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AGENDA NOTES

ICA Council for South-East Asia

EIGHTEENTH MEETING

Venue **TEHRAN, IRAN**

Dates **7TH & 8TH NOVEMBER 1976**

***International Cooperative Alliance,
Regional Office & Education Centre for S-E Asia,
43 Friends' Colony, New Delhi-110014, India.***

EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE ICA COUNCIL FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

TEHRAN, IRAN - 7th & 8th NOVEMBER 1976

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AGENDA ITEM NO.1 : WELCOME

1. Mr. J.Sassani, Member for Iran in the Council and President of the Cooperative Consumer Union of Iran, Managing Director of Sepah Consumer Cooperative Society and Chairman cum Managing Director of the Urban and Rural Consumers Cooperative Organisation etc. will welcome the members of the Council on behalf of the Cooperative Movement of Iran.

AGENDA ITEM NO.2 : INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

2. Mr. P.E.Weeraman, ICA Regional Director for South-East Asia, will welcome the members of the Council.

AGENDA ITEM NO.3 : ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

3. In accordance with amended Rule 4 of the ICA Council for South-East Asia, the members of the Council are requested to elect a new Chairman from among the members from the host country, viz., Iran. The new Chairman term of office will be till the next Council Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO.4 : CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 17TH MEETING

4. The minutes of the last meeting, held in Manila, the Philippines, have been circulated to all the members. No comments have been received. The minutes may be confirmed. For minutes see appendix "I" to these Notes.

4.1 Action taken on the minutes is given in relevant agenda items of these Notes.

AGENDA ITEM NO.5 : BACKGROUND PAPERS ON THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT OF EACH COUNTRY

5. All the member-organisations in the Region have been requested to send in papers containing up-to-date information on their respective cooperative movements. Papers received before the meeting will be circulated.

AGENDA ITEM NO.6 : ADMINISTRATION

Follow-up Action on the Minutes

6.1 The chart shown below indicates the action taken by the ICA Regional Office on the various decisions taken by the Council at the 17th Meeting

Page & Para Nos. of Minutes	Action taken
<u>3.6</u> : Write letters of condolences of the Council on the deaths of Mr.M.J.Lane and Mr.Matsumura.	Letters were sent conveying the condolences of the Council to the Cooperative Federation of Australia and the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan.
<u>4.13</u> : Contributions to the Funds of the ICA ROEC.	Letters were written to the defaulting member-organisations.
<u>5.15</u> : Contributions to the ICA ROEC in respect of ICA Sub-Committee on Agriculture & Trade for South-East Asia.	Letters were written to the defaulting member-organisations.

Naming of the Regional Office Building as "Bonow House"

6.2 A brief ceremony was held at the Regional Office on 2nd February 1976 to formally name the ICA Regional Office building as "BONOW HOUSE." The chief guest, Mr. L.Finnmark, the Ambassador of Sweden unveiled the plaque bearing the words "BONOW HOUSE". Representatives of the national cooperative federations in Delhi, Government of India and the National Cooperative Development Corporation attended the function. Mr. Finnmark, Mr. S.S.Puri, (Additional Secretary to the Government of India), Mr.R.G.Tiwari, (President, National Cooperative Union of India) and the Regional Director spoke on the occasion. They extolled the qualities of Dr. Bonow and thought that naming the Regional Office building after him was a fitting tribute to his services to the cooperative movements of this Region.

Members' Contributions to the Funds of the ICA ROEC

6.3 The Regional Office and Education Centre is glad to report that the following member-organisations have contributed the amounts mentioned against their names to the funds of the Regional Office and Education Centre for the financial year 1975-76.

Member-Organisations	Local Currency	Indian Rs.
1. Cooperative Federation of Australia	US\$ 1,000/-	10,445/-
2. National Cooperative Union of India		25,000/-
3. Consumers & Services Cooperative Society, Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs, Tehran, Iran	US\$ 140/-	1,200/-

Member-Organisations	Local Currency	Indian Rs.
4. Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan	£1,641.71	29,649/-
5. National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of Korea.	US\$1,140/-	10,032/-
6. Grains Marketing Cooperatives of the Philippines,	US\$ 58.22	523.98
7. Singapore National Cooperative Union.		3,250/-
8. The Cooperative League of Thailand		8,000/-
9. National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka.		824.74

6.4 The member-organisations in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran (Sepah Consumers Cooperative and C.O.R.C.), Malaysia, Pakistan, and Philippines (Central Cooperative Exchange and the Filipino Cooperative Wholesale Society). are expected to make their contributions in due course.

6.5 Requests for similar contributions for the financial year 1976-77 have been sent out to the member-organisations. The National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of the Republic of Korea has already paid its contribution of US\$ 1,140/- (Rs.10,000/-) for the year 1976-77.

Contributions to the ICA ROEC in respect of work done for the Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Trade for South-East Asia.

6.6 For the year 1975-76, contributions have been received from the member-organisations in Australia, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand amounting to £355/-. Reminders have been sent to the member-organisations in the other countries.

Staff Changes

6.7 Dr. Dharm Vir, Joint Director (Education) resumed duties in the ROEC in January 1976 after completing his assignment of nine months as Consultant in Cooperative Education in the ILO/SIDA Cooperative Management Services Centre, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

6.8 Mr. A.K.Puri has joined the ROEC as its Specialist in Consumer Cooperation with effect from January 1976. His proposed appointment was reported to the last meeting of the Council. He is also acting as Joint

Director (Technical Assistance and Trade) in the absence of Mr. M. V. Madane who is on a one-year assignment with FAO in Afghanistan as Cooperative Adviser to the Programme of Assistance for Credit and Cooperatives in Afghanistan. (PACCA).

6.9 Mr. Sten Birger Johnsson, 57, has joined the ICA ROEC with effect from May 1976 as its Specialist in Cooperative Housing. Mr. Johnsson has vast experience in the field of Cooperative Housing and has been working with the HSB, Sweden, since 1943 as its Financial Expert. Mr. Johnsson has also served as an Expert in Cooperative Housing under the UNDP in Tanzania during 1970-71.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 : EDUCATION CENTRESECTION I : ACTION TAKEN ON THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

7.1 Programme of activities approved of by the Council for the year July 1976 - June 1977 has been partly carried out and will be carried out during the remaining part of the year. In this connection, the following matters are referred to the Council for their information and decision:-

Minutes

Action taken

Para 28(ii) Regional Seminar on "The Relationship between the Board of Directors and the Chief Executive in a Cooperative Organisation".

