in public colleges 67.9%.

The FCQMS, on the other hand, has for its mission, the promotion of cooperation and to contribute to the economic and social well-being of the student population and the academic community as a whole.

The strategic priorities of FCQMS for 2005-2008, are business development, governance, communication and resources

optimization. The services it provides to its members are official representation, co-operative education, support for management, support for E-commerce, group purchasing and commercial agreements, and training.

For co-operative education, FCQMS provides training and planning for co-operative administrators/ BOD, initiates training on co-operative values to employees and conducts an annual meeting for managers and administrators.

For administrative support, it engages in the production of management tools, transportation agreement and financial institution agreement; helps in financial statistics; and provides an insurance program and financial support to co-operatives.

For its support to E-commerce, FCQMS, has created and managed the COOPSCO website, provided access to the COOPSCO intranet and to the Network Database, provided support to co-operative computerization and created an E-commerce Solution Development for its members.

For group purchasing and commercial agreements, the Federation has created a purchasing group which is in charge of centralized administration and invoicing, centralized negotiations, and COOPSCO trade shows. It has also created a group in charge of promotional tools which makes flyers, posters, bags and other promotional materials. Its commercial consultation group takes charge of books, computers and school supplies. The Federation also provides commercial support for computers, and has developed a national publicity strategy through the creation of the COOPSCO banner.

For its support to management, the Federation provides advise and financial assistance for start-up, recovery and development of co-operatives, consulting services, financial support, professional training and financial statistics to help co-operatives.

The revenue of the Federation comes from the contributions of the members (40%), sales and services to members (40%), and from other sources like interests (20%).

University Cooperatives In Japan

By Prof. Yasuyuki Hamada

University Cooperatives are post war phenomena in Japan. In their present form, they were started during 1946. The National Federation of University Cooperative Associations (NFUCA) came in to being during 1947. At present NFUCA has 229 member organizations comprising of 214 University Cooperatives, 5 Inter-College Cooperatives and 10 Cooperative Business Associations. The membership of cooperatives under NFUCA is around 1.48 million.

University cooperatives in Japan have a two fold objectives. The on campus objective is of supporting the student life and facilitating attractive campuses, while the social objective is to address issues like Environment, Peace and International solidarity

The business activities of university cooperatives include running of Cafeteria, Shops, Book Stores, Travel Support, Student Residence, Insurance and Others. The general aim of business activities is to provide all needs of the members in the campus. Student housing (with over 49,000 rooms) and Insurance (690,000 students insured in 2006) are the two valuable and innovative services offered by the university cooperatives.

These days university cooperatives have started other services to members such as support for searching jobs, training for facing interviews, help in obtaining driving licenses, support for competitive examinations such as TOFEL etc. In order to strengthen busi-

ness and offer better and convenient services university cooperatives have implemented Opinion Cards, Prepaid Cards, Student Credit Cards etc.

The social activities constitute an important segment of university cooperatives in Japan. Every year student members march to Hiroshima and hold the Peace Activities. NFUCA is currently involved in the activity of distributing Peace Trees to different countries as a symbol of peace. Helping the communities around the campuses, involving in environmental activities, building international relations are also part of the activities of university cooperatives.

The individual cooperatives in each university are managed through their general assembly and board of management. There are different committees such as the Audit Committee to help the board of management. The Business Associations are created at the regional level to facilitate networking and combined business. This helps in economies of operation and sharing of infrastructure and expertise. The Federation is involved in promotion activities, running of insurance service and providing of logistics and negotiating with suppliers etc.

In the light of the emerging challenges in society such as the ones created by increased competition, ageing society and amendment to the cooperative legislation in 2007, university cooperatives in Japan have prepared a vision document. They have decided to pursue a four fold objective of Cooperation, Collaboration, Independence and Participation.



Innovation in University/Campus Co-operatives

Associated Professor Poo Gee Swee

Singapore National Co-operative Federation
Campus Sector Committee Chair

What is Innovation? The term “innovation” is generally used to signal change. Innovation does not strictly mean technology breakthrough. Innovation has been a high priority over the past few years and will remain so in the coming years. The country that will succeed will be those that build vibrant innovative organisations and cultures that support continuous innovation.

Entrepreneurship can be described as having the passion to try, to learn and to build one’s belief. The Government has been keenly encouraging innovation and enterprise in education and business sectors through the various policies implemented and programmes organised.

