
Minutes

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)



30TH MEETING OF THE ICA COUNCIL FOR ASIA HELD AT SINGAPORE
ON 2ND & 3RD JUNE 1988

Inaugural Session

The Inaugural Session of the 30th Meeting of the ICA Council for Asia was held at Plaza Hotel, Singapore on 2nd June 1988. The ceremonial meeting was presided over by Mr. Eric Cheong, Chairman, Singapore National Cooperative Federation. Besides the members of the Council, Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Associate Director of ICA, Mr. Bernt Adelstal of the SCC, there was a select gathering of cooperators from the Singapore Cooperative Movement, who attended the meeting.

The Chief Guest was Mr. Zulkifli Mohammed, Political Secretary, Ministry of Community Development, Government of Singapore.

Mr. Eric Cheong in his welcome address said :This Regional Council Meeting is held at a time when the Cooperative Movement in Singapore is undergoing major changes with some development projects in the pipeline. SNCF has just finalised a corporate plan for the period from 1988 to 1990. It is hoped that the Corporate Plan SNCF has developed will meet the needs of the rapidly changing society and the technological era of the 1990s.....As you are aware, Singapore is an urbanised society with no natural resources. It has only human resources. Our economic strategy is free trade....Perhaps the ICA, with representation from 69 countries, almost a mini-UN, could consider the benefits to be derived from further liberalisation of world trade, particularly in relation to international cooperative development and joint ventures, such as being

envisioned by the ICA Cooptrade Project. The ICA would be of great help if it could make some efforts in fulfilling the current expectations of the urbanising societies where the cooperatives are functioning and facing new challenges in international trade and communication...I have no doubt that the ICA could assist tremendously by advising or identifying areas for cooperatives to diversify, develop and venture further to provide the necessary services for the benefit of member countries. This will make cooperatives more meaningful, relevant and essential where the present and future generations would help sustain the Movement. I am sure ICA's role in this direction would certainly be greatly appreciated by urbanised cooperative movements."

In his address, Gen' A.S. Lozada, Acting Chairman, Regional Council, said : "This is the first time that Singapore has hosted the Regional Council Meeting. For the past 28 years of its inception, the Regional Council has been moving around the countries in Asia. So sponsoring by SNCF of the 30th Regional Council Meeting is indeed historic. We appreciate deeply Mr. Cheong and his colleagues in SNCF for hosting this meeting here of the ICA and the warm hospitality of the Singaporean people. My friends, the Regional Council for Asia through its Regional Office has chalked up unprecedented accomplishments which are both meaningful and beneficial to the members of the cooperative movement in the countries represented in the region. We have not only expanded in membership and territorial coverage and jurisdiction but we have also increased the services to the members. What is highly indispensable is the pragmatic and professional approach in the coordination of cooperative development efforts within the region. Relationship between and among the Regional Council, the Regional Office, its Specialised Sub-Committees and the Project Advisers on the one hand and the responsiveness of the member cooperative movements and the

continuing support of international donors on the other have brought about this unprecedented activities in the accomplishment and have enabled us to move closer to the unity of purpose, unity of action towards improving and bringing about human understanding and brotherhood of mankind. We wish, therefore, to commend and express our deep appreciation to those who in one way or another have done their level best to contribute to this common effort...I am speaking on behalf of Mr. Eddiwan, the Chairman, who unfortunately is unable to come because he is ill for the past two weeks."

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Associate Director, ICA, in his address said: "It is great pleasure for me to be able to bring greetings from the Headquarters in Geneva. It is also pleasure for me to realise that this is the third consecutive Regional Council which I am attending. Although it will not be possible to predict the extent of the meetings success. I think if you look at the agenda papers which have been prepared for this meeting, we can confidently predict that this meeting is going to be of a different kind. I think it is better to say that our preoccupation in the past three years has been survival. ICA itself has been passing through organisational crisis at the HO level and also here in the region. ROA's major weaknesses have been in terms of structure, programming and finances. What we have experienced in the last two years is no less than a complete and dramatic turn around. In Geneva, we have a small but more efficient staff operating with a balanced budget. In ROA we see similar progress. I think you will agree with me that there is a tremendous progress in terms of new programmes and new activities, increase not only in quantity but particularly the quality of its work. We have increased support from Japan, Canada, FAO, non-governmental organisations, in addition to our traditional and long valued support from Sweden. We are now in a position where it has been no longer necessary for the ROA to

sell its headquarters, "Bonow House". ICA Executive Committee spent considerable time discussing this issue and the Executive Committee concluded that the financial problems of the past are now behind and so it is no longer necessary to sell this property. This, I think, is important for the future of the office. It is very symbolic because of the fact that the office in Asia is entering a new era of its life. ICA operates from Congress to Congress. We are going next month to Stockholm for our 29th Congress at which one of the major papers presented will focus on Development. Development will continue to be our major focus in the years ahead...We are now facing a situation in which I believe we have considerable ground for optimism. There should be no limit on our members to grow and undertake new and productive activities on behalf of the cooperatives throughout the world. I believe we should all bring about this change in the state of affairs. I believe, all of you as members of the ICA should take considerable pride in the support which you have continued to give to the ROA during this period of difficulty without which it would not have been possible for the office to reach the stage of growth which it is now happily experiencing. I believe what we have before us is indeed a new era. I look forward to our collaborating with you very closely and we wish you continued success."

Mr. Bernt Adelstal of the SCC said : "I am very grateful for being invited to attend this meeting and for the opportunity to say a few words to the participants of the Regional Council meeting. First of all, let me pass on warm greetings from the SCC and its member organisations, the cooperative movement in Sweden, to the participants. At the same time, the SCC is welcoming you to Stockholm in July in connection with the ICA Congress.....Let me remind you of what Mr. Genberg said in his remarks in September last year at the Regional Council in New Delhi : (1) on Cooperative Law, (2) on Policy Strategy, (3) Coop's as a

government's tool, (4) a belief that coops are the only remedy to economic development of poor people, and (5) coops depend on financial assistance/funding; grants and loans. It has been particularly relevant to mention these issues with the launching of the 3 year programme on "Role of Government in Promoting Cooperative Development in Asia". The SCC welcomes this project in line with ICA's new policy and strategy. SCC have since long been aware of the problems of the ambivalent relation between governments and cooperative organisations resulting in the emphasis on two concepts in our collaboration with cooperative movements : (1) Movement to Movement Cooperation (a direct link between MO/SCC and collaborating coop, and (2) Active participation by members in the planning, implementation and control of their societies by launching a programme, called CMPP....Let me finish off by a prayer for cooperative development in general and for the Regional Council in particular 'God give us the serenity to accept what we cannot change, courage to change what we can change and wisdom always to feel the difference'. I hope this will be the motto of deliberations during the Regional Council.

Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director, in his address said : "It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this inauguration function of the 30th Regional Council Meeting. In fact this Council meeting is significant from the point of view of participants, and from the point of view of contents. It is for the first time that we are having our friends from China in the Council Meeting. China had been the member of the ICA for the last three years and they have been participating in the Central Committee meetings, but it is for the first time that they are attending the Regional Council Meeting and it is my pleasure to welcome Mr. Yang Deshou and his colleague. It is for the first time that Sugar Cooperatives Development Institute of the Philippines is participating in the meeting. Also, for the first

time we are having from Pakistan, Mr. Piracha of the Mercantile Cooperative Finance Corporation. After a gap of 5-6 years we are again having our friend from Australia and I extend a warm welcome to Mr. Freeman and all others. In the Council meeting along with the Councillors we have the benefit of having participation from our colleagues from the donors, particularly from the cooperative sector. Of course, SCC has been always supporting us and attending the meetings in the past. But it is for the first time that we have our friends from Centrosoyus who have also shown interest in promoting technical cooperation and trade and I welcome Mr. Kreshennikov and his colleague. We also have with us Mr. Syed Hussain of TCDC, UNDP New York. TCDC unit has shown interest in promoting cooperation between developing countries and we are exploring the possibility of promoting TCDC type of cooperation between cooperatives of the region and may be later on outside the region. Singapore Cooperative Movement, where we are having this meeting for the first time, is a unique movement from various angles. Basically in this region we have movements which are agriculture based, but Singapore movement is urban and consumer based. I think from that angle there is lot of scope to have collaboration between the Singapore Movement and other movements of the region...we are keen that our members in this region can get themselves actively involved to have better collaboration and exchange. We are getting good response and we do hope that in the years to come the cooperative movement in the region will get stronger and stronger. We give lot of importance to the relationship between the movement and the governments, particularly in the developing countries. Governments play a very important role and their attitude would be of great significance for the development of cooperatives. Immediately after the Regional Council Meeting we will be having another meeting on the subject "Consultation on Government-Cooperative Relations". We are having a very high level of participation and we do hope that after this meeting we will be

able to work out some guidelines and approach on the relations between the movement and the government".

