
Minutes

EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE of the REGIONAL COUNCIL

10 TH MEETING
SINGAPORE

1 June, 1988

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA
NEW DELHI (INDIA)



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 10TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE
OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, SINGAPORE, 1ST JUNE 1988

The Tenth Meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Regional Council was held at Singapore on 1st June 1988. It was presided over by Gen. A.S. Lozada, Vice Chairman, in the absence of the Chairman..

The following were present :

Members

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Gen A.S. Lozada | : | Vice Chairman (Philippines) |
| 2. Mr. D.S. Bhuria | : | Member (India) |
| 3. Mr. M. Sakurai | : | Member (Japan) |
| 4. Mr. Anan Chamnankit | : | Member (Thailand) |
| 5. Mr. Ki Won Suh | : | Member (Korea) |

Secretary : Mr.G.K.Sharma
Regional Director, ICA ROA

ICA

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Associate Director

SCC

Mr. Bernt Adelstal

Observers

1. Mr. Jae Seung Lee, Korea
2. Mr. Shiro Futagami, Japan
3. Mr. T. Suzuki, Japan
4. Mr. Y. Abe, Japan

ICA ROA

1. Mr. J.M.Rana, Deputy Regional Director and Head, Development Coordination Unit,
2. Mr. M.V. Madane, Project Director,
3. Mr. Bruce Gunn, Trade Adviser.

In attendance

Mr. Prem Kumar, Executive Secretary to Regional Director/Manager
(Admn), ICA ROA

Agenda Item No. 1 : Welcome by host movement

Mr. A.A. David, General Secretary, Singapore National Cooperative Federation extended a warm welcome to the members of the Executive Sub-Committee (ExSubCo) and wished the deliberations all success.

Agenda Item No. 2 : Introductory Remarks by Chairman

Gen A.S. Lozada, Vice Chairman, extended cordial welcome to the special guests who were present in the meeting, namely, Mr. Bernt Adelstal from SCC, Mr. Bruce Thordarson from ICA and Mr. Shiro Futagami, Managing Director of IDACA.

Gen Lozada said: "In all phases of development we have advanced. The Development Coordination Unit which has been organised in the region has done a wonderful job. Our new Regional Director has provided a new dynamism in the management and interaction. The various Sub-committees have excellent contributions to the planning of our programmes. Member organisations of the various countries contributed to the attainment of our goals as we have set in the past. There has been lot of professionalism in the work of the Regional Office. We have created an impact not only in the minds of the leaders of the cooperative movement but also the leaders of the government in the various countries of Asia.

I believe that the principal purpose of Cooperation is human understanding and brotherhood. We have a divided world. We have to get this concept of cooperation among peoples because cooperatives are antidotes and if we can get this across to many people, then perhaps we shall achieve our goal, but our final goal is human brotherhood and understanding of human mankind throughout the world."

He also extended a welcome to the new members and guests present in the meeting as also to the SNCF for hosting the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 9th Meeting held at Bangkok on 18-19 January 1988

The minutes were confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 4 : Follow-up on matters arising out of 9th Meeting

The Regional Director mentioned that the various items under follow up have been taken under separate agenda.

Agenda Item No. 5 : Progress regarding the sale of Bonow House

The Regional Director mentioned that the Executive Committee of the ICA at its meeting held on 18th February 1988 in Geneva has unanimously decided in favour of retaining the Bonow House.

He made a mention of the letter received from the Managing Director of NCDC, the intended buyer of the Bonow House, wherein he said : "I am pleased to inform you that the NCDC have no objection to allowing the ICA ROA to retain Bonow House. I would also like to compliment you on the decision to retain the RO in its present shape at New Delhi. Premises of the kind you have here gives the organisation a certain stature and we at the NCDC are happy at the out-turn of events. I would request that the advance of Rs.2 million along with interest thereon may please be refunded to us at an early date."

The Regional Director mentioned that the Japanese Cooperative Movement were kind enough to give an advance of RS.2 million for repaying the NCDC's loan.

He further said : "In the projects supported by SCC and Japanese Government/Movement, provision is being made for providing support services to ICA ROA. Bonow House is ICA's own building. If we keep it, we will not have to pay rent outside. We can pay back the loan to the Japanese Movement. Thus Rs.2 million could be refunded in three years'time. The building belongs to ICA Domus which is a..

holding company of the ICA. Originally it was owned by ICA/KF, but later on KF withdrew from the shareholding of the ICA Domus. We are now trying to see that the building is properly used and that for the excess space, we get return out of that. As a first step, a part of the building is being used by our Swedish Expert. He has shifted in the office premises and for that ICA will get income. We are also making assessment of the total space requirement. So far as ROA is concerned, our requirement is very limited and we need only one-third of the space of the Bonow House. We need some space for the projects whom we are charging. After that if we still have space we will try to use it so that we have extra income for the ICA. We hope that Bonow House would be a source of income for the ICA."