In line with this direction, many educational institutions have set up Enterprise Clubs which give students the chance of running mini-companies and other business activities, co-operatives being one of them. Through the business activities, students learn to be innovative, independent, honest, diligent and disciplined.

Co-operatives can be and are innovative organizations. They are formed by members to find a more effective way to meet their social, economic and cultural needs and to promote the quality of life.

In Singapore, campus co-operatives are available in some secondary schools, junior colleges, polytechnics, Institute of Technical Education (ITE) and university. These co-operatives provide a variety of services to their members such as books, stationery, IT services, sports goods etc. Traditionally, campus co-operatives were in the business of the sale of books and stationery but today some campus co-operatives are branching out to new and creative businesses like running a cafe and operating an internet game business.

Besides promoting the economic interests of the members, the other key objective of having campus co-operatives is to develop entrepreneurial skills of the student co-operators through exposure to various types of co-operatives activities.

National University of Singapore Multi-Purpose Co-operative (NUS Co-op)

The NUS Co-op was formed in 1969 with 742 members. The co-op has since grown over the years and now has more than 10,000 members and with a total staff strength of around 40. The objective of the co-operative is to promote and popularize the buying and selling of educational materials, consumer goods and services such as travel, optics, personalized souvenirs.

To meet the new demand in today's campus environment, the NUS Co-op has been working with the University on the Notebook Project. It also set up an outlet – 'IT Coop' in 2005. The 'IT Coop' is a one-stop lifestyle shopping store integrating learning, work, communication and entertainment via IT products and services. It is the place for lovers of IT gadgets and for those simply looking to meet classroom needs. The outlet offers a wide range of PC accessories and Notebooks under the NUS Notebook Ownership Scheme. IT technicians are there to help customers who encounter problems with their notebooks.

Another key project taken by the NUS Co-op is the Graduate Gown. The Co-op is handling the renting and selling of graduation gowns for convocations.

Another good example of our campus co-op is the ITE Co-op which incorporates Coop idea into its curriculum so that students go through co-op training as part of their study activities.

At the lower level, the Orchid Park Secondary School has a co-operative that operates a café and a gift shop within the campus.

While the campus co-operative must not be losing money, money is not the reason for the co-operative ... Learning is.

Co-operative as a learning tool

SNCF Campus Sector organizes activities to promote Innovation & Enterprise for the campus co-operatives. An example is the Bazaar competition. This has provided a retail outlet for student co-operators who have limited opportunities to sell their products. It aims to promote entrepreneurial spirit and innovative ideas, learn how to work as a team, enhance communications skills and also to raise fund for the SNCF community service project.

Besides the Bazaar, other activities organised by the SNCF Campus Sector Committee over the years included Business Ideas' Competition, Simulation Game Challenge, Retail Management Workshop and Leadership Programme and many more.

It is through such activities and programmes that we have lined up year after year, SNCF hopes to set example that will encourage more innovative ideas from the campus co-operatives especially since there is room for more creative and enterprising products and services which our campus co-ops can offer.

Conclusion

“Our future is full of promises, but we must be prepared for the unexpected. In a globalised world, we must re-think our assumptions, take bold and fresh approaches and adapt nimbly to a changing conditions.”

*– Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Lee Hsien Loong
in his inauguration speech on 12 Aug 2004 at the Istana*

Cooperative Approach to Campus Youth Problems

by Ms. Zenida Diola

Centro Escolar University, Philippines

Co-operatives had been an integral part of the lives of a lot of people all over the world. Whether in government institutions, business firms, charitable organizations, neighbourhood or communities, and educational institutions, they have created a positive impact on the lives of its members.

In educational institutions, co-operatives have continuously helped make campus life as happy, healthy and productive for everyone. Although problems do exist in campuses, especially among the youth, co-operatives had been playing a very vital role in helping the university/college administrators in addressing the youth concerns.

The students and employees of educational institutions always need a convenient source to buy their needs. To answer this concern, co-operatives had been strategically located in campuses so they could easily be accessed every time the students and staff need something. Co-operatives provide for their needs through their grocery/convenience stores, canteens, book stores, travel and insurance agencies, IT stores, dormitories and some even have supermarkets that also provide for household needs.

In North America, some co-operatives have successfully established

housing co-operatives. In Japan and Malaysia, university co-operatives provide lodging accommodations to the students and employees.