Mr. Zulkifli Mohammed, while inaugurating the Council Meeting said: "I am much honoured to be invited here this morning to address this inaugural ceremony of the 30th Meeting of the ICA Regional Council for Asia...Let me, first of all, extend a warm welcome on behalf of the Government of Singapore to all participants at this Regional Council Meeting...There is no denying the fact that cooperatives respond to human needs everywhere....There is no denying the fact that cooperatives respond to human needs everywhere....In developing countries, there is a greater degree of government involvement in the promotion and operation of cooperatives. Special benefits or tax exemptions are normally provided to cooperatives. Very often cooperatives are regarded as instruments of economic and social development...It has been established from past experiences that cooperatives bring benefits to both the state and the individual members. Cooperatives, if properly managed, can play an important role in achieving the economic and social objectives of the overall development plan in a developing country. As mass organisations, cooperatives can operate as an effective means of mobilising internal resources, improving productivity through economies of scale, promoting the economic and social interests of persons who are not catered for by other programmes and, above all, providing a perpetual institution for the development of human resources on a self-help and mutual help basis. On the other hand, the individual members can benefit by way of lower costs for the goods and services provided by their cooperatives, higher returns on the capital they invested and, again, opportunities for human development..Nevertheless, not all cooperatives in developing countries have succeeded in bringing the desired benefits to both the state and the individual members. While the failure of these cooperatives can be

attributed to a variety of problems, it is believed that two common problems, namely over-reliance on external funding and excessive government involvement, largely account for the lack of member participation in or commitment to the affairs of these cooperatives.....These are some of the problems and pitfalls relating to cooperatives in general, which I would like to share with you this morning. They must be overcome or avoided if cooperatives are to develop as a strong and viable movement, not only capable of competing with other organisations in the economy but also sensitive to the social needs of the individual members as well as the community at large....It is hoped that the various points I have brought up earlier would help to contribute towards the formulation of the Work Programme of the Regional Office for the next 3 years."

MINUTES OF THE 30TH MEETING OF THE ICA COUNCIL FOR ASIA HELD IN
SINGAPORE ON 2ND AND 3RD JUNE 1988.

The 30th Meeting of the ICA Regional Council for Asia was held at Singapore on 2nd & 3rd June 1988 under the Chairmanship of Gen A.S. Lozada, the Vice Chairman.

The following were present :

1. Gen A.S. Lozada, Acting Chairman & Member for Philippines
2. Mr. B.W. Freeman, Member for Australia
3. Mr. Quazi Abdus Salam, Member for Bangladesh
4. Mr. Yang Deshou, Member for China
5. Mr. D.S. Bhuria, Member for India
6. Mr. Kamaluddin Ahmed, Member for India
7. Mr. M. Sakurai, Member for Japan
8. Mr. Masao Ohya, Member for Japan
9. Mr. Ki Won Suh, Member for Korea
10. Mr. Riazudin Ahmed, Member for Pakistan
11. Mr. I.H. Piracha, Member for Pakistan
12. Mr. Jose Maria Villanueva, Member for Philippines
13. Mr. A.A. David, Member for Singapore
14. Mr. P.K. Panadam, Member for Singapore
15. Mr. M.R.B. Daswatte, Member for Sri Lanka
16. Mr. Anan Chamnankit, Member for Thailand

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

ICA HQ : Mr. Bruce Thordarson
Associate Director

SCC : Mr. Bernt Adelstal

Special

Invitees : Mr. V.P. Singh, India (Member, Executive Committee)
Mr. Alexander I. Krasheninikov, USSR (Board Member
Centrosoyus)
Mr. Alexander Leukhin, USSR
Mr. Shiro Futagami
Managing Director, IDACA

ICA ROA : Mr. J.M. Rana, Dy Regional Director & Head,
Development Coordination Unit
Mr. Sten Dahl, Coop Development Adviser
Mr. M.V. Madane, Project Director
Mr. W.U. Herath, Education Officer
Mr. R. Mathimugan, Special Adviser on Coop
Development & Training
Mr. Bruce Gunn, Trade Adviser

Observers Mr. Jae Seung Lee, Rep. of Korea
Mr. Rong Jun, China
Mr. K. Suzuki, Japan
Mr. S. Ohta, Japan
Mr. Y. Abe, Japan

In attendance : Mr. Prem Kumar
Executive Secretary to RD/Manager (Admn), ICA ROA

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

The minutes of the 29th Meeting of the Regional Council held in New Delhi on 8th & 9th September, 1987, which had been circulated earlier, were confirmed, subject to following correction :

Mr. Kamaludin Ahmed from India stated that the minutes be

modified and Mr. Rai Singh be mentioned as Alternate Member for India.

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

The information given in the agenda note was noted.

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

The Secretary informed the meeting that as Mr. Eddiwan, the Chairman, was ill and hospitalised, he could not attend the meeting.

He further informed that initially there was a message from the Democratic Republic of Korea that they would be sending representative to attend the meeting. However, later on they sent a telex regretting their inability to send some one to attend this meeting and conveyed their best wishes for the meeting.

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

Australia

- undergoing enormous change. lost large number of successful and productive cooperatives purely and simply because we lost direction - first cooperative was formed in Australia in 1959 - it reached a penetration level - so successful was the cooperative movement that we had private investors seeking control of it and it was quite easy to do so because our country unlike many countries did not have a strong committed network associations - we certainly had

very strong and powerful industry sector, but they alone could not face threats from outside.

- The Australian Association of Cooperatives is just 3 years old - we have committed 260 members to the basic Principles of Cooperation - aggressively promoting the six Principles - we expel an organisation if it is not complying to those Principles.
- Cooperative Movement has to contribute significantly to the welfare of Australians.
- Have been successful in changing legislation in the largest State, New South Wales - changed significantly the understanding and ethos of cooperatives in that State - currently contributing significantly to the legislation in another State of Victoria.
- A delegation of visitors from USSR visited Australia.
- Looking forward positively for further links with other countries in the region in the foreseeable future.

Banqladesh

- Cooperatives in Bangladesh have diversified their economic activities and expanded area of operation.
- Government has constituted a National Cooperative Council with representatives from government & cooperative movement, to frame national policies and strategies to develop cooperative movement as the third economic sector of the country.

- Cooperative Movement in the country has created capital of Tk. 1320 million and accumulated assets of Tk 627 million.

China

- Chinese Supply & Marketing Cooperative is biggest cooperative organisation in China, with a membership of 130 million individual households, with 35 thousand primary cooperative societies, 2100 cooperative unions at county level and 28 cooperative unions at provincial level.
- The Supply & Marketing Cooperative has been recognised as a vital sector in Chinese national economy. Its annual turnover hits the value of 120 billion Yuan.
- Many changes have taken place in China, which is figured by changing from state or cooperative monopoly purchase to enlarged free marketing and by allowing private traders' operation. The competition in many fields gives coops an impact to their performances.

India

- Apart from giving agricultural inputs to the farmers, have started giving them tools and machineries also.
- Cooperatives in the country dealing with different commodities like sugar, cotton, jute, oil seeds, pulses and even processing of these commodities in cooperatives.
- International agencies helping in the field of oil seeds -government is trying to enhance production and in that effort cooperatives are taking very commendable part.

- Production of fertilizer by IFFCO & KRIBHCO amounts to 20 per cent of the total production in the country - have achieved a level of efficiency better than other sectors.
- Big expansion in the dairy field.
- At the moment, there are 3 1/2 lakhs cooperative societies in the country.
- Cooperatives have started working for the weaker sections like fisheries, transport, weavers etc.
- Housing Cooperatives are doing very well - have requested government to establish a separate bank for funding of housing schemes under cooperatives.
- Cooperative Movement in the country is trying to remove inequality in the human society and in that people are also getting attracted to the cooperatives.

Japan

Agriculture:

- Liberalisation of Agricultural imports - import restrictions on 23 items - Government of Japan declared that Japan accepts liberalisation of 8 agricultural items such as processed tomato and non-citrus juice.
- On the issue of beef and orange and orange juice imports, negotiations between Japan and the U.S. have been underway, and efforts have been made to reach certain compromise by mid-June. The bilateral talks have been getting into difficult situation, since the U.S. insists on prevention of

import surcharges allowed by GATT.

- Agricultural Organisations in Japan including agricultural cooperatives have been strongly opposing the liberalisation of farm imports in order to protect Japanese agriculture.
- Price Fluctuation of Domestic Farm Products.
- Agricultural Cooperative's Long-Term Policy Toward the 21st Century - the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives is to convene the 18th Congress of Agricultural Cooperatives in October 1988 and the Agricultural Cooperative's Long-Term Policy toward the 21st Century is to be adopted at this Congress.

Consumer:

- Government trying to increase taxation on Consumer cooperatives.
- As of March 1988, number of societies was 658, of which 527 retail cooperatives, 117 medical coops and 14 insurance and housing cooperatives.
- The total membership : 11,950,000.
- Turnover : 2,176,916 million Yen (US\$ 17,415 million)
- Wholesales to member organisations : 339,147 million Yen (US\$ 2,713 million).
- Total turnover of retail consumer coops : 1,999,676 million Yen (US\$ 1,597 million), 8% up from previous year.

