

17 Years of ICA Regional Consumer Committee

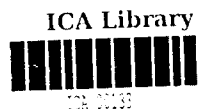


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17 Years of ICA Regional Consumer Committee

**Report on the 22 Meetings of the ICA Committee
on Consumer Co-operation**



International Co-operative Alliance
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
New Delhi, India

17 Years of

ICA Regional Consumer Committee

- A Report on the 22 meetings of the ICA Committee on
Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific from 1977

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Foreword

The chronological report of the activities of the ICA Regional Consumer Committee, formerly called the sub-committee, based upon the compilation of the minutes is rather unique in itself and very worthy for reviewing our activities and deciding the future policies. Throughout those twenty-odd meetings, you will certainly find out the main issues discussed in the Committee and could touch with the atmosphere of the positive and ardent participation from the affiliated organizations.

Nowadays, Asia is changing rapidly and increasing its important role in the world economy. Simultaneously the necessity for the development of the consumers co-operatives in the region is becoming greater and greater and the Consumer Committee is, without doubt, one of the catalyzers for this purpose.

I hope this report compiled by the efforts of Messrs. P. Machima and P. Nair of the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific will help and give several suggestions for your activities.

Tokyo
October, 1993

Masao Ohya
Chairman

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ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific

REPORT ON THE MEETINGS HELD

The Beginning

The ICA Regional Consumer Committee has been functioning since 1977 in an advisory capacity, providing assistance in planning strategies and advices and helping in locating the proposed activities on the basis of felt needs. Since the Committee has been in existence for over one and a half decade, it was felt that it would be useful to have some sort of a record on the Committee meetings so far, which we hope will be useful in impact evaluations and deciding on future activities of the Consumer Co-operative Development Project of the ICA in member countries.

The ICA Council in its meeting held in Tokyo during October, 1973 considered the need for developing consumer co-operation in South East Asia in view of the rising cost of living, shortage of essential commodities, adulteration, sub-standard goods and other malpractices in the consumer trade. The Council felt that an Open Asia Conference needed to be held to work out strategies for tackling these problems in the consumer field.

This Open Conference was held in Kuala Lumpur during October, 1974. The Conference recommended to the Council that a Working Party on Consumer Co-operation be established by the ICA Regional Office for South East Asia. The ICA Regional office felt that a mere 'Working Party' will not be effective enough to tackle the problems faced by the

consumer movement and it would be better to have a Standing Committee. The Regional Office also placed a draft constitution of the proposed committee before the ICA Regional Council at their meeting held at Tehran in November, 1976, which was approved by the ICA Regional Council.

The objective of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for South-East Asia was to promote consumer co-operation in the Region and more particularly to:

- i. review periodically the progress made in the field of consumer co-operation;
- ii. recommend policies and common lines of action in the fields of consumer co-operation and consumer protection;
- iii. coordinate the activities of consumer co-operation in the region;
- iv. promote systematic dissemination of information among consumer co-operative organisations in the region in regard to their experiences in the field of retailing, warehousing, wholesaling, publicity, member education, consumer protection and other fields.

The committee held its meetings, initially on an annual basis, and at a later stage, the meetings were held more often (i.e. twice a year) to discuss problems and strategies. To date the committee has held 22 meetings in various countries of the Region.

The first meeting was held on 8th December, 1977 at Bali (Indonesia) and the 22nd meeting was held at Suva (Fiji) from 14-15 May, 1993. The 23rd meeting is scheduled to be held at Phuket (Thailand) from 17-19 November, 1993.

A list of meetings with the venues and dates appear as an annexure to this report.

The Consumer Co-operative Development Project was handled by 3 different project advisers during this period, namely Mr.M.K.Puri from 1977 to 1988; Mr.W.U.Herath from September, 1988 to February, 1990 (additional charge) and Mr.Pradit Machima from February, 1990 till date, who

acted as Secretary to the Committee.

As mentioned earlier, the objective of this booklet is to give a description of the activities and strategies suggested by the Committee to improve the effectiveness of the consumer co-operatives in the Region and the action taken by the Consumer Co-operative Development Project of the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

The current constitution of the Committee appears as an annexure.

Meetings

First Meeting

The first meeting of the Committee was held on 8th December, 1977 at Bali (Indonesia). The meeting was attended by 17 persons from 10 countries. Mr.S.Nakabayashi, then President of the Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union (JCCU) was unanimously elected as the first Chairman of the Committee. Mr.Tapeshwar Singh from India was elected as Vice Chairman and Mr.M.K.Puri, Specialist in Consumer Co-operation, ICA ROEC was appointed the Secretary of the Sub-committee. Representatives from various countries of the Region described the present situation of consumer co-operatives in their respective countries and mentioned that the main problems identified by them are lack of proper leadership, non-viable retail structure, absence of a wholesale society or federation at national level, absence of sufficient competent and trained manpower, lack of finances, competition from private sector, etc.

The chairman, Mr.Nakabayashi, assured the members of the Committee that the Japanese Consumer Co-operative movement would extend all possible support and collaboration in the work of the Committee. The committee has decided to recommend to the ICA Regional Office, policies and common lines of action in the field of consumer co-operation and consumer protection and to coordinate the activities of the consumer co-operatives in the region.

Second Meeting

The committee held its second meeting in Bangkok on 4th December, 1978 under the Chairmanship of Mr.S.Nakabayashi. The meeting considered various ways and means of strengthening the consumer co-operatives in the Region. The need to involve University teachers and students in urban areas and women in rural areas for the

success of consumer co-operation was emphasized by the committee. While agreeing that situation in each country would be different and strategies will have to be worked out to suit the situation of a particular country, the committee felt that some general guidelines should be followed such as:

- * the retail units and primary societies should be effective and economically viable;
- * national level wholesale societies should be established and close collaboration between wholesale and retail societies should be maintained;
- * qualified, trained and competent personnel needs to be inducted to conduct the affairs of the co-operatives;
- * in order to achieve genuine support and participation from members/housewives, measures should be adopted from the lessons drawn from the Japanese movement;
- * capital resources should be increased seeking support from insurance, housing and credit co-operatives to procure and maintain capital intensive retail trade;
- * university students and teachers should be brought within the fold of consumer co-operation;
- * consumer co-operative movement should be promoted in urban areas by including students, teachers, housewives, women NGOs, trade unions and retired citizens.

It was also felt by the committee that national seminars and conferences should be held in each country.

Third Meeting

The third meeting of the Committee was held at Petaling Jaya, Malaysia on 20th November, 1979. In the absence of Mr. Nakabayashi, the Chairman, the meeting was chaired by Mr. A. Kurimoto, alternate member from Japan.

12 members from ten countries participated at the meeting. The meeting was informed by the Regional office about an agreement with the Swedish Co-operative Centre to hold an international seminar on consumer co-operation in 1982.

Fourth Meeting

The fourth meeting was held at Colombo in November, 1980. Mr.M.Ohya, alternate member from Japan, chaired the meeting. Seven members from Japan, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand, participated at the meeting.