Mr. Sakurai, Member for Japan, had enquired about the repayment of loan. The Regional Director informed that NCDC had advanced Rs.2 million. Repayment of advance will be made out of the loan which JCCU is giving to the ICA. Out of the income from project service charges ICA will pay back the loan to the JCCU. SCC part is still to go to SIDA for final approval.

Mr. Sakurai further asked whether the ownership rights of the Bonow House at present belongs to ICA or NCDC. The Regional Director informed that legally the building still belongs to ICA Domus.

Agenda Item No. 6 : "Hall of Honour"

The Regional Director informed the meeting that the following six names from four countries have been received by the ROA :

1. Prof. Nurul Islam, Bangladesh
2. Mr. Mohammad Hasan Ali Sardar, Bangladesh
3. Dr. K.K.S. Chauhan, India

4. Royal Prof. Ungku Aziz, Malaysia
5. Mr. Mordino R. Cua, Philippines
6. Mr. Vincente A. Martires, Philippines

As the response has been received from only four countries, the ExSubCo proposed that the date for receiving nominations may be extended for a further period of three months.

The ExSubCo also recommended the following :

- 1) Each country should be asked to recommend only one name, and those countries which have recommended more than one name may be asked to recommend only one name;
- 2) The Hall of Honour should be awarded to only one person from the region;
- 3) The award should be in the form of a Plaque with citation. It should be on behalf of the Regional Council to be signed by the Chairman of the Regional Council and the Regional Director;
- 4) The award should be made at the time of Regional Council Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 7 : Rules for regulating Regional Council Meetings under Article 34 of the Rules & Standing Orders of the ICA

The information given in the agenda was noted.

Keeping the provisions of Article 34 of the ICA Rules and

Standing Orders in view, the ExSubCo considered the issue and recommended the adoption of following proposals :

"Where the number of members in the ICA from each country is more than two, the national cooperative organisation of that country which is the spokesman for the cooperative movement shall invariably be entitled to nominate one Regional Councillor. The other Regional Councillor will be elected at a meeting of representatives from the member organisations which meeting would be summoned by the national cooperative organisation and the results of election conveyed by the NCO to the ICA ROA."

" In case any Regional Councillor is not able to attend meeting, the nominating organisation may nominate an alternate member to represent him to attend the meeting."

The ExSubCo recommended the above to the Regional Council for approval.

Agenda Item No. 8 : Cooperative Leaders Exchange Programme

The information given in the agenda was noted.

The Regional Director asked the members whether as a matter of policy exchange of delegation should be encouraged. It will have to be on self-financing basis. Maybe, in some cases local costs may be met by the local movement.

The Chairman said that this type of exchange programme has already been arranged by the movements having travel programmes like Malaysia. They had sent several groups to the Philippines. This is a very encouraging thing. We can get lot of insights of what is taking place from one country to the other.

The members from India, Korea and Thailand said that such exchange programmes be encouraged.

The member from Japan said : "We have already been promoting and encouraging this. The question asked here is how we can promote these activities through the Regional Council. We can find ways and means to promote this through the Regional Council. Basically I share the same views and opinions as expressed by other members. We are actively involved in sending our Japanese members to the Asian countries, but here the question arises whether we should promote this through the Regional Council or directly with the concerned member movement. We are not quite certain about the way in which we should promote. Basically we should encourage this mutual exchange".

The Regional Director mentioned that bilateral agreement may continue. Information be given to the ROA about such visits. We could discuss and finalise some programmes in the meetings also. The ROA can coordinate and help in organising such programmes.

Mr. Bernt Adelstal of SCC said: "SCC has been, for the last so many years, emphasising movement-to-movement assistance. That means that when we identify a new project in a coordinating country, old or new, we try to involve as much as possible our ICA member organisations i.e. different cooperative movements at the national level for identification, planning and execution of the project. By that we get close collaboration between one movement in Sweden and the cooperative movement in the country concerned."

The Chairman asked if there was any kind of governmental effort in this kind of programme. Mr. Adelstal said that they do not want to talk to the government. They want direct communication.

The ExSubCo was of the opinion that the member organisations should keep the ICA ROA informed about the visit of such delegations to their countries and exchange of such delegations should be encouraged and whenever needed, assistance be provided by the ROA and the Regional Council.