- As of March 1987, there were 7643 COOP brand items.

Korea

- The Korean economy recorded a growth rate of 12.0% in 1987.
- The Gross National Product recorded 118 billion U.S.dollars at current market prices in 1987 compared with 95.1 billion U.S. dollars in 1986. The per capita income was increased from 2,296 U.S.dollars to 2,813 U.S.dollars in 1987.
- A total of 18 marketing centres were operated by the NACF in six major cities, in addition to primary cooperatives and special cooperatives operating their own centres.
- The total value of exports by NACF during 1987 amounted to 4.2 million U.S. dollars, showing a 42.8 per cent increase compared with 3.0 million U.S. dollars in the previous year.
- In 1987, NACF launched an international training centre under the Agricultural Cooperative College called the Korea Institute for Cooperative Management Training (KICOM).
- NACF published a book entitled "Agricultural Cooperative in Korea", the first English edition written about the present situation of Korean agricultural cooperatives.

Pakistan

- Establishment of a Federal Bank for Cooperatives by the Central Government, of Pakistan which is not a national cooperative bank, but a national bank for cooperatives.

- Introduction of interest-free credit policy for small farmers since 1979-80.
- Appointment of an Expert Committee at the instance of Federal Bank for Cooperatives to examine the working of agricultural cooperatives and to suggest measures for the revitalisation of the cooperative movement.
- Proposal of the government to review the cooperative law with a view to amending and improving it.
- 70% of the population is dependent on agriculture - yield per hectare in major crops have increased tremendously.

Philippines

- Rationalisation of the Cooperative Legal System - formation of a Multi-Sectoral Committee on Cooperative Legislation to ensure provision of cooperatives in the new constitution.
- Formation of a Supreme Cooperative Council of the Philippines with the active support of the Cooperative Union of Philippines, Cooperative Foundation of the Philippines and the Sugar Cooperative Development Institute of the Philippines.
- Growth of cooperatives has suffered setbacks - need to consolidate policy making registering and regulatory functions for coops and rationalising government machinery undertaking these functions into a single cooperative development authority.
- CUP was made ICA COOPTRADE affiliate centre in the Philippines in November 1987.

- Setting up of National Farmers Cooperative Promotion and Development Council composed of representatives from the Supreme Cooperative Council of the Philippines to assist in the implementation of the Perspective Plan for the Agricultural Cooperatives.
- Establishment of the Cooperative Development Authority and the promulgation of an Omnibus Cooperative Code.

Singapore

- Launching of cooperative ventures by the Singapore National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) and its affiliated unions, to provide for more economic and social benefits to the workers by having a definite stake in the economy of Singapore.
- There are at present 58 registered cooperative societies in Singapore, with a total membership of 298,669 and a paid up capital of \$94.4 million.
- Current membership of SNCF stands at 266,175 representing 51 cooperative societies.
- Introduction of a Loan Reform Insurance Scheme.
- Formation of a National League for Credit Coops.
- Formation of a specialised cooperative venture to provide a wide range of security and related services - the Premier Security Cooperative Society Ltd.
- Formation this year of a Computer Training Scheme, the Premier Computer Cooperative Ltd, focusing on computer education for cooperative members and the general public.

- Plan to look into the feasibility of setting up a travel bureau service for members, senior citizens' homes and related services, child-care centres, tutorial groups, trading cooperatives etc.

Sri Lanka

- Some structural changes in the administrative set-up of the country is under consideration of the Government.
- The National Cooperative Council has already started a project in the Mahaweli 'H' zone with the financial and technical assistance of the SIDA/SCC.
- In keeping with the government policy on devolution of powers to the Provincial Councils that are to be set up soon, the Cooperative Movement too will get decentralised. The Provincial Registrars of the Cooperative Department would get more powers and would function under separate statute.
- The National Cooperative Council will initiate action to establish district unions in order to keep pace with the provincial administrative system.

Thailand

- CLT at present has affiliates numbering 2,548 cooperative cooperatives serving 2.6 million members at the primary level.
- Changes in the Board of Directors of the CLT.

- Establishment of Dairy Farmers Cooperatives.
- CLT responsible for training committee members and staff of non-agricultural cooperatives, while the National Agricultural Cooperative Training Institute (NACTI), an EEC supported project attached to CLT, has taken charge of agricultural cooperative management training.
- In order to boost the morale of the staff of the cooperatives, the CLT launched a programme for selection of the best managers of cooperatives in 1988. Two managers were selected and prizes have been awarded to them by the Prime Minister at the time of the National Cooperative Day.
- Proposal to establish a cooperative insurance company.

Mr. Alexander I. Krasheninnikov

"On behalf of the Centrosoyuz Board and the Soviet Cooperatives allow me to greet distinguished participants and guests to the 30th Regional Council Meeting of the International Cooperative Alliance. It is great honour to us to participate in the observer capacity in the meeting of such a representative and respected body of the ICA as the Regional Council. We would like to express our thanks to the ICA Associate Director, Mr. Bruce Thordarson, and the Regional Director, Mr. G.K. Sharma, who took initiative to invite us here to attend the Council Meeting.

I would like to emphasize the desire to cooperate with each other more closely and the desire is mutual.

Today some of the people were surprised to see us here. To those surprised, I would like to say that the major part of Soviet Union lies in Asia and I personally was born in Asia..... The

areas of our joint collaboration could be very broad. I can just name bilateral trade, technical assistance, organising joint ventures, joint seminars, training courses etc. I would like to mention specifically our assistance in the field of cooperative education and training. For the last quarter of a century, Centrosoyus trained more than 1200 cooperative specialists from the cooperative movements of Asia and as you know most of them are still working in the cooperative movement of Asia. But if we take global figure of the personnel from the third world trained by Centrosoyus it will be in excess of 4,000 people....We expect that our closer acquaintance with the work of the Regional Council will help us to identify new areas of our joint collaboration. We also express our readiness to collaborate more closely with those organisations/members of the Council with which we do not have relations in the past. We have one thing in common - members belonging to the International Cooperative Alliance which is the propagator of the common ideas of friendship, solidarity, equality and democracy.

Centrosoyus joined the ICA in 1903 and since then we have always been hearing these Cooperative Principles. To those of you who are not very familiar with the movement in the Soviet Union, I would like to make a brief introduction. The first cooperative in Russia was established 13 years before the Rochdale Society. But finally the movement was established since 1860 and of course they were greatly influenced by the Rochdale Pioneers Society activities. After the October Revolution in 1917 cooperatives were not only preserved but they were further developed.

In the consumer cooperatives we have 60 million members affiliated to Centrosoyus with three and half million cooperative employees. Our cooperatives in fact are multipurpose and the main area of interest is trading services to the population. Cooperatives serve nearly 50% of the population of the USSR out

of 208 million. Cooperative turnover amounts to one-third of the national turnover. Another area of our activity is the purchase of agricultural produce. Cooperatives buy from the agricultural producers 60-100 types of different agricultural produce. In the money terms that amounts to 11 billion Roubles (15 million Dollars). Centrosoyus operates a wide network of restaurants, cafeterias, canteens. We can serve 4 million customers at the canteens. Besides cooperative construction activities, we do not have any outside help or external assistance We do everything ourselves. Another major area of work is production. We have more than 25,000 cooperative factories and plants. We buy the agricultural produce and we also process it. We sell it in our retail outlets. Besides, consumer cooperatives, we have agricultural cooperatives, housing cooperatives (which we call garden cooperatives). In the last two years, a new cooperative movement was born in the service and production areas. I would like to say that in two years time more than 20,000 new cooperatives were created. These are industrial cooperatives, marketing cooperatives, transportation cooperatives, health care cooperatives, credit cooperatives, housing cooperatives and they united more than 4 million members.

We have good relationship with the Government in the Soviet Union, but the rapid development in the cooperative sector has brought us to the point when we decided that we needed cooperative to have the legislation in the Soviet Union. I would like to stress that it was the Centrosoyus first who brought up the idea of having cooperative laws and the commission was set up in the country. They worked for more than a year and may be you might have heard that only recently the Parliament of the Soviet Union adopted the first Cooperative Law in the Soviet Union. After introducing many amendments and additions, the law was improved and it will come into effect from July 1st this year.

Coming to the Regional Council, I would like to say that we have always been very well informed about the work done by the ROA in New Delhi. I have been a member of the ICA Central Committee for the last 22 years and I have been attending all meetings without exception of the Executive Committee, Central Committee and of the Congress of the ICA. During that time I have been always watching with interest and sympathy the growth of ROA in Asia and the increasing efforts to influence and to stimulate cooperative development in the region. In the Executive Committee and Central Committee Meetings we have always supported the ideas and proposals put forward by the ROA or the Regional Council for Asia. For example, if you take the affair of the Bonow House, from the very beginning Centrosoyus was against selling Bonow House.

