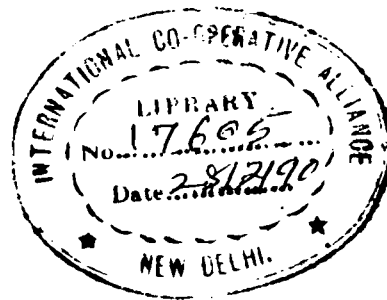

Agenda Notes

ICA REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR ASIA

30 TH MEETING
SINGAPORE

2-3 June, 1988



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

AGENDA FOR THE 30TH REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
PLAZA HOTEL, SINGAPORE : 2-3 JUNE 1988

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Agenda Item No. 1 : Inauguration/Welcome by host organisation

Agenda Item No. 2 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 29th Meeting

The Minutes of the 29th Meeting held in New Delhi on 8th & 9th September 1987 were circulated to the members by RO (copy enclosed).

The Minutes may be confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 3 : Matters arising out of the Minutes

<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
Agenda Item No.7, page 18, Sale of Bonow House	The Executive Committee in its meeting held on 19th Feb 1988 has decided to retain the Bonow House. For details see Agenda item No 14.
Agenda Item No.9, page 24, Regional Development Fund & the RO.	This has been included as a separate agenda item No.16.
Agenda Item No.11, page 26, Change of Nomenclature of	As per the decision of the last EC the nomenclature of the Regional Office has been changed to "ICA Regional Office for Asia".
Agenda Item No.12, page 26, "Hall of Honour"	The RO wrote to the Chief Executives of the National Cooperative Organisations in the region to sponsor one name of an eminent cooperator to the ICA RO.

Agenda Item No. 4 : Letters and Reports from non-attending
Members

The Secretary will table letters and reports, if any, received from Councillors who are unable to attend the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 5 : Report by Regional Councillors on "Recent Changes, Trends and Developments in their Cooperative Movements".

Each Regional Councillor is request to table a written report on the recent changes, trends and developments in their cooperative movements and make a brief presentation orally to save time.

It is suggested that Councillors bring with them 40 copies of the written statement for circulation.

Agenda Item No.6 : Reports on the activities of the
Specialised Sub-Committees

Since the last Regional Council Meeting, the following sub-committees had/ will have meetings:

- i. Executive Sub-Committee 18-19 Jan 1988
- ii. Trade & Industry Sub-Committee 10-13 April 1988
- iii. Education Sub-Committee 27-28 May 1988
- iv. Consumer Sub-Committee 30-31 May 1988

The minutes of the Executive Sub-Committee are enclosed as annexe. The resume of the other committees will be placed in the Council Meeting by the respective Chairman/Secretary.

Agenda Item No. 7 : Report on Activities carried out during
1987-88

Development Coordination Unit

1. A three week training programme in project identification and planning in Bangkok which was initiated on 22nd June was completed on 15th July 1987. Sixteen participants took part in the programme. The participants prepared 16 projects.

2. A national programme in project identification and planning for the Thai Movement was also prepared by the Cooperative Development Adviser for consideration of the CLT.

3. A Finish consultant carried out a study of accounting services for agricultural cooperatives in Thailand with the purpose of initiating a pilot project on computerising these services. The Report has since been submitted to the Cooperative League of Thailand.

4. The ICA acted as an intermediary for a CUC assisted project on fish net production of the National Federation of Fishermens Cooperatives Limited (FISHCOPFED). Under the Project the FISHCOPFED, India will be given assistance of Canadian Dollars 40,113 for the purpose of installing hand operated fish net production machines, one at its production-cum-demonstration and Training Centre in Delhi and two in primary cooperatives.

5. Work on the Project on Role of Government in Promoting Coop Development in Asia has been initiated. Regional Consultant and country consultants identified and they requested to prepare country reports on cooperative legislation and government-cooperative policies affecting cooperative development.

A Regional Consultation on the subject will be held in Singapore from 4-7 June, 1988.

6. Monitoring and backstopping of the CLT Prawn Breeding Project in Ranode District, Thailand - assisted by the CUC - was carried out.

7. The DCU and all the Project Advisers worked together with the hqs. representative and the SCC representative for one week in December 1987 to review the work carried out during 1987-88 and to prepare three-year plan for the period 1988-89 to 1990-91. The three-year plan has since been submitted to the hqs.

8. The Cooperative Development Adviser made an exploratory visit to Bangladesh.

9. Two personal computers have been acquired and necessary training of the RO staff was arranged.

10. The DCU carried out all the necessary work needed for the ICA/SCC Evaluation Mission which evaluated the work of the ICA RO projects.

11. The DCU continued to carry out its normal activities of monitoring the progress of the projects, and submitted to hqs. quarterly work plans and reports of various RO projects.

12. Follow-up on the First Course in Cooperative Project Identification in Thailand : Follow-up meetings with the participants of the 1st ICA/CLT/FES Course in Project Identification and Planning in Thailand, were held during the period 23-26 November 1987 in Chiangmai, Pitsanaluke, Nakorn Swan and Bangkok.

The Meetings were conducted by Mr. Sten Dahl, Cooperative Development Adviser of the ICA RO for Asia who was assisted by Prof. Dr. Vivat Shotelersuk of Kasetsart University representing the Cooperative League of Thailand.

The review meetings revealed that 15 of the participants have already embarked on developing their own project proposals for their respective cooperative organisations and 3 of the proposals have already been received by the Cooperative League of Thailand for scrutiny and comments.

13. Project Identification & Planning Course held in Philippines

A five-week course for 13 Cooperative managers and trainers from the cooperative training institutions was conducted at the Continuing Education Centre of the University of the Philippines in Los Banos from 11th January to 10th February 88, by Mr Sten Dahl, Cooperative Development Adviser of the ICA Regional Office for Asia. The financial assistance for the course were provided by ICA, the Agricultural Cooperative Development International of the USA (ACDI), the ILO and the Bureau for Agricultural Cooperatives Development.

The result of the course which used participatory and on-the-job training techniques was the production of three full-fledged bankable project proposals. These project proposals were presented by the participants themselves to a forum of national and foreign cooperative support agencies. One of the projects on "Hog Fattening and Tocino-Longaniza Making" to be implemented by the Ambulong Credit Cooperative, a primary cooperative, was accepted for donor assistance by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung of West Germany through its country office for the Philippines. The total project assistance is around Pesos 900,000 (US \$45,000).

The project will involve 50 members and envisages to increase their income with about Pesos 2,500 a year for the next five years. It will also provide employment to members in processing of meat. Components of member education and savings mobilisation have also been included in the project proposal. It is hoped that the project will start operation within the next few months.

Based on the experience gained during the course period, the participants will also prepare individual cooperative development projects for the benefit of their own respective organisations. A Committee has been formed jointly by the CUP and the ICA for the purpose of follow-up and subsequent project implementation.

Similar conferences to consider the recommendations of the report of the study teams to Malaysia and Thailand are planned to be held in these countries during the year.

Agricultural Coop Development Project

1. In the absence of an Agricultural Cooperative Adviser, the work for the Agricultural Project is being carried out by the Development Coordination Unit.

2. Regional Training Course on Cooperative Dairy Development for Asia was held at Anand (India) from 6 to 19 December 1987 in collaboration with the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). The arrangements for travel costs were similar to the seminar in Japan. All the local costs in India were borne by the NCUI/NDDB. 14 participants from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand took part in the Training Course.

3. ICA/CUAC/IDACA Regional Seminar on Member Participation in agricultural cooperatives with special reference to Japan was held in IDACA, Tokyo from 3rd to 22nd November 1987. 17 participants from Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Rep. of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand took part in the seminar. A one week study visits programme was arranged. As per normal practice the ICA RO paid one way air fare of the participants. The other half of the airfare was paid by the sponsoring organisations. All the local costs for the seminar in Japan were borne by the CUAC/IDACA.

4. Perspective Planning Conference for Agricultural Cooperative Sector in the Philippines

A three-day conference on the ICA/FAO Study Mission report on Perspective and Project Planning for the Agricultural Cooperatives Sector in the Philippines was held from 13th to 15th February 1988 in Quezon city in collaboration with the Bureau of Agricultural Cooperative Development (BACOD) and the ICA Regional Office for Asia. The conference was attended by a cross section of representatives from the cooperative sector, government and other organisations involved in cooperative development including international support agencies. The Conference which was divided into 3 Workshops accepted basically the contents and substance of the Study Mission Report with the exception of some points which had to be clarified, updated or revised to better adapt to the prevailing country situation.

The conference approved a long-term agricultural cooperative development plan and suggested an action plan for implementing it. The plan aims at bringing three major systems into operation over the next 10-15 years, viz. the Cooperative Promotional and Development System; the Cooperative Financing System and the Cooperative Input Supply, Agro-Processing and Marketing System of the Philippines. The Conference also recommended the building up of an integrated cooperative structure comprising the above three systems with community based multipurpose cooperatives at the primary level.

The Mission Members viz. Mr. J.M. Rana, Deputy Regional Director, Mr. Sten Dahl, Cooperative Development Adviser, ICA ROA; Mr. Olcott Gunasekera, FAO Consultant served as Resource Persons at the Conference. Gen. A.S. Lozada, President of the Cooperative Union of the Philippines, presided over the Conference and Mr. B.P. Faustino, Executive Vice-President of the Crop Insurance System of the Philippines was the Conference Rapporteur.

Consumer Cooperative Development Project

1. The Advisor to Consumer Cooperative Development Project provided technical assistance to ANGKASA and conducted a one-week workshop in retail management at the Cooperative College of Malaysia. The workshop was attended by 22 participants besides a few observers.
2. The Japanese Consumers Cooperative Union in collaboration with the ICA Regional Office, New Delhi, conducted a workshop on super market operations in Japan from 2nd to 22nd August 1987 for Managers of selected super markets from the region. The programme consisted of 3 parts: (a) one week technical session on chain stores theory, (b) one week visit to Cooperative and private shops, (c) one week on the job training in cooperative super markets. The Japanese Consumers Cooperative Union had agreed to provide facilities for 8 participants at this workshop, two each from India, Malaysia and Singapore and one each from Thailand and Indonesia. As one participant from India could not participate in the programme on health grounds, only 7 persons availed of the training facility.
3. The newly elected Chairman of the Regional Sub-committee for Asia, Mr M.Ohya represented the Sub-committee at the ICA Main Consumer Committee meeting at Budapest on 17th October, 1987. Mr Ohya presented a report on the activities of the Regional Sub-committee.
4. At the request of the ICA Regional Office, the Japanese Consumers Cooperative Union provided technical assistance in the form of services of two experts to the NTUC Fair Price Cooperative Society in Singapore, who assisted in the one week seminar on retail management. ICA Project Adviser could not joint because of his sudden illness.
5. Based on requests received from member movements in the Region, the Advisor on Consumers Cooperative Development Project formulated a Work Plan for the project for the period 1988-1991. These proposals were discussed at the ICA Planning Meeting in New Delhi in December, 1987.

6. A JCCU delegation consisting of 21 cooperative leaders from the Japanese Consumer Cooperative Movement, headed by Mr. Masao Ohya, Executive Director of JCCU, visited India, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Thailand in February 1988. Besides visiting a few consumer cooperatives, they called on cooperative leaders and apex organisations in these countries. It was broadly a goodwill mission with a view to familiarising with the present situation of consumer cooperative movements in these countries.

7. An ICA Regional Seminar on Members Participation and Housewives Involvement in Consumers Cooperatives was conducted at Kuala Lumpur and Singapore in joint collaboration with ANGKASA, the Japanese Consumers Cooperative Union (JCCU) and the Singapore National Cooperative Federation from 21 February to 01 March 1988. The Seminar which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister, Dato' Dr. Siti Zaharah Sulaiman, Government of Malaysia was attended to by 13 participants and 8 observers from 8 countries viz. Bangladesh, Burma (observer only), India, South Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The Seminar in Kuala Lumpur was followed by study visits in Malaysia and Singapore. The recommendations of the seminar have been communicated to all member movements in the region.

8. The Consultant to the Consumer Cooperative Development Project conducted a two-day Workshop on Stock Management for officials of the Cooperatives Promotion and Cooperative Audit Departments in Bangkok.

9. The Consultant to the Consumer Cooperative Development Project participated in three Area Consultation Conferences in the Philippines which were jointly arranged by the Bureau of Cooperative Development in the Ministry of Agriculture and the Cooperative Union of the Philippines to discuss the ICA Consultancy Report regarding development of Consumers Cooperatives in the Philippines. The three Area Conferences funded by the Bureau of Cooperative Development (BCOD) were well attended by the Cooperative leaders and executive officers. The Consultant explained the rationale of his recommendations. The participants showed keen interest in the consultancy report and generally accepted most of the recommendations. Two recommendations, one relating to the structure of Consumer Cooperative movement and the other regarding reorganization of University Cooperatives after the Japanese model are still being debated. It is hoped that a consensus shall emerge before long.

10. The Consultant to the Consumer Cooperative Development Project provided technical assistance to Consumer Cooperatives in Thailand in evolving efficiency norms for the guidance of management of cooperative retail societies in Thailand.

Education & Training Project

1. The title of the Cemas Project has been changed to Education Project as per recommendation of the SCC/SIDA Evaluation Team.
2. The post of Project Officer for Education has been vacant until 31st July 1987 although follow-up correspondence was maintained on the field education workshops carried out during the previous year.
3. Mr. W.U. Herath from Sri Lanka was recruited to fill the post with effect from 1st August 1987. He participated in an orientation programme conducted by the ICA Head Office in Geneva and also participated at the CEMAS-MATCOM Review Meeting held in Vienna during August 1987.
4. A revised work programme for the year has been presented at the meeting.
5. The new Project Officer assumed duties at the Regional Office on the 24th November 1987. The Project Officer participated in the Planning seminar held at the Regional Office from 10th December to 15th December 1987 and a 3-year perspective plan was prepared for the project.
6. The Project Officer participated at the ICA Regional Seminar on Dairy Development held at Anand (Gujarat).
7. Preliminary work was carried out to establish the Regional Sub-Committee on Education and Training which has been inactive for so many year. Member organisations and the National cooperative organisations were requested to nominate representative for the Regional Sub-Committee so that meeting could be organised before the Regional Council meeting to be held in June.
- 8.- Preliminary contacts were established with the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) so that future collaboration with local cooperatives in the field will be facilitated.

9. A Proposal for a comprehensive Cooperative Facilitators Development Project has been prepared to be presented to the prospective sponsoring agencies due to the fact that funds available for the project has become inadequate to meet the actual needs.