Agenda Item No. 9 : Next Meeting of the ExSubCo - Venue & Date

The Regional Director said that usually we have two meetings of the ExSubCo in a year - one alongwith the Regional Council Meeting and the one in between. The venue for the next Regional Council Meeting would possibly be Republic of Korea and the meeting would take place some time in April-May 1989. He asked the meeting whether we should have a meeting at that time or before that also.

The Chairman said that we should have input for the meeting. Normally the specialised Sub-Committees meet in between the Regional Council Meeting and Councillors from various countries are also members of the ExSubCo. It is quite convenient and practical as well as economical if ExSubCo meets before the Regional Council Meeting.

It was decided that depending on the items and need, the meeting of the ExSubCo may be fixed.

Agenda Item No. 10 : Any other matter with the permission of the Chair.

1. Position regarding Member Subscription to ICA and Regional Development Fund

The Executive Sub-Committee reviewed the position regarding subscription by the members to the ROA as well as various sub-

committees of the Regional Council. It was expressed that once the members make commitment, members should try to honour their commitments.

The Member for Japan said that the position regarding members who have not paid since 1973 should be placed before the Regional Council and in consultation with the movement efforts may be made to recover the dues. The Japanese Member expressed that only in case it is not possible to recover the arrears, waiving of the arrears may be considered. It would be desirable that the proposed revised amount indicated should serve as a guideline and discussions be held with the movement outside the meeting to work out a mutually agreed quantum of contributions and information regarding the commitment be placed before the Council.

2. Nominations for Regional Seminars and Training Programmes

The Regional Director informed the meeting that when there is any programme of training, the ROA writes to the NCOs in each country with copies to the other members. In view of objection raised by SCDIP of the Philippines, we have to rationalise this.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson said : "It is a general comment from the ICA. All ICA members in the Region should be treated equals - that is, they should be given an opportunity to participate in meetings of the Regional Council and in ICA related activities."

Mr. M.V. Madane said : "In case we address to all the organisations, a consensus locally had to be involved for the number of seats allocated for the country. Seminar nomination is countrywise and whether it is either one or two or depends upon each activity. Some mechanism has to be evolved locally either through a spokesman organisation or a joint committee."

The Regional Director said that this will differ from country to country. Decision as to how they will coordinate, should be by the movement in the country.

It was agreed that the ICA ROA should communicate directly with all affiliates and make final selection of the participants.

3. CICOPA

A note on the recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the ICA Specialised Committee for Industrial and Artisanal Cooperatives (CICOPA) held in New Delhi on 10th May 1988 followed by a two-day meeting of the Asian Cooperatives was circulated for information of the members.

Concluding Remarks

Before concluding the meeting, the following remarks were made at the meeting :

Mr. Bernt Adelstal

"It has been quite interesting to participate in the deliberations here. I am looking forward to meeting more members tomorrow."

Mr. Bruce Thordarson

"I think the item on the agenda regarding Bonow House was most significant. Retaining of the Bonow House is symbolic of the overcoming of the problems of the past. It symbolises the new era in which the office is moving. We certainly have many challenges before us. We have a more exciting period ahead and the future is full of optimism. Our personnel and the quality of our

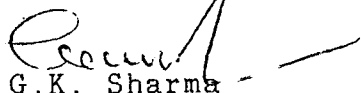
programmes including publications is rather high. As you know, we plan from Congress to Congress. We are now moving to the 29th Congress in Stockholm in July and the next four years for ICA in Asia should be a very optimistic and important period."

Gen A.S. Lozada, Vice Chairman

"I would like to express appreciation of the increasing support of the SCC, Japan, specially the Government of Japan, the CUAC and IDACA, JCCU and of course some additional and growing support from Canada and the countries like Korea. This encouragement would bring us some more challenges. In this respect challenges have been met by our ROA under the able leadership of Mr. G.K. Sharma and Mr. J.M. Rana. We have Sub-Committees plus technical people who are secretaries of these sub-committees in action. The member movements in Asia have responded very well to the new development strategies of the ROA.

The ultimate goal in Cooperation would be human understanding and brotherhood. As I said cooperatives are antidotes to violent changes. It could bridge more people in Asia...Before I conclude, I would like to stress that there has been lot of violation of ICA Principles in some movements. One man one vote in the primaries is a must but there are some primaries that are not following this principle. If you do not follow ICA Principles you will have lot of problems and failures coming. We hope we can get some correct position in the forthcoming Regional Consultation. This could be a guide for governments not only in the Asian Region but also in other regions."

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.