I would like to assure you that Centrosoyus is prepared to work with you very closely and not only to work but also to consider the membership of your Council if you wish so. This will give us a chance and possibility to be more involved in the cooperative development in Asia. Centrosoyus would be ready to initiate the question of membership of the Regional Council. Finally, I would like to wish ROA in New Delhi and our good friend, Regional Director Mr. Sharma, great success in his very difficult but noble tasks. Also we would like to wish the distinguished members of the Regional Council very successful and fruitful deliberations and at the same time thank the organisers, the SAKCF, for the hospitality and excellent conditions provided for the meeting.."

Mr. Bernt Adelstal, SCC

Talking about the Swedish Cooperative Movement - there are eight movements, all of them voluntarily created in the beginning of this century and generally in collaboration with the trade unions

and the Social Democratic Party which has been in government for most of the 40-45 years. I restrict myself to few comments on problems and potentials in the three cooperative movements : (1) Consumer Cooperatives KF - the problem with consumer cooperatives have been over the last 2-3 years, reduced market shares, reduced profitability and that has caused KF to call in a consultancy company in marketing and business administration, which resulted in a reorganisation, with positive impact on the consumer cooperative movement.

Agricultural Cooperatives - we do have about 100,000 farmers. Our main problem is that they are too efficient, producing too much. They sell in the market at considerably lower prices.

Housing Cooperatives - Represented by two cooperative organisations - there is general lack of houses in Sweden resulting in exorbitant prices of houses - reason : over-heated economy and few construction workers.

So consumer cooperatives have low profits, low market share, agricultural cooperatives do have over production, housing cooperatives low production.

We do have still a number of people with the right combination of cooperative spirit and good common sense.

Mr Bruce Thordarson, ICA

ICA CONGRESS

- There will be over 1,000 delegates and observers attending the Congress - supreme decision making body for ICA - takes place once in 4 years.

- There will be preliminary meetings of the Specialised Organisations, to begin with, and the Congress itself will take place from 7th to 10th July, 1988.
- On the 6th July there will be a meeting of the Development Forum. This is a new initiative which we took last year whereby we devote a full day to discuss development issue.
- Our expectation is that perhaps majority of the people coming to the Congress will be interested in participating in the Development Forum. The theme is "Movement to Movement Assistance".
- There are two themes of the Congress, one is "the Basic Values of Cooperation". This theme was based upon the ICA Executive Committee decision that the ICA should rewatch, review and rethink about cooperative philosophy in the developing countries. There are many movements which are facing the challenge to cooperative philosophy in the developing countries where people are asking questions what is cooperative philosophy and so ICA would like to use this opportunity to think about this fundamental issue. ICA President has written a paper outlining fundamental cooperative values as a discussion paper to begin process of debate and we would hope this will lead to several reflection not only on basic values but upon the principles.
- The other theme is Development. Another paper has been prepared on 30 years of experience in cooperative development because it is exactly 30-31 years ago at the ICA Congress in Stockholm in 1957 that the ICA and its member organisations began to interest themselves into development and we thought it would be appropriate now after 30 years to see what have been the successes and failures in the

development effort , what lessons we have learnt and what are the lessons for the future, what should be our priorities for cooperatives in the next 30 years. The second paper which will be presented at the Congress addresses some of these issues.

- The U.N. Secretary-General will address the inaugural session of the Congress. His presence will give a great boost to the prestige of the ICA.

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

Executive Sub-Committee of the Regional Council

The Regional Director briefly mentioned about the salient features of the 9th Meeting of the ExSubCo held at Bangkok on 18-19 January, 1988.

One of the items discussed was association of ICA member organisations in the Region with the activities of Regional Council from countries having more than two members. The ExSubCo 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 of the Council."

The Report on Activities carried out by ROA Projects was discussed. The Chairman mentioned about the activities carried out by ASEAN Cooperative Organisation (ACO) and the ExSubCo recommended that "coordination between ICA ROA and ACO be developed."

While the Work Programme for the next three years i.e. 1988-89 and 1990-91 was presented, the Chairman observed that "this was for the first time in the history of ICA ROA that such a comprehensive development programme along with the budgets and sponsors had been prepared and presented to the ESC...The member for Japan supported the development programme. He indicated that the support from Japan Government will be on the same level as before."

Bonow House was also discussed and the ExSubCo recommended that "Bonow House should be retained and that efforts should be made to increase ROA income and effect economies in expenditure..."

Donors support to ROA was also taken up and the ExSubCo recommended that "in principle all donor agencies supporting ROA projects should finance the institution building components of the ICA ROA as recommended by the Evaluation Mission and that this percentage should be 10% of the total project cost..."

In regard to the proposal for holding a Regional Consultation on Role of Government in Promoting Cooperative Development, the ExSubCo recommended that "ROA 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 Council's decisions on the various matters are given later on in the minutes in respect of specific items.

Sub-Committee on Trade & Industry (SCTI)

Two meetings of the SCTI were held during the period. The first meeting was held in October 1987 in Singapore, while the second one was held in Kuala Lumpur in April 1988.

At the meeting in Singapore, the members expressed concern for the relative lack of industrial agro processing and industrial cooperative development in the region as a whole. There seems need for the Regional Council and the Sub-Committees to do some coordination. Perhaps some strategy would have to be found out with respect to industrial development in the cooperative sector both for agricultural and other commodities.

There seems to be a need for joint strategy, regional strategies, and the SCTI will look at several of those issues in the next meeting of the SCTI at Chiangmai.

The SCTI has suggested that the Council should consider changing the designation of the Regional Office and Regional Council from "ICA Regional Office for Asia" to "ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific".

The Regional Council discussed at length this issue. Some members felt that the change in the name would be needed in view of ICA ROA covering Australia and also serving some Pacific islands. A question was raised as to which Pacific countries should be covered. The geographical area covered should be well defined.

The Member for Japan, said : "We had experienced the change from South-East Asia to Asia. We have been surprised to hear that without proper preliminary information regarding change in the nomenclature, we are discussing the change in name of the Council into "Asia and the Pacific". My feeling about this is that we

have to spend plenty of time to see whether we can adopt it or not. We should have plenty of time to discuss this and then opinions of each and every Councillor have to be taken up and heard and then we should finally make a decision".

The Chairman said that this will be studied by the ROA and then presented to the next Regional Council Meeting with technical and procedural difficulty. This study be made by the Regional Director of ROA. This should be disseminated in advance so that the members will have ample time to make a study before the ExSubCo and Regional Council meets in Korea.

The Council suggested that the Sub-committees should meet earlier and that written reports of the sub-committees should be submitted in advance.

The council accepted the suggestion of the Trade Adviser to have joint meetings of the Sub-Committees of Fisheries, Agriculture and Trade.

Education & Training Sub-Committee

Mr. W.U. Herath informed the meeting that the first meeting of the Education & Training Sub-Committee was held from 27th to 29th May, 1988 at Bangkok, in which 14 members attended.

The committee discussed at length two main points : (1) Adoption of the Constitution and (2) Consideration of the Work Plans of the project for the next four years.

In regard to the adoption of constitution there were detailed deliberations from the members and they had lively discussion about the role of the sub-committee and to make the committee operational rather than advisory.

It was decided to call this committee "ICA Committee on Human Resource Development in Cooperatives in Asia". This constitution has been submitted to the Regional Council for approval.

The Chairman said that because of existing procedures as well as the technical defect, we need at least one month to make a thorough study that would be proposed for policy direction. ICA policy itself does not allow the sub-committee to become operational. It will remain advisory in nature. Perhaps we endorse this to the RQA for a thorough study and then making a report at our next Regional Council Meeting.

The Member for Pakistan expressed that this constitution has to be studied by the members after giving due notice. He requested that this be tabled for adoption at the next Regional Council Meeting.

The Member for Singapore said that this committee should be more functional rather than advisory capacity. Otherwise it will not work very well.

The Regional Director said that if necessary the committee can act even as advisory committee while waiting for the approval of the constitution by the Council.

Sub-Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia

Mr. M. Dhya, Chairman, briefly mentioned the gist of discussions carried out at the 12th meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 30-31 May 1988 at Chiangmai, Thailand.

1. The Sub-Committee approved the minutes of the last meeting.

2. Concerning activities, the members of the Sub-Committee said that activities carried under the Project had benefited their respective movements. It was suggested by members that Mr. Puri who has an intimate knowledge about the consumer cooperative movement in each country of the region, be requested to carry out an analytical regional study based on the consumer cooperative movement in each country.

