



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

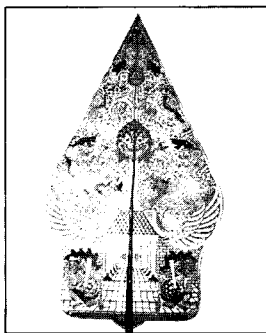
1992 Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference
Jakarta, Indonesia : February 18-21, 1992



International Cooperative Alliance
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

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Our Cover :

GUNUNGAN. The triangular Gunungan marks beginnings and ends in the Indonesian Wayang Kulit (Shadow plays) which are prominent components of ancient Javanese culture. The auspicious Gunungan symbolises a sacred mountain and the tree of life (Kalpataru) and contains all that has to do with life, its upward ultimate achievement and sustenance.

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**1992 Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference,
Jakarta. Indonesia. February 18-21, 1992**

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Background

The Sydney Conference-1990

The International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, New Delhi (ICA ROAP) had organised a Cooperative Ministers' Conference for Asia and the Pacific which was held in Sydney (Australia) in February, 1990. The Conference had adopted and released a Declaration known as "Sydney Declaration on Cooperative Development". In addition, the Ministers' Conference had also made a set of recommendations, including an 'Action for 1990s'.

With regard to Action for 1990s, the Sydney Conference had made the following recommendations.

- i. The Conference recommends that national governments in collaboration with the national cooperative organisations should develop clear perspective for the development of cooperatives in specific areas during the '90s. In the identification of the target groups, small farmers, artisans, workers, women and un-employed youth and other down-trodden people should be given special attention.
- ii. The Conference recommends that the strengthening of cooperative values by building up self-reliant Cooperative Movements should be given priority during the '90s.
- iii. The ICA should work out guidelines to evolve a practical system of cooperative-government relationship to combine cooperative values, socio-economic objectives and competitive strength.
- iv. The ICA should organise national workshops and other relevant activities to take up follow-up action on the above Declaration and Recommendations in collaboration with national cooperative organisations and national governments.

- v. The Conference recommends that the ICA, along with its member-organisations and international agencies, should take measures to develop skills and transfer of technology to facilitate cooperative trade.

In order to follow-up the recommendations of the Sydney Conference, the ICA ROAP developed a strategy of an intensive interaction with its member-organisations and the governments concerned in the Region. The strategy included: i) organisation of five national level follow-up workshops on the subject in Fiji, India, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand; ii) contacts with senior level government officials and cooperative leaders in various countries; iii) inviting 'written follow-up reports from governments and national cooperative organisations; and iv) review of general documents and correspondence. On the basis of the material thus received and collected, a regional background paper was prepared which was considered by the Regional Consultation held in Manila, Philippines, 20-22 November 1991. The Regional Consultation made comprehensive recommendations for the consideration of the Ministers' Conference, Indonesia, February 1992. These recommendations formed the major agenda for the consideration of the 1992 Conference.

The Jakarta Conference-1992

The second Conference of Ministers Responsible for Cooperative Development on "Cooperative-Government Collaborative Strategies for the Development of Cooperatives" was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 18th to 21st February 1992. 17 ministers responsible for cooperative development representing Afghanistan, Brunei, China, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Tonga participated in the Conference for its entire duration. In all 164 delegates from Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, China, Egypt, Fiji, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga and Vietnam attended the Conference. In addition, representatives of international organisations, namely, AARRO, ACCU, ACO, CCA, CCD, DANIDA, FAO, FES, ILO, UNDP and UNESCO attended the Conference.

Conference Agenda

The following was the agenda of the Conference :

- a. Cooperative-Government collaborative strategies with special reference to:
 - a.1 Follow-up of the Sydney Conference Recommendations;

- a.2 Achievements;
- a.3 Problem areas;
- a.4 Regional and national plans of action; and
- a.5 Laying down guidelines to evolve a practical system of adoption by the cooperative-government relationship to combine cooperative values, socio-economic objectives and competitive strength.
- b. Basic Values in Cooperatives and Trends in Cooperative Development.
- c. Capital Formation in Cooperatives.
- d. Cooperatives and Environment.