10. Preliminary negotiations have also been made with the Regional Office for South and Central Africa and the Japanese Cooperative movement to receive experiences of their movement to evolve member participation strategies and methodologies which could be used as models for the activities to be undertaken in the 3-year plan. The ICA has given top priority to develop members and committee members participation in their society activities.

11. Action is being taken to revive the material available in the Regional Office in the CEMAS Clearing House operations so that the advisory services could be continued and up-dated.

ICA-Japan Training Project for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia

The first year of the ICA-Japan Training Project was concluded on 30th June 1987. During the year, the Project organised a six months' training course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia for participants from 9 Asian countries, namely, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The training programme was spread over in four countries, namely, India, Thailand, Japan and the Republic of Korea. A unique feature of the training programme was the home country assignments undertaken by the participants, as a part of the programme, in order to prepare projects in their respective countries. These projects were later on appraised by a team of resource persons and were further improved in order to make them acceptable to financing agencies. Resource Persons for the training programme were recruited from the various parts of the region and a number of case studies were conducted with the help of these resource persons. Also documentation relating to all aspects of the training programme in management was developed. This documentation would be useful as reference material for future training programmes.

During the training programme, the ICA Regional Office received substantial help and cooperation from ICA member organisations in the regional countries and for locating the programme from IDACA in Japan. For field visits, the member organisations in Thailand and the Republic of Korea contributed a great deal to facilitate the successful completion of the programme and in this process incurred for the ICA considerable amount of expenditure on their own.

The second year of the Training Project started on 1st July 1987. After the preparatory work of about three months, the training course was inaugurated on 26th October 1987. The programme for the second year was modified on the basis of experience gained during the first year. Also, the duration of the home country assignment was extended from one month to forty days in order to provide more time for participants to provide cooperative development projects.

The major task before the cooperative movements in the region is now to help in following up the projects prepared by the participants from their respective countries. Thirty viable projects will be available by the end of the second training course. As a part of the follow-up work, the ICA has provided small amount for the further improvement of the project documents. However, the Regional Office needs support of the Member Organisations to pursue the projects and ensure that they are implemented in order to benefit the cooperative members in the given area.

Another area in which the ICA needs the support of the Member Organisations is in the matter of selection of right kind of participants for this kind of a training course. The second year selection is better than the first year. However, further improvement would be needed so as to derive maximum benefit for the regional cooperative development.

The first two years, we had arranged field study visits in Thailand and the Republic of Korea. ICA would like to arrange these study visits in other countries of the Region. The Project Director will get in touch with member organisations in due course to discuss the field study visits in other countries.

COOPTRADE Project

1. SCTI Meeting

Nine members representing eight countries attended the October 28-30, 1987 meeting of the Sub-Committee in Singapore. Modesto Saonoy was elected to act as Chairman for the meeting. Major decisions reached included :

- i. Approval of draft 3 year COOPTRADE Objectives & Programmes (as per minutes).
- ii. Agreement on implementation of plan for country "Affiliated" offices and service agreements with T.I.D.I's.
- iii. Approval of Design Concepts for COOPTRADE Brochure.
- iv. Approval of plans for Mini-Trade Fair at next SCTI meeting in Kuala Lumpur April 11-13.
- v. Review of FAO Consultation report by T.A, and development/agreement on action plan.

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of SNCF attended as guests during the meeting. A tour of NTUC Fair Price was arranged on the final morning.

2. Country Missions

Some 15 have been carried out over the six month period as follows : India (4); Indonesia (1); Philippines (3); Singapore (2); Sri Lanka (2); Thailand (3); Mission reports including objectives, persons/organisations visited, summary of observations and country strategies were completed and circulated to ICA Regional and Head Office. Affiliated Offices will serve as a focal point for future visits. The three year travel plan presented and approved at the SCTI will be used as a guideline, subject to funding and time constraints for future travel.

3. Consultancies

Four consultancies have been undertaken during the period : The Philippines (2); Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. Reports have been received for three of these todate. These consultancies were used to gather detailed assessment data on current COOPTRADE projects and to assess future project potential particularly in the area of tropical fruits production.

4. Training

Preliminary agreements were negotiated by Ulf Bergstrom with ILO for outside resource funding of Training Programmes in five South East ASian countries over the next three years. Detailed confirmation has yet to be received, but planning has begun for the first programme in "Export Marketing Techniques" to be held in the Cooperative College of Malaysia, "April 4-15, 1988. The CUC funded programme in India has been postponed to 1989 or 1990.

5. Market Development

Action plans as approved at the SCTI meeting are being implemented :

a) So far four (4) countries have confirmed the setting up of "Affiliated" COOPTRADE offices/functions. (Philippines, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka) Three more are agreed in principle with implementing decisions to be taken before calendar year-end. (Thailand, malaysia, Singapore). Trade & Advisory Committees of Apex Organisations are being established to supervise these offices in each country.

b) Ulf Bergstrom undertook his representative activities in Europe in mid-November and has forwarded his first report. He will be undertaking a trade "assessment" under contract (2 weeks) with CUC in the Philippines in January 1988.

c) Plans for participation in the Copenhagen Furniture Exhibition by rattan cooperatives are progressing and subject to additional financing will proceed.

6. Trade and Industrial Development Incentives (I.I.D.I's)

These have been approved for implementation in conjunction with the Service Agreements for use by COOPTRADE Affiliated Offices. Funds generated will remain in country of origin and will be calculated as part of M.O. contribution to the programme.

Note 1 : The project is severely hampered in its ability to deliver specialised technical expertise to potential client cooperatives by its current budget allocation. Budget proposals for 1988/89 and 1989/90 should be considered the minimum requirement to enable the project to meet this critical area.

Project failure is most directly attributable to a lack of expertise in product development, design, costing, market positioning and/in export delivery. And while establishing "affiliated" offices for COOPTRADE in each country will enhance our ability to anticipate potential problems, we will require much more funding to deal effectively with these diversified requirements. At least ten consultants could be deployed annually to meet this growing project demand. (C.F Budget Planning Document. Objective 3 : Consultancy).

Note 2 : The market development area is critical in order to provide "pull" in the development activity of the project as outlined in the three year plan and Budget Proposals. Additional Sources of funding will be required to bring these plans to fruition for : regional representatives (as recommended in the SCC/ICA Project Evaluation of 1986); trade missions (one to two per year) and participation in trade exhibitions (three annually by 1990) (C.F. Budget Planning Documents Objective 5 Market Development).

Agenda Item No.8 : Report on IDACA Activities

I. Training Programmes and other activities in 1987-88

1) Training Course for the Cooperators from Selected Countries

This is a training course with financial assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. This course is designed primarily for those who are working for cooperative development at various levels of cooperative institutions.

Period: September 27 - October 31, 1987

No. of Participants
attended: 13 (Philippines 8, India 5)

Place of study
visit: Yamagata Prefecture

2) Training Course for Thai Counter-parts on the Agricultural Cooperative Development Project

This Thai Counterparts Course is a project training commissioned by JICA aiming at assisting the Thai government in fostering and promoting agricultural cooperative movement in Thailand.

Period: September 27 - October 31, 1987

No. of participants
attended: 5

Place of study
visit: Yamagata Prefecture

3) ICA/CUAC/IDACA Regional Seminar

This is one of the oldest seminars that IDACA has conducted since 1965 with a view to stepping up its ties with ICA ROA and its member cooperative organisations. It is conducted every year

under the different theme

Subject: Member Participation in Agricultural Cooperatives

Period: November 3-22, 1987

No. of participants attended: 17

Countries participated: Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand

Place of study visit: Shiga Prefecture

4) ICA Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia

This is the training course commissioned by ICA Regional Office in New Delhi as part II of ICA Training Project for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia supported by Japanese Government.

Period: February 22 - April 22, 1988

No. of participants attended: 15

Place of study visit: Ehime and Nagano Prefecture

5) Training Course for Leaders of Cooperative Agricola de Cotia Cooperative Central (CACCC) and of the Cooperative Central Agricola de Sul Brazil

This course has been conducted in accordance with the agreement between CUAC and CACCC and Sul Brazil.

Period: April 1 - 30, 1988

No. of participants attended: 7 (5 from CACCC and 2 from Sul Brazil)
Place of study visit: Hiroshima Prefecture

Other Activities

1) Reunion and Follow-up Seminar

Reunion and Follow-up Seminars was held in the Philippines from 21-31 January, 1988.

Meetings which were organised at various places in the country were attended by 72 ex-participants in total.

2) Publication of IDACA News

No. 43 and No. 44 of IDACA News were published.

II. Training Programmes and other activities planned for 1988-89

1) General Course in Agricultural Cooperatives

This is one of the government training course and IDACA is commissioned by JICA to conduct the course.

Period: May 16 - July 9, 1988

No. of participants: 18 mainly from Asian countries

Place of study visit: Aichi and Akita Prefectures

2) ICA/CUAC/IDACA Regional Seminar

Period : July 17 to August 6, 1988

No. of participants: 20 from member organisations of ICA

Participating countries (Tentative): Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand

Subject: Member Participation in Agricultural Cooperatives and its Methods

Place of study visit: Tochigi Prefecture

3) 15th RECA Seminar

This 15th RECA Seminar will be held in accordance with the agreement between Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO) and CUAC.

The theme is "Rural Agricultural Development and Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan".

Period: August 28 - September 10, 1988

No. of participants: 20

Place of study visit: Nagano Prefecture

4) Training Course for the Cooperators from Selected Countries

Period: September 26 - October 29, 1988

No. of participants: 13 (Indonesia 8, Bangladesh 5)

Place of study visit: Yamagata Prefecture

5) Training Course for Thai Counter-parts on the Agricultural Cooperative Development Project (not finalised yet by the Japanese Government)

Period: September 26 - October 29, 1988

No. of participants: 5

Place of study visit: Yamagata Prefecture

6) Training Programme for National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of Korea (NACF)

This is one of the training programmes in accordance with the agreement between NACF and CUAC. This year's theme is under consultation with NACF through its branch office in Tokyo.

Period: November 6 - 18, 1988

No. of participants: 10

Place of study visit: Not finalised yet

7) ICA Training Course for Strengthening Management in Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia

Period: February April 1989

Other details are yet to be decided.

8) Training Course for Leaders of Cooperative Agricola de Cotia Cooperative Central (CACCC) and Cooperativa Agricola de Cooperative Sul Brazil

Period : April, 1989

Other Activities

1) Reunion and Follow-up Programme

This programme is planned to be held in Indonesia in January 1989. Details are yet to be consulted with the Indonesian Cooperative Council.

2) Publication of IDACA News 45 and 46.

Agenda Item No. 9: Work Programme for the next three years
i.e. 1988-89 to 1990-91.

A three year Work Plan for the years covering 1988-89 to 1990-91 is enclosed. This Work Plan is based on the discussions with Donors from 8th to 15th December, 1987. Along with all the officers of the RO including the Trade Adviser, Cooptrade Project, others who participated in the discussion were :

1. Mr. C. Thorselius, Finance & Programme Officer, ICA
2. Mr. B. Adelstal, Incharge Asia Desk, SCC
3. Mr. M. Ohya, Executive Director, JCCU
4. Mr. G. Schuler, Chief, International Department, CUC

Mr. R. Mathimugan, Adviser, Cooperative Development & Training, from Australian Project Office, could not be invited due to budgetary constraints. /

The Plan will be consolidated by the HO of all the regions and will be sent to the donors for their final approval. The plan was considered by the Executive Sub-Committee and it observed as under:

"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 Republic 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 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."

The Council may peruse the programme which is sent under separate cover.

Agenda Item No. 10 : Budget Estimates of RO for 1988

During the visit of Mr. C. Thorselius, Finance and Programme Officer from Head Office to Delhi in December 1987, the administrative budget of ROA for 1988 had been prepared. It may be mentioned that with regard to the project budget the year being followed is 1st July to 30th June, while in case of ROA budget we are following the calendar year starting from 1st January to 31st December. A statement showing the major heads of budgeted income and expenditure for 1987 and 1988 is annexed.

As would be seen from the expenditure statement enclosed as annexe, in addition to establishment and travelling, provision has been made for repayment of loan to NCDC and interest to it for the advance obtained.

On the income side, the contributions from the ICA Hqs which is at the level of Sw.Fr.50,000 (INR 450,000) and SCC contribution of INR 500,000 has been at constant level which they have been contributing since 1985 onwards. Under the agreement with the Japanese Government on Strengthening of Cooperative Management, it has been agreed to provide Rs.325,000 for support by the RO. This has been kept at the constant level. In case of Member Organisations contribution, which is presently at the level of Rs.200,000, is proposed to be of the same level.

The other major source of income is projects support of Rs.900,000. This is based on the services rendered by ROA including accommodation in Bonow House used by the Projects which the projects would have to incur if they are located outside of Bonow House.

In addition, we have also utilised a part of the residential portion of the building for housing our SCC Expert who was earlier residing in a private house. This will also give us additional income of Rs.240,000 yearly.

Agenda Item No. 11: Donors Support to ICA

The Evaluation Team of ICA Development Programme 1985-88 in its report have recommended : "all donors to the ICA Development Programme realize and commit themselves to the central task of long-term institution-building within the Programme by undertaking to finance not only individual projects but also a corresponding part of ICA's overhead costs."

The Report further states : "...The RO, and ICA as a whole, should insist on the necessity of making the foreign donors finance the institution-building components of ICA. Project financing without a commitment support to the office's overhead costs should be discouraged."

In view of the above recommendations of the Evaluation Team, the matter was taken up with the Donors at the time of Planning Meeting in December 1987 to consider contributing 10 per cent of the project costs to the RO in lieu of the administrative support extended by the RO to the project activities.

In lieu of of this 10 per cent contribution, the RO will extend the following services :

1. Regional Director's consultations, including services of core staff for policy guidelines, backstopping and monitoring.
2. Maintenance of office complex and security services.
3. Planning and negotiations with Donors.
4. Quarterly audit.
5. Assistance in recruitment of personnel and servicing of Foreign Experts and their families for immigration formalities, visas, importation etc. as also servicing professional staff.
6. Cost of Receptionist and reception facilities.
7. Telex and Telephone facilities (Local Calls Free).
8. Use of office transport
9. Messengers service

The ExSubCo also considered the above proposal and recommended as under :

"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.12 : Project on "Role of Government in Promoting Cooperative Development in Asia"

In pursuance of the ICA Policy on Cooperative Development, the ROA has undertaken a three-year Project on "Role of Government in Promoting Cooperative Development Asia". The Project outline is annexed. The aim of the project is to create an environment that is conducive to genuine cooperative development. In the various countries of the Region governments play a very important role in the promotion and development of cooperative movements. Hence it is necessary that dialogues with the governments are initiated, based on careful studies, with the aim of ensuring that constraints to cooperative development are removed and policies which contribute to genuine cooperative development are formulated. Cooperative laws which provide a framework for cooperative development activities would deserve special attention.