"Mr. Weeraman said that the Seminar should be held in a country where the relationship between the chief executives and the boards of directors was exemplary. From this point of view, Australia seemed to be a good venue. The seminar could be held in March or April 1977...It was agreed that Mr. I.H. Hunter would consult the Cooperative Federation of Australia and inform the ICA ROEC in about three months whether it would be possible to hold the seminar in Australia. In case Australia was not in a position to host the seminar, the Chairman as a Councillor from Malaysia said that two member organisations in Malaysia viz. the Cooperative Union of Malaysia and the ANCKASA, would play host to the seminar in Malaysia."

Mr. Hunter consulted with the Cooperative Federation of Australia (CFA). The CFA regretted their inability to host the Seminar for the reason indicated in the excerpt quoted below from their letter dated 12 March 1976 :

"The Education Committee of this Federation and our full Council considered this proposal in detail but concluded that the conditions affecting directorships and management vary so greatly between Australia and the countries from which participants in such a Seminar would be likely to be drawn. Unfortunately, therefore, reluctantly our Council felt in the best interests of the International Cooperative Alliance that such a Seminar could better be organised in say, Malaysia, and felt we had to decline your kind invitation for Australia to undertake the hosting of this particular Seminar."

The member-organisations in Malaysia, namely, ANCKASA and the Cooperative Union of Malaysia (CUM) were contacted after the CFA regretted their inability to host the seminar. ANCKASA indicated, after consultation with Mr. N.A. Kularajah, President of CUM,

....

that "ANGKASA was not able to host the above Seminar due to our financial situation". ANGKASA has further indicated that the matter can perhaps be reconsidered at a later stage towards the end of the year, when they may be in a better position to assess their financial condition. The CUM also regretted their inability to host the Seminar.

The subject of Cooperative Leadership and Management is one of the priority area suggested by the Council at its last meeting. The Council may suggest a course of action to be followed in respect of the above Seminar.

This programme could not be included in the budget for the year July 1976 June 1977 due to lack of financial resources.

(2 - months)
Paras 34, 35, 36 : Programme of Training in Cooperative Management.

Para 41 : Women and Cooperatives

"The Council noted that a Regional Conference on "The Role of Women in Cooperative Development" had been held in Kuala Lumpur in July 1974. Taking into account the recommendations of that Conference, the Council recommended that the member movements should constitute national committees of women cooperators to develop educational and other programmes in order to increase women's participation in cooperatives. The Council further recommended that an Asian Council of Women Cooperators be constituted."

Letters were addressed to the member organisations re constitution of national committees of women cooperators and Asian Council of Women Cooperators. The following information has been received from the member-organisations :

National Committees of Women Cooperators

Malaysia: The Cooperative Union of Malaysia has constituted a women's committee. In addition the President of CUM has also constituted the women's committee to advise him on women's cooperative activities and accelerating their participation in the cooperative movement.

ANGKASA has also constituted a Women's Group.

Australia: The Cooperative Federation of Australia supports the recommendation of the ICA Council regarding the formation of a national committee of women cooperators.

Para 41 : Women and Cooperatives(contd)

Asian Council of Women Cooperators

ANGKASA from Malaysia and the Cooperative Federation of Australia are in agreement with the proposal of setting up the above Council.

SECTION II : REVIEW OF EDUCATION ACTIVITIES
- NOVEMBER 1975 TO SEPTEMBER 1976

7.2 The following educational activities were carried out by the Education Centre during the period November 1975 to September 1976 :

REGIONAL SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

✓ Second Open Asian Conference on Cooperative Management

7.3 The Open Asian Conference on Cooperative Management was held by the ICA ROEC in Manila, the Philippines, from 1st to 4th December 1975. The host organisations in the Philippines were the Management Assistance and Training Programme, Central Cooperative Exchange, the Filipino Cooperative Wholesale Society and the Grain Marketing Cooperative of the Philippines. 115 delegates and observers from Australia, India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand attended the Conference. FAO, UNDP, ILO, ICFTU, the Asian Development Bank and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung sent observers. This Conference was conducted on a self-financing basis, one participant each from four countries having foreign-exchange difficulties viz. Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were given travel costs and their boarding and lodging costs were paid for by the Filipino host organisations.

Experts' Consultation on the "Trends, Problems and Changing Needs of the Cooperative Movements and the Role of the ICA in this regard"

7.4 An Experts' Consultation on the "Trends, Problems and Changing Needs of the Cooperative Movements and the Role of the ICA in this regard" was held in Manila, Philippines, on the 5th and 6th December, 1975. The objective of the Consultation was to consider the recommendations of the Team appointed by the ICA to assess the work of the ROEC and to suggest priorities for its activities in the second half of the Cooperative Development Decade. Twenty-seven experts from Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, the Philippines, Sweden and the Members of the ICA Council for South-East Asia and the Sub-Committee for Agriculture and Trade attended the Consultation.

7.5 The Report of the Consultation was presented to the meeting of the ICA Council for South-East Asia held on 7th and 8th December 1975. On the basis of the recommendations of the Experts' Consultation, the above Council meeting fixed priorities for the work of the ROEC.

Orientation Seminar for Asian Women Cooperators

7.6 An Orientation Seminar for Asian Women Cooperators was held at the ICA ROEC from 29th March to 2nd April 1976. Ten women cooperators from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Philippines and Sri Lanka attended the seminar. The participants then proceeded to Sweden for participation in the 17th International Seminar on "Leadership Through Education" held by the Swedish Cooperative Centre. Mrs. M.D'Cruz, Education Officer (Women & Youth) served as a Resource Person at the seminar in Sweden.

Regional Seminar on "Cooperative Insurance and Promotion of Savings"

7.7 At the time of preparation of these notes, a Regional Seminar on "Cooperative Insurance and Promotion of Savings" is being held in collaboration with the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan, the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia, the Cooperative Insurance Federation and the Central Cooperative Bank for Agriculture and Forestry of Japan in Tokyo from 1st to 21st September, 1976. Approximately twenty participants and observers are attending the seminar. The

countries represented at the Seminar are Bangladesh, India, Iran, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

7.8 The Seminar participants also carried out a one-week study programme each in the Republic of Korea and Japan.

NATIONAL SEMINARS

✓ National Seminar on Cooperative Farming

7.9 A National Seminar on Cooperative Farming was held by the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka with the assistance of the ICA ROEC from 16-30 June 1976 at Colombo. Thirty participants from cooperative farming societies and government departments connected with cooperative farming participated in the Seminar. The ICA ROEC provided the services of four Resource Persons, two of whom were the officers of the ICA ROEC and one each from the Polish and Indian Cooperative Movements respectively.