The Conference was inaugurated by His Excellency Soeharto, the President of the Republic of Indonesia, at the Presidential Palace in Jakarta. The inaugural session was also attended by Ambassadors of various countries in the region. The President in his speech emphasised that "we do not only need social justice on the national level in our respective countries, but also on a global level among the comity of nations". He further said that existing gap cause wide-ranging tensions and conflicts. The President appreciated the Conference plan to discuss the link between the fundamental value of cooperatives and current global trends and expressed "I am sure it will contribute significantly to the creation of a new world order that ensures greater peace, prosperity and common well-being imbued with justice". At the inaugural function, the ICA President, Mr. Lars Marcus, presented an Award to President Soeharto. The Award stated :

"This Award is presented by the International Cooperative Alliance, an International Association of Cooperative Movements, to His Excellency Soeharto, President of the Republic of Indonesia, in recognition and appreciation of his consistent commitment and significant contribution to the Indonesian Cooperative Movement".

Preceding the inaugural address by the President, Mr. Bustanil Arifin, Minister of Cooperatives of the Republic of Indonesia, gave a brief account of performance of the Conference. Mr. Lars Marcus expressed his appreciation of the excellent arrangements made by the Government and the Dewan Koperasi Indonesia (DEKOPIN) to host the Conference. He also mentioned the progress which the Cooperative Movement has made in the region since the Sydney Conference.

Upon arrival at the Manggala Wanabakti building, the participants witnessed the opening ceremony of a Cooperative Trade Exhibition. The Exhibition was inaugurated by Hon'ble Ms. Shailaja Acharya, Minister of Agriculture, Nepal, and witnessed by Mr. Bustanil Arifin and Mr. Lars Marcus, President of ICA. An impressive display of products by 45 cooperative institutions in

Indonesia and Sri Lanka was arranged by the Conference organisers in the corridors of the Manggala Wanabakti Building.

After the inaugural function, the Conference held its business sessions at the Manggala Wanabakti Building.

Mr. Bustanil Arifin, Minister of Cooperatives, of the Republic of Indonesia, was unanimously elected the Chairman of the Conference.

After adoption of the formal agenda and methodology of the Conference, the Ministers, representatives of cooperatives and international organisations made their statements.

Mr. Lars Marcus presented his address on "Basic Values in Cooperatives and Trends in Cooperative Development". The subject of "Capital Formation in Cooperatives" was introduced by Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Executive Director, ICA. On "Cooperatives and Environment" a detailed review was presented by Mr. Tadafumi Yoshida and Mr. Hiroshi Suzuki from Japan.

The Conference inter-alia considered the recommendations of the Manila Consultation of Permanent Secretaries of Cooperatives held at Manila from 20 to 22 November 1991.

Conference Drafting Committee

in order to produce a draft of conclusions and recommendations for its consideration and approval, the Conference approved the constitution of a Drafting Committee consisting of the following :

- (a) **Committee Members**
 - 01. Mr. Geoff Ayres (Australia)
 - 02. Mr. V.K. Mittal (India)
 - 03. Dr. Noer Soetrisno (Indonesia)
 - 04. Mr. Ahmad Bakir bin Mohamed (Malaysia)
 - 05. Mr. Romulo M. Villamin (Philippines)
 - 06. Mr. S.B. Divaratne (Sri Lanka)
- (b) **Facilitators**
 - 07. Mr. G.K. Sharma (ICA ROAP)
 - 08. Mr. Karl Fogelstrom (ICA ROAP)
 - 09. Dr. R.C. Dwivedi (ICA ROAP Consultant)
 - 10. Mr. Daman Prakash (ICA ROAP).