Mr.Chong Thin Huatt from Malaysia was elected as the Chairman of the committee. It was unanimously agreed that the representative from Thailand be appointed as the Vice Chairman of the Committee. The Co-operative League of Thailand was requested to nominate their representative.

The committee was informed that a follow-up seminar will be held in Malaysia during May, 1981. This meeting has recommended a time-bound action programme to be worked out in each country for organising a network of strong and viable co-operative retail shops covering all big cities and towns.

A regional Seminar on Consumer Co-operation was also proposed to be held in September, 1981 in collaboration with the Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union.

The ICA ROEC organised a Regional Seminar on 'Development of Consumer Co-operation in South-East Asia' in Japan in September, 1981, which was attended by 19 participants from seven countries of the region. Most of the participants were managers and senior employees of co-operative societies.

Fifth meeting

The fifth meeting of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation met on 28th October, 1981 in Seoul (Korea). Mr.Chong Thin Huatt, the Chairman, chaired the meeting and representatives from India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand attended.

The committee pointed out that in view of the stiff competition from the private trade, there was a need for increasing training facilities for the employees of consumer

co-operatives. The committee requested the ICA ROEC to request the SCC to provide more training facilities in Sweden for consumer personnel from South-East Asia. The committee also endorsed the recommendations of the ICA follow-up seminar held in Malaysia and Singapore for setting up a model regional warehouse in the region with technical and financial assistance from Swedish Co-operative Centre. The JCCU was also requested to lend more support for the promotion and development of effective consumer co-operative movements in the region, by providing on-the-job training to professional employees of consumer co-operatives. The committee also urged that at least one Regional Seminar on Consumer Co-operation should be held in alternate years for participants from Asian countries.

The committee agreed on the proposal made by the ICA Secretariat on consumer policy for developing countries in South-East Asia and requested the member movements to work out detailed consumer programmes for their respective countries.

The committee discussed at length about the consumer policy for developing countries in South-East Asia. The policy should address its main objective as Consumer Protection. The following rights of the consumer should be taken care of:

- the right of access to basic needs and services;
- the right to safety;
- the right to be informed;
- the right to choose;
- the right to be heard; and
- the right to protection against malpractices.

The consumer should also be able to get redressal by way of legal rights through a less formal mechanism.

Sixth meeting

The sixth meeting of the Committee was held in Manila on 9th November, 1982 under the chairmanship of Mr. Chong Thin Huatt. Members from India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea,

Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand participated.

The Committee requested the Director of the ICA to have a review of the existing relationship between the ICA main auxiliary committee on consumer co-operation and the regional committee and that due representation and adequate opportunity should be given to the regional committee members.

The committee also appreciated the ICA for carrying out the preliminary investigations and preparing a project for setting up a National Warehouse for Co-operatives in Thailand. The committee noted the request of the First Consumer Co-operative Conference in Mindanao, Philippines, for setting up a Regional Warehouse in Mindanao.

The Committee requested the ICA RO to organise a regional seminar on stock management and regional warehousing, preferably in Thailand. The member from Japan informed the committee that JCCU could arrange on-the-job training for three professional employees of consumer co-operatives every year, for a duration of one month and the JCCU would consider the possibility of increasing this facility for five employees in future. This is in response to the request of the committee in its fifth meeting.

Seventh meeting

The seventh meeting was held on 3rd November, 1983 at IDACA in Tokyo. Mr. Chong Thin Huatt of Malaysia chaired the meeting. Representatives from seven countries, viz. India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, attended.

The committee appreciated the help offered by Swedish Co-operative Centre for holding the 24th International Seminar on Consumer Co-operation for training of senior employees from the Region.

The committee reiterated its request made at the 6th meeting for the ICA RO to hold a seminar on Stock Management and Warehousing. The committee also requested the

Regional Office to hold a seminar to study the Japanese and Korean experiences in distributing consumer goods in rural areas through agricultural multi-purpose societies.

The committee also proposed that the ICA Regional Office convene a technical meeting of three to four days duration at some central place in the region on self-financing basis to discuss in details the perspective plan of each country. It is suggested that each member country ascertain its future plan and then the committee work out a programme for the next five years.

The committee also unanimously agreed to make an annual contribution at the rate of P.Stg.50 by each member movement towards the working of this committee.

Eighth meeting

The eighth meeting of the Committee was held in Bangkok on 7th November, 1984 under the chairmanship of Mr. Snith Chittaporn from Thailand, who was unanimously elected the Chairman of the Committee for the next four years.

The committee reviewed the activities carried out in the field of consumer co-operation and placed its appreciation to the Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union for arranging on-the-job training to professional employees and for agreeing to hold a regional seminar in August, 1985. The committee also noted its appreciation for the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation of Korea (NACF) for agreeing to hold a regional seminar on rural distribution through co-operatives in April, 1985.

While expressing their appreciation for the various activities and programmes carried out by the ICA ROEC in the field of consumer co-operation, requested the ROEC to assist the movements in formulating their perspective plans for the next three years with the help of experts from the JCCU and SCC. The committee also emphasized the importance of member participation in consumer co-operatives, especially of housewives and urged the movements in increase their participation.

Ninth meeting

The Ninth meeting of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation was held at Kuala Lumpur from 23-24 July, 1985. Mr. Alfredo V. Sanchez of the Philippines chaired the meeting. Representatives from Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Sri Lanka participated at the meeting. Mr. Ole Lindberg from Swedish Co-operative Centre also attended as a special invitee.

A new Constitution for the Sub-committee was considered and adopted with a few amendments.

Mr. K. Katsube, Vice President of JCCU was elected as the Chairman of the Committee, while Mr. Alfredo V. Sanchez of Philippines was elected as Vice Chairman.

On the recommendations of the committee, the SCC has agreed to support (a) A Regional seminar on Consumer Co-operation in Japan; (b) Technical assistance to Consumer Co-operative Federation of Thailand, (c) Technical assistance to selected co-operative supermarkets in Thailand, Indonesia and India; (d) Consultancy Services to Co-operative Union of the Philippines (CUP) for strengthening of consumer co-operative movement in that country; and (e) Study missions to selected countries to identify activity areas which needed external assistance. The Sub-committee also decided to constitute a Technical Development Unit as envisaged under Article 7 of the Constitution. Member movements from Japan, India, Malaysia and Philippines were requested to recommend qualified and experienced persons from their movement to serve on this Unit. It was also decided that the study mission of experts from SCC, JCCU and ICA RO should visit Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka and that the mission be taken up before finalizing the work programme for the years 1986-87 and 1987-88.

Tenth meeting

The tenth meeting was held in Singapore on 29 and 30 May, 1986 under the chairmanship of Mr. K. Katsube. Members from Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand

participated. The committee has taken note of the reports of the study missions to India, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore.

The committee decided to fix a minimum subscription of US\$ 150 per member country per annum towards the activities of the committee.