3. Regarding the Work Programme of the Project for 1988-89, the committee agreed that the following activities should be included in the work plan :

- (i) Regional Seminar on Member Participation and Housewives Involvement in Consumer Cooperatives for Women Cooperators.
- (ii) National Seminar on Orientation of University Cooperatives in Japan.
- (iii) Consultancy study on the functioning of State Federations of Consumers Cooperatives in India.
- (iv) Workshop on evolving appropriate strategy for the promotion and development of effective and sound consumer cooperative movements.
- (v) National Workshop on evolving an appropriate strategy for the promotion and development of effective and sound consumers cooperative movement.
- (vi) Technical assistance to Training Programme for committee members.
- (vii) Technical assistance to training programme for Employees of Consumer Cooperatives

(viii) Role of Governments in developing countries for building up strong and effective consumers cooperative movements.

(ix) Research studies to determine trends regarding development of consumer cooperative movements in selected countries of the region.

(x) Meeting of the ICA Sub-Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia (the sub-committee will hold two meetings: one in November-December 1988 at Kuala Lumpur and the other in May 1989 in Tokyo).

4. The members unanimously proposed and elected Mr. M. Jhya from Japan as Chairman and Col. Surin Cholepraserd from Thailand as Vice Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

5. The members of the Sub-Committee unanimously complimented Mr. M.K. Puri, Adviser upto January 1988 and thereafter Consultant with the Consumer Cooperative Development Project, for having carried out his responsibilities with devotion and hard work.

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

D.C.U. and Agriculture Project

Mr. J.M. Rana mentioned that as regards the report of activities and work programme of the Development Coordination Unit and the Agriculture Project, he has requested Mr. Sten Dahl to present the report.

The Cooperative Development Adviser, Mr. Sten Dahl, forwarded the

views that the Perspective Planning efforts for agricultural cooperatives in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines are raising a number of demands for :

- a) Coordination of efforts by the various cooperative support agencies by the National Apex Organisations,
- b) Increased manpower and technical expertise within the cooperative movement,
- c) Substantial funding of programmes and projects in line with developed long-term plans,
- d) Substantial increases in cooperative member participation, committee members and leadership development, Cooperative Education & Training.

Although the ICA ROA stresses the maximization of the mobilisation and use of internal cooperative and national resources in implementation of the perspective plans, it cannot be helped that the expectations for assistance are quite high.

The Cooperative Development Adviser further concluded that there is no world body dealing exclusively with financing wholistic, comprehensive and consolidated national cooperative development plans. The world body and national bilateral agencies and NGO's previously involved in cooperative development, efforts are merely doing individual project inputs while more is required in terms of long-term efforts.

Mr. Sten Dahl in view of the above and the mere fact that "where the funds are there you also find the decision making power" and therefore, the needs of the cooperative movements are very often overridden by the needs of the private sector interests. Thus the

build up of required infrastructural facilities for long-term Cooperative Development Programmes and Plans are of highest priority to the movements.

Mr. Sten Dahl, therefore, finalised his remarks by bringing forward for consideration of the Council Members the setting up of a World Cooperative Development Bank with funding from all the cooperative movements in the world and which will address the Cooperative Development programmes as per needs expressed by the member movements of the ICA. The Bank could e.g. address some of the problems of the cooperative movements such as financing and providing technical assistance for establishing cooperative systems for marketing, processing and education in selected countries.

Mr. M.V. Madane, Project Director, ICA-Japan Training Project for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia, gave a brief outline of the programme and said : "We have given the participants an opportunity to study various management models and we have seen during the two training courses a change taking place in their capability. This has given good results. The results of the first year programme were positive. Based on the experience of the first year we modified the course contents, and enlarged the period of home assignments to 40 days. That gave better results and the selection of participants was improved. We had more homogeneous group during the second year, both in the course programme and social integration. Projects that came out of the training are valuable projects because they are at the grass root level. They are not very ambitious projects, but the problem is how to follow-up the projects...movements have a chance of using these people for greater advantage in their own situation.It has been assured by the Government of Japan that the project would be continued upto 5 years..I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the role played by the

cooperative organisations in four countries, namely, India, Thailand, Japan and the Republic of Korea."

In this connection, the Council adopted the following resolution:

"The Regional Council of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) for Asia, at its thirtieth meeting held in Singapore on second and third of June, 1988 has noted with deep appreciation and with great satisfaction the substantial financial grant by government of Japan to ICA for leadership training in management of agricultural cooperatives in Asia. The Council also received the report of the activities carried out during the first two years of the project. Implementation of the projects prepared by the course participants is of vital importance for the grass-root level development of the cooperatives in the Asian Region. The ICA Council, therefore, requests the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan to consider providing additional assistance for implementing the projects for ensuring greater benefit from ICA/Japan Project Activities."

Cooptrade Project

Mr. Bruce Gunn, Trade Adviser, circulated a brief report on the operation of the Sub-Committee on Trade and Industry in the region including important developments of the ICA Cooptrade Project over the past 12 months.

Education & Training Project

Mr. W.U. Herath, Education Officer, said that there have been certain changes in the project. Earlier it was a Cemas Project. There have been critical remarks by the Evaluation Team about the

activities. The project was renamed as Education & Training Project, and later on as Human Resource Development Project, because some activities go beyond mere education and training.

Mr. R. Mathimugan, Special Adviser on Coop Development & Training

Mr. Mathimugan said "Misunderstanding and misconception exist in regard to the ICA Office in Australia. The office was for the purposes of mobilising resources for development in the developing countries in Asia and South Pacific and to bring Australian Movement into the international development scene and to make them participate in ICA activities. It was not definitely for the purposes of helping the Australian Movement. There is much that we can benefit from the experience and expertise from the he Australian cooperative sector. They make commitment to support ICA and its developmental work in the South Pacific Region. Individual Australian cooperatives are undertaking joint ventures and other technical programmes with Papua and New Guinea and South Pacific countries, ILO uses Australian cooperative expertise in their training programmes in cooperatives in that region. It was only a question of channeling and getting them into proper network of the international scene. Australian Association of Cooperatives (AAC) responded very enthusiastically and gave commitment and that commitment was substantiated by the formation of an International Relations Committee in AAC. The objective of that committee was to organise and undertake developmental aid for developing countries and to become a member of the ICA....Under the Australian Government Aid Programme, they provide incentives for developing countries to promote their projects, they provide funding for delegations, for training of people from the developing countries. I was asked to focus on development. The Australian Movement and the Australian Government have given commitment in that regard and it is now awaiting organisational undertaking by the ICA and the Regional

Council.....I have to say here in concluding that the AAC has asked me to act as Secretary of the International Relations Committee and the AAC has been funding my local expenses. I am grateful to the AAC for their support".

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

Agenda Item No. 8 : Report on IDACA Activities

The information given in the Agenda Notes was noted by the Council. Mr. Shiro Futagami, Managing Director, IDACA, presented the report on the activities of IDACA in 1987-88.

Mr. Futagami mentioned that since IDACA's inception, it has been working closely with the ICA ROA. Since IDACA is a training institution there is a need to coordinate the activities with the ICA ROA. In the beginning we had IDACA Board of Advisers meeting immediately after the ICA Council Meeting as the members of both the bodies were the same. We have been having joint meetings in order to economise cost of the meeting and also save time of the council members. That is why the report on IDACA activities are under the ICA Council Meeting".

During the period 1988-89, eight training courses, programmes etc. have been planned. In the recent courses, IDACA has been focusing on member participation, how to identify the needs of the members and to formulate the programmes on the basis of those needs, and how to integrate those programmes into agricultural cooperative activities, viz. marketing, supply, credit etc.

The Member for Pakistan suggested that IDACA should organise a training course of 2-3 weeks duration for Ministers, Secretaries

and Registrars of Cooperative Societies who set the tone for the movement and also create the environment- for them to go to Japan and see what can be achieved and to get inspiration and ideas.

Mr. Shiro Futagami mentioned that this proposal was put forward in the last Regional Council Meeting also. I think it is very necessary to collaborate with ICA ROA. Maybe the future ICA's Regional Seminar can be devoted to this subject.

Mr. Ki Won Suh, Member for Korea, mentioned that the two ICA Training Courses for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia, which ended in Korea, have been very well organised. He suggested that the number of participants may be increased.

The Chairman said : "Based on the funding support from the Government of Japan there was a five year programme to have this type of training for six months. We find it very useful, very practical and it has a very pragmatic approach".

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

While taking up Agenda Item 8, the various Project Officers also briefly mentioned about the work programme for the next three years. The Council decided that "the overall objective of the development programme during the next four years is to enhance the democratic bases of the cooperative movement through increased member participation, healthy and constructive government-movement relations and to enhance the economic performance of cooperative organisations especially in agriculture and consumer sectors."

Keeping in view the ICA Policy for Cooperative Development, the Council decided that the strategy of the ROA for development for 1988-1992 period will be :

- 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 Council also approved the work plans of the various projects and authorised the Regional Director to make needed modifications in the work programmes keeping in view the changing needs and the view points of the donors and the Head Quarters.

Agenda Item No.10 : Budget Estimates of ROA - 1988

Agenda Item No.11 : Donors Support to ICA

The Regional Director said : "ROA budget is a very small budget. We are trying to cut expenditure to the minimum except that we have to refund the advance taken against Bonow House ...We are trying to increase our resources".