National Seminar on "Integrated Approach to Agricultural Cooperative Development in Nepal"

7.10 A National Seminar proposed to be held in Nepal in March-April 1976 on "Integrated Approach to Agricultural Cooperative Development in Nepal" was postponed at the request of the collaborating body viz. the Cooperative Department, Government of Nepal. The Seminar is now expected to be held in the first two weeks of December 1976.

ICA/NCUI COOPERATIVE EDUCATION FIELD PROJECT, INDORE DISTRICT, INDIA

7.11 After mutual agreement between the ICA and the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), the ICA/NCUI Cooperative Education Field Project in Indore District has been transferred to the NCUI on 1st July 1976. The NCUI has assumed full responsibility for running the Project.

7.12 Some important results are mentioned below :

(a) The Kaira District Cooperative Union in Gujarat State, India, started a project on the lines of the Indore Project in 1974. The project is being run by the Kaira District Cooperative Union and the Gujarat State

Cooperative Union without any financial support from the NCUI or the ICA. The ICA ROEC has provided technical assistance to the project in regard to drawing up the project proposal, selection of villages, deployment of staff and production of educational material. A similar project has recently been started in Broach District. The Gujarat State Cooperative Union is attempting to develop similar projects in few other districts of the State. Similar projects have also been started in Tamil Nadu and Haryana States.

(b) The National Cooperative Union of India has started pilot projects on the lines of the Indore Project in 15 districts in ten cooperatively less-developed States of India. These projects are for agricultural cooperatives. The Indore Project is serving as a training and demonstration centre for personnel recruited for the above projects. The first course for 40 personnel, comprising Project Officers, Farm Guidance Instructors and Cooperative Instructors was held by the NCUI at Indore from 30th August to 18th September 1976. The Regional Director inaugurated the above course and the Director (Education) gave a few lectures at the course.

(c) Orientation was given to cooperators from some countries of the Region regarding the project.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION MATERIALS ADVISORY SERVICE (CEMAS)

7.13 Cooperative Education Materials Advisory Service was initially started in ICA London in January 1975. Later on a CEMAS unit was started at the ICA Regional Office & Education Centre, New Delhi, in July 1975 with the following objectives:-

- i) to collect education materials, and information on such materials available with and/or used by cooperative colleges and other institutions in the Region for the purpose of compiling an inventory of such materials;
- ii) to provide advice and information regarding the availability and use of suitable materials to potential users in the region and, where possible, to facilitate the exchange of such materials; and
- iii) to produce proto-type materials as and when needed.

7.14 Dr. Dharm Vir, Joint Director (Education) and Mr. Daman Prakash, Education Officer (Audio-Visual Aids) are assigned the tasks connected with

CEMAS. Information on CEMAS has been supplied to the cooperative colleges and member organisations and education material is being collected from them. The material so collected is being graded from the point of view of their usefulness to various kinds of training institutions and educational programmes. Several requests for supply of education material have been attended to.

7.15 A Film Library Service has been started from March 1976 on an experimental basis. To begin with, educational films will be given on loan to cooperative colleges and unions carrying out member education programmes in India. It is proposed to extend the service later on to similar organisations in other countries of the Region.

7.16 The first inter-regional meeting on CEMAS was held at the Regional Office for East and Central Africa, Moshi (Tanzania) on 6th and 7th May, 1976. Among others, Mr. Jacob Bjarsdal, Project Director, CEMAS, ICA Head Office, London, Mr. Sam Mshiu, In-charge of CEMAS work at the ICA Regional Office for East & Central Africa, Moshi, and Dr. Dharm Vir, In-Charge of CEMAS at the ICA ROEC, New Delhi, participated in the meeting. During the meeting, a review of the CEMAS work was undertaken and further steps to be taken for systematisation and expansion of the service were discussed.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION FIELD PROJECT

7.17 The Council had decided that cooperative education field projects should be started in two movements of the region. Financial resources with the ICA ROEC permitted starting of only one project.

7.18 Discussions were held with the Dewan Koperasi Indonesia to start a cooperative education field project in a selected area in Indonesia. However, the Dewan Koperasi Indonesia recently informed us that in view of their proposed plans to re-organise their organisation, they would not be able to sponsor the project.

Council may like to indicate countries where preliminary inquiries can be made for locating the project.

- (a) information on best persons
acting as resource persons
and giving lectures at ongoing
by prof at various committees.
- (b) ¹² attend participation in
technical meeting organized
by UN agencies & other
international bodies.

CONSULTATIVE AND ALLIED SERVICES

7.19 Mr. P.E. Weeraman, Regional Director, Mr. J.M. Rana, Director (Education) and Mrs. M.D'Cruz, Assistant (Education) attended the All-India Conference of Chief Executive Officers and Education Officers held in New Delhi on 27th & 28th November, 1975. Mr. Rana initiated discussion on the experience of the Indore Project and its relevance to the cooperative education programme in India.

7.20 The Director (Education) gave a talk on 21st November on "Cooperative Movement in the International Perspective" to the Master of Business Administration (MBA) students who have taken Cooperation Course at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

7.21 The Director (Education) visited the Kaira District Cooperative Education and Development Project in Nadiad, Gujarat State, on 20th November 1975. He gave a talk on "Approaches to Cooperative Education" to the cooperative leaders of the Kaira Project societies and had a discussion with young farmers of Ajarpura Village - one of the villages covered by the Kaira Project.

7.22 Mr. Daman Prakash, Assistant (AVA) carried out the following assignments :

(i) Served as Assistant Leader at the Seminar for the Training of Blind Leaders in South-East Asia held in Kuala Lumpur from 17th November to 2nd December 1975. The Cooperative Union of Malaysia provided valuable help to the course.

(ii) Conducted a Workshop on Production of Teaching Material for the faculty members of Cooperative College of Malaysia from 4th to 7th December, 1975.