The committee also suggested that during 1986-87, the following activities should be carried out by the Consumer Co-operative project of the RO:

- Training in retail management in the Philippines, India and Thailand;
- Technical assistance to selected co-operative supermarkets in Indonesia and Thailand;
- Strengthening of the consultancy and promotional cell of the National Co-operative Consumers' Federation in India;
- Study the structure of the urban consumer co-operatives in Indonesia.

The Chairman informed the meeting that JCCU will provide technical assistance to a national seminar in co-operative retail management in India and Thailand for one week each, and conduct a workshop-cum-study visits in Japan for eight participants from the region during 20 August to 13 September.

The committee also requested the Chairman to contact the Chinese and North Korean consumer co-operative movements and request them to take part in the Sub-committee.

Mr. Lim Ho Seng, member from Singapore informed the committee that the NTUC Fairprice Co-operative will be able to provide on-the-job training to upto 8 employees from co-operatives in the region, in super market operations after a year or so. The committee welcomed this support.

Eleventh meeting

The eleventh meeting was held at Manila, Philippines from 17-18 June, 1987.

During the year Mr.Kinichi Katsube, Chairman of the committee has stepped down from the Board of Directors of JCCU and hence desired to resign from the Chairmanship of the committee.

Mr.Masao Ohya, Executive Director of JCCU took over as the Chairman of the Committee. Representatives from India, Philippines, Singapore, Japan, Sri Lanka and Thailand participated at the meeting.

The committee suggested to have a fact finding survey and consultancy study to formulate specific recommendations for developing an effective consumer co-operative movement in Bangladesh. Another decision at the committee meeting was the holding of a Seminar on Member Participation and Housewives' Involvement in Consumer Co-operatives.

The Japanese consumer co-operative movement has expressed their willingness to increase gradually their support to the activities of the Consumer Co-operative Development Project of the RO. However, they hoped that the SCC will continue to support the consumer co-operative activities in the region.

Twelfth meeting

The twelfth meeting of the Consumer Committee met at Chiangmai, Thailand from 30-31 May, 1988. Mr.Masao Ohya, Chairman, chaired the meeting. Ten participants from Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Bangladesh, India and Thailand, besides 5 special invitees and 8 observers participated at the meeting.

Though retired from the ICA RO, Mr.M.K.Puri undertaken to act as the Secretary to the committee. Mr.Ohya, who had represented the Regional Sub-committee, at the ICA Main Consumer Committee at Budapest circulated the minutes of that meeting. Mr.G.K.Sharma, the regional director, addressed the meeting and read out some portion of the background paper on 'Basic Values of Co-operation' presented at the ICA Congress in Stockholm.

The committee considered the work programme for 1988-89 of the Consumer Co-operative Development project of the ICA RO. The Chairman proposed that an Orientation seminar on University co-operatives in Japan be held, a News Bulletin should be published on the activities of the committee and the project and that in future the Consumer Sub-committee should meet twice a year. All the three proposals were discussed and agreed at the meeting.

The committee also decided that a Regional Seminar on Member Participation and Housewives Involvement in Consumer co-operatives for women co-operators from the region should be held in Tokyo during April, 1989 for approximately 10 women co-operators from India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea.

Though earlier it was planned to have two regional seminars, one in Tokyo and one in New Delhi, the committee felt that instead one regional seminar in Tokyo for all women co-operative leaders from all the countries in the Region.

It was also decided to hold a national Orientation Seminar on University Co-operatives for 20-25 participants at Bangkok during January, 1989.

Another workshop on the Promotion and Development of Effective and Sound Consumer Co-operatives in the Region was also proposed to be held in Kuala Lumpur during November, 1988. It was also decided to hold a national workshop on Evolving an Appropriate Strategy for the Promotion and Development of Sound and effective Consumer co-operative movement, with 20 participants during February, 1989 at Sri Lanka.

Technical assistance for training programme for committee members and employees were to be conducted in Kuala Lumpur during June, 1989.

The members desired that an analytical study on the development of consumer co-operative movements be carried out.

It was further decided that the two meetings of the committee be held at Kuala Lumpur during November-December, 1988 and at Tokyo during May, 1989.

Thirteenth meeting

The thirteenth meeting of the Committee was held on 10 December, 1988 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Mr.M. Ohya chaired the meeting. 12 participants from Bangladesh, India, Japan, Rep of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand participated. There were two special invitees, viz. Mr. G.K.Sharma, Regional Director, ICA RO and Mr.Bruce Gunn, Co-optrade Adviser, ICA ROA.

Mr.W.U. Herath, who is acting as the Adviser to the Consumer Co-operative project served as the Secretary to the Committee.

The Chairman, who participated at the Main Consumer Committee meeting in Stockholm, briefed the members on the discussions at that committee.

The committee was informed that a workshop on evolving an appropriate strategy for the promotion and development of sound and effective consumer co-operative movements was held, Asian Consumer-Cooperative News bulletin has been published and the meeting of the committee has been held.

The chairman suggested that the Committee change its name to 'ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia' as the word 'sub-committee' created a lot of confusion. The meeting unanimously agreed to this suggestion and the name of the committee has been changed. The Regional Director was requested to submit the proposal to the ICA Regional Council for approval of the change.

The committee felt that as 3 activities have been conducted in Malaysia during the current year, the Technical Assistance to Training Programmes for Committee Members and employees be shifted to Bangladesh. The committee approved the following programmes in the proposed work plan for 1989-90 of the Consumer Co-op Development Project:

- i. Follow-up national workshop on the Regional seminar on member participation and housewives involvement in consumer co-operatives in one country;
- ii. Follow-up national workshops on evolving appropriate strategy for promotion and development of consumer co-operative movements,
- iii. On-the-job training for selected employees of consumer co-ops in the region, in Japan,
- iv. An in-depth research study on one selected co-op movement in the Region,

The committee also decided that during 1989-90, the activities of the project should include one Orientation Seminar on University Co-operatives in Philippines, a Joint meeting of the Committee with the ICA Main Consumer Committee in New Delhi, exchange programme of the co-operative member delegations and collection of data on the consumer movements in the Region.

Fourteenth meeting

The fourteenth meeting of the Committee was held at Yokohama, Japan on 11 May, 1989. Mr. Masao Ohya chaired the meeting. 9 participants from Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand attended. There were 5 special invitees, including Mr. Isao Takamura, President of JCCU, Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director ICA and Mr. G.K. Sharma, the Regional Director of ICA-ROAP.

The Secretary reported that a University Co-operative Orientation Seminar was held in Bangkok from 18-20 January, 1989. A national workshop on evolving and appropriate strategy for the promotion and development of a sound and effective consumer co-operative movement in Bangladesh from 28-30 March, 1989. A regional follow-up workshop on housewives' involvement in consumer co-operatives was held at Osaka from 12-18 April, 1989. Another national workshop for evolving appropriate strategy for the promotion and development of effective and sound consumer co-operative movement was held

in Sri Lanka from 26-29 April, 1989. Research studies were made on Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The second issue of Asian Consumer Co-op News Bulletin and the report of the ICA Regional workshop on evolving appropriate strategy for the promotion and development of consumer co-operatives held in Kuala Lumpur were published.