The project will comprise three phases : (i) Country studies in the region in the field of government cooperative policies and cooperative legislation, (ii) organising a Regional Consultation followed by a Regional Conference of Cooperative Leaders and Ministers in the region, and (iii) holding national level workshops in the various countries and assisting the national cooperative organisations in dialogues with the governments.

The work carried out so far is follows :

(i) Country studies have been made through country consultants.

(ii) A Regional Consultation on "Role of Government in Promoting Cooperative Development in Asia" will be held from 4-7 June, 1988 immediately after the Regional Council Meeting in Singapore. The objectives of the Regional Consultation are as follows :

1. To discuss the role currently being played by governments in promoting cooperative development in the region with special reference to effectiveness in the following areas:
 - i. Cooperative Legislation
 - ii. Government policies vis-a-vis Cooperative Movement
 - iii. Technical, financial and other support provided by the government.
 - iv. Creation of facilitating environment for cooperative growth.

2. To make recommendations and suggest guidelines for a more positive and effective government role for promoting genuine sound and efficient cooperative development in the interest of the general membership.
3. To suggest the objectives, agenda and the methodology for the proposed Asian Cooperative Ministers' Conference in 1988-89; and
4. To suggest the follow-up action to be taken.

The participants to the Regional Consultation include Permanent Secretaries in charge of Department of Cooperation, Country Consultants, Chief Executives/Heads of International Cooperative Departments of member organisations and one senior Council Member from each country. In addition, the Consultation will also be attended by representatives of international organisations such as ILO, FAO.

The Regional Consultation will be followed by an Asian Conference of Ministers responsible for cooperative development and cooperative leaders of member countries in the region.

The Executive Sub-Committee felt that the project was a very important one and that comprehensive work on the project should be done. However, some members of the ESC expressed apprehension whether Ministers would be able to attend the meeting. The relevant extract of the ESC is reproduced below:

"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. 13: Progress regarding the 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 Japanese Movement (JCCU) has agreed to make available a loan equivalent to Rs.2 million to ICA for refund of NCDC's advance. This will be repaid out of the income from the projects with the consent of donor agencies in 8 years.

Agenda Item No. 14 Position regarding member subscription to
ICA and Regional Development Fund

A note will follow.

Agenda ItemNo. 15 "Hall of Honour" - Recommendations of the
Executive Sub-Committee

The names received from the member organisations for the "Hall of Honour" will be placed before the Executive Sub-Committee Meeting on 1st June, 1988 to be held in Singapore. The recommendations of the Executive Sub-Committee will be put up to the Regional Council for decision.

Agenda Item No. 16: Associating all ICA member organisations in the Region with the activities of Regional Council from countries having more than two members.

Article 34 of the Rules and Standing Orders of the ICA provide constitution of the Regional Council. The article 34 states:

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

As per the above article only two members are to be represented in the Regional Council from each country. At present the position of the membership from member countries is as under :-

Australia	:	1
Bangladesh	:	1
India	:	8
Indonesia	:	1
Japan	:	8
Korea, DPR	:	1
Korea, Rep of	:	3
Malaysia	:	8
Pakistan	:	1
Philippines	:	3
Singapore	:	2
Sri Lanka	:	3
Thailand	:	1

Total	:	43
		=====

From the above it would be seen that six countries have more than two national federations as members of the ICA. Thus in case of countries like Japan, Malaysia and India from where eight organisations each are members of the ICA, only two members can be represented and the other six members are not associated in the Regional Council, though all the member organisations can send representatives in the Central Committee meetings. Members from Pakistan and Philippines have particularly raised this issue. It may, therefore, be desirable to consider ways and means so that all the member organisations of the ICA are associated in

the Regional Council. One alternative could be to invite such members to send a nominee in the Regional Council as Associate Member/Observer who are not covered by the nomination received from the nodal cooperative. Another alternative could be that we may have another larger body in the name of Regional Members Conference in which all the members from the Region are invited to send two nominations for the meeting. The meeting of the Regional Members Conference could be held alternate years. The Executive Sub-committee considered the matter and the minutes on the subject are reproduced below:

"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 arrangement. 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.

The Council may consider the recommendations of the Executive Sub-Committee.

Agenda Item No. 17 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.

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. 18 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. 19 : Relations with International Organisations

Cordial and fruitful relations continued to exist between the ICA RO, the UN Specialised Agencies as well as the non-governmental organisations functioning in the region.

Agenda Item No. 20 : Election of Chairman/Vice-Chairman
& Members of the Executive Sub-Committee

In accordance with Article 34 of the Rules and Standing Orders, the members of the Council are requested to elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and not more than four members who will constitute an Executive Sub-Committee. They shall hold office for a Congress period.

Agenda Item No. 21 : Venue & Date of Next Meeting

At the last Council Meeting held in New Delhi in September 1987 the Member for Korea extended an invitation to the Council to hold its 31st Meeting in the Republic of Korea in 1989.

Agenda Item No.22 : Any other matter with the permission
of the Chair

Agenda Item No. 23 : Vote of Thanks to the Chair

Minutes



29 th Regional Council Meeting

New Delhi (India)
September 8-9, 1987



International Cooperative Alliance
Regional Office for South -East Asia
Bonow House
43, Friends Colony
New Delhi, India

TWENTY NINTH MEETING OF THE ICA
COUNCIL FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA HELD
IN NEW DELHI (INDIA) ON 8TH &
9TH SEPTEMBER, 1987

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session of the 29th Meeting of the ICA Council for South-East Asia was held at the premises of the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) in New Delhi on 8th September, 1987. The ceremonial meeting was chaired by Shri D.S. Bhuria, M.P., President, NCUI. Besides the members of the Council, the Associate Director of ICA and the Director of Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC), there was a select select gathering of cooperators from the Indian Cooperative Movement who attended the meeting. The Chief Guest was His Excellency Dr. G.S. Dhillon, Minister for Agriculture & Cooperatives.

Mr. Rai Singh in his welcome address said that the Indian Cooperatives, whether in the government or in the voluntary sector stand committed to the ICA. Under the leadership of Mr. Bhuria, the President of NCUI, who was a grass root worker, the Indian Cooperative Movement was making all concerted efforts to improve the managerial functioning of the cooperatives and this 29th Regional Council Meeting here would be a great asset to them. It was an excellent opportunity for all of them to exchange ideas and experience with each other.

Mr. V.P. Singh, Member, ICA Executive Committee, said that the ICA Regional Office should be renamed as ICA Regional Office for Asia. Under the new strategy for cooperative development of the ICA he felt that the impact of development oriented work was being felt by the movements. Member organisations specially the host country, India should support ICA RO in its hours of crisis. He was hopeful for a bright future under the dynamic leadership of Mr. G.K. Sharma, the new Regional Director.

Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director, ICA Regional Office, New Delhi, said : "India's contribution to the activities of the ICA was substantial...It is a matter of satisfaction that India is taking increasing interest in the ICA activities and within last three years this is the second time that India is playing host to the Regional Council....When we in the ICA Regional Office are at the cross roads, I would like to pay tribute to the Swedish Cooperative Movement and particularly their outstanding leader late Dr. M. Bonow. Right from the establishment of the Regional Office in 1960 the Swedish Cooperative Movement has provided

tremendous support to it..Another important source of steady support to our activities has been the Japanese Cooperative Movement. This support backed up by the Government of Japan has substantially increased since last year. The experience of the Japanese Movement is of special relevance to the Asian Movements and we do hope that the Japanese Movement will play a much bigger role in the years to come."(Annexure - 1).

Mr. Eddiwan, Vice Chairman, ICA Regional Council, said : "During its nearly 27 years of existence, the ICA RO has played a very important role in the promotion and development of cooperative movements in Asia. Thanks to the contribution made by the Regional Office, national cooperative organisations in a few countries which were not members of the ICA were established...The new orientation to ICA's policies and programmes has necessitated reorganisation and restructuring of the Regional Office. Reorganisation and restructuring is sometimes a painful process, but by now we have trimmed the RO and it has become fit enough instrument to carry out the new development programme." (Annexure-2).

Mr. Bjorn Genberg, Director, Swedish Cooperative Centre, Stockholm, addressing the meeting said : "Cooperative law is often not based on Cooperative Principles. Government policies for cooperative development have been changing very often. The government determines the policies and plans for cooperatives in development countries. There are a number of misunderstandings and misconceptions on cooperative development. Governments of the Asia region should help the development of cooperative movement by giving adequate physical and financial support but at the same time without unduly controlling the functioning of the cooperatives."(Annexure-3).

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Associate Director, ICA, lauded the support given by Sweden, India, Japan and Canada to the growth of the cooperative movement. He however, said that much remains to be done for the development of cooperatives and the Governments of the region should come out with more financial help.

Mr. D.S. Bhuria, M.P., President, NCUI, said that member organisations of the ICA would like to have equitable representation in the Regional Council and the Central Committee. In this context there was need for a review of the regulations of ICA and necessary amendments therein. In the establishment of the ICA too, the cooperative movements of developing countries should have adequate representations. He further added that the cooperative movement of the world should orient its policies towards establishing a society without exploitation. The ICA would have to redefine its role in changing situation where the poor had become poorer and the rich richer. Pointing out that the transfer of technology from developed countries had not been satisfactory, Mr. Bhuria said that the developing countries had

not received the desired help. (Annexure-4)

The Agriculture Minister, Dr. G.S. Dhillon, while inaugurating the Council said that the Government was considering remedial measures to accelerate the growth of the country's cooperative enterprises which were of "crucial importance in the larger interest of masses and the nation". The government was determined to give the cooperative movement the primacy which it deserved as it had become an essential tool in the government's programmes for poverty alleviation and accelerated agricultural growth. Referring to the development in the cooperative sector in India, the Minister said that the network of cooperative institutions comprised 315,000 cooperative societies of various types with a total membership of over 145 million. The cooperatives undertook activities like supply of production inputs, distribution of essential consumer goods, dairy development, fisheries, marketing of agricultural produce, housing, banking and production of sophisticated items like hi-technology, fertilisers and sugar.

He said that the cooperative movement in India grew from a small man's organisation doing small business into one doing big business.

Although the role of women in the cooperative movement was still rather insignificant, he said that in certain sectors like weavers' societies, urban cooperative credit and banking, as also in various types of activities in the hilly and tribal areas, women had come to play an increasing role.

At the same time, the Minister said, the movement faced a variety of problems relating to its organisation, operation and management, regional and sectoral imbalances and inadequacy of professionalism in their functioning. (Annexure-5)

Mr. Bansi Lal Mehta, Chairman, Krishak Bharati Cooperatives Ltd (KRIBHCO), proposed a vote of thanks.

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MINUTES OF THE 29TH MEETING OF
THE ICA COUNCIL FOR SOUTH-EAST
ASIA HELD IN NEW DELHI ON 8TH &
9TH SEPTEMBER, 1987.

The 29th Meeting of the ICA Regional Council for South-East Asia was held at the Board Room of the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) on 8th & 9th September, 1987 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Eddiwan, Regional Councillor for Indonesia.

The following were present :

1. Mr. Eddiwan, Chairman & Member for Indonesia
2. Mr. Quazi Abdus Salam, Member for Bangladesh
3. Mr. Md. Iqbal Hussain, Member for Bangladesh
4. Mr. D.S. Bhuria, Member for India
5. Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India
6. Mr. Yoshitada Nakaoka, Alternate Member for Japan
7. Mr. Masao Ohya, Member for Japan
8. Mr. Ki Won Suh, Member for Korea
9. Mr. Hj Sallehudin bin Abdul Ghani, Member for Malaysia
10. Mr. Riazudin Ahmed, Member for Pakistan
11. Gen. A.S. Lozada, Member for Philippines
12. Mr. Aloysius Teo, Member for Singapore
13. Mr. Kasim Abdullah, Member for Singapore
14. Mr. M.R.B. Daswatte, Member for Sri Lanka
15. Mr. Chern Bamrungwong, Alternate Member for Thailand
16. Mr. Teerawit Koonsap, Member for Thailand

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

ICA Hq. : Mr. Bruce Thordarson
Associate Director

SCC : Mr. Bjorn Genberg
Director

Special Invitee : Mr. Shiro Futagami
Managing Director, IDACA

ICA RO : Mr. J.M. Rana, Regional Development Officer
Mr. M.K. Puri, Adviser, Consumer Coop Development
Project
Mr. Sten Dahl, Coop Development Adviser
Mr. M.V. Madane, Project Director
Mr. R. Mathimugan, Special Adviser on Coop
Development & Training

Observers: Mr. V.P. Singh, India
Mr. H.R. Verma, India
Mr. S. Ohta, JCCU, Japan

In attendance : Mr. Prem Kumar, P. Assistant to Regional
Director, ICA RO

Agenda Item No. 1 : Election of Chairman

Mr. Eddiwan, Member from Indonesia, was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Regional Council upto the next Congress. With the elevation of Mr. Eddiwan to the office of Chairmanship, the position of Vice Chairman became vacant. Election of Vice Chairman and vacant posts on the ESC were postponed for next day to enable the members to have internal consultations.

Election of Vice Chairman

On 9th September forenoon, Gen Lozada was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman till the next Congress. The following persons were elected members of ESC against the vacancies :

1. Mr. D.S. Bhuria, India
2. Mr. M. Sakurai, Japan
3. Mr. Ki Won Suh, Korea

Agenda Item No. 2 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 28th Meeting

The minutes of the 28th Meeting of the ICA Regional Council held at IDACA, Tokyo (Japan) on 8th September, 1986 which had been circulated earlier, were confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 3 : Matters arising out of the Minutes

The information given in the agenda note was noted.

Gen A.S. Lozada, Member for Philippines, raised a point of clarification on the relationship between Cooptrade Project and the Special Adviser on Cooperative Development & Training. Are they supposed to report to the Regional Director or Regional Council or report directly to the SCC or ICA Director in Geneva.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Associate Director, ICA said that the SCC/ICA Cooptrade Project which is based in Kuala Lumpur reports directly to the Regional Director. It is a project of the RO.