G.K. Sharma

Regional Director/Secretary

Agenda Notes

EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE of the REGIONAL COUNCIL

10 TH MEETING
SINGAPORE

1 June, 1988



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA
NEW DELHI (INDIA)

Tenth Meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee
Singapore : 1st June 1988

Venue : Hotel Plaza, Singapore

AGENDA

	<u>Page</u>
1. Welcome by host movement	2
2. Introductory Remarks by Chairman	2
3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 9th Meeting held at Bangkok on 18-19 January 1988	2
4. Follow-up on matters arising out of 9th Meeting	2
5. Progress regarding the sale of Bonow House	2
6. "Hall of Honour"	3
7. Rules for regulating Regional Council Meetings under Article 34 of the Rules & Standing Orders of the ICA.	3
8. Cooperative Leaders Exchange Programme	5
9. Next Meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee - Venue & Date	5
10. Any other matter with the permission of the Chair	5

Agenda Item No. 1 : Welcome by host movement

Agenda Item No. 2 : Introductory Remarks by Chairman

Agenda Item No. 3 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 9th Meeting

The Minutes of the 9th Meeting held at Bangkok, Thailand, on 18-19 January, 1988 were circulated to the members by RO (copy enclosed).

The Minutes may be confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 4 : Follow-up matters arising out of 9th Meeting

Agenda Item No. 5 : Progress regarding sale of Bonow House

The Executive Committee of the ICA at its meeting held on 18th February 1988 in Geneva has unanimously decided in favour of retaining the Bonow House. This decision has been taken keeping in view the sentiments of the Asian Movements to retain the Regional Office building, "Bonow House".

Members of the Asian Region, namely, Mr. V.P. Singh from India, Mr. Young Deshaou from the Peoples Republic of China and Mr. Y. Nakaoka from Japan, attended this Executive Committee Meeting. The Regional Director, Mr. G.K. Sharma also attended the Executive Committee Meeting when the Bonow House matter was discussed.

It may be mentioned that ICA, two years back, had decided to sell the Bonow House. Accordingly, an agreement was signed with NCDC who agreed to purchase the building. ICA has now requested NCDC to re-consider the decision and allow the ICA RO to retain Bonow House. The consequential follow-up action would be formulation of a non-profitable trust to manage Bonow House and renting of available space to add additional resources to ROA income. Progress in this regard will be reported in the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 6 : "Hall of Honour"

The National Cooperative Organisations were requested by ROA to sponsor one name of an eminent cooperator. The last date for receiving nominations is 15th May, 1988.

The proposals so received will be submitted to the ExSubCo for consideration in the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 7 Rules for regulating Regional Council Meetings under Article 34 of the Rules & Standing Orders of the ICA

The Regional Council had approved Rules of the ICA Council for South-East Asia (a copy of the rules enclosed as annexe). Thereafter the constitution of the Regional Councils has been covered under the Rules and Standing Orders of the ICA as approved by the Executive Committee in its meeting at Hamburg in October 1984. Article 34 of the Rules and Standing Orders for the constitution of the Regional Councils provides as under :

"Regional Councils for particular regions shall be set up to assist and advise the Regional Office of the region in:

(a) Formulating the overall policy concerning the activities of the Regional Office.

(b) Reviewing the results of the activities of the Regional Office.

(c) Serving as a permanent contact organ between the national cooperative movements in the region and the Regional Office.

The Council shall consists. of two members from each of the countries served by the Regional Office, who shall hold office for a Congress period.1

Each Council shall elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and not more than four members who shall constitute an Executive organ to assist and advise the Regional Director between meetings of the Council. They shall hold office for a Congress period.

The Councils may set up such Sub-Committees as may be desirable for the functioning of the Councils.

The Councils shall meet annually.

The Regional Director shall be Secretary of the Council and its Executive organ and shall ensure that any constitutional matters are submitted to the ICA Executive Committee for approval."

In view of the Article 34, old rules have therefore become inoperative.

Keeping provisions of this Article in view, para 2 needs explanation which can be done keeping in view the old rules.

"Where the number of members in the ICA from each country is more than two then the national cooperative organisation of that country which is the spokesman for the cooperative movement shall invariably be entitled to nominate one Regional Councillor. The other Regional Councillor will be elected at a meeting of representatives from the member-organisations which meeting would be summoned by the national cooperative organisation and the results of election conveyed by the NCO to the ICA ROA."

We may also provide for alternative nomination which is already being followed :

"In case any Regional Councillor is not able to attend the meeting he may nominate an alternate member to represent him to attend the meeting."