The meeting discussed and adopted a declaration on the occasion of the Third International Consumer day.

The Committee discussed and approved the work plan of the Project for the year 1989-90 as follows:

- * Study on the management and operations of consumer co-operatives in Thailand,
- * A national workshop on evolving appropriate strategies for development of effective consumer co-operative movement in Korea,
- * A consultancy mission to Malaysia,
- * Technical assistance on follow-up activities to national workshops in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka,
- * Consultancy services for a feasibility study on national consumer co-operative organisations in Philippines,
- * Job-related training for six selected employees in Japan,
- * In-depth study on consumer co-operative in India,
- * Orientation-seminar on University co-operatives in Philippines,
- * Exchange programme for consumer co-operative leaders in India to Japan,
- * Establishment of a data bank for consumer co-operatives at the ICA RO.

A joint meeting of the Committee and the ICA Main Consumer Committee will be held in October, 1989 in New Delhi.

Fifteenth meeting

The fifteenth meeting held at ICA RO, Bonow House, New Delhi on 03 October, 1989 was chaired by Mr.M.Ohya. Six members from Japan, India, Malaysia and Bangladesh at-

tended. Three observers and a special invitee (Mr.G.K.Sharma) also participated.

Mr.G.K.Sharma, the Regional Director said that this meeting is important in the light of the proposed joint meeting which will be held together with the Central Committee from 4-6 October. He welcomed the members to Delhi and Bonow house.

The Chairman, Mr.Ohya, welcoming the members to the meeting, hoped that the members will participate in the deliberations at the joint committee also present their experiences and ideas.

Mr.Herath, the Secretary, presented an overview of consumer co-operatives in the Asian region which will be presented at the joint meeting.

On an enquiry from Mr.Ohta (JCCU, Japan) Mr.Mohd.Shahidullah, member from Bangladesh, said that the participants at the Housewives' Seminar held recently in Japan has helped in improving the layout and display arrangements of the consumer stores run by the national women's committee. He also mentioned that two new consumer co-operatives have been organised recently.

Mr. Okayasu from the NFUCA mentioned that a Seminar for the Thai University Co-operative leaders was held from 25 Sept to 01 October in Japan, where these leaders were given further training. He said that the NFUCA expect to support another seminar in Philippines soon.

Mr.Herath the Secretary presented a report on the activities of the Consumer Co-operative Development project. He also tabled a membership application from the Fiji Co-operative Association. The meeting unanimously agreed to the admission of the new member on payment of subscription of US\$ 150/-.

Sixteenth meeting

This time it was Philippines who hosted the meeting of the Committee at Quezon City on 07 May, 1990.

Mr. Masao Ohya chaired the meeting. During the year, Mr. Pradit Machima who taken over as the Consumer Co-operative Development Adviser at the ICA Regional Office. Mr. Machima acted as the Secretary to the Committee. 12 members from Japan, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Philippines, South Korea, Fiji and Thailand participated at the meeting. Besides 3 special invitees including Mr. Karl Fogelstrom, the Senior Development Adviser of the ICA ROAP, apart from 13 observers from Japan and Philippines, attended the meeting.

Mr. Masao Ohya, the chairman, in his speech congratulated the Filipinos for the passage of the Co-operative laws. He also mentioned about the difficulties faced by the co-operatives with the privatization and rush of the multi-nationals. He also introduced Mr. Karl Fogelstrom, the new ICA ROAP Senior Development Adviser, and Mr. Pradit Machima, the new Consumer Adviser, to the Committee.

The committee unanimously agreed to change the nomenclature of the Committee to include the Pacific and now the committee will be known as ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific. This is in line with the ICA regional structure with the inclusion of Pacific in the area of operation of the Regional Office.

Ms. Lee Han Ox said that Mr. W.U. Herath, the Consumer Adviser and Mr. S. Ota of JCCU visited Korea, which helped in highlighting the importance of the consumer co-operative movement in Korea to the government.

The member from India informed that the National Co-operative Federation of India is planning to undertake a self-service consumer co-operative movement in his country.

Mr. Matalau, member from Fiji, thanked the ICA for its support to his movement and requested other delegates to help his movement, while Gen. Lozada from Philippines thanked the committee and the Japanese movement in conducting a University Co-operative Seminar in Philippines.

The member from Bangladesh reported that they still have no national level consumer co-operative.

During the year the project had conducted a feasibility study on the establishment of a National Distribution Centre in the Philippines. Mr.Lim Ho Seng from Singapore enquired whether the Consumer Co-operative Federation in Philippines are fully convinced that a distribution center would be economical, to which Ms.Marietta Climaco, the observer from Philippines replied that they have thoroughly studied the proposal and found that it is viable.

The committee approved the work plan of the Consumer Co-operative Development Project for the year 1990-91, the major activities of which are:

- * Perspective planning to strengthen the consumer co-operative movement in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.
- * Assist the establishment of the Central Distribution Center in the philippines.
- * A fact-finding mission to Malaysia on the problems faced by the Malaysian consumer co-operative movement.
- * Follow-up consultancy work on the consumer co-operative movement in Thailand, a national seminar on University co-operatives in India, technical assistance to Vietnam to study the development of their consumer co-operative movement.
- * Orientation to national level consumer co-operatives in Sri Lanka, Philippines, India and Fiji.
- * Training of selected managers of consumer co-operatives on supermarket operations in Singapore and Japan.
- * Setting up a data bank and information system at the ICA ROAP on consumer co-operatives.
- * Exchange programme between countries in the Region.

Mr.Machima informed the meeting that 3 issues of Consumer Co-op Newsbulletin were published during the year.

Seventeenth meeting

It was Indonesia, which hosted the 17th meeting of the Consumer Committee at Yogyakarta from 21-23 November, 1990. The meeting was held jointly with the Committee on

Trade & Industry. The meeting was inaugurated by Mr. Bustanil Arifin, Hon'ble Minister for Co-operatives, Government of Indonesia and His Royal Highness Sultan Paku Alam VIII, Governor of Yogyakarta presided over the meeting. President of Dekopin Prof. Dr. Sri Edi Swasono, Chairman of Committee on Trade & Industry, Mr. Ray Everingham, Mr. Masao Ohya, Chairman of the Consumer Committee and Mr. G.K. Sharma, the Regional Director addressed the meeting.

The meeting was attended by 14 members from Japan, Australia, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines representing both the committees. Three special invitees and 5 observers, apart from 4 representatives from the ICA Regional Office including Mr. G.K. Sharma participated at the meeting. Mr. Pradit Machima functioned as the Secretary.

The agenda of the consumer committee was taken up for deliberations on 21st November. This meeting was presided over by the Chairman, Mr. Masao Ohya.

The Secretary informed the Committee that a field mission was undertaken to Bangladesh, Malaysia and Thailand and consultancy assistance was offered to the Consumer Co-operative Federation of Sri Lanka and Thailand. A follow-up workshop for development of consumer co-operatives was conducted in Bangladesh. A delegation of Indian women co-operative leaders visited Japan to study the women's participation in consumer co-operatives. A group of managers of consumer co-operatives from Indonesia and Republic of Korea availed of the facility of on-the-job training. A national seminar on University Consumer Co-operatives was held earlier in the month in Pune, India. Some consumer co-operative managers were trained in Singapore as visualized.