(iii) Acted as Resource Person at a National-level Seminar for leaders interested in forming cooperative societies in Thailand held in Bangkok from 21-25 December, 1975.

7.23 The officers of the ICA ROEC attended the NCUI Congress held on 5-7 February 1976 in New Delhi and assisted as Resource Persons in various committee meetings.

- 7.24 The Director (Education) and Mr. M.K. Puri, Specialist in Consumer Cooperation, visited from 18-20 February 1976 consumer cooperative societies in Ahmedabad and assisted the NCUI and the Gujarat State Cooperative Union in discussions regarding selection of consumer societies for their project of cooperative education for consumer cooperatives in Ahmedabad.
- 7.25 Dr. D. Vir, Joint Director (Education) and Mrs. M.D'Cruz, Education Officer (Women & Youth) participated in the Conference of Instructors for Industrial Cooperatives held in New Delhi by the National Cooperative Union of India on 1st and 2nd March 1976.
- 7.26 Dr. D. Vir gave a talk on identification of educational needs on 6th March and Mr. J.M. Rana gave a talk on 8th March on 'Training and Development of Cooperative Teachers' to the trainees of the NCUI's National Centre for Cooperative Education (The NCUI Centre for Education of Cooperative Instructors has been given this name now).
- 7.27 Mr. Daman Prakash, Education Officer (Audio-Visual Aids) conducted Workshops on Audio-Visual Aids in the courses held by NCUI Training Centre in the months of January, March and May 1976.
- 7.28 Dr. D. Vir and Mrs. D'Cruz attended the NCUI's All-India Seminar on Women & Cooperation held in New Delhi on 22nd & 23rd March 1976. Mrs. D'Cruz submitted at the seminar a paper on "Consumer Protection - The Role of Women" and acted as a Resource Person.
- 7.29 Mr. P.E. Weeraman, Regional Director, attended the 32nd Session of ESCAP held from 23-30 March 1976 at Bangkok, Thailand.
- 7.30 Dr. D. Vir gave a talk on 23rd March on the Principles of Cooperation to the trainees of the Delhi State Cooperative Union.
- 7.31 Dr. D. Vir attended a meeting of the NCUI Committee on Education in Consumer Cooperation on 15th April, 1976.
- 7.32 Dr. Vir participated in a meeting of the Committee on Audio-Visual Aids of the NCUI's National Centre for Cooperative Education on 19th April, 1976.
- 7.33 Mr. J.M. Rana, Dr. D. Vir and Mr. Daman Prakash participated in a Demonstration-cum-Discussion Session on use of educational aids held by the NCUI Committee for Cooperative Training on 26th April 1976 and assisted in the discussions.

7.34 Dr. D. Vir gave a talk on Adult Psychology to the trainees of the Basic Course of the NCUI's above Centre on 27th April, conducted oral examination of the trainees and gave a valedictory address on the concluding day of the course. Mr. Daman Prakash also assisted in the examination work at another course of the Centre.

7.35 Mr. J.M. Rana attended a meeting of the NCUI Zonal Coordination Council of the Eastern Zone held in Calcutta on 20th and 21st May, 1976.

7.36 Mr. Lionel Gunawardana, Joint Director (Publications & Public Relations) and Specialist in Agricultural Cooperation, attended the FAO Regional Workshop on the "Effective Use of Marketing to Stimulate Development of Small Farmers" in Asia held in Bangkok in May 1976.

7.37 Mr. P.E. Weeraman attended a Workshop on Cooperative Law for the teachers of Cooperative Law in the Cooperative Training Colleges held at Rajpur from 7-8 June 1976 by the National Council for Cooperative Training.

7.38 Mr. Daman Prakash visited the Cooperative Education and Development Project of the Kaira District Cooperative Union from 22-30 June and assisted the Project in preparing audio-visual aids.

7.39 Mr. P.E. Weeraman, ICA Regional Director for South-East Asia, attended a Seminar on "Cooperative Law and Development", held at Accra by the Ghana Cooperative Council, as a Resource Person, from July 16th to 31st, 1976. He presented a paper on a model cooperative law and later, along with the other Resource Person, Prof. Hans H. Munkner of Marburg University, Germany, prepared for the Ghana Cooperative Council, a draft Cooperative Societies Act.

7.40 Mr. Lionel Gunawardana, Specialist in Agricultural Cooperation, attended the FAO Regional Conf. for Asia and the Far East held at Manila in August 1976.

7.41 Mr. Sten Johnsson, Specialist in Cooperative Housing, attended the UN/ESCAP 2nd Session of the Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology held at Bangkok, Thailand, from 31st August to 6th September, 1976. as an Observer.

SECTION III : PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR JULY 1977 TO JUNE 1978Regional Seminars

7.42 The following Regional Seminars may be held during the above period :

A Regional Seminar in Japan

Sept. Venue : Tokyo, Japan
Duration: 21 days
Participants: 25

Subject Suggested by
C.U.A.C : Management of
Agricultural ~~Cooperatives~~
Cooperatives with sp. ref. to
Japan.

7.43 The ICA Regional Office holds every year one seminar in Tokyo, Japan, in collaboration with the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives and IDACA. The subject of the seminar is being discussed with the member-organisation in Japan. The proposal will be orally reported at the meeting.

Regional Seminar on the "Development of Cooperative Housing in South-East Asia"

Venue: Open
Duration: Two weeks in November-December 1977
Participants: 25

Thailand to be
month decided

7.44 The last seminar on this subject was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in Oct-Nov. 1970. In view of the inflationary situation that has developed during the last few years, people in the lower and middle income groups are experiencing serious difficulties in regard to housing. The rapid growth in urbanisation in the Region also requires that a concerted effort be made by the public authorities and the cooperative movement to build adequate number of houses.

7.45 In view of the above, it is suggested that the second Regional Seminar be on the "Development of Cooperative Housing in South-East Asia". The ICA ROEC now has on its staff Mr. Sten Johnsson, Specialist in Cooperative Housing, who is from the HSB, Sweden, and his services will be utilised for the Seminar.

*Co-ordination of APR
can be sought*

Open Asian Conference or Top Level Cooperative Leaders' Conference

Duration: 4 days plus 3 days study visits
Venue: Open - to be decided on the basis of the next Council Meeting.