Observations & Recommendations of the Conference

The following are the observations and recommendations of the Conference:

General Observations

01. The Conference expressed gratitude to His Excellency Soeharto, President of the Republic of Indonesia, for inaugurating the Conference and extending hospitality to the delegates.
02. The Conference appreciated the follow-up action taken by the ICA ROAP as a follow-up of the Sydney Conference recommendations and Action Plan for 1990s in holding workshops in Fiji, India, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand as per the mandate of the Sydney Conference.
03. The Conference appreciated the excellent arrangements made by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Dewan Koperasi Indonesia (DEKOPIN) and the key role played by the Minister of Cooperatives of Indonesia in facilitating the work of the Conference in Jakarta.

Guidelines to Evolve a Practical System of Cooperative-Government Relationships

04. The Conference considered and endorsed the guidelines formulated by the ICA ROAP in regard to integration of cooperative values, socio-economic objectives and competitive strength. The Conference identified and recommended the following role for the governments, cooperatives and international organisations :

Role of the Government

05. Governments' collaboration in cooperative development is vital to strengthen cooperative values in several ways, particularly providing appropriate cooperative legislation and administrative policies.
06. The cooperative values need to be safeguarded while extending government financial and other assistance to cooperatives.
07. The Conference took note of the governments objectives of cooperative development in various countries.
08. The Conference took note of the various approaches developed in different countries to achieve the socio-economic objectives. The Conference recommended that a planned combination of various approaches be evolved in various countries according to local situation and requirements for the extension of Cooperative Principles and greater absorption of cooperative values.
09. The Conference recognised the role of the government in the creation

of a conducive environment for the implementation of various programmes allowing cooperatives to diversify so as to achieve the projected objectives and goals. The Conference recommended the following measures in this regard :-

- 9.1 to support the publicity campaigns undertaken by cooperatives to develop understanding about cooperative values, socio-economic objectives and competitive strength in the cooperatives.
 - 9.2 continuing dialogue with the cooperatives to secure support and reaffirm faith of the executive heads of the government in the potentials of cooperatives.
 - 9.3 to encourage extensive mass media coverage of the role played by cooperatives in the socio-economic development for the purpose of educating the general public as to the potential of cooperatives.
10. The Conference recognised the role of government in enhancing competitive strength in the cooperatives so as to withstand competition in the market. It recommended that the governments in respective countries formulate suitable fiscal and other policies more supportive of cooperatives which may be required for greater competitive strength.
11. The Conference felt that to ensure greater functional efficiency, it was essential to promote professional management in cooperatives. It recommended that adequate measures should be taken by the Movement with the support of the government to strengthen human resource development.
12. The Conference took note of the financial strains faced by cooperatives in some countries. It recommended that the governments support measures taken by cooperatives to ensure their sustainability at all levels.
13. The Conference took note of the increasing trend towards privatisation and de-regulation in the policies of the governments. The Conference recommended that the cooperatives be given the advantage accruing from such policies and also to ensure that the new economic environment does not impair the progress of cooperatives in any manner.
14. The Conference further recommended that de-regulation also be extended to cooperatives.
15. The Conference considered adoption of modern technology necessary to enhance the competitive strength of cooperatives. It recommended that the government facilitates its adoption by cooperatives at all levels.
16. The Conference acknowledged that planning should be the primary responsibility of each cooperative. The government's technical and other assistance be made available as required.

Role of Cooperatives

17. Cooperatives have to play a conscious role in the propagation, promotion and strengthening of values. It is an important responsibility of each cooperative to educate its members about the concept and essentiality of cooperative values. The working of cooperatives ought to reflect the values. The bye-laws should specifically provide for value-oriented operations of cooperatives. The education and training courses for various categories of office-bearers and employees include discussion on cooperative values.

18. Cooperative values need to be safeguarded and maintained while accepting government financial and other assistance.

19. Cooperatives need to undertake education, publicity and intensive campaigning to educate the members and general public about the socio-economic objectives of cooperatives.

20. The projection and realization of long-term objective depend to a great extent upon the performance of promotional unions or federations within the cooperative structure itself. The Conference noted that these were weak organizationally, financially, and professionally. In many cases they depended upon government financing. The Conference recommended that due support be given to make them strong.