Environmental protection was one issue on the agenda of the committee. Dr. Daman Prakash and Mr. Karl Fogelstrom from the Regional office shared their experience on the issue. Dr. Prakash mentioned that the ICA Regional office is planning to conduct a regional research programme on environmental protection, covering India, Indonesia, Rep. of China,

Thailand and the Philippines. He hoped to collaborate with the Japanese and Canadian co-operative movements to support this programme.

Mr. Ohya informed the meeting about the need of disseminating information through various media like newsletters, etc. and suggested that co-operative organizations should develop information systems.

The committee approved the following major activities to be undertaken by the Consumer Co-operative Project during 1991-92:

- Collecting information on the success and failure of consumer co-operatives in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka.
- A fact finding mission to Mongolia.
- A pilot project for building up a model consumer co-operative in India.
- Follow-up activities on women's participation in consumer co-operatives in Bangladesh and setting up a pilot project for income generating.
- National seminars on consumer co-operative development in Indonesia and Vietnam.
- Training of selected members of consumer co-operatives from Indonesia, Philippines and India in Singapore; and selected leaders and managers from Malaysia, South Korea and Vietnam in Japan.
- Consultancy services on building a distribution centre in Philippines and to primary consumer co-operatives in Thailand and Sri Lanka.
- A Regional workshop on University consumer co-operatives in Indonesia.
- Exchange of women leaders of consumer co-operatives of the country to Japan.

Besides the above, it was proposed that scholarships be established for senior managers of consumer co-operatives in the region to study abroad. It was also proposed to publish

research findings, booklets, pamphlets, etc on consumer co-operation, besides continuing to publish Asian Consumer Co-operative News. The question of setting up a data bank and information system at the Regional Office of ICA was also reiterated. It was decided to increase the number of issues of the Consumer Co-operative News bulletin from 2 to 3 per year. The Secretary requested co-operation from member organisations to provide more information for this purpose.

Eighteenth meeting

The Committee met for its 18th meeting at Singapore from 29-30 May, 1991. Mr.M.Ohya chaired the meeting. Apart from Mr.Pradit Machima, the Secretary, 17 members and observers participated at the meeting.

Mr.Lim Ho Seng, Chairman of Singapore National Co-operative Federation, the host organization, welcomed the participants. While appreciating that the Japanese Consumers' Co-operative movement is one of the best in the world, he expressed his concern over the plight of consumer co-operatives in most of the member countries in the region and urged the members to look into ways and means to radically improve the condition of consumer co-operatives.

Mr. Ohya, the chairman, told the meeting that due to the Gulf war, most of the activities and projects finalised at the last meeting had to be postponed.

Mr. Machima, the Secretary, recapped on the activities conducted during the year. They were:

- Training of co-operative leaders of newly formed national level of consumer co-operatives from India, Philippines and Sri Lanka in Japan,
- Missions to Malaysia, Laos, Vietnam and Rajasthan (India),
- A delegation from Nakorn Chiangmai Consumer co-operative in Thailand, visited Japan, etc.
- National skills training for consumer co-operative leaders and managers in the Philippines.

Mr. Filomeno Bautista, Jr. from Philippines appreciated the effort of the ICA in conducting a 'Skills Training Programme for Consumer Co-operative Leaders' in Manila during April, 1991. He briefed on the progress of the Central Distribution Centre and urged the committee to hold a follow-up workshop on university co-operatives and a national orientation workshop on member participation and housewives' involvement in consumer co-operatives.

Mr. Lim Ho Seng, member from Singapore and the Chairman of SNCF presented a paper on 'Basic Values of Co-operatives'. He mentioned in his paper that basic co-operative values are those that promote human relationship, better quality of life, peace, human rights, democracy and solidarity with the unfortunate and in view of the environmental influences around us, emphasized the need to re-confirm the basic co-operative values in their co-operatives.

Mr. Dhaman Prakash presented a report on the environmental activities of the ICA ROAP. He mentioned that in most countries, it is the co-operatives who take the lead in environmental concerns. In the region, India and Japan came forward with some kind of environmental protection programmes. He mentioned that he hoped to receive some assistance from Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) to take up some studies covering Thailand, Philippines, India, Indonesia and China.

The committee agreed on a schedule of activities during 1991-92, including collection of information and conducting studies in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka; a fact finding mission to Mongolia; a pilot project for a model consumer co-operative in India; a pilot income generating project in Bangladesh; national seminars on consumer co-operative development in Indonesia and Vietnam; training of co-operative leaders of Philippines and India in Singapore, managers of consumers co-operatives from Malaysia, South Korea and Vietnam in Japan, training of store managers of consumer co-operatives from Singapore in Japan; consultancy services to primary consumer co-operatives in Thailand and Sri Lanka; a regional workshop on University co-operatives

in Indonesia; exchange programme of women consumer co-operative leaders from Sri Lanka in Japan; etc.

The Secretary informed the meeting of the lack of co-operation on the part of the member countries in providing information about their movements and requested the members to co-operate more actively.

Nineteenth meeting

The Committee met at Co-operative College, Kobe, Japan for its 19th meeting on 07-08 November, 1991. Again it was a joint meeting with Committee on Trade and Industry. The meeting was inaugurated by Mr. Isao Takamura, President of JCCU and Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director of ICA ROAP addressed the meeting.

Prof. T. Noriji, Principal of Co-operative College introduced the Co-operative College, its establishment, organization and training activities. Mr. Isao Takamura performed the unveiling ceremony of the plaque of Toad Lane museum. Mr. Masao Ohya chaired the meeting. Mr. Pradit Machima served as Secretary.

7 members of the Consumer Committee from Bangladesh, Japan, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand and 9 members of the Committee on Trade & Industry from Australia, China, Japan, USSR & Thailand participated at the joint meeting. 12 observers, besides the ICA Regional Director also attended the meeting. The meeting has the help of an able Secretariat comprising of Mr. A. Kurimoto, Ms. M. Hasebe, Mr. Y. Nakamatsu, Mr. H. Amano, Mr. S. Maejima and Mr. J. Suzuki.

The Chairman, Mr. Ohya, while welcoming the members to Kobe, intimated the members that the committee will be discussing the project plans of the consumer co-operative development project for 1992-93 and also the themes of the 30th ICA Congress, which will be held in Tokyo during October, 1992.

Mr. Derek Heelan, from Australia informed the meeting about the co-operative retail stores in Australia. He also reported on Fiji, in the absence of any representative from Fiji

at the meeting. He mentioned that Fiji needs technical assistance on co-operative development. He requested the Chairman to study the co-operative movement in Fiji. He also said that Tonga, Western Samoa and New Zealand are also keen to join the ICA.