With respect to the new post of Special Adviser on Cooperative Development & Training, it was clarified by Mr. Thordarson that this was also a position which reported directly to the Regional

Director. Mr. Mathimugan's job description consists of providing support to the other projects of the Regional office such as the Agricultural Training Project, Cooptrade Project, and the Development Coordination Unit. His role is to assist the existing projects of the RO under the responsibility of the Regional Director.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson added that in Malaysia we have the Trade Project and we can describe it as an ICA Office. The same terminology may be used for Australia. Both these offices and any such future offices or projects that may be opened will be within the framework of the ICA Regional Office for Asia and they will report to the Regional Director.

Agenda Item No. 4 : Letters and reports from non-attending members

The Secretary read out the telex messages received from All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Cooperatives, Beijing, China, and the Australian Association of Cooperatives Limited expressing their inability to participate and good wishes for fruitful deliberations.

Agenda Item No. 5 : Report by Regional Councillors on Recent Changes, Trends and Developments in their Cooperative Movements

Each Regional Councillor circulated a statement regarding recent changes, trends and developments of the cooperative movement in his country. Following are some of the more important developments :

Bangladesh

- The government has amended the provision in the Ordinance (1984 - Cooperative Societies Rule 1987) in respect of appointment of Chairman in the cooperatives from amongst the members. The new provision has been for direct election of Chairman and all other office bearers. One-third of the Directors are to be nominated by the Government where government assistance has been provided. The significant features of the new Rules are : (a) Division of area for election of Directors, (b) Appointment of Election Committee by the Managing Committee for conducting election and declaration of results thereof.
- Government recently announced that a National Cooperative Council would be constituted with representation from all segments and factions of cooperatives to suggest national policies on cooperatives.

India

- In February 1977 the Government of India had issued a policy statement on involvement of cooperatives in the development process. There has been no change after that.
- In 1986 the Hon'ble Prime Minister in his restructured 20 Point Programme mentioned as a first point revitalisation of cooperatives for the first time. Government of India attached importance to the cooperatives as an instrument of economic development.
- NCUI organised for the first time a National Convention on Involvement of Women in Cooperatives. A most interesting development in this regard was that an attempt has been made to set up a new All India Women Cooperative Development Society.
- A national level cooperative society for involvement of youth also is being organised.
- The Government of India under the request and initiative of the NCUI has set up a national level committee known as Central Committee for Professionalisation and Democratisation of the Cooperative Movement.
- Another important development has been the setting up of the National Cooperative Council i.e highest body for initiating the process of the consolidation of the cooperatives.
- Setting up of a Intercooperative Trade Cell in the NCUI.
- State Milk Cooperative Federations have now become members of the NCUI.
- Family welfare programmes to be the regular programmes of the cooperatives.
- Cooperative Movement has taken the task of social transformation
- Efforts to create self-reliance within the movement without depending on government assistance are under way. The Multi-Unit Cooperative Societies Act provides for contributions to the NCUI out of the net profits of cooperative organisations.
- The National Cooperative Council has improved the relations and dialogue with the government.

Indonesia

- There is increase in number of cooperatives and cooperative members.
- There are tremendous developments in our banks for cooperatives during the last two years.
- Student coops, youth coops and civil servants coops are building low cost housing for their members on a long term credit of 10-15 years from the bank.
- Tremendous decrease of state revenues from oil export has pressed the government to encourage export of non-oil products covering also products produced by cooperatives such as handicrafts, rubber, tea, coffee, pepper, fishery products such as shrimp and sea weeds.
- In January 1987 Law No. 1 has been issued whereby cooperatives, state enterprises and private undertakings gestured to organise themselves into a Chamber of Commerce & Industry under the auspices of government.
- Fishermen cooperatives still facing the crucial problem of marketing and catch in deep waters by means of mechanised fishing boats.

Japan

Agriculture

- Due to election of officials of agricultural cooperatives from the primary cooperatives to the national cooperatives more than half of the officials of the CUAC has changed.
- CUAC accepted 5.95% cut for producer's Rice Price following the acceptance to hold price of 1985 last year.
- Japan is the biggest buyer of agricultural products from the U.S.A. - pressures from foreign countries to open the market.
- Promotion of the amalgamation of primary agricultural cooperatives - since 1961 the number of amalgamation of primary agricultural cooperatives has been rapidly increasing.

Consumer

- Japanese economy has changed rapidly - a steady growth of consumer cooperative movement.

- Stress on getting new members. The individual membership is estimated to reach 11,135,000, nearly one million increase by the end of fiscal year 1986. In terms of business, the annual turnover of JCCU and affiliated coops is up by 9.3%. The market share is about 3.4%
- Going to change the concept of merchandising - more emphasis on freshness and quality of products.
- JCCU is going to launch a fund raising campaign among members of primary consumers cooperatives to assist promotion and development of consumers cooperative movements in Asia.

Korea

- In 1986, Korean economy achieved successful record in price stabilization, high economic growth and favourable balance of payments.
- The farm population in 1986 decreased to 8.18 million, lowered by 341,000 compared with that of 1985.
- The production in agricultural sector increased by 4.5% over 1985. However quite low compared with the whole economic growth of 12.5% in 1986-87.
- Increase in farm income by 3.4% over 1985. Agricultural income remained at same level as 1985, but non-agricultural income increased by 13.8% compared to previous year.
- Major focus of research activities carried out in 1986 were in the fields of (i) improvement of the marketing system and marketing business of member cooperatives, (ii) long term prospects of agricultural cooperative movement and of rural development projects, (iii) improvement of management of farm households - NACF hosted an International Seminar in 1986 on Farm Mechanisation under the co-sponsorship of FFTC/ASPAC.
- NACF constructed a new dormitory which belonged to Cooperative Junior College with provision of some VIP rooms. In November NACF will organise an international training course for foreign countries to share Korean Experience.

Malaysia

- Emphasis being given to the formation of following types of societies : (i) District Development Cooperatives. (ii) Cottage Industries Cooperatives, and (iii) Cooperatives among School Children.

- ANGKASA has embarked on a large scale members' education drive with a view to eradicating mismanagement in cooperatives.
- In November 1986 a White Paper on Deposit Taking Cooperatives was tabled in Parliament - all the 24 Deposit Taking Cooperatives ceased to take new deposits - changes made in Cooperative Law to limit cooperatives taking only deposits from their members for specific purposes but not fixed deposits.
- All cooperative banks are to be reorganised to effectively function with deposit taking powers under direct supervision of the Central Bank.

Pakistan

- Establishment of a new institution in 1976-77 - Federal Bank for Cooperatives - it is a Central Government Bank established to regulate cooperative banking and also to establish development projects. It is not a cooperative bank but a bank for cooperatives and established under a Special Law and the Governor of State Bank of Pakistan is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of this bank. Two major functions of this bank are : (i) to finance and regulate cooperative banking in Pakistan, and (ii) to promote cooperative development, to establish model projects to assist Federal Government and the Provincial Governments in the development and revitalisation of the cooperative movement.
- Introduction of interest free credit policy for small farmers since 1979-80.
- Appointment of an Expert Committee at the instance of the Federal Bank for Cooperatives to examine the working of the agricultural cooperatives and to suggest measures for the revitalisation of the cooperative movement. The committee has greatly emphasized the need to develop proper cooperative structure.
- The latest development is the proposal to review cooperative law with a view to amending and improving it. The legal framework for cooperatives is therefore under scrutiny with a view to making it more development-oriented.
- Agricultural Development Bank of Pakistan and the Commercial Banks have been directed by the government to distribute agricultural credit, production loans to the farmers.

Philippines

- Task Force on Cooperative Policy Development was formed.
- Holding of the First National Cooperative Congress on June 6-7, 1986.
- Enshrinement of cooperatives in the new Constitution.
- Non-partisan stand of CUP in the May 11, 1987 Congressional Elections - it enjoined its affiliates to become more selective in their choice of congressional candidates who by their platforms, acts or pronouncements, categorically state their support for cooperatives.
- The CUP collaborated actively in the National Multi-Sectoral Committee on Legislation to ensure that the provisions on cooperatives in the New Constitution are brought to the attention of the Congress and are properly recognised and implemented.
- A project has been approved for the establishment of a National Cooperative Directorate comprising all cooperatives.
- CUP bylaws amended on 26 July 1987 by the CUP to broaden the base of representation to the CUP as recommended by the ICA-FAO Study Mission in the Philippines in March 1987.
- Legislative amendment - inter-sectoral SCCP-CUP-BACOD for the dropping of the Cooperative Code in the CDA bill.
- Special Task Force on Coops (multi-sectoral) by Department of Cooperatives on Policy Development for Cooperative Data Bank survey of Coops starting on 19 September 1987.
- INCAS, in cooperation with CUP to publish a Material Cooperative Directory. It has increased from 19 to 143 CPAs accredited in 1986.
- Construction of the CUP's Philippine Centre for Cooperative Development (PCCP) building about to be completed. Inauguration is slated in October 1987.

Singapore

- Conduct of a feasibility study on the formation of League for Credit Cooperatives in order to assist societies in the investment of surplus funds in inter-lending between coops and help them further in computerising financial and other related data more effectively and efficiently.

- Organisation of a Seminar by SNCF on "Coops into the 1990's" from 8-10 May 1987 attended by 80 leaders representing 35 affiliates.

Sri Lanka

- Two Workshops held to review the present Policies and the Structure of the Cooperative Movement in Sri Lanka. One Workshop was organised by NCC in collaboration with the Department of Cooperative Development and the Norwegian Cooperative Movement on the subject of Training Policy and Strategies held in 1986. The other Workshop was held in 1987 on the subject of Cooperative Policy, Planning and Structure sponsored by SCC in collaboration with the NCC and the Department of Cooperative Development.
- Organisation of a Cooperative Trade Fair from 4-11 July 1987 in Colombo with the object of creating a better image and strengthening cooperative trade relations among cooperatives within the country and outside the country.

Thailand

- Increase in membership, financial situation and business activities of cooperatives has been going on at normal rate especially for the non-agricultural cooperatives the rate of increase stood in membership and equity of the business operations of the non-agricultural cooperatives at the decreasing rate.
- New forms of cooperatives being organised in agricultural sector in support of the government policies in the Thailand's Sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan (1987-1991).
- Amendment of the present Cooperative Law (1986) in order to establish a Cooperative Development Council, a sort of government agency to function as a policy makers and coordination body among government authorities concerned.
- Mini-bus Operators Coops for minibus owners serving the people between the districts and provinces throughout the country - operating quite satisfactorily.
- Establishment of Dairy Farmers Cooperatives at a increasing rate.
- Linkage of credit and marketing and also purchasing activities of agricultural cooperatives are stepped up in operations, although there are some obstacles in insufficiency of funds to support their activities.

- Establishment of a cooperative insurance company - it is under the final decision of the Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperatives.
- CLT responsible for the training of cooperative personnel of non-agricultural cooperatives, and for agricultural cooperative management, it is under the responsibility of the National Agricultural Cooperative Training Institute (NACTI), which is now under the process of merger so as to make agricultural management training more effective.
- Exhibitions and fairs have been held from time to time.

Agenda Item No. 6 : Reports on the activities of the Specialised Sub-Committees

The Secretary informed the meeting that the following Specialised Sub-Committees had been functioning under the following sectors:

- a) Agriculture
- b) Consumer
- c) Fisheries
- d) Cooperative Credit & Banking
- e) Trade & Industry

The Chairman requested the Secretaries of the various Sub-Committees to briefly present their reports.

ICA Sub-Committee for Agriculture

On behalf of the Agriculture Sub-Committee, Gen Lozada, Chairman and Mr. J.M. Rana, Secretary, briefly highlighted the activities of the Sub-Committee. Mr. Rana stated that the priorities suggested by the Committee will help in formulating the next three year plan for the Agricultural Cooperative Project.

The Chairman mentioned that the Study Missions on Perspective Planning and Project Identification for Agricultural Cooperatives undertaken in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines had immensely improved the image of the Cooperative Movements in the Region as well as of the ICA. He recommended that ICA should undertake similar missions in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh as planned. He expressed high appreciation of the work done by ICA/FAO Mission in the Philippines and the Mission members viz. Mess's J.M. Rana, Sten Dahl, Olcott Gunasekara and M. Matsuhira.

He commended the ICA/Japan Training Project for Strengthening Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia supported by the Japanese Government. He thanked the Government of Japan, CUAC/IDACA, and the Movements of India, Thailand, Korea and Japan for their support to this project.

He also mentioned about the importance of the Cooperative Data Bank and said that this project will have to get out of the planning stage as early as possible. This will boost the image of the ICA and the SCC in particular.

The Council commended the work done by the Study Mission in the Philippines.

ICA Sub-Committee on Consumer Cooperative for SE Asia

On behalf of the Consumer Sub-Committee, Mr. M.K. Puri, the Secretary, briefly reported on the meeting of the Sub-Committee held in Manila on 17-18 June 1986 under the chairmanship of Mr. K. Katsube of Japan. He informed the meeting of the resignation of Mr. Katsube from his position of Vice President of JCCU and that he also wished to tender his resignation from the office of the Chairman of the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee requested Mr. Katsube to continue to hold the office till the new Chairman is elected. The Sub-Committee decided that the election of the Chairman may be conducted through mail.

Gen Lozada, Member for the Philippines, appreciated the Study Mission Report of Mr. M.K. Puri undertaken by him in the Philippines.

ICA Sub-Committee for Fisheries for SE Asia

The Secretary, Mr. J.M. Rana, briefly mentioned about the 15th meeting of the Sub-Committee held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 3-4 March, 1987. Mr. Rana mentioned the difficulties of some movements to finance their participation costs. The meeting could be held because of the assistance provided by the SCC to three movements. The Fisheries Sub-Committee was grateful to SCC for this most needed help.

As regards the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that it should function as the Sub-Committee of the ICA Main Fisheries Committee, the Council briefly discussed this question as well as the views expressed by the Executive Sub-Committee.

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India, was of the view that it should be given operational freedom to contact with other Sub-Committees, but that it must report to the Regional Council.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, ICA, said that the decision of the Executive Sub-Committee was a good one. However, the Rules of the ICA say that "the Regional Council shall set up such Sub-Committees as desirable with the intention that the Sub-Committees should operate under the general guidance of the Regional Council". However, they can have close linkages with the other Committees of the ICA.

Mr. Aloysius Teo, Member for Singapore, said that it should come under the ICA Regional Council.