21. In order to develop competitive strength, cooperatives need to avoid any kind of financial/material waste.

22. The Conference recognised that the competitive strength of cooperatives depended upon integrated working of the cooperatives both horizontally and vertically and recommended that the Principle of Cooperation among cooperatives be operationally strengthened.

Areas of Emphasis

23. Keeping in view the national objectives of cooperative development, the Conference recommended greater diversification of cooperatives to various fields of economic activities particularly in the direction of alleviation of poverty in the rural and urban areas and promotion of consumers' welfare.

24. The Conference recommended that greater attention be given to the production of value-added goods to ensure better prices to the farmers. It further recommended in this context that cooperatives should adopt modern technology.

25. The Conference took note of the various approaches developed in different countries for economic development such as general scheme

approach, project approach, area approach, group target approach, etc. It recommended that a planned combination for various approaches may be evolved.

26. The Conference recommended that steps should be taken by cooperatives to promote and develop international trade on cooperative-to-cooperative basis within and outside the countries of the region.

27. The Conference took note of various models in different countries in regard to relationships between the cooperatives and the private sector enterprises, including participation of cooperatives in the equity capital of joint-stock companies as provided in Indonesia. The Conference, however, was of the view that cooperatives may subscribe to the equity capital of private enterprises, but the latter should not be allowed to subscribe to the equity capital of cooperatives without proper safeguards. It was further suggested that in the context of the international trade development, cooperatives may consider to set up joint-ventures in collaboration with private enterprises to develop their competitive strength and to better service their members.

28. The Conference recommended that Cooperation should be integrated at various levels in the syllabi of general educational system.

29. The Conference recognised that there need be no compulsion on cooperatives to invest their funds outside cooperative enterprises to facilitate availability of funds within the cooperative framework. This will also promote independence and autonomy of the cooperatives.

30. The Conference took note of the steps taken by the various governments to amend their cooperative legislation, keeping in view the spirit of Sydney Recommendation. The Conference recommended that needed legislative changes be carried out expeditiously.

31. The Conference took note of a weak condition of many primary cooperative societies and recognizing that primaries being the base of the entire cooperative structure, recommended that adequate measures be taken to strengthen them.

32. The Conference emphasised that education of members and general public in the concept and potential of cooperatives is vital for the success of cooperatives. It, therefore, recommended that cooperative education programmes be strengthened at all levels. In pursuance of the efforts in cooperative education the ACO group proposed the setting up of centres of excellence, with the assistance of the international agencies, in the various cooperative institutions in the Asean Region. The Conference emphasised that special education programmes be developed and promoted for women and youth.

33. Agriculture is the dominating sector of economy of most of the developing countries of the Asia and the Pacific region. The Conference recommended that development and strengthening of agricultural cooperatives be given due attention.

34. The Conference recommended that cooperatives have both economic and social objectives. It recommended that the progress of these objectives of cooperatives be assessed from time to time, in order to project the image of cooperatives and set new directions. The Conference also recognised the need of cooperatives to organise activities for the promotion of the social welfare of the community at large within the area of their operation, such as building of educational and medical facilities, organisation of cultural activities, education in social hygiene, promotion of functional literacy, rural sanitation and environment protection, etc. In this context the Conference also took note of the social costs and benefit analysis being adopted in some countries.

35. The Conference recommended that programmes for a greater involvement of youth and women in the management and operations of cooperatives be formulated.

Infrastructure to facilitate Cooperative Development

36. The Conference observed that in order to implement various programmes/schemes for the development of cooperatives, adequate and efficient infrastructure was necessary and measures be taken in this direction.

37. In order to meet the financial needs of cooperatives, national cooperative financing institutions be allowed to be established by cooperatives within the monetary framework of the country concerned.

38. The Conference recommended that a data bank be built up by government/movement or jointly by both.

39. The Conference emphasised the need to build/strengthen research in the cooperative sector. It recommended that necessary infrastructure be built for this purpose.

Role of International Organisations

40. The need of more international assistance was emphasised. In view of this, the Conference suggested that international organisations and donor agencies assist cooperatives in the region in the transfer and building of technology and know-how. The services of the ICA ROAP be available to cooperatives as well as international organizations for this purpose.