Mr. Mohd. Shahidullah from Bangladesh mentioned that there are 724 co-operative societies involving consumer activities. However, the rate of formation of new consumer co-operatives is very slow. He said that the Bangladesh needs more technical and financial assistance from ICA ROAP.

Mr. Kurimoto of JCCU informed the meeting that the JCCU has established a Women's Council. The women's council is expected to make recommendations to the board of directors of JCCU. The council is also eligible to nominate two directors to the board.

Mr. Kurimoto also informed the meeting that the JCCU in collaboration with the Consumers' Co-operative Institute, jointly hosted a symposium on co-operative basic values on August 23 and 24, where more than 200 persons participated and deliberated. The JCCU also established a JCCU Basic Values Deliberation Committee, consisting of the six JCCU directors and three researchers. The report will be prepared by the committee will be presented at the Tokyo Congress.

Mr. T.Kuriki from NFUCA informed that during 1992-93, they plan to conduct a Regional Seminar on University co-operatives in Indonesia during January, 1992.

He also mentioned that NFUCA will be organising the 2nd International Youth Seminar during the Tokyo Congress in October, 1992, where they expect to get 100 participants from all over the world. The participants will have to pay only the airfare and transportation costs. All other local costs were to be borne by NFUCA.

Mr. Lim Ho Seng reported that NTUC Fairprice co-operative has added one more store, during the period from the last meeting, bringing the total to 40 and expect to start the 41st store next month. He said that FairPrice will also be

introducing the bar code scanning system for all products. The FairPrice also signed a memorandum of understanding with INKOPKAR of Indonesia to assist INKOPKAR for setting up co-operative supermarkets in Jakarta. The FairPrice provided consultancy support to the Maldivian government for setting up a supermarket in Male. Answering a question from Mr. Everingham of Australia, Mr. Lim Ho Seng replied that his co-operative is providing services overseas because of requests for assistance from those countries.

Mr. Ohya wanted to know whether co-operatives in Singapore have to pay income tax, which Mr. Lim Ho Seng answered in the negative but added that the co-operatives were required to pay 11% of their surpluses to a government fund.

The former member from Sri Lanka Mr. Pathirana has resigned from the National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka and Mr. Siripala has attended the meeting representing Sri Lanka. Mr. Machima, the Secretary informed the meeting that the National Federation of Consumer Co-operative Societies of Sri Lanka is one of the best national federations in Asia and Pacific.

Mr. Polsin Keawpoolphol, an alternate member from Thailand mentioned of serious problems in raising capital, due to the low dividends paid by co-operatives. This is due to the heavy interest rates they have to pay for their working capital.

Ms. Hiwasa, member from Japan emphasized the need for change in the consciousness of the members so that they are motivated to participate actively in co-operative activities.

The Secretary informed the meeting that since May, 1991, the project has undertaken missions to Mongolia, Indonesia, Malaysia, South West India and Thailand, consultancy work provided to Consumer Federation of Sri Lanka and Thailand, national seminars on consumer co-operative development in Thailand and Vietnam, workshop on retail management and self-service shops in Calcutta and self-financed

workshops on consumer co-operatives in Bombay, India. Consumer co-operative leaders from Malaysia, South Korea and Thailand received training in Japan, Women delegations from Thailand and Bangladesh visited Japan, managers of consumer co-operatives from India and Philippines were trained in Singapore and senior managers of consumer co-operatives were selected for study abroad.

The meeting, after discussions, approved tentative activities for 1992-93 as follows:

- * Training of store managers from Singapore in Japan.
- * Regional seminar on Co-op trade and Consumer Co-op development in Vietnam.
- * Training of selected managers on supermarket operations from Malaysia, Thailand, Korea and China in Singapore.
- * Consultancy and training on management of consumer co-operatives in Philippines.
- * Consultancy services to primary consumers co-operatives in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- * A national workshop on University co-operatives in Malaysia.
- * ICA/JCCU Conference on Gender Integration & Women in Co-operative development in Japan.
- * ICA/JCCU Environmental Conference in Tokyo, Japan.

Twentieth meeting

It was again Malaysia which hosted the 20th meeting of the Committee on 06 May, 1992 at Kuala Lumpur.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Masao Ohya and Mr. Machima continued to act as the Secretary. 15 members from Bangladesh, Japan, India, Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand participated. The meeting was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, Malaysia, Dato' Abd. Kadir Hj. Sheikh Fadzir. Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director of ICA attended as a special invitee.

Hj.Sallehudin from Malaysia wanted to know why the prices of consumer commodities are higher in India compared to Malaysia, to which Mr.Mahendra Singh, member from India replied that this is due to the scarcity of commodities and the higher interest rates charged by commercial banks. Mr. Lim Ho Seng asked Mr.Singh why the government had to appoint government official to man some co-operatives. Mr. Singh mentioned that due to scarcity of commodities, the poor finds it difficult to get goods at reasonable rates and hence the government was trying to organize co-operatives at both urban and rural areas to distribute basic needs and at the same time provide funds and facilities to support and promote consumer co-operatives. This is why the government had to appoint their own men to safeguard the policy and funds. Mr.Singh also reported that the consumer co-operatives are very small and are not strong enough to have their own processing facilities and there are no linkages between the farmers and consumers.

Many members wanted to know about co-operative laws and political interference in the activities of co-operatives. Mr.Sharma, the regional director mentioned that South Korean government shows the best example by not allowing politicians to enter co-operatives.

Dato' Hamzah bin Haji Yatim from Malaysia mentioned that ANGKASA, the national co-operative apex organisation is collaborating with the Department of Co-operative Development in the implementation of the 6th Malaysian Plan for chalking out a strategy for the proper expansion of the consumer co-operative movement.

Mr. Pradit Machima, Secretary of the Committee stated that since the Kobe meeting in November, 1991, the consumer co-operative project was able to organise training of store managers from Singapore in Japan, national seminar on consumer co-operative development in Indonesia, regional seminar on University co-operatives in Indonesia, follow-up workshop on student co-operatives in India, follow-up workshop on consumer co-operative management

in India, case studies of success and failure of consumer co-operatives in India, national orientation seminar on member participation and housewives involvement in Philippines, etc.

Mr. Ohya, the Chairman, informed the meeting on the preparations for the ICA Tokyo Congress and also said that a Consumer Conference will be held in conjunction with the ICA Congress at the Keio Plaza Hotel, where 300 participants, including 200 from Japanese consumer co-operatives, will participate.

The theme of the Conference will be 'Consumer Co-operatives towards the 21st Century'. The Conference will be chaired by Mrs. Turid Strom, Chairperson of the ICA main consumer committee. He urged the member organisations to send participants to the Conference. He also mentioned that JCCU has decided to invite 20 observers (two from each country) from Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The JCCU will bear all costs on their participation.

Twenty-first meeting

It was Keio Plaza Hotel, Tokyo, which was the venue of the 21st meeting of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific, on 22 October, 1992.

10 members from Bangladesh, Fiji, Japan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand participated, besides 32 observers from Australia, Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Russian Federation.