The Regional Council endorsed the views of the Executive Sub-Committee that the Sub-Committee on Fisheries would be the Specialised Sub-Committee of the Regional Council and that it should develop close working relationship with the ICA main Fisheries Committee.

ICA Sub-Committee for Cooperative Credit & Banking for SE Asia

Mr. J.M. Rana, the Secretary, gave the gist of the first meeting of the Sub-Committee held in the Philippines on 1-2 April, 1987 under the Chairmanship of Mr. M.M. Vyas of India.

The Council considered the decision of the Sub-Committee and the views expressed by the Executive Sub-Committee about change in the title of the Sub-Committee. In this regard, the Council did unanimously endorse the decision of the Sub-Committee to change the name of the Sub-Committee to "ICA Sub-Committee for Asia on Cooperative Finance".

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India, suggested that the Sub-Committee should study the deployment of surplus funds by cooperative banks.

ICA Sub-Committee for Trade & Industry

Mr. Rana presented the summary of matters discussed at the meetings of the Sub-Committee held in Bali, Indonesia, on 23rd October 1986 and in Penang, Malaysia, on 6-7 April, 1987.

Mr. Rana informed that there was a great deal of resistance of having trade on the part of advanced cooperative movements. They are reluctant to purchase goods which the cooperative movements from the region want to export. This is the problem which has been brought out in the Evaluation Report on the project. He felt that unless decisions at the level of Board of Directors of national wholesale organisations/purchasing organisations in the advanced cooperative movements are taken. We would not make much progress. He suggested that the ICA Hq would take up this matter with the Policy Makers in various advanced movements.

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India, mentioned about the establishment of an Intercooperative Trade Cell in the NCUI and said that NCUI should also be associated with this Sub-Committee.

Mr. Md. Iqbal Hussain, Member for Bangladesh, wanted to have a copy of the Evaluation Report on the Project.

It was decided that a copy of the Evaluation Report should be supplied to all member movements in the Region.

Agenda Item No. 7: Report on RO Activities 1986-87

The activities undertaken by the RO through its six projects as given in the Agenda Notes during the year was noted by the Council.

The Secretary mentioned about the retrenchment of the 8 staff of the RO last year and wished to place on record his appreciation of their services. He said that the core staff of RO now consists of 8 people. The rest are project staff. There have been some changes and additions in the project staff.

Mr. Mathimugan has joined the ICA as Special Adviser on Cooperative Development & Training based in Australia. In the Cooptrade Project, Mr. Ulf Bergstrom has been replaced by Mr. Bruce Gunn. Unfortunately he was not able to attend this meeting as he was to represent the ICA at the FAO Consultation in Bangkok.

Dr. D. Vir who had resigned from the services of the RO has been replaced by Mr. W.U. Herath of Sri Lanka. He will be joining shortly.

The Secretary informed the meeting that the library which was an important part of ICA has been saved temporarily. SCC had agreed to retain the services of the librarian on an adhoc basis.

Coming to the activities, the Secretary said that according to the ICA Cooperative Development Programme approved by the ICA authorities, the ICA was expected to play a catalytic and facilitator role and not the role of implementor of programmes. This implied that ICA RO would engage itself in policy dialogues with member organisations and governments to create favourable atmosphere, assist member organisations in identifying their needs and priorities and draw perspective planning programmes. He said that broadly the activities of RO could be classified under three categories : (a) Servicing of the Regional Council and various Specialised Sub-Committees, (b) identifying the needs and trends of the region and providing support and leadership with the help and guidance of the Regional Council and various Sub-Committees within the limited resources, and (c) Back-stopping the various project activities with a view to making them relevant to the needs of the movement.

He said the major activities of RO were carried through the six projects which are being implemented through RO.

Gen A.S. Lozada, Member for Philippines, said that setting up of the Development Coordination Unit had been the most pragmatic thing that has been done by the ICA and the movements in recent years.

He added that ICA's role should also be as a guide, as a teacher, as humaniser, and innovator. DCU should come out in evolving some sort of practical approach on linkages between the business and non-business component of the cooperative movement. We should adopt a most viable policy and approach by which we can balance the business and non-business components of the movement.

Mr. M.V. Madane, Project Director, ICA/Japan Training Project, informed the Council that the next Training Course would start from 26th October 1987 and end on 8th May 1988 and that it had already been approved by the Japanese Government. He said that the same pattern would be followed as in the first course with small modifications.

Last year RO's activities have been strengthened to a very great extent by the direct financial contribution from this project as well as indirect contribution in terms of material, office equipment which has been brought in by this project.

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India, said that local cooperative movement should be more actively involved in the organisation of this course. He suggested that the participants of this course should stay at the NCUI hostel and that NCUI would be willing to upgrade the facilities. He also added that as far as programmes undertaken in India by Consumer Cooperative Development Project that NCUI should be more actively involved.

Mr. Sten Dahl, the Cooperative Development Adviser (CDA), RO, described briefly the activities during the period since the last Regional Council Meeting in September 1986 and up-to-date. He pointed out that the CDA has developed a special 4-week training programme for "Improvement of the Capability of the National Cooperative Organisation in Project Identification and Planning". This training programme had already been carried out successfully in Indonesia and Thailand. Preparation for the same type of training is presently being done together with the Cooperative Union of the Philippines. Member organisations in Malaysia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have also requested the DCU for the same type of training in their respective countries.

FAO and ILO as well as a number of NGOs such as the Fredrich-Ebert-Stiftung have shown great interest in the programme. FAO and ILO provided support both in terms of funds and manpower, to the training in Indonesia and Thailand.

Another major task of the DCU has been to assist member organisations in identifying new development projects. Consequently, a number of project proposals have been finalised and some of them also funded. A number of other project proposals from various countries are being screened by the DCU. The findings of the ICA/FAO perspective planning mission in the Philippines were discussed with the study team from the U.S. who

in principle accepted the views of ICA and agreed to integrate them in their report.

In Thailand, the DCU together with the Cooperative League of Thailand have agreed that a study will be carried out on the specific Cooperative Savings Scheme which has been launched in Songkhla in Southern Thailand.

A consultancy study on the feasibility of establishing a Computerised Accounting Service under the Cooperative League of Thailand has been carried out.

The CDA assisted ILO/MATCOM as a consultant and conducted a three-week seminar on the ILO/MATCOM Manual on Rural Credit and Savings in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Mr. R. Mathimugan briefly described that his role had been to develop the activities of the ICA in the Pacific Region. There was a need for bringing the Australian and New Zealand Movements in the mainstream of the activities of RO as Australia and New Zealand are very close to the Asian Region. He said that his basic objective was to tap developmental potential of these two countries for the benefit of the developing countries in Asia and in the Pacific.

The Council suggested that experts in the field of Agricultural and Fishery Cooperatives be added to the RO in order to service the Sub-Committees in these fields and also further develop the Agriculture and Fishery Cooperative Projects.

Sale of Bonow House

The Secretary briefly gave an account on the sale of Bonow House. It was decided in the past to dispose of the building and most of the formalities in this regard had been completed. However, on second thought it was being examined if it would be possible to save this building. The building has been sold to NCDC at INR 20.1 million. The sale proceed is subject to capital gains tax at the rate of 65% after allowing certain permissible deductions. Further, as the income will be to ICA Domus in whose name the building stands it would be subject to a gift tax at the rate of 30% for passing on the sale proceed to ICA. Thus, ICA will finally be getting only around INR 7.6 million. As per the advice of the tax consultants if this amount can be invested in government security it will give an annual interest return of Rs.760,000 at 10% interest rate. The income will be income tax free. If this permission is not given by the Reserve Bank of India the income will be subject to a tax of 50% leaving a balance of INR.3.82 million only.

The Secretary explained that to reconsider the sale of Bonow House, the following points have to be kept in view:

1. We have already made sale agreement with the NCDC which is a government corporation and they will have to be persuaded not to insist for sale.

2. We will have to refund Rs. 2 million to NCDC which we have taken as an advance from NCDC against sale agreement and utilised for payment of compensation to redundant staff.

3. Will there be any difficulty in continuing in the premises - which are in a residential area?

4. Can the building be rented out if at some stage we do not need the space partially or fully?

As regards first point of persuading the NCDC, if we can convince the Government of India and the NCDC that retention of the Bonow House by ICA is in the interest of the Cooperative Movement in general and for the Indian Cooperative Movement in particular, they would be willing to reconsider the issue.

To find Rs. 2 million to pay NCDC, the possibilities are:

a) We may persuade some donor to provide us Rs.2 million as an assistance/medium term loan.

b) Alternatively, we may borrow INR 2 million from a cooperative or commercial bank/institution to be repaid in 5-7 years. This can be repaid from out of the provision we will have to make for payment of rent for the hired premises.

c) Member organisations and host movement be approached to contribute financially.

So far the renting of the building is concerned, it can be rented out to an Embassy/Foreign Mission who are greatly in need of such buildings and we can get fairly good rental return.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, ICA, said : "The problem was that last year we needed money for the survival of the office. About 2-4 million to pay to redundant staff and we still needed one million rupee a year for administrative costs to continue the office. Our administrative budget for the office is approximately Rs.1.6 million. We received from the SCC, from Japan and from ICA Hqs. approximately Rs.760,000 per year to cover administrative costs. Therefore we are left with the need to find Rs.800,000 each year. This is likely to increase because of inflation. Last year, there was no other source of money which led to the decision of the Executive Committee to sell the building. Since then the only change is the arrival of Mr. G.K. Sharma, the new Regional Director, and his determination that there should be another way of finding that money. It is the

Central committee which has the authority to save the building.

We would have to go back to the ICA Central Committee this year and ask them to change their decision. Therefore there is considerable time pressure upon us and Mr. Sharma would have to come up with an alternative and it has to be a firm proposition so that we can explain to the Executive Committee why we are asking them to change the decision. Basically, the situation is can he in some way find INR 2 million to cover the redundancies plus another one million rupee to cover additional administrative costs. If he can do that I would be in a comfortable position to go to our Executive Committee to say that we have a better proposal. It has to be a firm indication before we can do that."

Gen. A.S. Lozada, Member for Philippines, said : "The building can be rented out. We can have some return income. My personal view is that RD should come out with a very valid and solid suggestions in the light of the current changes. I agree with Mr. Thordarson that we must have an alternative position. I recall that in 1985 the Indian Movement came up with some solid support...The building has some historical significance to the Indian people. I would like to hold on to the property. This Council should pass a resolution requesting the Central Committee not to sell the property. We recommend that we make it a definite stand that we should not sell Bonow House and request the Central Committee to reconsider its decision in this regard."

The Secretary said: "We shall try our best to save the building. I don't have a different opinion. If we do not sell the building, it could be economically viable and we can fulfill the expectations of the HO."

Mr. Bruce Thordarson : "Another element which is important is that when the Central Committee approved the new development strategy last year they also approved the new funding formula for all the ROs and they said basically costs of the physical facilities where the ROs are based should be covered by the host movement. In the case of West Africa the government of Ivory Coast provides rent and even accommodation costs of the ICA staff. In the case of East Africa, the Cooperative Movement of Tanzania provides free rent plus accommodation to the ICA staff. Therefore frankly this region is lagging behind from the other two regions. Contributions should come from the host country for the physical facilities and for operating costs of the office. The two offices in Africa are receiving far more support from their member organisations for the maintenance of the office. It has to be found in the region and to indicate to what extent the members in the region could contribute towards this.

Mr. Sten Dahl, ICA RO, "The value of the building if it is kept will be double in the next 5-7 years. Apart from losing the money by selling the building and using it for the operating

expenditure, you are losing the building and losing the money also. Cost of running the building is only about Rs.60,000 because wherever we move we will have to pay for electricity, water and other facilities, on top of the rent."

Gen Lozada, Member for Philippines : "I think the ball is in the court of the Indian Movement."

The Secretary : "We will be losing a very good property for a very small return".

Mr. Riazuddin Ahmed, Member for Pakistan : "I support the idea not to sell the building. We should talk to the Indian Movement and try to find a way out. It is a big privilege for the Indian Movement to have this centre in Delhi. Therefore it is desirable for them to have it."

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India : "From the very beginning the Indian Movement was not in favour of sale. As a matter of fact, when we were asked if this valuable building could be retained with the ICA, we said that would be very welcome and as far as the Indian Movement is concerned they were prepared to extend all possible help in this direction. There is a solid proof of that. We raised our membership subscription from roughly USD 6,000. to USD 40,000. As far as the deficit was concerned, we discussed this matter and we were prepared that as far as India is concerned we will also contribute. We cannot contribute the whole amount. After all it is a Regional Office for the whole region...At the Central Committee Meeting in Washington I opposed their decision. A decision was taken and then there was a suggestion that we should provide additional help. We offered a portion in the NCUI building for housing the ICA RO on a very subsidised rent. NCUI is not a commercial body. ICA RO was to move in July 1987. We have already spent Rupees 4-5 lacs on renovation. Since Mr. G.K. Sharma took over as RD, effort is being made to find alternative sources of funding. This matter was even discussed with the national leadership a few days back. We still feel that somehow this building should be retained. We would extend all possible help. However, this would have to be found out from the entire cooperative movement of the region. Definitely the Indian Cooperative Movement would extend all possible help to RO. Mr. Sharma is working on the proposal. He is trying to find support from other national movements and other sources within this country".

Mr. Riazuddin Ahmed, Member for Pakistan : "What about the government. We should approach the Government of India to help. After all the money is not very much."

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India, : "This matter was discussed at the highest level. Perhaps something would be possible, but they cannot make any commitment, but something could be found out."

Gen Lozada : "We should retain the Bonow House. We should not sell the building. This is a symbol of our unity. The Regional Director should explore the possibilities within the stipulated time frame."

Gen Lozada : "We should make representation to the Central Committee for not selling this property and request RO to make necessary negotiations and make a report to us accordingly."

Mr. Rai Singh, India : "As things stand today, the decision is to sell the building and the next Central Committee Meeting is going to be held in October 1987 in Budapest. I think this Regional Council should authorize the Regional Director to examine the possibilities whether this building could be retained and if solid grounds are found for reversal of the decision, they would be put up to the Competent Authority."

Mr. Quazi Abdus Salam, Bangladesh : "We authorize the Regional Director to find out the ways to retain the ownership of the building".

The Council then adopted the following resolution :

"The Regional Council recommends that selling of Bonow House should be reconsidered sympathetically and alternative should be explored for not selling the building".