41. The Conference noted that international organisations at times insist on certain structural changes as a condition when providing assistance to cooperatives, and that these conditions create certain problems and difficulties. The Conference recommended that international organisations be flexible in their approach by taking into account the local situation, environment and other factors while providing assistance.

42. The Conference appreciated the steps taken by the ILO to review its Recommendation No.127 in view of various changes and developments in the cooperative field and government policies.

43. The Conference recommended that a Committee of the Ministers of Cooperatives of Asean countries may be set up to foster greater coordination among the cooperatives of Asean countries.

Fund for Holding Cooperative Ministers' Conferences

44. The Conference recognised the importance of the Ministers' Conference as its recommendations greatly helped the governments and the national cooperative organisations in building conducive environment for the development of cooperatives.

45. The Conference felt the need of meeting of the Ministers periodically for the review of the development of cooperatives.

46. The Conference accepted the need to build financial resources to follow-up and continue Conference activities. It recommended that the governments and cooperatives in the region contribute to meet the required finance. The ICA ROAP was asked to work out modalities of the Fund.

47. The Conference further clarified that such contributions will be on voluntary basis.

48. The Conference noted with high appreciation the announcements of voluntary contributions to the Fund by Hon'ble Bustanil Arifin, Minister of Cooperatives of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, a sum of US\$ 25,000 and by Hon'ble Dato Khalid Yunus, Deputy Minister for Lands and Cooperative Development of the Government of Malaysia, a sum of US\$ 20,000.

Capital Formation in Cooperatives

49. The Conference noted the various examples on capital formation by cooperatives and looked forward to the discussions at the ensuing ICA Tokyo Congress.

Cooperatives and Environment

50. The Conference took note of the importance being given by cooperatives in regard to protection of environment and promotion of ecological plans by cooperatives in various ways. The Conference appreciated such activities in view of the present situation of environmental degradation. The Conference recommended to develop more intensive environment-related awareness activities by cooperatives.

Venue of Next Conference

51. A number of invitations were extended by the participating countries to hold the next Conference. The Conference took note of these offers with great appreciation. The Conference, after a brief discussion, decided to accept with thanks the invitation extended by Hon'ble Weerasinghe Mallimaratchi, Minister of Food and Cooperatives, Sri Lanka, to hold the next Conference in Sri Lanka.

Vote of Thanks to Indonesian Hosts

52. The Conference expressed its high appreciation, thanks and deep gratitude to Hon'ble Bustanil Arifin, Minister of Cooperatives, Indonesia, Chairman of the Conference, and the host Cooperative Movement of Indonesia, for making elaborate arrangements for the participants and work of the Conference held in Jakarta, February 18-21, 1992.

AGENDA AND PROGRAMME

- Dates : February 18-21, 1992
Venue: a) Presidential Palace for inaugural ceremony on February 18, 1992.
b) Manggala Wanabakti Building for Working Sessions.
c) Manggala Wanabakti Building for Cooperative Trade Exhibition.

February 17, Monday

- Arrival of Delegates
 - Accommodation in respective hotels
 - Registration of Delegates
- 1900-2100 Welcome Cocktail party hosted by Professor Wagiono Ismangil, Secretary-General, Department of Cooperatives-Indonesia, at Atlet Century Park Hotel, Jalan Pintu Satu, Senayan Complex, Jakarta.

February 18, Tuesday

- 0845 Departure for Presidential Palace
1000-1100 Inaugural Session at the Presidential Palace:
1000-1015 Address by Hon'ble Bustanil Arifin, Minister of Cooperatives-Indonesia.
1015-1025 Address by Mr. Lars Marcus, President, International Cooperative Alliance, and presentation of ICA Award to His Excellency Soeharto, President of the Republic of Indonesia.
1025-1100 Inaugural address by His Excellency Soeharto, President of the Republic of Indonesia.
1130 Departure of participants from the Presidential Palace to the Conference venue.
1200-1230 Inauguration of the Cooperative Trade Exhibition by Hon'ble Bustanil Arifin, Minister of Cooperatives-Indonesia.
1230-1400 Lunch at Manggala Wanabakti Building
1400-1530 **Working Session-I**
Chairman : Mr. Lars Marcus, President, ICA
a. Welcome address by the Host Movement - Prof. Sri Edi Swasono, Chairman, Indonesian Cooperative Council-DEKOPIN.