Mr. Masao Ohya chaired the meeting and Mr. Pradit Machima was the Secretary. In addition, Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director, Mr. Karl Fogelstrom, Senior Development Advisor, and Dr. Daman Prakash, Project Director, all of ICA Regional Office also attended the meeting.

Prior to the meeting, the members and observers participated at the Plenary meeting of the Consumer Committee at 11.00 a.m. the same day.

The Secretary of the Committee presented the progress report on the activities undertaken between May & October, 1992 and the meeting expressed satisfaction over the good work done.

The Secretary informed about the proposed activities to be undertaken by the Consumer Co-operative Development Project during 1993-94 and the meeting approved the following activities tentatively:

- Collection of basic data on consumers and university co-operative operations in member countries.
- Special activities for non-member countries.
- Setting up pilot income generating projects in Bangladesh.
- Training of managers of Singapore consumer co-operatives in Japan.
- Setting up pilot projects on consumer co-operatives in India and Sri Lanka.
- Training of selected managers of consumer co-operatives of Indonesia, Korea and Malaysia in Singapore.
- Training of consumer co-operative managers in India and Sri Lanka.
- Training of store managers from Thailand and Korea in Japan.
- Consultancy services to consumer co-operatives in Thailand by NTUC Fairprice co-operative, Singapore.
- Follow-up workshop on university consumer co-operatives in Thailand.
- Exchange programme for women leaders from Philippines to Japan.
- Exchange programme on teaching-cum-management of university co-operatives among member organisations.
- Sub-regional seminars on consumer co-operative development in India for Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka.
- Technical assistance to Fijian consumer co-operative movement.

Besides the usual meetings and publication of the Asia-Pacific Consumer Co-operative News was undertaken.

Mr. Lim Ho Seng suggested that NFUCA should invite University co-operative associations in the region for study visits in Japan, which Mr. Okayasu of NFUCA agreed to consider.

The Secretary informed that the Vice Chairman of the Committee, Col. Surin Cholpraserd, being very busy to attend the meetings, and that the committee should have another Vice Chairman. Mr. Lim Ho Seng of Singapore was chosen as the Vice Chairman of the Committee unanimously.

During the meeting, Australia and Vietnam have expressed their desire to become members of the Consumer Committee. The committee welcomed the membership of these countries and they were asked to apply formally with the subscription fee.

Twenty second meeting

The twenty second meeting of the Committee was held at Suva, Fiji, on 14-15 May, 1993. The meeting was hosted by the Council of Fiji Cooperative Union with the co-operation of the Department of Co-operatives, Fiji.

Prior to the formal meeting, the Fijian traditional welcome ceremony was performed by local leaders. This included the presentation of 'whale's tooth' and 'Yaqona' (traditional drink) to Mr. Isao Takamura, Chairman of JCCU, delivering of invocation by Hon. Senator Ratu Waisiki Matavesi and serving of 'Yaqona' drink to all guests. After that the formal meeting began.

Mr. K.B. Matalau, Chairman of the Fiji Co-operative Union Ltd. delivered the welcome address and thanked the Consumer Committee for accepting Fiji's offer to host the 22nd meeting of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific, which would benefit not only the Fijian Co-operative Movement but also the nearby islands as well since Fiji was the centre for economic and social development in the Pacific region.

The meeting was inaugurated and chaired by Mr. Masao Ohya, Chairman of the Consumer Committee. The meeting was attended by 10 members and representatives from Fiji, Japan, Singapore and S. Korea and 7 observers - 4 from Vanuatu and one each from Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tonga and 16 Co-operative leaders and co-operative officials from Fiji.

The Chairman thanked the Fiji Co-operative Union and the Fiji Government for taking the trouble of hosting the 22nd meeting of the committee.

The Chairman also informed the meeting that due to the bankruptcy of the Australian Co-operative movement, it is unlikely that Australia will keep the membership in the Committee.

The meeting discussed about:

- The development of consumer co-operative movements in Fiji, Japan, Singapore and S. Korea, after the presentations by respective countries;
- The Lessons for Co-operative Movement - the Case of Coop. Kobe was presented by Mr. I. Takamura, Chairman of Coop. Kobe and President of JCCU; and the presentation on "ICA and Consumer Co-operative Movement in Asia and the Pacific" was made by Mr. Pradit Machima, Secretary of the Committee;
- Revised activities of Consumer Co-operative Development Project for 1993-94, were approved unanimously; and other matters.

Mr. Pradit Machima had briefed the meeting about the main activities of the committee, carried out by the Secretariat during November '92 and May '93, as follows:


- Self-financed training on consumer co-operatives in Thailand;
- Follow-up workshop on university co-ops in Thailand;
- Regional seminar on ASEAN University Co-operatives in Malaysia;

- International Seminar on Gender Integration in Co-operatives in Tokyo;
- Consultancy-cum-training on Consumer Co-operative Development in Sri Lanka;
- Result of the study on Consumer Movement in Malaysia.

Mr. Lim Ho Seng suggested that, in future, a profile of a typical consumer cooperative in the host country be prepared and made available for discussion at the meeting. The committee unanimously agreed to this suggestion.

The meeting was followed by field visits on Saturday, 15 May, 1993.

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ANNEXURE 1

List of Meetings, Venues and Dates

<i>Meetings</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Dates</i>
1st meeting	Bali (Indonesia)	08 December, 1977
2nd Meeting	Bangkok (Thailand)	04 December, 1978
3rd Meeting	K'Lumpur (Malaysia)	20 November, 1979
4th Meeting	Colombo (Sri Lanka)	13 November, 1980
5th meeting	Seoul (Rep. of Korea)	28 October, 1981
6th meeting	Manila (Philippines)	09 November, 1982
7th Meeting	Tokyo (Japan)	04 November, 1983
8th meeting	Bangkok (Thailand)	07 November, 1984
9th meeting	K'Lumpur (Malaysia)	23-24 July, 1985
10th Meeting	Singapore	29-30 May, 1986
11th meeting	Manila (Philippines)	17-18 June, 1987
12th meeting	Chiagmai (Thailand)	30-31 May, 1988
13th meeting	K'Lumpur (Malaysia)	10 December, 1988
14th meeting	Yokohama (Japan)	11 May, 1989
15th meeting	New Delhi (India)	03 October, 1989
16th meeting	Manila (Philippines)	07 May, 1990
17th meeting	Yogyakarta (Ind'isia)	21-23 November, 1990
18th meeting	Singapore	29-30 May, 1991
19th meeting	Kobe (Japan)	07-8 November, 1991
20th Meeting	K'Lumpur (Malaysia)	06 May, 1992
21st meeting	Tokyo (Japan)	22 October, 1992
22nd meeting	Suva (Fiji)	14-15 May, 1993.

ANNEXURE 2

Constitution of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia & the Pacific

PRE-AMBLE

This Committee is a committee of the ICA Regional Council for Asia and the Pacific. The Committee shall work in accordance with the aims and objectives of the ICA and the general policy of the ICA Regional Council for Asia.