Agenda Item No. 8 : Report on IDACA Activities

The information given in the Agenda Notes was noted by the Council. Mr. Shiro Futagami, the new Managing Director of IDACA, presented the report on the activities of IDACA between June 1986 and May 1987.

In regard to the Training Course for the Cooperators from Selected Countries to be held from 27 September to 31st October 1987, Mr. Futagami requested the Regional Councillors from India and the Philippines to select the participants as early as possible and forward the nominations to him.

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India, said that the NCUI had already selected five candidates. The proposal had been sent to the Government of India for clearance. He hoped that the Government of India would be clearing the names soon.

He also mentioned that last year he had raised the question that instead of a one month programme if IDACA could organise a ten day programme for a small group of cooperators as well as

Ministers of Cooperation, Registrars of Cooperative Societies and Secretaries in charge of Cooperation, within the same budget, that would be helpful. The Indian Movement would be willing to take care of the airfare costs. IDACA would only have to make local arrangements.

Mr. Futagami replied that budget for this course is subsidised by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture has been giving subsidy for the last 10 years. Now the Ministry of Finance had raised the question as to how long this course would be continued. The Ministry of Agriculture is considering to change the budget for this course. At the moment, it would be very difficult to organise such a course.

Mr. Riazuddin Ahmed, Member for Pakistan, supported the proposal of Mr. Rai Singh for giving an exposure to the Cooperative Movement of Japan to the people at the very senior level in their governments. "In the region, we agree that the Japanese Agricultural Cooperative Movement is very well developed and logically structured. The movements in the region have to depend on government attitude, government policies for cooperative development and it is important that these policy makers should be educated in cooperatives. Therefore, a short course of about 10 days or 2 weeks attended by policy makers including study visits to cooperative areas would be very helpful in giving right orientation to the policy makers in our countries. I would therefore support the proposal of India for a 10 days course for senior government officials including senior cooperative leaders".

Gen Lozada, Member for Philippines : "I support the idea. It is an integrated approach. If we send senior government officials, we should also include counterparts in the cooperative movement. I hope IDACA/CUAC would come out with such a course".

In order to economise the budget of the Training Course for cooperators from selected countries, Mr. Futagami suggested that the movements of India and Philippines should buy air tickets for the selected participants in their country and later on send the invoice to IDACA for reimbursement, as peas sent from Japan are very costly. It is almost double the airfare.

Gen Lozada felt that it would be difficult to pay for the cost of airfare of the participants from the Philippines. Mr. Futagami then suggested that if Gen Lozada could send in advance an estimate of the airfare, it would be possible for IDACA to transfer that much amount to CUP.

As regards the Training Course for Thai on Agricultural Development Project to be held from September 27 to October 31, 1987 at IDACA, Mr. Futagami said that from this year onwards IDACA would pay a pocket allowance to participants at the rate of

Yen 2,000 per day.

Mr. Futagami said that CUAC/IDACA would be prepared to organise a joint Regional Seminar in collaboration with the ICA RO in 1988 as well. The Regional Councillors were requested to identify priority areas for the 1988 seminar so that CUAC/IDACA can discuss more specific subject with RO. The 1987 ICA/CUAC/IDACA Regional Seminar will be held at IDACA from November 3-22, 1987.

Mr. Futagami mentioned about the holding of the 2nd Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in SE Asia which is scheduled to commence on 26 October 1987 and end by May 8, 1988. As in the case of first training course, 15 participants would be selected for this course. The second part of the course would be held at IDACA from February 22 to April 22, 1988.

The meeting was also informed that the next IDACA Reunion and Follow-up programme would be held in the Philippines in January 1988.

Agenda Item No. 9 : Regional Development Fund & Members Contributions

The Secretary informed the meeting that this was an important issue. The views expressed by the Executive Sub-Committee in this regard were placed before the Council for consideration. The Secretary said that the RO covers 14 countries which have a total of 43 member organisations. He asked the Council whether the contributions should be on country basis or member basis.

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India, said that the Regional Development Fund should be more important. If we could strengthen the development fund of the ICA RO that would be much more important.

Mr. Riazuddin Ahmed, Member for Pakistan suggested that each affiliated body of RO should contribute to RO.

Mr. Mathimugan said that the national cooperative organisations do not have the financial strength to make contribution whereas the affiliated organisations of the ICA within the national movement are business organisations and some of them may not be participating actively in the NCOs activities. It may be difficult to ask each of the affiliated organisation to contribute. ICA should ask each of the affiliated members of the ICA to contribute to the activities in the region.

Mr. Nakaoka, alternative Member for Japan said that the collection of money for contribution to the RO should depend on the country itself.

The Secretary said that if the members of the Council agree, then the secretariat would come out with a formula. The Chairman asked the secretariat to get in contact with the member organisations in this regard.

Agenda Item No. 10 : Cooperative Data Bank

Mr. J.M. Rana said : Various Sub-Committees have emphasized the need for cooperative data banks. This particular matter was considered by the Regional Council meeting held in Tokyo in 1986. This matter was further discussed by the Executive Sub-Committee at its meeting held in Manila in June 1987. Both the RC and the Executive Sub-Committee stated that the main responsibility must be borne by the NCOs. It is only then that a Cooperative Data Bank at the regional level can be built up. There are associated questions such as (a) Collection of what kind of data, (b) basic data should be collected. Also performance and development indicators should be worked out, (c) use of the data for purposes of planning, monitoring, and evaluation, (d) requirement of infrastructure including the computers which can help us to update the data. On the basis of the recommendations made by both these bodies we have included an experimental project for India to build up such a data bank in collaboration with the NCUI. At the same time, we also feel that steps to build up data bank in other countries should also be continued and we feel that there should be a regional consultation of both users and experts which could be held to identify the basic statistics as well as performance and development indicators which are required for planning and monitoring purposes.

The Hq. is also planning to formulate a Project for Data Banks possibly with World Bank assistance. Mr. Rana drew attention to the Memo of Mr. Bruce Thordarson on the subject which was also part of the Agenda Note.

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India, : "I must congratulate ICA on this very good foresight. But my only doubt is about the personal computer. National cooperative movement of a country will require lot of information. Perhaps personal computer may not be sufficient. In future there is going to be an expansion. Therefore cooperative data bank should be started with mini computers".

Gen Lozada, Member for Philippines : It is a matter of really monitoring at what stage of development is in every country or movement. There is one practical aspect that is technical one. I hope the ICA RO would get some technical advice from the people who are setting up the data banks because you will be asked by the member movements on the technical aspects of the matter".

Agenda Item No. 11 : Change of Nomenclature of the Regional Office

There was a proposal to change the nomenclature of the ICA RO. The Secretary informed that once the Regional Council takes a decision on the change of nomenclature of the RO, the matter will be referred to the HO/Executive Committee.

The Council was of the unanimous opinion that the ICA RO should be termed ICA Regional Office for Asia.

Agenda Item No. 12 : "Hall of Honor"

Mr. J.M. Rana presented salient points of the note on the subject in which criteria for selecting eminent cooperators for award had been indicated:

Mr. Mathimugan suggested that there should also be an award for regional services which should cover officers from the RO.

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India, said that we should have a provision for an award to the RO staff who had done good work and for the general overall performance/contributions to the cooperative movements in the region. We should delete point 4 (iv) from the guidelines.

Mr. Riazuddin Ahmed, Member for Pakistan, said that we should delete points 4 (iv) as well as 4 (v) from the guidelines. Member organisations should put up the best candidate and there should be one nomination and not two from each country.

Gen Lozada, Member for Philippines, said that we should retain (v). I do not know if this could be done easily. He asked the question whether Hall of Honor meant giving a certificate or scroll or a bronze plaque.

It was expressed that it should be a scroll or a certificate with no money.

Mr. M.V. Madane, ICA RO, said : "Award is not an incentive award. It is a recognition for the services rendered to a cause. Recognition comes from the people outside that personality. He does not prove his contribution. This is proving his contribution. There are several organisations in the world giving awards and there are standard practices of recognising one's services to a cause. I suggest that we view the award procedures and fix up norms. Contributions made to the cause of cooperative philosophy, cooperative thought in the development of thought".

The Regional Council approved the guidelines with the deletion of points 4 (iv) and 4 (v). The Regional Director was asked to implement it.

Agenda Item No. 13 : Relations with International Organisations

The information given in the Agenda Notes was noted by the Council.

Agenda Item No. 14 : Venue & Date of the next Meeting

The Secretary informed the meeting that we had an invitation earlier from Singapore which we could not utilise last year.

Two venues were proposed for the Council Meeting in 1988. The members for Singapore and the Philippines extended an invitation to the Council to hold its 30th Meeting in their countries subject to the approval by their Board of Directors. The Council decided that the next meeting be held in Singapore subject to the convenience of the Singapore Movement.

The Member for Korea extended an invitation to the Council to hold its 31st Meeting in the Republic of Korea in 1989.

The Member for India extended a standing invitation to the Council to hold its meeting in India again.

The Council deliberated at length on the timing of the Regional Council Meeting. It was agreed that the meetings of the Council should be held in end February or beginning of March every year.

Agenda Item No. 15 : Any other matter with the permission of the Chair

1. Consideration of Articles relating to the membership in the Constitution of the Specialised Sub-Committees

A note on the subject was circulated at the meeting.

Gen Lozada, Member for Philippines, said that we should not encourage a non-member in participating in the meetings.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson : "It would be desirable to enable representatives of cooperative organisations which are not direct member of ICA to participate in the work of the Sub-Committees".

Gen Lozada, Member for Philippines, said that such representatives may be invited provided they accept the objects and obligations of the concerned Sub-Committee.

Mr. M. Ohya, Member for Japan, suggested the following amendment:

"Each member organisation of the ICA would be entitled to nominate upto two persons."

The Council adopted the following amendments to the articles on membership in the constitutions of the Sub-Committees:"

Each member organisation of the ICA would be entitled to nominate two persons to the specialised Sub-Committee provided it accepts the objects and obligations of the Sub-Committee.

Non-member of the ICA may become member of a specialised Sub-Committee provided it accepts the objects of the ICA and the Sub-Committee."

Concluding Remarks

Mr B. Genberg, Director, SCC said : "This meeting of the Regional Council has been very valuable to me in that I listened to the deliberations, and had the opportunity to meet the leadership of the cooperative movements in Asia. I hope it would be possible for me to continue to keep closer contact with the members."

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, ICA, said : "I think it is nice to be at a meeting talking about the programmes, how to improve the work of the RO, provide more information to the RC that would help it to do its job better. He was happy that members of the RC have expressed a desire to take more responsibility in the operation of this office. I think the format and content of the next RC meeting will be quite different from this year."

Gen Lozada, Philippines : "In order to involve the members from China and North Korea in the activities of the RO, the RO should explore the possibility of a visit by RD to these countries".

"I would like to present an omnibus motion to express our thanks and gratitude to the following : the Indian Cooperative Movement for the kind hospitality and excellent receptions given to the members, welcome the new RD...We should also express our gratitude to Mr. Mathimugan for giving innovative ideas to the Council during his incumbency, i.e. decentralisation in the decision making and planning, creation of a revolving development fund, hall of honour etc.

We would like to express appreciation for the presence of Mr. Bruce Thordarson and Mr. Bjorn Genberg. We are most happy about their impressions, their open mind on Asians.

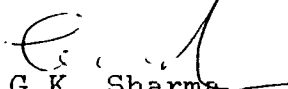
I would like to commend the DCU - Mess's J.M. Rana and Sten Dahl for their excellent performance of their duties. He also complimented the work of Mr. M.K. Puri, Adviser, Consumer

Cooperative Project, for his work in the region.

Mr. Salehuddin, Member for Malaysia, seconded the motion.

Mr. Rai Singh, Member for India : "It is our sacred duty to thank all. Presence of Honourable Minister at the inaugural session was an evidence that there is commitment and regard for the ICA at the highest level. The Minister said to me that as far as India was concerned, they will stand by the side of the ICA. As far as RO and the Regional Director are concerned, they are our own people and we will definitely help them - whether there is a crisis or no crisis. I can assure you that with your active support from other cooperative movements in the region, this region should be able to show an ideal example to other regions. Due to the short time available at our disposal there might have been some shortcomings and failures on the part of the Indian Cooperative Movement to make suitable and comfortable arrangements, and I, as Chief Executive of the NCUI own responsibility for those failures..I want to once again invite the RC to have its next meeting in India whenever the Council is pleased to have the meeting...Since the arrival of Mr. Bruce Thordarson that there has been a very positive trend. Otherwise the impression with us about the ICA was that the ICA just holds meetings and not much was being done on the programmes. I hope this trend would continue and necessary support for implementation of these programmes effectively will come from us as well as from you."

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


G.K. Sharma
Secretary

New Delhi
14 September, 1987

pk/

Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Dr. Dhillon, Shri D.S. Bhuria, President, NCUI, Shri V.P. Singh, Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Associate Director, ICA Geneva, Mr. Bjorn Genberg, Director, SCC, Shri Rai Singh, Distinguished Councillors and Fellow Cooperators :

I have great pleasure in extending a cordial welcome to the distinguished members of the Regional Council, our Chief Guest and fellow cooperators. At the outset, I would like to thank the NCUI for hosting this 29th Regional Council Meeting at a short notice and for making excellent arrangements. This meeting was originally planned to be held in Singapore but in May this year the venue was changed to Delhi. Thus, the NCUI had to make arrangements at a very short notice and we are grateful to them for their warm response.

I am extremely grateful to the Honourable Minister on behalf of the ICA and on my own behalf for accepting the invitation to inaugurate this Council Meeting and benefiting us with his words of wisdom. The Hon'ble Minister has taken time out of his many pressing preoccupations to associate with this meeting of cooperative leaders from Asia. We are aware how busy the Hon'ble Minister is on account of the unprecedented drought situation in the country. We deeply appreciate the presence of the Hon'ble Minister amongst us and we look forward to his valued guidance and support to our cooperative activities.

Sir, I would like to mention here that 14 countries are the members of this Council. They are Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Australia, China and the Democratic Republic of Korea are unable to attend the Council Meeting this year and have sent their best wishes for fruitful deliberations.

The ICA Regional Council was inaugurated in Delhi in 1961 by late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. It had the good fortune of having Mrs. Indira Gandhi as its Honorary President from 1961 to 1968. Another eminent Indian cooperator and former Chairman of the Regional Council, Prof D.G. Karve, had the distinction of heading the ICA Commission on Cooperative Principles.