- b. Election of Conference Chairman
Chairman : Hon'ble Bustanil Arifin
- c. Working Methods and Adoption of Agenda for the Conference - Mr. Karl Fogelstrom.
- d. Report from the Secretariat - Mr. G.K. Sharma.
- e. Country Statements

1530-1545

Coffee break

Chairman : Hon'ble Bustanil Arifin

1545-1800

Country Statements (contd.)

1900-2200

Dinner-Reception and Indonesian Cultural Programme hosted by Hon'ble Bustanil Arifin, Minister of Cooperatives-Indonesia.

February 19, Wednesday

0900-1000

Working Session-II

Chairman : Hon'ble Bustanil Arifin

Topic-I: Global Cooperative Trends and Basic Values in Cooperatives.

Introduced by Mr. Lars Marcus, President, ICA.

Discussion on Topic-I.

1000-1100

Country Statements (contd.)

1100-1130

Coffee break

1130-1300

Country Statements (contd.)

1300-1400

Lunch

Chairman : Hon'ble Weerasinghe Mallimaratchi

1400-1500

Country Statements (contd.)

1500-1530

Coffee break

1530-1730

Working Session-III

Chairman : Hon'ble Weerasinghe Mallimaratchi

Consideration of Manila Regional Consultation Recommendations.

1900-2100

Reception hosted by Hon'ble Ir.Wardojo, Minister of Agriculture-Indonesia.

February 20, Thursday

0900-1000

Working Session-IV

Chairman : Prof. Sri Edi Swasono

Topic-II: Capital Formation in Cooperatives.

Introduced by Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Executive Director, ICA.

Discussion on Topic-II.

- 1000-1030 Coffee break
- 1030 **Working Session-V**
- Drafting Committee in Session
 - All other participants join study visits programmes.
- 1030-2100 Study Visits Programme-East Java
- KUD Batu in Malang District
 - Cooperative Rural Bank "KBPR Pancadana" Batu

February 21, Friday

- 0830-1000 **Working Session-VI**
- Chairman* : Hon'ble Bustanil Afrifin
- Topic-III: Cooperatives and Environment.**
- Introduced by** : Mr. Tadafumi Yoshida, Chairman, Study Committee on Cooperatives and Environment, Organising Committee of the ICA XXX Congress Tokyo.
- Supported by** : Mr. Hiroshi Suzuki, Director of JCCU Laboratory.
- Discussion on Topic-III.**
- 1000-1045 **Working Session-VII**
- Chairman* : Hon'ble Bustanil Arifin
- i. Plenary Session to adopt Conference Conclusions/Recommendations.
 - ii. Consideration of venue and dates of the next Conference of Cooperative Ministers.
 - iii. Closing Session of the Conference.
-

PARTICIPANTS

- Afghanistan
01. Hon'ble Mohammed Ghufuran
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08. Mr. Md. Joynul Abedin
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09. Hon'ble Pehin Dato Haji Isa bin Ibrahim
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Special Advisor to the Sultan
Head of the Delegation
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The ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ICA ROAP) serves 54 national level organisations from 19 countries, representing nearly 440 million individual cooperators. These countries are : Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Democratic Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, USSR and Vietnam.

Main activities of the ROAP include coordination of cooperative development efforts within the region and promotion of exchanges and experiences; project identification, formulation and evaluation; promotion of establishment and development of national cooperative apex organisations; and organisation of seminars and conferences on specific subjects including support for programmes aiming at the involvement of women and youth in cooperative activities.

Finances are derived from member subscriptions, own funds and assistance from donors for various activities carried out by the ICA.

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