Dates:

7.46 Since 1974 the ICA ROEC has been organising Open Asian Conferences on self-financing basis which have been very well attended. The next Open Conference will be in Madras. The Open Conferences are valuable in exposing a large number of cooperative leaders to new concepts in cooperative management and operations. On the other hand, the ICA ROEC has also held Top-Level Cooperative Leaders' Conferences, one in 1964 and the other in 1973; both of them were held in Tokyo. It would be valuable to hold such top-level cooperative leaders' conferences once in four years; such conferences can be regarded as Asian Counterparts of the ICA's main Congress. Such an Asian Conference can discuss the past progress during the last four years, recent trends of development and pertinent current problems and suggest guidelines for cooperative development for the next four years. Pertinent themes may be selected for each top-level cooperative conference. *The Top Level Conf. can also be used as a preparatory ground by the Regional Movement for the top Conf.*

7.47 The Council may decide whether to hold the Open Conference or the Top-level Cooperative Leaders' Conference during 1977-78.

7.48 Appropriate subjects may also be suggested by the Council for the Open Conference/the Leaders' Conference, depending on its decision as to the type of the conference to be held.

Training Programme for Teachers of National-level Training Centres in the Techniques of Teaching

Venue: ICA ROEC, New Delhi
Duration: 2 months
Participants: 12 - 15

Repeating it suggested as a priority area.

7.49 The above subject-area was fixed as a priority by the Council at its last meeting held in the Philippines.

alternative: Top Programme in Coop. Management will explore the possibility with Twin Centre

Case Studies in Leadership and Management

7.50 According to the priorities suggested by the 17th Meeting of the Council held in Manila in December 1975, indepth case studies of the following three cooperatives, in which the problems of cooperative leadership and management have been dealt with successfully, would be carried out during the current year :

1. Sepah Consumers Cooperative, Tehran, Iran - by Dr. D. Vir
2. Phrankorn Cooperative Consumer Store, Bangkok, Thailand - by Mr. M.K. Puri
3. Agricultural Cooperative Society in the Republic of Korea - by Mr. Lionel Gunawardana (the society yet to be selected)

Keep record for the national seminar.

7.51 As suggested by the Council, reports of the case studies would be published and national seminars on the subject of "Cooperative Leadership and Management" will be held in the above countries with the aid of the above Case Studies.

7.52 During 1977-78 it is proposed to carry out similar three in-depth case studies, publicise their reports and hold national seminars as in the current year. The Council may like to suggest the names of countries and the organisations which could be studied.

Need for adequate time counterpart holding National Seminars

7.53 The Specialists working in the ICA ROEC would be carrying out the above case studies. When they carry out the indepth case studies they could also carry out studies of that sector of the cooperative movement in which they are specialists. Such material would prove useful to the movement for which the country study would be carried out as well as to the ICA ROEC in its educational programmes.

Cooperative Education Materials Advisory Service (CEMAS)

7.54 The above Service is being systematised and further developed on the basis of the suggestions that will be received from the meeting of the South-East Asian Specialists' Group on Cooperative Training (SEASPECT).

✓ Demonstration Project in the Field of Teacher Training

7.55 A feasibility study for starting the above project is currently being carried out (1st September to 15th October 1976) in Sri Lanka by Dr. L. Skaaret, an expert made available by the Swedish Cooperative Centre. A detailed project proposal will be drawn up on the basis of the feasibility report and it is expected that the project would start functioning during the year.

✓ Cooperative Education Field Project — Mr. Edman to meet

7.56 In view of the inability of the Dewan Koperasi Indonesia, Jakarta, to start a cooperative education field project with the assistance of the ICA, an attempt will be made to select another country for the purpose. The selection of the country would be made keeping in view the criteria suggested by the Council that "financial responsibility for conducting the project should be borne to the maximum possible extent by the member movement concerned and that the ICA should provide the expertise and some supporting financial help."

Meeting of the South-East Asian Specialists' Group on Cooperative Training (SEASPECT)

7.57 A meeting of the above Group will be held during the year from 26th April to 11th May. This arrangement will provide an overlap of three to four days with the Training Programme for Cooperative Teachers to be held in March-April 1977. Thus the Principals of the Cooperative Training Centres would have been acquainted with the teaching techniques taught at the above course and it would be possible to have their reactions to the course as well as follow-up action on introduction of some teaching techniques in their colleges in which skills would have been imparted to the teachers, production of needed teaching material for the purpose and related questions.

7.58 Regarding the membership of the South-East Asian Specialists' Group on Cooperative Training (SEASPECT), the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) has suggested that Article 2 may be modified as follows :-

"2.1 Membership of the Group will be as follows:-

National Level Cooperative Training Centres provided the National Training Programme is administered by such a Centre.

B. Organisation which administers the Training Programme at the National Level.

2.2

A. Member in list under A will be represented by the Director/Principal of the Training Centre. If the Director/Principal is unable to attend any meeting, he may nominate his representative from among the teaching staff of his Centre.

B. Member under B will be represented by the Chief Executive of such an organisation. In case the Chief Executive is not able to attend any meeting, he may nominate his representative.

2.3

The Regional Director and Director (Education) of the ICA Regional Office for South-East Asia shall be ex-officio members of the Group."

In support of their above suggestion, the NCUI states as follows:-

"It will be appreciated that the pattern of the administration of Training Programmes is not uniform in all the countries in this region. In India the Committee for Cooperative Training set up by this Union is responsible for the implementation of the Cooperative Training Programme throughout the country. It is quite likely that in some other countries also, the administration of the Training Programmes may be with an authority other than the Director/Principal of the National Level Cooperative Training Centre."

The present Article 2 of the Constitution of SEASPECT is as follows:-

"Article 2. Membership

2.1 Membership of the Group shall be open to all national level cooperative training centres in countries served by the ICA Regional Office for South-East Asia. The Director/Principal of the National level Cooperative Training Centre shall be nominated to attend the meetings of the Group and in case where the Director/Principal is unable to attend any specific meeting, he may nominate a substitute from the teaching staff of his Centre.

2.2 The Regional Director and Director(Education) of the ICA Regional Office for South-East Asia shall be ex-officio members of the Group."

Handwritten notes:
Subjects:
Life classes
Production or
teaching material
and do fit on a
collaborative basis
after identifying
specific needs.
Some effective
teaching
techniques;
development
and present
curricula.
Regional Council
Agnt Corp
wide body
on which member-
agreements, in which
represented in which
address edging questions.