Agenda Item No. 8 Cooperative Leaders Exchange Programme

It is felt that exchange of cooperative leaders visits programme among the cooperative movements in the region would help promote regional collaboration especially in regard to greater flow of technical information, experience on innovations, joint projects and international trade.

Already there are indications that a cooperative leaders' delegation from Australia would visit the ICA ROA and a couple of movements in the region. Similarly, China would be willing to receive a delegation of about 8-10 cooperative leaders of the region.

The Council may like to suggest ways in which such delegations could be promoted and their work made more fruitful.

Agenda Item No. 9 : Next Meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee
Venue & Date

Agenda Item No. 10: Any other matter with the permission of
the Chair

9th Meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee
of the Regional Council

Bangkok (Thailand) : 18-19 January 1988



**International Cooperative Alliance
"Bonow House", 43 Friends Colony
New Delhi-110065, India.**

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 9TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE
OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL HELD AT BANGKOK ON 18-19 JANUARY 1988.

Introductory

The 9th Meeting of the Executive Sub-committee was held in the Conference Hall of the Cooperative League of Thailand at 4 Pichai Road, Bangkok, on 18th and 19th January 1988.

The following members were present :

Members

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1. | Mr. Eddiwan | : | Chairman (Indonesia) |
| 2. | Mr. M. Sakurai | : | Member (Japan) |
| 3. | Mr. Jae Seung Lee | : | Alternate Member (Korea) |
| 4. | Mr. Anan Chamnankit | : | Member (Thailand) |
| 5. | Mr. K. Suzuki | : | Interpreter (Japan) |

ICA ROA

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|----|-----------------|---|---|
| 6. | Mr. G.K. Sharma | : | Regional Director |
| 7. | Mr. J.M. Rana | : | Dy. Regional Director &
Head, Development Coordination Unit. |

CLT

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 8. | Mr. Narong Marukatut | : | Director, CLT. |
| 9. | M.s. Pannee Thosaksith | : | Deputy Director, CLT. |
| 10. | Mr. Surasit | : | Chief, Intl Section, CLT. |
| 11. | Mr. Benjawan Sadpaak | : | Chief, Intl Section, CPD. |

Agenda Item No.1 : Welcome by host movement

Mr. Anan Chamnankit, Chairman, Cooperative League of Thailand, extended a hearty welcome to the members of the ESC and wished that they would have a fruitful and enjoyable stay in Bangkok. He added that the activities of the ICA RO had been beneficial to the Cooperative Movement of Thailand.

Agenda Item No.2 : Introductory Remarks by Chairman, ESC and RD

Mr. Eddiwan, Chairman and Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director extended cordial welcome to all the members and thanked the CLT for hosting the meeting. Mr. Eddiwan said that we should try to make the meeting as productive as possible, since it was not easy for members to attend. This meeting is important as we have to prepare for the next Regional Council, consider the next three

years' plan of activities, and discuss about the Government - Movement Relations Project.

In his remarks, Mr. Sharma, stated that the general feeling at the recently held meeting of the Central Committee (Budapest) was that the ICA's financial position was better and its development programme was taking proper shape. He added that the RO was also getting stabilised and its development programme was being placed on solid foundation. We can now look at the future with optimism.

He referred to the report of the Evaluation carried out by SCC/SIDA/NORAD/NRD. The Evaluation Team had strongly emphasised the usefulness of the RO and opined that all efforts should be made to save the Bonow House. The Evaluation Team also recommended that the Donor Agencies should contribute to RO while supporting development projects operated by the RO.

Mr. Sharma referred to his visit to China. The leaders of the member organisation in China assured full support to RO and indicated that they will participate in the next Regional Council Meeting. China invited 8-10 cooperative leaders of the Region to visit China.

The Asian Coop News has just been started as the members felt that there was no regular communication medium between the RO and the members. He appealed to all member organisations to support this medium through sending cooperative information and press clippings of cooperative news to the RO.

Agenda Item No.3 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 8th Meeting

The minutes were confirmed.

Agenda Item No.4 : Follow-up on matters arising out of 8th Meeting

While perusing the follow-up action on matters arising out of the 8th Meeting, on para (v) concerning "Hall of Honour", Mr. Sakurai mentioned that in Japan in their annual meeting they select one person as an eminent cooperator. He wanted a clarification whether the person selected will be from each country or only one from the whole region. It was clarified that as per decision of the council, only one person has to be selected for the Region every year. The Chairman expressed that it would not be easy to select one person for the whole region and perhaps it would be desirable to select one person from each country for the award. As the secretariat has already called for names from the countries, the names received with their particulars be placed in next meeting of the ESC to be held on 1st June 1988 in Singapore

which would make suitable recommendations to the Regional Council for consideration and final decision.. So far as the constitution of the selection committee as provided in the rules is concerned, for the current year's selection the same could be done by the ESC in its meeting and recommend to the Regional Council. For future the Council can constitute a Selection Committee.