As would be seen from above, India's contribution to the activities of the ICA was substantial which is further confirmed from the fact that from 1961 to 1971 five meetings of the Council were held in India. However, from 1971 onwards, no Council meeting was held in India during the next 14 years. It is a matter of satisfaction that India is taking increasing interest in the ICA activities and within last three years this is the second time that India is playing host to the Regional Council.

Even though some drastic steps had to be taken in the last two years in the Regional Office with regard to administrative matters, there has been no slackness in its developmental activities. We are already running four projects in the region with financial assistance from the Swedish and Japanese Cooperatives. The budget of the activities of Regional Office for 1986-87 was around Rs.13.64 million. We are getting encouraging response from donors particularly Sweden, Japan and Canada and we hope the ICA Regional Office will be able to play a much bigger role for promoting cooperative activities on right lines in the coming years. At this juncture when we in the ICA Regional Office are at the cross roads, I would like to pay tribute to the Swedish Cooperative Movement and particularly their outstanding leader Late Dr. M. Bonow. Right from the establishment of the Regional Office in 1960 the Swedish Cooperative Movement has provided tremendous support to it. This support has enabled the cooperative movements in Asia to develop strong bonds of solidarity and economic collaboration. We would like Mr. B. Genberg to carry our feelings of gratitude and solidarity to the Swedish cooperators and especially their nerve centre for cooperative development viz. the SCC.

Another important source of steady support to our activities has been from the Japanese Cooperative Movement. This support backed up by the Government of Japan has substantially increased since last year. The experience of the Japanese Movement is of special relevance to the Asian Movements and we do hope that the Japanese Movement will play a much bigger role in the years to come. I request the Japanese delegation convey our feelings of gratitude to their Movement and the Government of Japan.

The ICA Regional Office located in Delhi had the good fortune of getting full support from the Government of India and particularly from your Ministry and therefore, Sir, I would like to extend our gratefulness to you for this support.

If I am not going beyond my jurisdiction, I would like to state that in the coming years the ICA wants to have a greater collaboration with governments particularly in the developing countries and proper strategies will have to be worked out in this regard in consultation with the respective governments for fostering genuine cooperative movements. Sir, we will need your cooperation and support in this matter also.

Before I conclude, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Associate Director, ICA Geneva, and Mr. Genberg, Director, SCC, for sparing their time and attending the Regional Council Meeting. Their presence and participation will help us in planning future developmental activities.

Once again, I welcome you, all Councillors, and particularly those who have come to attend the Council meeting for the first time and I hope that your stay will be fruitful and comfortable.

sm/pk

Annexure - 2

Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Dr. Dhillon, NCUI President, Mr. Bhuria, Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Mr. Genberg, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Rai Singh, fellow councillors and cooperators :

It gives me great pleasure to say a few words in my capacity as Vice Chairman of the ICA Regional Council for South-East Asia at this inaugural function of the 29th meeting. I have been associated as a member of the Regional Council for over two decades. I can therefore speak with some authority on the role and relevance of the ICA Regional Office. But before I do so I would like to express our sincere thanks to the National Cooperative Union of India for hosting this meeting and for making very nice arrangements, as usual. I am sure that with the care which the NCUI always takes in looking after the arrangements, this meeting would be a fruitful one and also comfortable to the Council Members.

We now have a new Regional Director in the person of Mr. G.K. Sharma who has joined the ICA from July this year. Mr. Sharma has a long experience as Managing Director of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited. Mr. Sharma has also worked for five years as Regional Adviser on Cooperation in the ILO Asia and Pacific Office. With his long and rich experience, I am sure, Mr. Sharma would provide effective leadership to the ICA RO. The RO is also further strengthened by the appointment of Mr. R. Mathimugan as Special

Adviser on Cooperative Development and Training. Mr. Mathimugan was Chairman of the Regional Council until recently and hence he needs no introduction.

During its nearly 27 years of existence, the ICA RO has played a very important role in the promotion and development of cooperative movements in Asia. Thanks to the contribution made by the Regional Office, national cooperative organisations in a few countries which were not members of the ICA were established. Greater collaboration among the movements in the Region was established and the ICA RO played an important role in the development of leadership and management training through its Education Centre. With the growth of cooperative movements in the Region and the emergence of new needs, it was considered necessary that the ICA's role should be redefined. We are indeed happy that in response to our discussions in the Regional Council and with the evaluation missions, the ICA formulated a cooperative development policy which is more directly geared to answering our needs. As a consequence, the specialised Sub-committees have become more active and they play an important role in formulating development programmes of the ICA RO. As the Council members would see from the reports submitted, a number of useful ideas and proposals have been suggested by them. What is important is that these ideas and proposals are translated into work plans and that they would be implemented. I would like to suggest that there should be greater interaction among

the various specialised Sub-committees and we would be able to promote it possibly by having the various Sub-committee meetings in one place. This would enable the interested members and especially the Chairmen of the Sub-committees to take part in the meetings of other Sub-committees in which they have a special interest. Similarly, it is also necessary that we in the Regional Office have an opportunity of directly listening to the views and reports of the Sub-committees from the Chairmen. I hope in future it will be possible for the Regional Council to invite the Chairmen of the Sub-committees to participate in the meetings as special invitees so that our discussions would get richer from their specialised knowledge and experience.

The new orientation to ICA's policies and programmes has necessitated reorganisation and restructuring of the Regional Office. Reorganisation and restructuring is sometimes a painful process, but by now we have trimmed the RO and it has become fit enough instrument to carry out the new development programme. The activities carried out by the Regional Office since reorganisation have concentrated on Perspective Planning for Agricultural Cooperatives, Assistance to member organisations in project identification and planning, agricultural cooperative training, development of retail trade and assistance in promoting international cooperative trade. These activities have received much appreciation from the movements in the Region.

While contribution to cooperative development programmes on these lines is important, we should remember that the aim of the ICA is to strengthen the cooperative ideology and make cooperatives self-reliant. We should also remember this larger Perspective in the work which we map out for the Regional Office.

I would like to draw the attention of the distinguished members at this meeting to an important principle of cooperation, viz. Cooperation among Cooperatives. The Swedish Cooperative Movement is a shining example of such cooperation extended by advanced cooperative movement to the Asian cooperative movements. I am aware that they are making their contributions to other Regions also. We owe a great deal to the help provided to us by the Swedish Cooperative Movement. It is a matter of satisfaction that the Japanese Cooperative Movement has increased its contribution to the Regional office. The movements from other countries of the Region are also sharing in this responsibility. I am told that the Indian Movement has significantly increased its membership subscription to the ICA since last two years. The Indian Cooperative Movement has made great strides in several fields and it has much to offer to their sister movements in the Region. I am sure that the Indian Cooperative Movement would come forward to play a greater role in the affairs of the ICA which is commensurate with its inherent strength. I would make the same appeal to the leaders of other movements also to make the Regional Office not only self-reliant but also a very

vigorous and dynamic instrument for rapid cooperative development.

In the last couple of years several of our countries have faced economic recession. However, cooperatives have generally stood their ground and made progress despite economic constraints. It is important for the cooperative movements in the Region to cope with the changing economic scenario and to update their management. We also need to forge cooperative financing system which can mobilise members funds and make our cooperative movements self propelling and dynamic. I would like to point out that in many countries, there are now national cooperative banks. It is time that we give attention to this question and take steps in this direction. Possibly Japan and India and my own country which have experience in this field can show the way in this regard.

In conclusion I would like to once again express our sincere thanks to our gracious host, the NCUI for hosting this meeting and for making arrangements for our stay and work.

Thank you for your attention.

sm.

ICA REGIONAL COUNCIL .. 8-9 SEPTEMBER 1987

Remarks by Mr. B. Genberg, Director of Swedish Cooperative Centre

Honourable Minister of Agriculture, President of NCUI, dear Cooperators.

I thank you for the invitation to attend this meeting of the Regional Council and I am also grateful for the opportunity to address the Council.

I bring greetings from the Swedish Cooperators, who wish the Council success in its deliberations.

I would like to say a few words about the important relation between cooperatives and Governments. It is not my intention to be country specific. I will address the issue in rather general terms.

Because of their important role in the economy of many developing countries, Governments need to support and guide the Cooperatives. However, in this task the Governments must strike the right balance between providing incentives/support and unnecessary interference/control. We should realise that it is a difficult task to keep the right balance. In this question there are five areas of concern which I would like to mention.

1. Cooperative Laws

Basically it is the Government which determines the rules of the game to a very high extent.

The cooperative legislation is very often not based on the cooperative principles, which it should be, according to my way of seeing it.

It is difficult to escape the impression that the cooperative laws in many countries are rather instruments of control instead of instruments for development.

2. Lack of coherent policies/strategies

Cooperative development would be simplified if there were clear-cut policies/strategies jointly worked out by the Government and the Cooperative sector.

Too many policies are too vague and they have not been prepared with the participation of the cooperative movement.

Preparation of cooperative policies and plans are too much of a top-down approach.

Related to this, is the lack of price incentives and margins in several countries.

3. Cooperatives as a tool of Governments

While reading cooperative plans one sometimes gets the impression that cooperatives serve as a tool for implementation of Government policies and programmes. That might be in the interest of the cooperative members, but not necessarily so.

It could be very difficult to determine whose interests the Cooperatives are serving. But, the Cooperatives must always ask themselves this question.

4. Misunderstandings/misconceptions as to the capability of cooperatives.

Such misconceptions are often shared by Governments, cooperative leaders and donors as well. I will mention a few to illustrate my point.

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a) It is sometimes believed that Cooperatives can serve as a sort of universal medicine where conditions for economic development are absent. Cooperatives are for instance believed to be able to spearhead the economic and social development in marginal areas and are often also at the same time looked upon as a guarantee for economic and social equity.

b) Cooperatives are sometimes believed to be able to carry out functions/tasks/services for which they do not have the experience or capacity.

They are expected to carry out additional functions and the consequences are often that they do not only fail in carrying out these additional tasks but also fail to do their primary job satisfactorily.

c) The time perspective we use is often too short. Cooperative development is fundamentally human development and this takes much longer time than we are prepared to give the Cooperatives.

To sum up these points it can be said that expectations are sometimes too high, and we get disappointed when the Cooperatives fail to perform according to our expectations.

5. Government financial assistance/funding, grants and loans.

We are so used to this that we don't question it. We say that they are necessary inputs for the Cooperatives to get off the ground. But we should always ask ourselves for whom and for what they are necessary.

If Government financial assistance is a prerequisite for a cooperative to develop at all - we need to question the basic viability of that cooperative. Self-reliance

.. 4 ..

International Cooperative Alliance

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and mobilisation of our resources are concepts which should be brought into the discussion.

Government financial assistance is often very helpful but it should always be very carefully considered since it could lead to greater dependency on the Government instead of depending on the members. Government funding can in the long term perspective be very costly.

Government officials and cooperative leaders need to work together in order to develop the Cooperatives. But, if we are to see more independent and self-sustained Cooperatives develop, Government will have to pay attention to that difficult act of balancing between support and unnecessary interference. Cooperatives on the other hand must take the initiative and not expect Governments to plan for them. Cooperatives must build up a capacity, which will let them participate in the planning process and influence policies, which are important to them.

Cooperatives must develop a knowledge and know-how in cooperative business at all levels, which is superior to that of the Government, thereby creating confidence in their ability. Such confidence will in the long-term change the attitude of Governments as regards the need to monitor and control the Cooperatives.

To maintain a dialogue based on mutual respect and understanding between Governments and Cooperatives on this and related issues is extremely important. And to assist the Cooperative movements in the region to keep that dialogue with Governments is, I think, Mr. Chairman, one of the key functions of the ICA Regional Office.

Thank you for your attention.

SPEECH OF SHRI DILIP SINGH BHURIA, M.P., ON THE
OCCASION OF 29TH MEETING OF THE ICA REGIONAL
COUNCIL FOR SOUTH EAST ASIA

Respected Dr. Dhillon Sahib, Gen. Lozada,
Mr. Thordasan, Mr. Genberg and Hon'ble Members of the
Regional Council for South East Asia,

At the outset, I express my gratitude to
International Cooperative Alliance that once again they
have provided this opportunity to Indian Cooperative
Movement to host this meeting through the National
Cooperative Union of India. On behalf of the National
Cooperative Union of India and on my own behalf, I
extend my warm greetings to all the members of the
Council and distinguished guests present here. I expect
that this meeting would be yet another milestone to
forge effective unity and cooperation among the coop-
erative movements of the Region and would make the role
of International Cooperative Alliance more effective
and sharpened.

On this occasion, we have amongst us
respected Dr. Dhillon, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture,
Government of India, who inspite of precarious situation
created by unprecedented drought in the country, has
taken trouble to inaugurate this meeting. This is a
symbol of his commitment to cooperative ideology and
is indicative of the fact that Government of India is
continuously endeavouring to strengthen and develop
cooperative movement. For this, I express my grateful
thanks to Dr. Dhillon and greet him on behalf of the
National Cooperative Union of India and on my own
behalf.

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This is a unique occasion when the distinguished representatives of the cooperative movements of South East Asia are present here. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to place some of my views in regard to the mutual collaboration among cooperatives at international level and the role of International Cooperative Alliance in this direction. The present day world is divided into two classes - one, economically developed nations and other one the developing nations. In spite of exhortations of United Nations Organisation for establishing new international economic order, the problem of poverty in the world stands as it was. The reality of the situation is that the poor nations have become poorer and the rich the richer.

The main objectives of cooperation are to usher in social justice, elimination of poverty and to bridge the economic inequalities. We have, therefore, to see that how far the International Cooperative Alliance has succeeded in achieving these objectives. At the same time, we have also to see that up to what extent the mutual collaboration and united efforts have been built up among various cooperative movements of the world. I would like to call upon this august gathering to deliberate on these two important aspects of international cooperation.

Today the world is changing very fast. New equations are being formed and new technologies are emerging. I think that the transfer of technology to developing nations has not been satisfactory. In fact, at present. One of the reasons behind deteriorating poverty situation in the world is that the poor nations are not getting advantage of technological development.