Mr. Bernt Adelstal of SCC mentioned : "During the planning session in December when the sale of Bonow House was taken up for discussion we were quite concerned from the SCC secretariat. We were of the opinion that the Bonow House should be retained. We also came to the conclusion that we should charge the various projects 10% service charge in order to service the projects. I would like to only make sure that this commitment from the SCC is only for the three year period. The Bonow House was built by money from the Swedish Consumer Cooperative Movement and there are certain difficulties in making them understand that we have to pay rent".

The following recommendation of the Ex-Sub-Committee was accepted by the Council:

"In principle all donor agencies supporting should finance the institution building components of the ICA ROA as recommended by the Evaluation Mission and that this percentage should be 10% of the total project cost. However, this rate should not be regarded as rigid and can be varied depending upon the circumstances and negotiations with donors".

Agenda Item No. 12 : Project on "Role of Government in Promoting Cooperative Development in Asia"

The information given in the agenda note was noted by the Council.

The ROA expressed its satisfaction that the Regional Consultation on the subject was well prepared and recommended that a Regional Conference of Ministers in charge of Cooperation be held to lay down guidelines on Governments' role in promoting Cooperative Development and to promote economic development through the instrumentality of cooperatives in countries of the Asia Pacific

Region and international cooperative trade. The Council also suggested that a Cooperate Trade exhibition be arranged in conjunction with the Ministers' Conference.

The Council accepted with thanks the invitation of AAC to host the Conference in Australia and expressed its appreciation of the offer of AAC to work with the Australian Government in funding costs of the Conference and the Trade Exhibition.

Mr. V.P. Singh, India, said that at the last meeting of the Executive Committee of the ICA held at Banjul he had made a suggestion for modern cooperative legislation. He wanted to know whether some work has been done at Geneva.

Mr. Bruce Thordarson said as far as actual development legislation, we felt that in many cases cooperative legislation vary from country to country and that this could be taken as regional activity.

Agenda Item No. 13 : Progress regarding the sale of Bonow House

The Regional Director mentioned that the ICA Executive Committee at its meeting held in Geneva on 18 February 1988 had unanimously decided in favour of retaining Bonow House and not to insist for sale.

He said that in a recent communication received from the NCDC they have conveyed that they have no objection to allowing ICA ROA to retain Bonow House and asking for the refund of advance of RS.2 million rupees. He further said that the Japanese Cooperative Movement were kind enough to give an advance of Rs.2 million for repaying NCDC's loan.

The Council expressed its happiness regarding the decision of the Executive Committee on the Bonow House. It was appreciative of the assistance rendered in this regard by the various donor agencies, the loan given by JCCU and the helpful attitude of NCDC.

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

The following recommendation of the Executive Sub-Committee on the subject was placed before the Council;

"The Executive Sub-Committee reviewed the position regarding subscription by the members to the ROA as well as various sub-committees of the Regional Council. It was expressed that once the members make commitment, members should honour their commitments.

The Japanese Member expressed that in case it was not possible to recover the arrears, then only waiving of the arrears may be considered. It would be desirable that the proposed revised amounts indicated below should serve as a guideline and discussions be held with the movement outside the meeting to work

out a mutually agreed quantum of contributions and placed before the Regional Council".

	<u>INR</u>	<u>US\$</u>
Australia (1)	19,125	1,500
Bangladesh (1)	10,000	785
India (8)	30,000	2,353
Indonesia (1)	10,000	785
Japan (8)	100,000	7,850
S.Korea (1)	20,000	1,568
N.Korea (1)	10,000	785
Malaysia (8)	18,000	1,412
Pakistan (2)	10,000	785
Philippines (3)	10,000	785
Singapore (2)	15,000	1,176
Sri Lanka (2)	10,000	785
Thailand (1)	10,000	785
China (1)	20,000	1,568
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43	292,125	22,917
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Agenda Item No. 15 : "Hall of Honour"

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

1. Prof. Nurul Islam, Bangladesh
2. Mohammad Hasan Ali Sardar, Bangladesh
3. Dr. K.K.S. Chauhan, India
4. Royal Prof. Ungku Aziz, Malaysia

5. Mr. Mordino R. Cua, Philippines
6. Mr. Vincente A. Martires, Philippines

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

The ExSubCo also recommended the following :

- 1) Each country should be asked to recommend only one name, and in respect of those countries who have recommended more than one name, the names be referred back with a request to recommend only one name;
- 2) The Hall of Honour should be awarded to only one person from the region every year;
- 3) The award should be in the form of a Plaque with citation. It should be on behalf of the Regional Council to be signed by the Chairman of the Regional Council and the Regional Director."

The Regional Council approved the recommendation made by the ExSubCo.

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

Agenda Item No. 17 : Rules for regulating Regional Council Meetings under Article 34 of the Rules & Standing Orders of the ICA

Since both the agenda items were inter-related, the Council decided to take them together.

On being asked to commend, Mr. Bruce Thordarson said : "Generally in a membership organisation particularly in a cooperative organisation each member should have the right to attend the General Assembly meeting, which in our case mean the right to attend the Regional Council Meetings of ROA. This may be an area in which the revision of the ICA Rules in 1984 caused unintended complication. I suspect this was done in 1984 because the Regional Council was not self-financing at that time. But it strikes me that if from a country there are eight members of the region it would not be proper to limit their participation. If they wish to attend, we should encourage them. We should consider amending the rules of the Regional Council so that all the members of the region could be eligible for membership of the Regional Council. Till then, we invite them as observers".

The Council recommended that the relevant rules in the ICA Rules and Standing Orders should be amended to provide accommodation to all the members of the Regional Council to attend the meeting. Till then the Council approved the following recommendation made by the ExSubCo in this regard :

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

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

Agenda Item No. 18 : Cooperative Leaders Exchange Programme

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

The Regional Council was of the unanimous opinion that such exchange programmes should be encouraged as it was a welcome idea. It was also suggested that the ROA be kept informed by members of such bilateral exchanges.

Agenda Item No. 19 : Relations with International Organisations

The information given in the agenda notes was noted by the Council.

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

Gen A.S. Lozada of the Philippines and Mr. Ki Won Suh of the Republic of Korea were unanimously elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Regional Council respectively for the Congress period, viz.1988-1992. ✓

The following were elected members of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Regional Council :

1. Gen A.S. Lozada, Philippines : Chairman
2. Mr. Ki Won Suh, Rep of Korea : Vice-Chairman
3. Mr. D.S. Bhuria, India : Member
4. Mr. M. Sakurai, Japan : Member
5. Mr. M.R.B.Daswatte, Sri Lanka : Member
6. Anan Chamnankit, Thailand : Member

The Council placed on record its thanks to Mr. Eddiwan, the outgoing Chairman.

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

The Member for Korea, Mr. Ki Won Suh, confirmed his invitation to the Regional Council to hold its 31st Meeting in Seoul, Republic of Korea, end April or mid-May 1989. The Council accepted the invitation and decided to hold the next Council Meeting in S.Korea. The exact date can be worked out by the ROA with the host movement.

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

1. Nominations for Regional Seminars and Training Programmes- Consideration of the letter of the Sugar Cooperatives Development Institute, Philippines:

The recommendation of the ExSubCo in this regard was considered by the Council, and it was of the opinion that the ICA may communicate directly with all affiliates and make final selection of the participants.

22.2. CICOPA Meeting

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

Mr. Bruce Gunn said that SCTI could interface with the operation of this committee in the region. We do some preventive thinking whether this will conflict and cause duplication.

The Regional Director said: "The formation of this committee will depend on the response from the movements, particularly from China and Japan. The SCTI could be on the committee also as a special invitee and coordination could be maintained. I do not see any difficulty. CICOPA is very keen to have this committee and would be happy to have SCTI representative on the committee".

3. Promoting Technical Cooperation among Cooperatives in Asia with support of UNDP Special Unit for TCDC

The information given in the agenda notes circulated separately was noted by the Council.

Mr. J.M. Rana introduced the subject at the meeting. Mr. Rana also introduced to the Council, Mr Hussain, Deputy Director, Special Unit, TCDC, UNDP, New York, who had specially come for assisting discussion on the TCDC item.

Mr. Rana said; "TCDC is a sharing of experience between two or more developing countries for their mutual development.

This is something which the ICA member movements in this region have been doing since the establishment of the ROA in 1960. The new element here is that our activities in this particular field would get an additional boost through support that we would get from the Special Unit of TCDC....The main element of TCDC programme in the field of cooperatives as far as we are concerned would be exchange of short-term experts, provision of training facilities and training courses, study tours and development of joint ventures..As far as financial aspects are concerned, the costs of TCDC programmes are shared between two developing countries participating in the project. External travel costs usually involving the hard currency component are met by the UN system or donor countries. As far as ROA is concerned, what we need is a short-term consultant for carrying out this work who need not work on a full-time basis. But that input would be very essential and our discussions with the Director of the Special Unit of TCDC indicated that there would be possibility for the Special Unit to support us in this regard.