Re technical assistance for Data Bank, the ESC suggested that assistance of Japan and Rep.of Korea be taken. The members from Rep.of Korea and Japan offered possibility of providing the needed assistance.

Agenda Item No.5 : Association of ICA member organisations in the Region with the activities of Regional Council from countries having more than two members.

The member from the Rep.of Korea was of the opinion that all member organisations should have an opportunity to participate in the RC.

The member from Japan stated that they had an effective mechanism through the Japanese Joint Committee to coordinate the views of all ICA member organisations. Hence they felt that the present arrangement of two members from Japan was adequate.

The member for Thailand stated that they had only one member in ICA and they were satisfied with the present arrangements.

The Chairman stated that in Indonesia all the National Federations were represented in Dekopin which alone had the responsibility for international relations. The situation in Indonesia was similar to Japan.

The ESC recommended that opinions of other countries be also sought and if they so desire, countries with more than one member organisation be allowed to send observers in addition to two members on the Council.

Agenda Item No.6 : Report on Activities carried out by RO Projects

Mr. J.M. Rana presented the main points of the RO project activities.

The member for Thailand was highly appreciative of ICA activities for the Thai Movement especially the work carried out by the Development Coordination Unit. He made special mention of the report of the Perspective Planning Mission, Consultancy on Accounting Services, Training in Project Identification and

Planning, and the Prawn Breeding Project as also of consumer consultancy.

The member for Japan stated that the budget for the Agricultural Cooperative Management Training Project supported by the Government of Japan was fully agreed and that the 3rd Course could also be implemented.

The Chairman of the ESC stated that he was also the Chairman of Asean Cooperative Organisation (ACO) which was established in 1976. He outlined the activities of ACO. He said that the ACO had held a seminar on cooperative law in 1983 and planned a follow-up seminar on the subject for Asean countries in April 1988. The 9th meeting of ACO held in Bali had also recommended that the Ministerial Conference be organised. The Chairman suggested that the Asean Cooperative Conference proposed to be held in the near future can be broadened so as to include other countries of Asia.

The Chairman suggested that ICA RO and the ACO should develop closer collaboration. He further added that presently the activities of the ICA RO were concentrating in 8 countries and they be extended to other countries.

The Chairman suggested that the Cooperative Trade Project was most needed. The project should try to develop trade of cooperatives outside the region also. He also suggested that closer collaboration between cooperative movements be developed in some of the products such as Rattan for which Philippines had experts while Indonesia and Malaysia had the raw material. He further added that cooperative trade should be more than a project.

The member for Japan agreed with the Chairman's observations that the cooperative trade should be more than a project. He mentioned that Japan was experiencing great friction in the business of export and import of agricultural commodities.

The Regional Director stated that the Cooperative Trade Project was extended for another three years after evaluation of its work. He said that the activities in the field of cooperative trade should continue even after donors stopped giving support. He also indicated that ICA RO - ACO coordination should be developed. He also indicated that both the organisations should exchange programmes and documentation and they should invite each others representatives to make presentations at their respective meetings.

The ESC recommended that coordination between ICA RO and ACO be developed. The ESC noted the activities carried out by the RO projects and expressed its appreciation.

Agenda Item No.7 : Work programme for the next three years i.e. 1988-89 to 1990-91.

The Chairman stated that this was for the first time in the history of ICA RO that such a comprehensive development programme along with the budgets and sponsors had been prepared and presented to the ESC. He commented the programme and the new system initiated by Mr. Sharma. He was also happy that Japan was making a much increased contribution to RO activities and that India and the Rep. of Korea had also increased their support. He further expressed his appreciation that Sweden had continued its support and that Canada had also started supporting ICA RO development projects.

The member for Japan supported the development programme. He indicated that the support from Japan Government will be on the same level as before.

The member for Korea indicated that the ICA RO should have joint discussion with the authorities of NACF to explore further collaboration and NACF support.

The Chairman stated that at present member organisations have to contribute to the ICA RO to specific activities and to the Sub-Committees. He suggested that this system should be rationalised. The total contributions made by each country for the above be presented to the next meeting.

The Chairman suggested that RO should explore possibilities of getting assistance from other advanced countries as well as increasing collaboration with international organisations such as ILO, FAO, etc. The Chairman also stated that the ICA hqs. should also participate in the development programme and increase its contribution to the RO activities.