Since the principle of cooperation and ideology is to establish a society sans exploitation in the world, all the international cooperative organisations should orient their policies towards this objective. The UNO and its allied institutions have accepted cooperation as a means of development. But how far this thinking is being implemented is a big question to ponder over. The International Cooperative Alliance also will have to review and revise its policies and approach in this context. The alliance will have to redefine its role in changing situation in the world. In my opinion, the Alliance should not confine its meetings and activities merely to the academic interpretations and analysis of cooperative policies. What is important for Alliance in this context is its resolve to develop mutual cooperation and collaboration among various cooperative movements and to bridge the inequalities in development in various parts of the world. I would like to place some of my views in this respect. First of all the interational cooperation should be developed at the regional level through the Regional Councils. These Councils should identify the areas for trade and industrial collaboration among various cooperative movements of the region. The Regional Office of Alliance should maintain a full documentation about the information and the contribution the cooperative movement of one country can make towards the development of cooperative movement in another.

The Regional Office should maintain a profile about the cooperative movements of each of its member organisations. These profiles should be reviewed and updated from time to time and should be made available to all the member nations of the region. Based on the

needs of the nations, the ICA may prepare workable feasibility reports and projects and should maintain shelf/^{of}projects at its level. These projects should be circulated among cooperative movements of various countries of the region to elicit their views. After obtaining their reactions, the donor institutions can be identified for implementing these projects.

This approach, however, would call for a very effective and modern system of information collection, its analysis and the preparation of project reports on the basis of this analysis. To have an effective system for continuous information collection, it is necessary that the office of Regional Office of ICA should be computerised. I am happy to note that ICA has already taken initiative in this direction. It is going to establish a Data Bank. But the scheme of Data Bank can succeed only if the member institutions in the region also maintain some sort of Data Bank at their level, because information and statistics for ICA Data Bank will have to be obtained only from the member institutions. I would, therefore, suggest that the system of Data Bank, though attractive and worth appreciation, should receive careful analysis of totality of the situation prevailing in the region. Most important aspect is how far and how effectively this Data Bank would be linked with the member organisations of the ICA.

The International collaboration for development cannot succeed without availability of financial resources. I have been told that a few years back a Regional Development Fund was established at the level of

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ICA Regional Office. But only cooperative movement of Malaysia contributed to this Fund and the fund was **basically** utilised to subsidise the travel cost of those representatives whose institutions were not in a position to bear their travel cost. In my opinion, this Fund has to be further strengthened and well **thought** out rules and regulations for its utilisation should be formulated. May I suggest that the complexion of this Fund should be just like a consortium through which economic resources may be made available to various countries of the region for cooperative development. I would, therefore, urge upon the distinguished members of the Council to formulate an outline of international cooperative consortium. The proposal so worked out may be placed before the coming meeting of the Central Committee of ICA in October for further discussions.

All of us are aware of the resource constraints in cooperative organisations. International Cooperative Alliance is also not an exception to this. Therefore, the resources of Alliance have to be invested and spent in a very planned manner. We have to carefully analyse that how far the resources have been used for programmes and projects and how far they have been used for administrative expenses. We have to find out ways and means which should result into most minimum expenditure on administration to take ahead the developmental programmes. Needless to say that financial resources of the Alliance may have to be mobilised basically by the member organisations. But at the same time we should not forget that the member organisations would like to have benefit from Alliance on quid pro quo basis.

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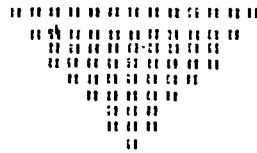
Member Organisations would like to have equitable representation in the Regional Council and the Central Committee of ICA. In this context, there is a need for review of regulations of ICA and necessary amendments therein. In the same way, in the establishment of ICA, the developing cooperative movements of developing countries should have adequate participation so that their problems could be properly identified and presented at international level.

Another important aspect of cooperative development in developing countries is the role of Government. In most of the developing countries, Cooperation has been accepted as an instrument of economic development and the government is, duty-bound to provide multi-faceted help and assistance to the cooperatives. In the management of cooperatives also, the Government has very important role. Therefore, without positive attitude of the Government, the development and growth of cooperative organisations is not possible. In these countries, there is a continuous interaction between the government and cooperative movement about the cooperative policies and programmes. But such sort of interaction at international level is more or less negligible. At the level of International Cooperative Alliance also, there is no provision for providing representation to the Government in any form. I think that international cooperation and collaboration may not effectively materialise if the governments of concerned countries do not support and help. ICA may give thought to this aspect.

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In the end, I heartily greet all of you and assure the Regional Council of ICA for South-East Asia that the National Cooperative Union of India would continue its effective support to the Alliance as usual. I wish all of you a very nice stay in this country.



vn/

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Bruce Thoradson, Associate Director, ICA, Director of the Swedish Cooperative Centre, Shri G.K. Sharma, Shri Bhuria, distinguished Members of the Regional Council and fellow cooperators ;

I join Shri Dilip Singh Bhuria, President NCUI in extending a hearty welcome to the distinguished office bearers and Members of the ICA Regional Council for South-East Asia and officers of the ICA as also the distinguished guests from abroad who have assembled here to participate in the 29th meeting of the ICA Regional Council for South-East Asia.

2. The association of the Government of India with the ICA Regional Office and Education Centre for South-East Asia has been very close right from its inception. We recall with pride the year 1960 when ICA ROEC was inaugurated by our first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, an architect of modern India and an ardent supporter of the cooperative movement. It was under his leadership and guidance that cooperative development became an integral part of the five-year plans, a sector of national economy and an agency for nation building efforts on planned basis. Since then, the inspirations and guidelines provided by Pandit Nehru have been a beacon light for all those engaged in the expansion and strengthening of the cooperative movement as a voluntary people's democratic form of economic organisation with social content.

3. I also recall with immense pleasure the association of Madam Gandhi as the first President of this Regional Council of the ICA for South-East Asia. Shrimati Gandhi attached considerable importance to this body. As far back as in 1964, while addressing a Regional Conference convened by ICA ROEC in Tokyo, Mrs. Gandhi said "The Advisory Council provides a requisite platform for South-East Asian cooperators to meet and discuss problems of mutual interest". It is in this context that we have been associating ourselves, extending our support and looking

at this international agency for the cooperative movements in this region with great interest. It also gives me an immense satisfaction to learn that "India has both been a receiver and a contributor to cooperative ideas, experiences and experimentation at the world level as also at the South-East Asian regional level", as pointed out in one of the documents circulated for the meeting. This is the result of a deliberate policy which is in consonance with the basic approach and strategy to promoting cooperative credit structure which envisages that the member of a cooperative credit society is not only a borrower but a lender as well.

4. From the agenda of the Regional Meeting, I find that the experiences of the member countries would also be discussed. The Indian experience will, no doubt, be presented by our representative, I would like to invite the attention of this distinguished body of cooperative leaders in the region to some of the major aspects of the Indian cooperative development. As you may be aware, the network of cooperative institutions comprises 315 thousand cooperative societies of various types with a total membership of over 145 millions. These cooperatives undertake service functions, like, supply of production inputs, distribution of essential consumer goods, marketing of agricultural produce and supply of raw materials. The consumer cooperatives represent not only cooperative stores, but also housing cooperatives etc. In the service of the economically disadvantaged sections of the population, cooperative societies have been rendering yeoman service through labour cooperatives, dairy cooperative societies, farming cooperatives, fisheries societies. In the field of high technology, fertilizer manufacturing units, sugar industry, spinning mills etc. have been making significant contribution. The cooperatives have also played a significant role in the field of development of rural entrepreneurship. Women constitute nearly half of the total population, but their place in the cooperative movement is still rather insignificant, and to fill up the gap, measures are being evolved. In certain other sectors of activity, like, weavers' societies, urban cooperative credit and banking and various types of activities in the

hilly and tribal areas, women have come to play an increasing role. The human resources development programmes in the cooperative sector are being upgraded from the point of view of technology, management skill, information system and overall cooperative leadership growth.

5. Significantly, the cooperative societies which started activities as a small man's organisation, doing small business, are now widely recognised as an economic enterprise of a small man doing big business. This is reflected in fertiliser manufacturing cooperatives, cooperative sugar factories and cooperative dairies, in particular. The achievements of the cooperatives could be further seen in the fact that in the cooperative credit and banking sector, cooperatives provide nearly 47% of the institutional credit to agriculture. The cooperative sector accounts for nearly 42% of the fertilisers distributed in the country, 60% of the national sugar production and 20% of fertilisers production.

6. At the same time, our cooperative movement faces a variety of problems relating to their organisation, operation and management, regional and sectoral imbalances within the movement, inadequacy of professionalisation and democratisation in the functioning of cooperatives and above all, the problems of the size and growth of the movement which is one of the largest in the world. Expressing his concern about the present state of the cooperative movement, our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi has given a clarion call to revitalise cooperatives as an essential aspect of the poverty alleviation programme and accelerated agricultural growth. This, according to us, is of crucial importance for the survival and continued progress of the cooperative movement in the larger interest of the masses and the nation. The Government is, therefore, focussing attention on the major problem areas and initiating and supporting remedial measures to accelerate healthy growth of cooperative enterprises. The Prime Minister and the Government are determined "to give the cooperative movement the primacy which it deserves".

7. The International Cooperative Alliance, a world confederation of cooperative movements, is the largest non-governmental organisation and even one of the oldest. In the course of over 90 years of its existence, it has been playing an important role in the expansion of cooperative movements and preservation, promotion and strengthening of cooperative principles, cooperative ideology and cooperative philosophy in different socio-economic and political set-ups. I pay my glowing tributes to pioneers of cooperation and the leaders of the cooperative movements associated with this organisation. Largely because of their foresight, dedication and concern for the humanity that the world cooperative movement has been striving for peace and progress of all in every nook and corner of the world. While wishing the ICA continued success in this mission. I assure you our fullest support in promoting peace and progress through cooperative everywhere.

8. Before I close, I would like to quote Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the first President of ICA Regional Office and Education Centre for South-East Asia, which sets up the task before the Council and all those associated with the cooperative movement, as said in 1964 and which, according to me, still holds good :

“We all believe in peace but peace does not come by wishing but by working for it. Faster communication has brought us closer together and made us all neighbours. Travelling has increased and many people go round the world. But they rarely have the time or the inclination to stop and to try and understand. It is through cooperation, through working together and helping one another that we can gain the understanding and friendship which can lead to peace.”

9. I have now great pleasure in inaugurating the 29th meeting of the ICA Regional Council for South-East Asia, and I wish its deliberations a success and the stay of the distinguished participants in India pleasant and useful.

Thank you.

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

Bangkok (Thailand) : 18-19 January 1988



**International Cooperative Alliance
"Bohow 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

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|---|---|
| 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. | Mrs. Pannee Thosaksith | : | Deputy Director, CLT. |
| 10. | Mr. Surasit | : | Chief, Intl Section, CLT. |
| 11. | Ms. 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.

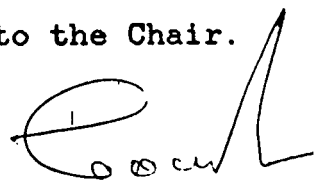
The member for Japan stated that he would consult Mr. M. Ohya from JCCU regarding suitability of the dates and telex reply to RO within a week.

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.

New Delhi
9.2.1988


G.K. Sharma
Secretary

sm.

ICA RO, New Delhi

Administration BudgetAnnexA. EXPENDITURE

HEADS	1987 Budgeted Amt. (INR)	1987 Anticipated Exp. (INR)	1988 Budgeted Amt. (INR)
i) Personnel	805,000	745,000	930,000
ii) Travelling	274,000	282,000	229,000
iii) Office Expenditure	813,000	549,000	398,000
iv) Repayment of loan	-	-	700,000
v) Interest to NCDC	-	240,000	378,000
Total	<u>1,892,000</u>	<u>1,816,000</u>	<u>2,635,000</u>

B. INCOME

HEADS	1987 Budgeted Amt. (INR)	1988 Budgeted Amt. (INR)
i) ICA HQ	450,000	450,000
ii) SCC, Stockholm	500,000	500,000
iii) MAFF, Japan	325,000	325,000
iv) Member Organisations Contribution	169,000	200,000
v) Mr. Sten's residence in Bonow House	20,000	240,000
vi) Projects	352,000	920,000
	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
- DCU	50,000	250,000
- Agri. Coop. Deve.	22,000	125,000
- Trang. Course on Strang Coop. Mgt.	130,000	260,000
- Consumer Project	38,000	125,000
- Education	112,000	125,000
- Coop Trade	-	35,000
	<u>352,000</u>	<u>920,000</u>
Total	<u>1,816,000</u>	<u>2,635,000</u>

Date : 15.04.1988

kb/

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN PROMOTING COOP DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA
Project Outline

Aim and Scope

The aim of the Project is to create an environment that is conducive to genuine cooperative development. In the various countries of the Region governments play a very important role in the promotion and development of cooperative movements. Hence it is necessary that dialogues with the governments are initiated, based on careful studies, with the aim of ensuring that constraints to cooperative development are removed and policies which contribute to genuine cooperative development are formulated. Cooperative laws which provide a framework for cooperative development activities would deserve special attention.

Three Year Programme/Project

It is suggested that work in this important area is carried out in such a way that the desired results are achieved. This would require a systematic programme of work with heavy emphasis at the national level. The main components of the project would be as follows :

- to carry out studies in various countries of the Region in the fields of government cooperative policies and cooperative legislation;
- to organise a Regional Consultation of Secretaries to Governments in charge of Cooperation, Chief Executives of national cooperative organisations, country consultants and cooperative leaders;
- to organise a Regional Conference of cooperative leaders and ministers with a view to discussing cooperative legislation and government policies affecting cooperative movements;
- to hold workshops at national levels to give effect to the guidelines adopted at the regional level and to bring about required amendments in cooperative legislation and to government policies;
- to assist national cooperative organisations in dialogues with the governments with a view to implement the recommendations of the national workshops and persuing specific policy questions;
- to monitor and evaluate progress made in this area;

Budget required for carrying out the above programme would have to be formulated.

Work Programme for 1987-88

The year 1987-88 should be devoted to making careful preparations for the Ministers Conference :

1. Carry out studies on cooperative policies and legislation in each country in the context of cooperative principles, need of autonomy and situation vis-a-vis private enterprise. Papers to be completed by end of February 1988.
2. Consultants should be engaged for carrying out studies in their home countries.
3. A Regional Consultant should be engaged to plan and coordinate this project.
4. A regional paper on cooperative legislation to be prepared by the regional consultant.
5. Holding a Regional Consultation on Cooperative Development and Legislation on the basis of country study reports. The Consultation is expected to be held in June 1988. The results of the Consultation would provide valuable input for the Ministers' Conference which may be held next year.

sm/22.9.87

THE RULES OF THE ICA COUNCIL FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

1. 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".
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. The Regional Director shall be the Secretary of the Council.

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