Mr. Hussain said: "What is involved here is a method or structured approach in gathering information on the capacities, expertise, training opportunities and joint venture possibilities.....The purpose of this exercise has been to develop technical cooperation between the institutions of the developing countries and to ensure that a greater degree of self-reliance is achieved not only in the achieving of the projects but in their implementation. It is indeed very desirable that the projects should not only to be initiated and managed by the institutions but also probably financed by them. We in the UN system stand ready to assist you in this task whenever your resources would be short of requirements. Here the rules of the thumb

apply viz.that experts, short-term consultants are made available by their employers, institutions to other developing countries and they will continue to receive their salaries in their home country from their employers. We in the UN system come in to meet the difference more specifically in the form of airfare. The contribution of UNDP need not necessarily be confined only to the airfare. If and when there is need to supplement the local costs, you will not find us failing in that direction subject of course to the continued availability of funds. Although the method described in Mr. Rana's paper is roughly of the order that we followed in the past, it does not necessarily mean that these are our determined prescriptions and that this kind of method must be followed in all cases. In fact you can organise your own programme in the manner that best suits your needs, your requirements and your capability and we would be happy to join with you in supporting the realisation of your programme.One exercise that is currently in progress is between Pakistan and 32 other developing countries in the field of industry and science. This means a Regional Meeting in one host country with a number of other countries participating to take advantage of its capacities in respect of their developmental needs. There is no reason why a multi country exercise cannot be organised in the field of cooperatives and this is the subject of the proposal before you.

Gen Lozada : It is a country to country exercise. Does this mean it is government to government -relationship. How can cooperative movement take advantage of this without governmental intervention? Is there a need for a collateral?

Mr. Hussain : Technical cooperation from a developing country to developing countries, actually means cooperation

between one institution in a country and another institution of another developing country. These institutions can either be within the domain of the government or governmental entities. They can be NGO or in the private sector. So long as the institution is engaged in any form of economic and social activity, it certainly qualifies for support from our funds and from our recourses. It is absolutely necessary however that TCDC activities must of course have at least the blessings of the government of the recipient countries. A request for assistance from a non-governmental entity can be channeled through the government coordinating authority to the UNDP Resident Representative in the capital city. Arrangements have been established between the government and UNDP for the transmittal of official requests through the governmental authorities to Resident Representative. Technical cooperation where exchange of experts or exchange of trainees or provision of study tour training is involved, the question of collateral really has not been considered. We have to remain flexible and open to any proposals that really promotes technical cooperation among developing countries."

The Regional Director said that we will work out details in consultation with our member organisations in the region.

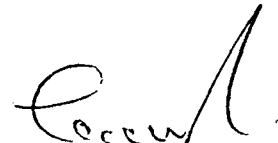
Mr. Hussain : I share your views. You can succeed in building up a programme that can be effectively supported. It would be a very practical proposition if you were to identify a country that can serve as a host country initially and other countries can join in also as co-hosts. We will then establish some kind of mechanism in cooperation with the ICA secretariat to see how a compendium on the capacities of the cooperative institutions of the host countries can be built up which then can be shared with the

institutions of those countries that will be needing those capacities.One thought I would like to leave with you in this connection; in every country we have a UN Resident Representative who has very close contact and collaboration with the government of the country concerned and he could be helpful in obtaining governmental clearance to the proposals that you would be developing in the country.

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

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the host - the Singapore National Cooperative Federation - for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting, and to the Chair.

New Delhi
17 June 1988


G.K.Sharma
Secretary

pk/

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

Welcome Address by Mr Eric Cheong, SNCF Chairman and MP for Toa Payoh, to be delivered at the ICA Regional Council Meeting on Thursday, 2 June, 1988, at 9.30am. at the Plaza Hotel, Happiness Hall (Level 3)

On behalf of the Singapore National Co-operative Federation, I take great pleasure in welcoming all delegates to this 30th ICA Regional Council Meeting and, in particular, Mr Zulkifli Mohamed, Political Secretary to the Ministry of Community Development. I am grateful to him for taking time off from his tight schedule to be with us to grace this occasion and to officiate the opening of this important meeting which is attended by more than 30 participants from 14 Asian countries.

I am sure the co-operative message Mr Zulkifli brings us this morning will inspire us to attain new dimensions in the development of co-operatives in this region.

This Regional Council Meeting is held at a time when the Co-operative Movement in Singapore is undergoing major changes with some development projects in the pipeline. SNCF has just finalised a corporate plan for the period from 1988 to 1990. It is hoped that the Corporate Plan SNCF has developed will meet the needs of the rapidly changing society and the technological era of the 1990s."

I am pleased to say that SNCF has in the recent weeks forged ahead to establish several co-operative development projects including a computer training school and a league for credit co-operatives.

Under Agenda Item 5 : Report by Regional Councillors on "Recent Changes, Trends and Developments in their Co-operative Movement" my colleagues, Mr A.A. David and Mr P.K. Panadam, will share with you the experiences we have in starting and developing these co-operative ventures.

I was delighted to learn from your Agenda Item 7 : Report on Activities carried out during 1987-88 that the ICA RO Co-operative Development Unit has been active and also successful in a 3-week training programme in project identification and planning in Bangkok.. This was initiated in mid-1987 and has resulted in 16 agricultural projects being submitted, of which 3 proposals have received the attention of the Co-operative League of Thailand. Another training course for agricultural co-operative managers and trainers was also successfully conducted in Philippines. The Ambulong Credit Co-op project will, I understand, provide employment to 50 members in processing meat. I congratulate the CDU for the achievements. ICA CDU of the Regional Office for Asia is certainly a motivational force.

May I now take this opportunity to ask this 30th Regional Council to consider, among other projects for 1988-89, concentrating NOT ONLY on agrarian or rural co-operative activities but ALSO co-operative ventures for urbanised societies.

As you are aware, Singapore is an urbanised society with no natural resources. It has only human resources. Our economic strategy is free trade. We have traditionally been a free trade country, doing business with the rest of the world on a free market basis. We have included facilities for counter-trade and related trading arrangements. Perhaps ICA, with representation from 69 countries, almost a mini-UN, could consider the benefits to be derived from further liberalisation of world trade, particularly in relation to international co-operative development and joint ventures, such as being envisioned by the ICA Co-op Trade Office Project. ICA would be a great help if it could make some efforts in fulfilling the current expectations of the urbanising societies where the co-operatives are functioning and facing new challenges in international trade and communication.

'I have no doubt that ICA could assist tremendously by advising or identifying areas for co-operatives to diversify, develop and venture further to provide the necessary services for the benefit of member countries. This will make co-operatives more meaningful, relevant and essential where the present and future generations would help sustain the Movement. I am sure ICA's role in this direction would certainly be greatly appreciated by urbanised co-operative movements.'

In conclusion, I wish you success in your two-day deliberations. While you are in Singapore, please do let us know how best we can make your stay pleasant and memorable.

/rs

EMBARGOED UNTIL AFTER DELIVERY

SPEECH BY MR ZULKIFLI MOHAMMED, POLITICAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND MP FOR EUNOS, AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE 30TH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE (ICA) REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR ASIA HELD ON THURSDAY, 2 JUN 88 AT 9.30 AM AT PLAZA HOTEL, BEACH ROAD

Chairman of the Singapore National Co-operative
Federation Ltd, Mr Eric Cheong,

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies & Gentlemen

" I am much honoured to be invited here this morning to address this inaugural ceremony of the 30th Meeting of the ICA Regional Council for Asia⁴. I understand that this is the first time that the ICA Regional Council for Asia is holding its meeting in Singapore. "Let me, first of all, extend a warm welcome on behalf of the Government of Singapore to all participants at this Regional Council Meeting."

2 Founded in 1895 as an international association of national co-operative organisations, the ICA has gone a long way in pursuing its objectives, which include among others the propagation of co-operative principles and practices throughout the world, the promotion of friendly and economic relations between co-operative organisations of all types at national and international levels, and assistance in the promotion of the economic and social progress of the workers

of all countries. Today, operating through its Head Office in Geneva and its 3 Regional Offices in New Delhi, Moshi and Abidjan, the ICA extensively serves a membership of some 513 million individual members represented by 172 national co-operative organisations from 69 countries around the world -- 16 in Africa, 8 in America, 18 in Asia, 26 in Europe and 1 in Oceania. It is evident from these statistics, which were based on the ICA 1987 Annual Report that co-operatives are universally found in all parts of the world, wherever there is human settlement. Co-operatives are, indeed, a global movement.