The Regional Director presented a statement of the MO contributions to RO from different countries. He observed that several member organisations have not made regular contributions committed by them.

The member for Japan stated that he was not sure whether projected increase in MO contributions from 1988-89 upto 1990-91 would be easily available.

The Chairman observed that the contributions of Swiss Francs 50,000 from hqs. to RO was not fair especially keeping in view the total member subscription paid from the region to hqs.

The ESC decided that the overall aim of the development programme during the next three years is to enhance the democratic bases of the cooperative movement through increased member participation and to enhance the economic performance of cooperative

organisations especially in agricultural and consumer sectors.

Keeping in view the responsibilities of the Regional Office as defined in the Rules and Standing Orders of the ICA and the ICA Policy for Cooperative Development approved by the Central Committee, the ESC recommended that the development policy of the RO should comprise of the following elements :-

- i. the building of democratic and economically viable cooperative organisations which are capable of serving their members efficiently;
- ii. influencing cooperative laws and government cooperative policies to promote genuine cooperative development based on Cooperative Principles;
- iii. developing well coordinated and integrated cooperative structures in order to enhance economic capacity of the cooperative movements; and
- iv. promoting regional collaboration for the exchange of technical information know-how and innovations and for increased international cooperative trade.

The ESC suggested that the Regional Director may present a paper on MO's contributions from each country for the next meeting of the Regional Council.

Agenda Item No.8 : Budget Estimates of RO for 1988-90 &
Agenda Item No.9 : Progress regarding the sale of Bonow House

The member for Japan asked a number of questions.

- i. Has the RO paid fully the compensation due to all redundant staff?
- ii. Will NCDC agree to forgo the purchase of Bonow House?
- iii. What is the extent of ICA RO debt to NCDC?
- iv. How will the ICA RO repay the loan to NCDC?

The Regional Director stated that the redundant staff have been given their compensation and there are no dues further to them. He had discussion with the NCDC Chief Executive and in the interest of cooperative movement they would be prepared to reconsider the sale deed. They would, however, want that in case the ICA decides to sell the building at any future date, the first option to purchase should be that of NCDC. The Regional Director stated that ICA RO owed INR 2 million to NCDC which was taken as an advance payment and was utilised for making the

redundancy payments. This is what the ICA will have to repay NCDC. The Regional Director stated that the present income to the ICA RO from the hqs., member organisations contributions, and the administrative support from the donors was adequate to cover its expenses. The situation has changed because of the support given by Japan and more positive attitude on the part of SCC and other donors. He added that India's contribution to ICA RO was also increased and the ICA hqs. have agreed that if the ICA RO can prove that India's contribution is in excess of its membership dues to ICA, the excess amount could be treated to ICA RO.

The Regional Director indicated that if the building is not sold the ICA RO expenses will be Rs.1.5 million instead of Rs.2 million. Hence there will be some saving also. The ICA RO activities were expanded and if we move into rented premises we would be constricted and further expansion would present problems. Rented premises would also mean increased rental expenses after a lapse of every 2 or 3 years since rents are continuously raising.

The Regional Director added that the NCDC loan can be repaid by raising the loan on Bonow House. He said that the Japanese Consumers Cooperative Union had been approached for the purpose, since the rate of interest in Japan is much lower, namely, around 5 per cent compared to the rate of interest of 17 per cent in India.

The member for Japan stated that he was basically in agreement that the Bonow House should be retained. He indicated that steps should be taken to reduce the interest burden to effect economies and to raise more funds from member organisations.

The ESC recommended that Bonow House should be retained and that efforts should be made to increase RO income and effect economies in expenditure. The ESC suggested that there should be no deficit in the budget. The Regional Council has expressed its high appreciation of the support of the Japanese Cooperative Movement and the Government of Japan to the RO and hoped that the JCCU will agree to give a loan of Rs.2 million to ICA.

Agenda Item No.10 : Donors support to RO

The ESC recommended that in principle all donor agencies supporting should finance the institution building components of the ICA RO as recommended by the Evaluation Mission and that this percentage should be 10% of the total project cost. The ESC however suggested that this rate should not be regarded as rigid and can be varied depending upon the circumstances and negotiations with donors. The ESC also suggested that the projects should not be weakened by taking a rigid stand on this account.

Agenda Item No.11 : Proposal regarding holding a Coop Leaders and Ministers Conference in connection with the ICA RO Project on "Role of Government in Development of the Cooperative Movement".

The Chairman stated that the project regarding Government/Movement Relations was very important project. He emphasised that the preparations for the project should be really comprehensive.