*Two basic courses
one country study.*

Women & Cooperatives

7.59 At its meeting held in Manila in December the Council had recommended the constitution of an Asian Council of Women Cooperators. Letters were addressed to member-organisations asking for their reactions to this proposal. So far replies favouring the constitution of the Council have been received from the Cooperative Federation of Australia and ANGKASA of Malaysia. Replies from other countries are awaited.

7.60 Should the formation of an Asian Council of Women Cooperators be acceptable to the majority of the movements, it is suggested that the Council be set up.

7.61 It is proposed to actively assist the cooperative movement of one country in carrying out a survey of the "Role of Women and the extent of their participation in the Cooperative Movement" with a view to recommending how women's participation in the cooperative movement can be accelerated.

7.62 It is proposed to assist member movements in two countries to hold national basic courses in Cooperation for women cooperators on the basis of requests made by member movements. The countries selected will be those in which such courses have not been held during 1975-76.

National Seminars

*(A) Two courses in
2nd. method standards - normal education
(B) 2 courses in cons. conf.*

7.63 Following the indepth case studies, short national seminars will be held on leadership and management in the countries in which studies have been carried out.

7.64 The ICA ROEC has now Specialists in the following subjects :

- i. Education Methods
- ii. Agricultural Cooperation
- iii. Consumer Cooperation
- iv. Housing Cooperatives.

7.65 The ICA ROEC would be in a position to assist the member movements in holding national seminars and in providing consultative services in the above subjects on the basis of requests.

Proposal for the Constitution of a Committee
on Consumer Cooperation for South-East Asia

7.66 The Regional Council considered the question of developing consumer cooperation at the Council meeting held in Tokyo in October 1973 and recommended that ways and means of promoting and developing consumer cooperatives be considered at an Open Conference. This was felt necessary in view of the unprecedented inflation which was gripping the various countries of the world including those of Asia and the shortages of essential commodities in many countries of the region. It was also felt that a large portion of the leadership could benefit from such a Conference if it were made open to all concerned.

7.66.1 In pursuance of this recommendation, the Regional Office held, in collaboration with the Cooperative Union of Malaysia, an Asian Conference on Consumer Cooperation at Kuala Lumpur from 23 to 25 October, 1974. This conference, which was the first Open Conference held by the ICA Regional Office, was attended by 119 delegates and observers. The Conference discussed the subject under the following three main heads :

- i. The role of consumer cooperatives in consumer protection;
- ii. The structure of cooperatives at the retail level; and
- iii. Production, importation and wholesaling for supporting consumer cooperatives and for international cooperative trade.

7.66.2 The Conference noted the unprecedented price rise in the price of consumer goods in most of the countries in South-East Asia and the ever increasing difficulties of millions of consumers because of the increasing cost of living, shortage of essential commodities, prevalence of adulterated and sub-

standard goods, and hoarding and other malpractices in the distributive trade. It, therefore, recommended that the Consumer Cooperative Movement should play a more active and important role in consumer protection through an adequate and efficient supply of consumer goods and services at reasonable prices, consumer education, information and mobilising public opinion and ensuring the enactment of needed legislation and its enforcement. The Conference stressed that the Consumer Cooperative Movement in the various countries of South-East Asia should be strengthened and further developed to achieve the above objectives. In this direction the Conference further recommended that the ICA Regional Office should constitute a Working Party on Consumer Cooperation for South-East Asia with the following main aims :

- (a) to develop and recommend policies and to coordinate activities in the field of consumer cooperation and consumer protection.
- (b) to exchange technical information on retailing, warehousing, wholesaling, etc.
- (c) to make proposals in the field of training and exchange of cooperative management personnel.
- (d) to undertake research activities, and
- (e) to identify requirements of technical and management consultant and other technical assistance.

7.66.3 The above recommendation of the Open Asian Conference has been examined in the Regional Office and the Regional Office feels that it would be desirable to constitute a Committee on Consumer Cooperation for South-East Asia rather than a Working Party recommended by the Conference. The object of the Committee will be to promote consumer cooperation in the Region and more particularly

- (a) to review periodically the progress made in the field of Consumer Cooperation;
- (b) to recommend policies and common lines of action in the fields of Consumer Cooperation and Consumer Protection;
- (c) to coordinate the activities of consumer cooperatives in the Region; and
- (d) to promote the systematic dissemination of information among the cooperative consumer organisations in the Region with regard to their experience in the fields of retailing, warehousing, wholesaling, publicity, member-education, consumer protection and other fields of consumer activity.

The Committee shall comprise persons nominated by the National Cooperative Consumer Organisations in South-East Asia which are affiliated directly or indirectly to ICA. In the case of countries where National Cooperative Consumer Organisations do not exist the members may be nominated by the sub-national level consumer cooperative organisations provided that such right of the sub-national organisations shall terminate upon the formation of a National Cooperative Organisation in that country.

7.66.4 The draft constitution of the "ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for South-East Asia" is annexed. It is placed before the members of the Council for their consideration and approval.

DRAFT RULES OF THE
ICA COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER COOPERATION FOR S-E ASIA

Name

The name of the Committee shall be "THE ICA COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER COOPERATION FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA". It is hereinafter referred to in these Rules as "the Committee"

Objects

The object of the Committee shall be to promote Consumer Cooperation in the Region served by the ICA Regional Office for South-East Asia and more particularly :-

- a) to review periodically the progress made in the field of Consumer Cooperation;
- b) to recommend policies and common lines of action in the fields of Consumer Cooperation and Consumer Protection;
- c) to coordinate the activities of consumer cooperatives in the Region;
- d) to promote the systematic dissemination of ^{technical} information among the cooperative consumer organisations in the Region with regard to their experience in the fields of retailing, warehousing, wholesaling, publicity, member-education, consumer protection and other fields of consumer activity;

- c) to make recommendations for improving the managerial competence and operational efficiency of consumer cooperatives in the Region;
- f) to identify technical assistance required in management and other fields;
- g) to suggest fields of research, programmes of member activities and measures for developing active participation of members in the management of consumer cooperatives at the primary level;
- h) to liaise or collaborate with other international organisations that are concerned with the protection and welfare of the consumer.