For new students, especially those coming from far provinces, who usually have a hard time adjusting to the new campus life, co-operatives have helped create a friendly and cheerful campus atmosphere by organizing programs to welcome them and putting up other activities like games, contests, seminars, workshops which they could join to bond with the other members of the campus community.

There are times when students face some financial problems and could not continue their studies because of non-payment of tuition fees. Co-operatives come to their rescue either by lending them money which they pay in easy instalment terms, or offering them part-time jobs or granting them scholarships, once they qualify.

In countries like the Philippines, where students are not fully aware of co-operativism, co-operatives are made part of the freshmen orientation program and in the student organization membership campaign to explain the benefits of being a member and encourage them to join. Still in some countries, like Japan, and Singapore, they are made part of the Board where they are trained to manage the co-operative. And in India, a federation of university co-operatives is now in the stage of being approved and recognized.

Campus co-operatives will always be part of campus life doing its best to address youth concerns. And with the unwavering support of the ICA, the Sub-Committee on University and College Co-operatives, JCCU, NFUCA, and other concerned and committed co-operators, all exerting efforts, and providing time and financial resources to promote co-operativism in as many countries, we are assured of successfully addressing the concerns of the youth which is vital in achieving the growth and development of co-operatives all over the world.

Student Participation in the Management of Campus/University Cooperatives

By Mr. Toshifumi Kuriki

Manager, International Relations Department, NFUCA, Japan, &

Ikumi Rie

Member, Post Graduate Student Committee, NFUCA

University/Campus Cooperatives are the organizations created by the stake holders (students, faculty and staff) within the campuses of schools and universities. Across the world they provide students opportunity of membership, participation in policy making through General Assemblies and participation in operations of the cooperative business by becoming members of the Board of Management. In this presentation we would focus on the nature and extent of student participation in the University Cooperatives of Japan.

Students are the core for the university cooperatives in Japan. For students, university cooperatives provide not only their daily necessities, but also opportunities to get to know many people and participate in management of cooperatives. Approximately half of the Board members are students and students' needs and desires are well reflected in the policies devised by the general assembly.

There are many ways in which students participate and help management of university cooperatives. Generally all the university cooperatives will have a Student Committee. Through this

committee the existing members encourage members to join the cooperatives; they conduct opinion surveys of students and pass on the students' views to the management; they conduct activities such as blood check up and conduct new member orientation.

It is a regular feature for cooperative student members to take part in the development of new menu for the cafeteria, oversee the arrangement in the cafeteria, participate in Peace activities, Fair Trade activities, Environmental activities etc.

There are instances where the student members undertake innovative activities such as new product or new design development for cooperative products, especially those related to stationery.

Since students take active part in the activities related to managing of cooperatives, the University Cooperatives in Japan are able to meet the needs of the student members effectively. University cooperatives have become an integral part of the student life in the campuses. Thus university cooperatives in Japan are providing opportunities for leadership development among youth as well as skill development through participatory process.

Group Discussions

Group 1

Theme: “Innovation in University/Campus Co-operatives”

The discussion on the theme Innovation in University/Campus Co-operatives focused on issues such as the idea of innovation, various factors to be considered for Innovation Strategies and the specific innovations possible in the context of such cooperatives. A brief outline of the above issues is given below.

It was unanimously felt that innovation is both essential and need to be continuous in any setting. In the context of university/campus cooperatives innovation is to be considered as any new idea that can bring in qualitative changes in the systems and operations as well as the overall environment affecting the membership. The group members opined that even though the university/campus cooperatives operate in a limited territory, it is still possible that innovations could be taken up and such innovations could help other types of cooperatives as well.

Factors such as the campus environment, the competitive setting, the degree activeness of members, the skill and commitment of staff, the types of services offered by the cooperative, the awareness about cooperative principles and values etc., would affect possibilities of innovation. The above factors could become either facilitators or

constraints depending on their positive or negative situation. For example, if the students get opportunity for full participation, they may come with new ideas which would in turn help management in bringing about structural or functional changes.

Innovations are required in areas such as systems and operations (facilitating better governance, ensuring democracy and participation by all members, shop floor management, systems of merchandising etc.), fulfillment of members' needs (types of services offered, development of new products and services, using cooperative platform to meet non economic needs, personality and leadership development among student members etc.), and at policy levels (positioning cooperative in the campus, making campus cooperatives integral with youth policy and development, liaison with government, university management etc.).