3 There is no denying the fact that co-operatives respond to human needs everywhere. In Western industrialised countries, co-operatives are conceived as an alternative to exploitation and have successfully evolved to become an integral part of the economy distinct from the public and private sectors. There is little or no government involvement in co-operative activities except, in most cases, the enactment of co-operative legislation for regulatory purposes. In developing countries, however, there is a greater degree of government involvement in the promotion and operation of co-operatives. Special benefits or tax exemptions are normally provided to co-operatives. Very often co-operatives are regarded as instruments of economic and social development.¹

4 It has been established from past experiences that co-operatives bring benefits to both the state and the individual members. Co-operatives, if properly managed, can play an important role in achieving the economic and social objectives of the overall development plan in a developing country. As mass organisations, co-operatives can operate as an effective means of mobilising internal resources, improving productivity through economies of scale, promoting the economic and social interests of persons who are not catered for by other programmes and, above all, providing a perpetual institution for the development of human resources on a self-help and mutual help basis. On the other hand, the individual members can benefit by way of lower costs for the goods and services provided by their co-operatives, higher returns on the capital they invested and, again, opportunities for human development.

5 Nevertheless, not all co-operatives in developing countries have succeeded in bringing the desired benefits to both the state and the individual members. While the failure of these co-operatives can be attributed to a variety of problems, it is believed that two common problems, namely over-reliance on external funding and excessive government involvement, largely account for the lack of member participation in or commitment to the affairs of these co-operatives. A similar declining level of member participation is also experienced by co-operatives in Western industrialised countries as a result of the growth of some of these co-operatives to such a size that participation by individual members has become difficult.

6 Several other problems leading to failure of co-operatives can also be identified. These include the lack of administrative skills on the part of co-operative leaders, incompetent or corrupt management, absence of democratic control, seizure of power by persons with vested interest, misappropriation of funds and inability of the co-operative to adapt itself to meeting the changes and challenges in a competitive environment.

7 The list of problems I have just mentioned is by no means exhaustive. Different problems under different conditions or circumstances would affect the operation of a co-operative in a different way. There is, however, one commonality among the co-operatives in their endeavours to develop and compete with other organisations in the economy. As co-operatives are increasingly committed to laying more emphasis on business efficiency and operational results, there is also a growing tendency for them to gradually lose sight of the intrinsic co-operative characteristics which distinguish them from other organisations. It is not uncommon that, in their vigorous pursuit of an overriding economic interest, some co-operatives have turned into organisations which exist primarily for business gains, insensitive to their social responsibilities particularly with respect to the disadvantaged groups.

8 These are some of the problems and pitfalls relating to co-operatives in general, which I would like to share with you this morning. They must be overcome or avoided if co-operatives are to develop as a strong and viable movement, not only capable of competing with other organisations in the economy but also sensitive to the social needs of the individual members as well as the community at large. As a world body of the co-operative movement, the ICA has such wide experiences in co-operative development that it can play a vital role in offering valuable guidance and assistance to co-operatives in developing countries in their efforts to achieve economic and social progress. It is hoped that the various points I have brought up earlier would help to contribute towards the formulation of the Work Programme of the Regional Office for the next 3 years.

9 May I wish all of you success at this 30th Regional Council Meeting.

Thank you.

.....

ADDRESS BY : MR ADELSTAL BERNT

Mr Mohamed, Mr Eric Cheong (Our host)

Dear Co-operator,

I am very grateful for being invited to attend this meeting and for the opportunity to give a few words to the Regional Council Meeting.

First of all, let me pass on warm greetings from SCC and its member organisation, the co-op movement in Sweden, to the participants. At the same SCC is welcoming you to Stockholm in July in connection with the ICA Congress.

I would like to take the opportunity to read out the main aim of SCC :

"to contribute towards positive change of the living condition of the poorer sectors of the people in developing countries.

by supporting the activities of co-op. organisation working for economic and social development and independence.

While emphasising popular participation and control within the principles of democracy.

Let me repeat the last words.

Due to unclear language, uncertainties as to the basic co-op ideology and its practises, ambitious expectations on what co-op really can do many countries have co-ops.

Not only identified by the Govt.

Not only initiated by the Govt.

Not only developed by the Govt.

Not only regulated by the Govt.

but also run by the Govt.

Let me remind you on what Mr Genberg said in his remarks in September last year at the RC in Delhi :

- 1) On co-op law : the laws in many countries seem to be instruments of control rather than instruments for development.
- 2) On policy/strategy : these seems to be a lack of distinct policy/strategies on co-op development, caused by the fact that the policies/strategies have been worked out by Governments without participation by the co-op members and their institutions.
- 3) Co-ops as a government tool : Due to the governments heavy hand on co-ops, the co-op organisation are looked upon as govertnment agents, resulting in poor and passive participation by the members.
- 4) A belief that co-ops are the only remedy to economic development of poor people. Co-ops are to be based on a sound ideology and basic business, principle. Cost exceeding income gives a loss whether a private, state or co-op enterprise.

Co-ops Law independence on finance assistance/funding,
grants and loans.

If this finance assistance is needed is the viability of
the co-op enterprise there at all? If not, should it have
been started at all.

It has been particularly relevant to mention these issues
with the launching of the 3 year programme on "Role of
Government in Promoting Co-operatives Development in Asia"
which is subject to discussion under today's agenda of the
RC and to a seminar to take place after the Regional
Council.

SCC welcomes this project in line with ICA's new policy and
strategy. SCC have since long been aware of the problems
of the ambivalent relations between governments and co-op
organisation resulting in the emphasis on two concepts in
our collaboration with co-op movements.

1. movement to movement co-operation (a direct link between
MO/SCC and collaborating co-op).
2. Active participation by members in the planning,
implementation and control of their societies by
launching a programme, called (CMPP).

Both issues will be discussed at the ICA Congress in the Development Forum.

Once more welcoming you to Sweden and Stockholm.

We hope that we will be able to take good care of you.

Let me finish off by a prayer for co-op development in general and for the Regional Council in particular:

"God,

Give me the security to accept what I cannot change,
courage to change what I can change and wisdom always to
tell the difference.

Agenda Notes

ICA REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR ASIA

30 TH MEETING
SINGAPORE

2-3 June, 1988



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

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

Inauguration

- i. Welcome by Chairman, SNCF
- ii. Introductory Remarks - Chairman, Regional Council,
Associate Director, ICA, SCC Representative,
Regional Director
- iii. Inauguration
 - Confirmation of the Minutes of the 29th Meeting 2
 - Matters arising out of the Minutes 3
 - Letters and Reports from non-attending members 4
 - Report by Regional Councillors on "Recent Changes, Trends
and Developments in their Cooperative Movements" 5
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 - Report on Activities carried out during 1987-88. 7
 - Report on IDACA Activities 22
 - Work Programme of RO for next 3 years - 1988 89/1990-91 28
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 - . Donors Support to ICA. 32
 - . Project on "Role of Government in Promoting Cooperative
Development in Asia" 34
 - . Progress regarding the Sale of Bonow House 36
 - . Position regarding member subscription to ICA
and Regional Development Fund 37
 - . "Hall of Honour" - Recommendations of the Executive
Sub-Committee. 38
 - . Associating all ICA member organisations
with the Regional Council from countries with more than
two member organisations. 39
 - . Rules for regulating Regional Council Meetings under
Article 34 of the Rules & Standing Orders of the ICA. 41

18. Cooperative Leaders Exchange Programme
19. Relations with International Organisations
20. Election of Chairman/Vice Chairman & Members of
of the Executive Sub-Committee
21. Venue and Date of the next meeting
22. Any other matter with the permission of the Chair
23. Vote of Thanks to the chair.

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 RC 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 years. 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 to date. 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 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 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 contributions to RO from different countries. He observed that several member organisations have not made regular contributions as committed by them.

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

The Chairman observed that the contributions of Swiss Franc 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 IC 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 consist 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.

"When 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 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

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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 move 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 vi w:

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.

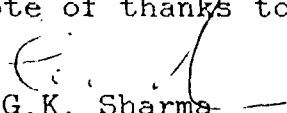
I would like to commend the DCU - Mess's J.M. Rana and Sten Dahl for their excellent performance of their duties. He also complimented the work of Mr. M.K. Puri, Adviser, Consumer

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

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.

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

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. Gumberg 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.

.....2/-

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. 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

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.

.....6/-

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.

.....7/-

In the end, I heartily greet all of you and assure the Regional Council of ICA for South-East Asia that the National Co-operative 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
"Bonow House", 43 Friends Colony
New Delhi-110065, India.**

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

Introductory

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

The following members were present :

Members

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

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

CLT

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| 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.

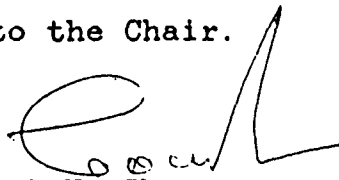
The member for Japan stated that he would consult Mr. M. Ohya from JCCU regarding suitability of the dates and telex reply to RO within a week.

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
ii) 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

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

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE
Regional Office & Education Centre
for South-East Asia, 43, Friends Colony
New Delhi - 110065 (India)

Annex

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.