Membership

The Committee shall consist of persons nominated to be its members :

- a) by the national cooperative consumer organisations in South-East Asia which are affiliated, directly or indirectly, to the ICA;
- b) in the case of countries where national consumer cooperative organisations do not exist, by the sub-national level consumer cooperatives provided that such right of a sub-national organisation of a country shall terminate upon the formation of a national cooperative consumer organisation in that country.

(a) Managerial Personnel
(b) The representative of the consumer co-operative to be nominated to the meeting of the committee prior to the meeting of the I.C.A.
The committee shall meet prior to the meeting of the I.C.A. & make recommendations to the I.C.A. & make suggestions to the I.C.A. & make suggestions to the I.C.A.

Each of the above cooperatives may nominate a person to be a Member of the Committee, provided that where

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~~of the~~ ~~Comm. T.~~

there is more than one such cooperative in a country, all such cooperatives shall constitute a group and select (only) one person to be their Member of the Committee. The Non-agricultural Member of the ICA Council for South-East Asia will be the coordinator for the purpose of selecting such Member.

~~Term~~

The term of office of such Member shall be for a period extending from one ICA Congress to the next such Congress or for a period of four years whichever is the shorter and retiring members shall be eligible for re-election. Each such organisation or group of organisations shall have the right to withdraw or change its Member of the Committee at any time.

Quorum

Five

~~Three~~ persons shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the Committee.

Chairman & Vice-Chairman

The Committee shall elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from amongst its members. Their term of office shall be for a period extending from one ICA Congress to the next such Congress or for a period of four years whichever is the shorter and retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election. The period of office of any person elected Chairman or Vice-Chairman within the period of two Congresses shall expire at the first Congress held after his election.

Meetings

The Committee shall meet as often as necessary and not less frequently than once in each financial year.

Representative of the ICA

The Regional Director of the ICA shall be an ex-officio member of the Committee and shall provide the secretariat services including an officer to be the Secretary of the Committee.

Relationship with ICA

- a) The Committee shall work in accordance with the general policy of the ICA Regional Council for South-East Asia and in collaboration with the said Council, the ICA Organisation for Cooperative Consumer Policy (OCCP) and the International Organisation for Consumer Cooperative Distributive Trades (INTER-COOP).
- b) The Committee shall submit a report of its activities to the ICA Regional Council for South-East Asia through the ICA Regional Director for South-East Asia at least once a year.

Liaison with Members

Each member of the Committee shall act as the Committee's liaison officer vis-a-vis his country's cooperative movement on all matters relating to Consumer Cooperation and Consumer Protection.

Finance

The Committee may raise funds from organisations represented in the Committee by way of annual and/or special contributions. The rate of such contributions shall be decided by the Committee.

Financial Year

The financial year of the Committee shall be from

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 : TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & TRADE SECTIONPART I8.1 Action taken on the Minutes of the last meeting

Page No.	Para No. of the Minutes	Decision of the Council	Action taken
13	48	"It was reported that no progress had been possible in securing assistance for the other projects formulated by the Regional Office and submitted to the Head Office in previous years. In this connection, Mr. Hunter of Australia mentioned that Mr. G.A.J. Beytagh, Chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the Cooperative Federation of Australia, and he had discussed with the Australian Development Assistance Programme their increased involvement in the non-government aid programme. He requested that information on all projects be sent to the Coop. Federation of Australia to examine the possibility of obtaining assistance for them from the Australian Development Assistance Programme."	Information on the fruit and vegetable processing project of NACF (Korea), out of the projects for which no assistance was forthcoming, was sent in Jan. 1976 to the Coop. Federation of Australia for exploring possibilities of assistance under the Australian Development Assistance Programme. The Federation replied in April 1976 to say that the Australian Development Assistance Agency did not feel able to provide assistance to the project at that point of time. Please also see Agenda Note No. 8.4.1, (Page 31.)
13	50	<u>"Asian Cooperative Development Bank</u> "The Regional Office was requested to put up a definite proposal to the members after obtaining the Government of Iran's approval."	The Joint Director (TAST) has prepared a preliminary investigation report re. the proposed Asian Cooperative Development Bank. A meeting of the Ad-hoc Committee was summoned at Singapore on 6 June 1976 to consider the preliminary investigation report

Page No.	Para No. of the Minutes	Decision of the Council	Action taken
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and to recommend the future line of action. This meeting, however, could not take place as none of the members turned up at Singapore.

It has now been decided, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee to hold a meeting of the Ad-hoc Committee at Teheran on 6 November 1976. An oral report will be made to the Council on the future line of action recommended by the Committee in this regard.

PART IITechnical Assistance

8.2 Important developments in respect of technical assistance projects handled by the Regional Office are as follows :

Fertilizer Plant for Pakistan

8.3 At the last meeting of the Council held at Manila, the member for Pakistan observed that agricultural cooperatives in Pakistan were interested in seeking financial and technical assistance for setting up a fertilizer plant for meeting the fertilizer requirements of their members. The Council desired that the Pakistan Cooperative Union should submit a concrete proposal on this along with a feasibility report to the Regional Office.

8.3.1 As no proposal in concrete form was received from the Pakistan Cooperative Movement till January 1976, the Regional Office reminded the member for Pakistan on the Council, with a copy to the West Pakistan Cooperative Union, to send their proposal to the Regional office. The West Pakistan Cooperative Union, Lahore, has informed the Regional Office in February 1976 that they will send a concrete proposal along with a feasibility report as soon as it is ready.

Fruit & Vegetable Processing Project
(Republic of Korea)

8.4 At the last meeting of the Council held at Manila, Mr. I. H. Hunter, Member from Australia, suggested that project proposal made for a Fruit and Vegetable Processing Plant by the NACF (Republic of Korea) be sent to the Cooperative Federation of Australia for exploring the possibilities of obtaining assistance under the Australian Development Assistance

8.4.1 Accordingly, the Project proposal along with its feasibility report (which had been already made by a qualified Marketing Expert from USA) was sent to the Cooperative Federation of Australia in January 1976 by the Regional Office. The Cooperative Federation of Australia discussed the Project with the Australian Development Agency and informed the Regional Office by their letter dated 9th April, 1976, as follows :-

"The outcome of our discussions has been that the Australian Government does not feel able to provide assistance at this point of time".

8.4.2 Subsequently, however, the Executive Officer, Cooperative Federation of Australia has, in his letter dated 4 August 1976 addressed to the Regional Office made the following general observation :

"My recommendation for your consideration would be that where you consider the Australian Cooperative Movement with possible assistance from the Australian Government could be of help in any specific Cooperative Project, then a fully documented research submission could be made to this Office for further detailed investigation by the rightful authorities in Australia.