Group 2

Theme: “Cooperative Approach to Campus Youth Problems”

The discussion in the group centered on the problems faced by youth while in the campus and the ways and means of making the youth use the cooperative platform to overcome such problems.

It was opined that the students in the campuses face certain problems with regard to participation in the campus cooperatives and such problems should be solved. For instance in many countries students can not become full members of the campus cooperative. Here it is the government which should take necessary steps to facilitate participation by youth. There is also lack of awareness about the need for and importance of campus cooperatives. In this case the International Cooperative Alliance should take necessary steps to create awareness. Further, efforts should be made to include in the curriculum the topics related to cooperatives, so that all the

students will get some basic idea about cooperatives. This helps them to participate better. The group felt that campus cooperatives need to diversify their activities in order to meet all types of needs and problems of student/youth members. The group strongly felt that experience sharing with other countries and other cooperatives would go a long way in ensuring that campus cooperatives in all countries and regions develop well and become strong enough to address various problems faced by students/youth.

There was also a view that cooperatives in the campuses could be an ideal platform to address certain institutional and personal problems faced by the young people. The financial problems faced by students, providing an opportunity for realizing different talent of the young people, providing part time employment opportunities etc can help the students. Campus cooperatives, it was felt, can be helpful even in addressing some of the social problems like alienation and depression, drug abuse, study place harassment etc.

The group members felt that it is necessary to make the membership and parents know about the advantages of cooperatives and the cooperative managers and staff also should realize that cooperatives can help young people to find solutions to their immediate and long run problems.

Group 3

Theme: “Student Participation in Management of University/Campus Co-operatives”

The group members endorsed the view that students need to take an active role in the activities of the university/campus cooperatives. It was unanimously held that participation in cooperatives would make the students’ voice heard in the campus, it facilitates better empowerment of students, it works as a training ground for better leadership skills and more importantly it facilitates better social networking among students. Students are the nucleus of the cam-

pus cooperatives. They are not only the largest group among the membership of such cooperatives, but they also are the focal point in terms of business as well as social activities of the campus cooperatives. Therefore all efforts should be made to facilitate better participation of students in the cooperative activities.

However, majority of the members opined that there are certain constraints to students that impede their participation. An important problem is time constraint since students have to focus on their studies. Further, lack of awareness about the need for participation, discouragement from university management and some times even by the cooperative itself, legal constraints and lack of parental or faculty support etc., can curtail the degree of student participation.

In order to overcome these constraints the following strategies have been recommended.

1. Conducting awareness creation programs from time to time especially to new members.
 2. Organising competitions that cover cooperative topics so that students take part with interest and learn from it.
 3. Making necessary statutory changes to ensure that students become members of the Board or Management Committee of the cooperative. It gives better scope for the students to take active part.
 4. Providing incentives to students, so that they are attracted to take active role in cooperative activities.
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Program

Monday, 15th October 2007

- 9:00 – 11:00 Study visit to Co-operatives in Singapore (jointly organized by the Global Youth Conference)
- 11:00 – 13:00 Lunch (own expenses)
- 13:00 – 16:00 Study visit
- 17:00 – 22:00 Welcome dinner (jointly organized by the Global Youth Conference)

Tuesday, 16th October 2007

- 8:30 – 9:00 Registration
- 9:00 – 9:10 Welcome Address by Prof. Poo Gee Swee, Chairperson of SNCF Campus Committee
- 9:10 – 9:30 Opening Address by Prof. Kokichi Shoji, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee
- 9:30 – 11:00 Campus Co-operatives: Organization and Role Sharing of experiences and Open Forum
1. Japan
 2. Malaysia
 3. Canada
- 11:00 – 11:15 Inspirational Message by Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA Asia and Pacific
- 11:15 – 12:30 Country Reports
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 14:15	Plenary Session : Thematic presentations
	1. Innovation in university/campus co-operatives
	2. Co-operative approach to campus youth problems
	3. Students' participation in the management of university/campus co-operatives
14:15 – 15:30	Group discussion and report preparation
15:30 – 16:15	Group presentation and discussion
16:15 – 17:00	Resolutions and Action Plans
17:00 – 17:15	Award of Certificates of participation