ARTICLE 1 : NAME

1.1 The name of the Committee shall be the 'ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific'. It will be referred to hereinafter as the 'Committee'.

ARTICLE 2 : DEFINITIONS

2.1 The word 'Region' will be used to refer to Asia, i.e. the area covered by the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

ARTICLE 3 : OVERALL AIM

3.1 The overall aim of the Committee shall be to promote the development of sound and effective consumer co-operation and to develop appropriate policies and programmes to protect and promote the rights of consumers.

3.2 The Committee will recommend to the ICA Regional Council programmes of activities required in the fields of consumer co-operation, consumer education and consumer protection.

ARTICLE 4 : FUNCTIONS

4.1 The functions of the Committee shall be as follows:

- a. to review periodically the progress made in the field of consumer co-operation;

- b. to recommend policies and common lines of action in the fields of consumer co-operation and consumer protection;
- c. to make recommendations for improving the managerial competence and operational efficiency of consumer co-operatives in the Region;
- d. to identify needs and areas of technical assistance required for national and regional projects/programmes;
- e. to promote systematic dissemination of information among the co-operative consumer organisations in the Region, with regard to their experience in the fields of retailing, warehousing, wholesaling, publicity, member education, consumer protection and other fields of consumer activity;
- f. to suggest programmes of member activities and measures for developing active participation of members in the management of consumer co-operatives at the primary level;
- g. to liaise and collaborate with the ICA Main Consumer Committee, other regional and international organizations concerned with consumer co-operative development;
- h. to carry out any other activities which are incidental or conducive to the promotion of the aims and objectives of the Committee.

ARTICLE 5 : MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 The Committee shall consist of persons with specialized knowledge and experience in the field of consumer co-operation in member movements of the ICA in the Region.
- 5.2 The movement from each country will be entitled to nominate not more than two persons to the Committee.
- 5.2 The members of the Committee shall be nominated:
 - a. by the apex organisation of consumer co-opératives of the country affiliated directly or indirectly,

- b. where there is no such apex organisation of consumer co-operative in a country, by the national co-operative organisation of that country.
- 5.4 The Regional Director (RD) and/or his nominee and members of the Executive Committee of the Regional Council shall be entitled to attend the meetings of the Committee.
- 5.5 The members shall serve on the Committee from one ICA Congress to the next ICA Congress.

ARTICLE 6 : WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT

- 6.1 Considering that the participation of women and youth in consumer co-operative activities is of great importance, the Committee may allow organizations to send qualified women and youth representatives engaged in consumer co-operative activities to attend the meetings of the Committee as observers.

ARTICLE 7 : WORKING GROUPS

- 7.1 The Committee may constitute working groups as may be necessary to deal with specific issues and problems and these groups may meet as often as required.

ARTICLE 8 : OFFICE

- 8.1 The office of the Committee will be at the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, New Delhi or at such place as may be decided by the Committee.

ARTICLE 9 : MEETINGS

- 9.1 Meetings of the Committee shall be held at least once every year. The meetings shall be convened by the Secretary, who shall also furnish to the Committee a report on activities.
- 9.2 The meetings of the Committee shall be conducted in English. Participants requiring interpretation in any other language may be accompanied by personal interpreters at their own cost.

- 9.3 Each country delegation attending the meeting shall have one vote.
- 9.4 Members who have not paid their annual membership subscription dues shall not be entitled to vote.
- 9.5 Representatives of institutions/organisations concerned with consumer welfare may be invited to attend the meetings of the Committee as observers. The observers shall not have any voting rights.
- 9.6 The Committee shall have the powers to frame its own rules of procedure and conduct.
- 9.7 The quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall consist of five member countries.

ARTICLE 10 : OFFICERS

- 10.1 The Committee shall elect a Chairman and a Vice Chairman. Their terms of office shall be from one ICA Congress to the next ICA Congress. Retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election.
- 10.2 The Technical Officer in charge of Consumer Co-operatives at the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific shall function as the Secretary of the Committee.
- 10.3 In the event of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman not being present at the meeting, the Committee shall elect a Chairman from among the members present for conducting the concerned meeting.

ARTICLE 11 : RELATIONSHIP WITH MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

- 11.1 The members of this Committee from each country will work towards establishing at the national level, specialized Consumer Co-operative Committee, if such committee does not already exist.
- 11.2 Each member of the Committee will act as the Committee Liaison Officer in respect of his country's co-operative movement on all matters relating to consumer co-operative development.

- 11.3 The members of the Committee will keep the Committee informed of all significant developments in the field of consumer co-operation in his country.

ARTICLE 12 : REPORT TO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

- 12.1 The Committee shall submit a report of its activities to the ICA Regional Council for Asia, at least once a year.

ARTICLE 13

- 13.1 The work and meetings of the Committee shall be on a self-financing basis.
- 13.2 The financial year for the Committee will be one calendar year.
- 13.3 The annual contribution by each member for activities of the Committee shall be determined by the Committee.

ARTICLE 14 : AMENDMENTS

- 14.1 Any amendments to the Constitution of the Committee shall be by a decision of two-thirds of all the member countries eligible to vote. Amendments thus adopted shall come into force after they are approved by the ICA Regional Council for Asia.

ANNEXURE 3

Present Members of the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific

1. Mr. Masao Ohya, JCCU, Japan *Chairman*
2. Mr. M.Shahidullah, BJSU, Bangladesh
3. Mr. K.B.Matalau, FCU, Fiji
4. Mr. T.T.Adhikari, NCCF, India
5. M.C. Baridjambek, DEKOPIN, Indonesia
6. Mr. K.Okayasu, NFUCA, Japan
7. Dr. Byoung Joon Suh, NACF, Rep of Korea
8. Tuan Haji Sallehudin bin Abdul Ghani, Malaysia
9. Dato' Hamzah bin Hj.Yatim, ANGKASA, Malaysia
10. Mr. Felomino Bautista, Jr., CUP, Philippines
11. Mrs. M. Climaco, CUP, Philippines
12. Mr. Lim Ho Seng, Fairprice, Singapore *Vice Chairman*
13. Mr. Mahiepala Herath, CCSF, Sri Lanka
14. Mr. H. Gunawardana, CCSF, Sri Lanka
15. Col. Surin Cholpraserd, CCFT, Thailand
16. Mr. Jankaew Muangjai, CLT, Thailand
17. Mr. Nguyen Quoc Tuy, CCSMC, Vietnam
18. Mr. Pradit Machima, ICA ROAP *Secretary*

Present members of ICA Executive Committee on Consumer Co-operation

(renamed as International Co-operative Consumer
Organisation, at the meeting held in Geneva, Sept,93)

- President* : Mr. Guiseppe Fabretti, Italy
Vice President : Mr. Masao Ohya, Japan
Members : Mr. Manfred Dabrunz, Germany
 Mr. Lars Hillbom, Sweden
 Mr. Patrice Jolivet, France
 Mr. Lim Ho Seng, Singapore
 Mr. Peter Szilagyi, Hungary
 Mr. Hannu Uski, Finland
Secretary : Ms. Finola Marras