The Regional Director suggested that the Project had evoked good response from FAO, ILO and AARRO and they were all prepared to collaborate with ICA RO.

The member for Japan stated that the theme of the Project was very essential. He indicated that the relationship between Government and Movement varied with stages of development. In Japan in the early stages there was substantial regulations and control on cooperatives. But now cooperatives function with considerable independence. At each stage appropriate relationship should be built up by the cooperative movement with the government. He felt, it was difficult to create common criteria for all Asian countries. It would be necessary to have country-wise approach. He also stated that the cooperative law in Japan was changed as the situation changed. He was in agreement with the approach of research studies outlined in the Project. However, he felt that it may be difficult for the Minister from Japan to attend the Conference.

The Chairman suggested that they should look at the questions from the point of view of the governments as well and approach the subject as to how the cooperative movement can help in development programmes in which government was interested. Our approach should not be one of confrontation but one of building proper rapport with the Government so that the objectives of government policies of uplifting the poor sections of the community and the economy of the country could be achieved.

The Chairman was doubtful if the Ministers for Cooperation would be prepared to attend the Conference. It may be possible to have a Conference of senior government officials and cooperative leaders. If Ministers are to be invited it would be necessary to sound out individual governments.

The Regional Director explained the background to the Project and also indicated that during the seventies serious doubts were raised about the cooperatives capability in regard to helping the people below the poverty line and their economic development. However, the latest report of the UN Secretary General indicated that other methods have not proved better than cooperatives and that once again opinion was swinging in favour of cooperatives. He felt that there was a lack of adequate awareness of the role

of cooperatives and its contribution to socio-economic development at higher echelons in governments. It was, therefore, important that our dialogues with the government should raise this awareness.

The ESC recommended that RO should go ahead with the preparation of the background paper. It further suggested that careful ground work should be done with Ministers in order to attract them to the Ministers Conference. Otherwise it would be better to hold a Conference of senior government officials and cooperative leaders. The ESC suggested that a report on further progress on the project be made to the Regional Council.

Agenda Item No.12 : Information regarding the 30th Meeting of the Regional Council to be held at Singapore from 16th to 18th May 1988 &

Agenda Item No.13 : Next Meeting of the ESC - Venue and Date.

It was decided that the next meeting of the ESC should be held on 1st June prior to RC meeting and the the RC meeting should be held in Singapore on 2nd and 3rd June. 4th June should be devoted to study visits.

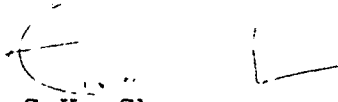
The member for Japan stated that he would consult Mr. M. Ohya from JCCU regarding suitability of the dates and telex reply to RO within a week.

Agenda Item No.14 : Any other matter with the permission of the Chair

The Chairman expressed high appreciation and thanks to the Cooperative League of Thailand and its Chairman Mr. Anan Chamnankit for the excellent facilities and hospitality to the ESC meeting.

The meeting came to a close with a vote of thanks to the Chair. 1

New Delhi
9.2.1988


G.K. Sharma
Secretary

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THE RULES OF THE ICA COUNCIL FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

The ICA Regional Office and Education Centre for South-East Asia shall be assisted by a Council consisting of representatives from the National Cooperative Movements of the South-East Asian Region. The Council shall be known as the "ICA COUNCIL FOR ASIA".

The purpose of the Council shall be to :-

- a) formulate the overall policy concerning the activities of the Regional Office;
- b) review the results of the activities of the Regional Office; and
- c) serve as a permanent contact organ between the national cooperative movements and the Regional Office.

The Council shall consist of two members from each of the countries with which the Regional Office & Education Centre of the ICA collaborates. The members shall be nominated by the respective National Cooperative Unions (or their equivalents) from amongst persons occupying positions or holding offices at the policy-making level provided that one nominee of each country shall be selected to represent the agricultural cooperatives of that country. Member organisations may appoint alternative Councillors for any particular meeting of the Council.

The Chairman of the Council shall be elected by the Councillors at every meeting of the Council from among the Councillors representing the country in which the meeting is being held. The tenure of office of the Chairman shall extend up to the next election of the Chairman.

The tenure of office of the members of the Council shall be the period between two Congresses of the ICA or four years whichever is less.

The Council shall meet at least once a year. Notice shall be issued to the members not less than two months in advance of the date of the meeting.

The members of the Council may submit items for inclusion in the agenda of the Council meetings. Such items shall be submitted at least one month in advance of the date of the meeting.

The Regional Director shall be the Secretary of the Council.

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