Participants

No.	Name	Country	Organization
1.	Mr. Patrice Blais	Canada	Conseil Canadien de la Coopération
2.	Mr. Juan Carlos Mejia	Colombia	La Equidad Seguros
3.	Dr. Y. Dongre	India	University of Mysore
4.	Ms. Shweta Wilson	India	Kerala Agricultural University
5.	Mr. Virendra Singh	India	National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India
6.	Mr. Pravin Joseph	India	Telemood General Trading L.L.C.
7.	Mr. I. Venkatesh	India	Forum Institute of Cooperative Management
8.	Ms. Savithri Kandige	India	District Co-operative Union in Karnataka
9.	Mr. Zuhri Luthfi	Indonesia	Kopma UGM Student Coop
10.	Mr. Prasetyo Putro Santoso	Indonesia	Kopma UGM Student Coop
11.	Mr. Bayu Satriyo Wiaksono	Indonesia	Kopma UGM Student Coop
12.	Mr. Agus Budiono	Indonesia	Kopma UGM Student Coop
13.	Mr. Ilham Nasai	Indonesia	The Indonesian Youth Cooperative
14.	Ms. Francesca Pollicino	Italy	Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative e Mutue
15.	Prof. Kokichi Shoji	Japan	National Federation of University Co-op. Associations
16.	Mr. Toshiaki Wada	Japan	National Federation of University Co-op. Associations
17.	Mr. Toshifumi Kuriki	Japan	National Federation of University Co-op. Associations
18.	Prof. Osamu Arakawa	Japan	National Federation of University Co-op. Associations
19.	Mr. Yoichiro Tanaka	Japan	National Federation of University Co-op. Associations
20.	Mr. Toru Nakaji	Japan	National Federation of University Co-op. Associations
21.	Prof. Yasuyuki Hamada	Japan	National Federation of University Co-op. Associations
22.	Ms. Ikumi Irie	Japan	National Federation of University Co-op. Associations
23.	Mr. Masamichi Maita	Japan	National Federation of University Co-op. Associations
24.	Ms. Haruna Morita	Japan	National Federation of University Co-op. Associations

25.	Ms. Chizuru Tanaka	Japan	Senior Co-operative Wakayama
26.	Ms. Michi Aoki	Japan	Japan Institute of Co-operative Research
27.	Mr. Takayoshi Tomita	Japan	Japan Workers' Co-operative Union
28.	Mr. Hiroshi Oba	Japan	Workers Co-operative Central
29.	Mr. Jong Suk Choi	Korea	National University of Singapore
30.	Prof. Ali Hasan	Malaysia	University Co-operative Federation of Malaysia
31.	Mr. Ganesh Datta Sharma	Nepal	Nana Dhaulagiri Savings & Credit Co-operative
32.	Mr. Bhim Bahadur Gurung	Nepal	Pokhara Royal Co-operative
33.	Mr. Gurung Bhim Bahadur	Nepal	Pokhara Royal Co-operative Soc. Ltd
34.	Mr. Ganesh Datta Sharma	Nepal	Nava Dhaulagiri Savings & Credit Co-op. Society Ltd
35.	Mr. Hussain Shabbir	Pakistan	Wapda Employees Cooperative Housing Society
36.	Ms. Zenaida S. Diola	Philippines	Metro Manila Federation of Consumers Co-operative
37.	Ms. Jonalyn Galang	Philippines	CEU Consumers Co-operative
38.	Ms. Mafelyn Cana Espiritu	Philippines	CEU Consumers Co-operative
39.	Ms. Kristine Iris Devela	Philippines	CEU Consumers Co-operative
40.	Ms. Ayeth Combras	Philippines	CEU Consumers Co-operative
41.	Ms. Karen Guevarra	Philippines	CEU Consumers Co-operative
42.	Mr. Jose Benjamin Pena	Philippines	CEU Consumers Co-operative
43.	Mr. Wassim Masoud	Philippines	CEU Consumers Co-operative
44.	Mr. Victorino Rosario Paredes	Philippines	CEU Consumers Co-operative
45.	Ms. Karen Tan	Philippines	CEU Consumers Co-operative
46.	Ms. Jenie Bermido	Philippines	CEU Consumers Co-operative
47.	Ms. Ronalene Yu	Philippines	CEU Consumers Co-operative
48.	Mr. John Arbie Espiritu	Philippines	CEU Consumers Co-operative
49.	Mr. Ryan Cortez	Philippines	CEU Consumers Co-operative
50.	Ms. Levelyn Undag	Philippines	CEU Consumers Co-operative
51.	Ms. Marie Michelle Mendoza	Philippines	CEU Consumers Co-operative
52.	Ms. Juliet Arabia	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
53.	Ms. Warley Del Rosario	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative

54.	Ms. Marilu Cao	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
55.	Ms. Raquel Rapirad	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
56.	Ms. Anna Kathrina Aquino	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
57.	Ms. Nicky Mosqueda	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
58.	Mr. Aran Inzon	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
59.	Mr. Euf Nunez	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
60.	Mr. Sherwin Funa	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
61.	Mr. Erick Macapagal	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
62.	Mr. Gem Regino	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
63.	Mr. Calvin Cortes	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
64.	Mr. Bryan Angeles	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
65.	Ms. Ira Montecastro	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
66.	Ms. Donna Samson	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
67.	Ms. Jane Cabilangan	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
68.	Ms. Sarah Jane Lumidao	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
69.	Mr. Ronald John Javiol	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
70.	Mr. Raynerius Goze	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
71.	Mr. Rendly Alincastre	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
72.	Mr. Dino Cortes	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
73.	Mr. Fitzgerald Aguila	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
74.	Mr. Roger Bingculado	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
75.	Mr. Nino Tuazon	Philippines	FEU Consumers Co-operative
76.	Prof. Poo Gee Swee	Singapore	Singapore National Co-operative Federation
77.	Ms. Swathi Avadhani	Singapore	National University of Singapore
78.	Mr. Tang Teck Chye	Singapore	Ngee Ann Polytechnic Co-operative
79.	Mr. Lucwaththa L. Udaya Prabath	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation
80.	Mr. Athidewa R. Sriyakanthi	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation
81.	Mr. Naidappulage S. Fernando	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation
82.	Mr. Perera Malika Achalangani	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation

83.	Mr. Asoka Sepala	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation
84.	Mr. Maha Waduge Rasad Chamara	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation
85.	Mr. Priyalanka De Roshan	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation
86.	Mr. Athdewa Ranasinge Sriyakanthi	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation
87.	Mr. Thewara T. Lakmal Sanjeeva	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation
88.	Mr. Dammana A. Kingly Harald	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation
89.	Mr. Thushara Chathuranga	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation
90.	Mr. Paphat Paricharn	Thailand	Thailand Consumer Co-operatives Federation in University
91.	Mr. Kamonsinthu Chata	Thailand	Khonkaen University Consumer Co-operative
92.	Mr. Phet Phondi	Thailand	Khonkaen University Consumer Co-operative
93.	Mr. Tom Pierson	U.S.A.	NCB
94.	Mr. Vu Van Dzung	Vietnam	Vietnam Co-operative Alliance
95.	Urkinbaev Bakir	Kazakhstan	Almaty Co-operative College (Union of Consumer Societies of the Republic of Kazakhstan)
96.	Kiseleva Galina	Russia	Centrosojuz
97.	Bulekov Oleg	Russia	Centrosojuz
98.	Dudukalova Galina	Russia	Centrosojuz
99.	Grigoryan Natalia	Russia	Centrosojuz
100.	Suroto	Indonesia	Leppcite (General Soedirman Univ.)
101.	Nguyen Thi Thu Hao	Vietnam	Vietnam Co-operative Alliance
102.	Prinvil Frantz	Haiti	Conseil National des Coopératives (CNC)
103.	Zhuang Wen Wen	Singapore	SNCF
104.	De Haro Gerara	France	(Interpreter)
105.	Troy Pieper	U.S.A.	U.S. Federation of Worker Co-ops
106.	Bubung L. Hakim	Indonesia	BKPK-OEKOPIN
107.	Barbara Daris	Canada	Conseil Canadien de la Coopération
108.	Sunil Silva	Sri Lanka	National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka

The International Co-operative Alliance - Asia & Pacific is one of the operating regional offices of the ICA, the world confederation of co-operatives in existence since 1895 and presently headquartered in Geneva.

ICA has 225 member organizations worldwide from 87 countries of which 59 member organizations come from 23 countries in the Asia Pacific region.

Most of the members of ICA are national level co-operative organizations that serve all types of co-operatives operating in all sectors of national economies including those engaged in agricultural production and marketing, wholesale and retail, small and medium scale industries, financial services, insurance, housing, transport, health and other services.

Over 530 million individual members get benefited from the services of these co-operatives in the Asia Pacific region.



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