You may be assured that the policy of the Australian Government and the Cooperative Movement of Australia is one sympathetic to the Cooperative needs of developing countries in the Region of which we are part".

8.4.3 In view of the above encouraging observations from the Cooperative Federation of Australia, the Regional Office has again requested the Australian Federation to explore the possibility of providing assistance for the NACF Project.

Assistance to Bhor Dairy (India)

8.5 The Bhor Dairy of the Poona District Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation (India) had been experiencing difficulty in procuring an adequate quantity of fluid milk during the lean months. The ICA supplied 10 metric tonnes of

skim milk powder worth Rs.156,500 to the Bhor Dairy during May 1976 to enable the Dairy to augment its supply. This purchase of milk powder was financed from the balance of the funds made available to the ICA by the West German Consumers Cooperative Congress.

Assistance to Sri Lanka Cooperative Fisheries

8.6 On the recommendation of the ICA ~~Technical~~ ^{Coop. Development} ~~Assistance~~ Sub-Committee, a grant of £3,000 from the ICA Development Fund to the Sri Lanka Cooperative Fish Sales Union was approved by the Cooperative Development Committee of the ICA for the purchase of a mobile repair van and necessary accessories for the servicing of marine diesel engines. This grant was to be augmented by a grant equal to £2,000 by the French Fisheries Cooperative Movement.

8.6.1 In November 1975, the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka (NACOSIL) informed the Regional Office that since the Department of Fisheries in Sri Lanka was planning to provide facilities for servicing marine diesel engines the Council had decided to withdraw its earlier request for the supply of a mobile repair van and would instead like to have audio-visual equipment and a van for the purpose of training and educating members of fishermen's cooperatives and doing general publicity and propaganda in that field.

8.6.2 The NACOSIL was asked to send to the Regional Office a proforma invoice in respect of the approved items of audio-visual equipment and the van. The proforma invoice for a deluxe Volkswagen van was received in June 1976 and its purchase was formally authorized in August 1976. The Proforma invoice in respect of items of audio-visual equipment are awaited from NACOSIL.

Swedish Gift to the Bangladesh Handicraft Cooperative Federation

8.7 On the recommendation of the Swedish Cooperative Centre, Stockholm, the Swedish Association of Guilds gifted Sw.Kr.3,000 to the Bangladesh Handicraft Cooperative Federation for purchasing spindles and looms for a woollen rug project in the Rajshahi District of Bangladesh. This amount has been paid in cash to the Bangladesh Handicraft Cooperative Federation through the ICA Regional Office.

Gift of Irrigation Equipment to Bangladesh

8.8 The Maritimes Cooperative Services of Canada made a gift of Canadian \$ 2,000 in 1975 to the Rangunia Thana Central Cooperative Association for the purchase of irrigation equipment. The Regional Office shipped the equipment to Bangladesh on 11 April 1975 from the port of Calcutta. The consignment reached Chittagong port around the middle of December 1975.

8.8.1 It is learnt that the customs authorities in Bangladesh propose to levy a heavy import duty on the gift consignment. The Rangunia Thana Central Cooperative Association is trying to get the import duty waived to enable them to take delivery of the consignment.

Why were these things not cleared?

Gift of Incubators to Bangladesh

8.9 In 1974, the Swedish Association of Guilds made a gift of two poultry incubators to the Rangunia Thana Central Cooperative Association, Chittagong (Bangladesh), through the Regional Office for the benefit of women cooperators in Rangunia Thana. The Regional Office shipped the incubators to Bangladesh on 4 June 1975 from the port of Madras. The consignment was lying at Chittagong port because the Customs Authorities in Bangladesh had levied a heavy import duty on the consignment. The Cooperative Association

(RTCCA) was making efforts to get the import duty waived to enable them to take over the goods. The request of the RTCCA for duty-free import of incubators was turned down by the Government. The RTCCA took delivery of the incubators in August 1976 after paying Taka 16,000 as import duty.

Gift of Cement to Bangladesh

8.10 In 1974, the Swedish Cooperative Movement sanctioned a grant of Sw.Kr.80,000 to the Rangunia Thana Central Cooperative Association (RTCCA) for any useful purpose and it was finally agreed that the money may be used for the purchase of cement for constructing godowns for storing fertilizer. The Regional Office requested the International Cooperative Trading Organisation (ICTO) at Singapore to arrange for supply of cement to RTCCA. The ICTO was, however, unable to get any offer within reasonable range, due to the size of the consignment being too small.

8.10.1 At the last meeting of the Council held in Manila during December 1975, the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Cooperative Marketing Federation, however, offered to arrange shipment from Sri Lanka to Bangladesh. Quotations were invited from the said Federation and the State Trading Corporation of India. Both the quotations were received in the Regional Office during May 1976 and it was found that the quotation from India was lower than that of Sri Lanka.

8.10.2 In the absence of any reply from the Rangunia Thana Central Cooperative Association, the Registrar of Cooperative Societies of Bangladesh was contacted by the Regional Office and he informed us that since the situation regarding the availability of cement in Bangladesh had improved, the Association (RTCCA) was no longer interested in the import of cement and would instead like to utilise the gift money for the implementation of some action-oriented project for village development. As the RTCCA functions

under the Integrated Rural Development Programme of Bangladesh, the Registrar of Cooperative Societies in his capacity as the Director-General of that Programme informed us that the Association would soon send up a project for the consideration of the Regional Office. The Swedish Cooperative Centre, at whose disposal the gift money has been placed by the Swedish Movement, has given its concurrence to the use of this money for the implementation of the proposed project provided it is approved of by the Regional Office.

8.10.3 The project is still awaited from the Rangunia Thana Central Cooperative Association.

Japanese Gift of Two Films on Consumer Cooperation to the Regional Office

*|| - All these films with
down in CEMAC 7*

8.11 During his visit to Japan in June 1976, the Specialist on Consumer Cooperation in the Regional Office visited the Nada-Kobe Consumers' Cooperative Society at Kobe and had the opportunity of seeing a coloured movie film produced by the Nada-Kobe Society on the theme of "Coop and Coop Brand Rearing". On his suggestion that this film would be useful for the promotion of consumers' cooperatives in the other countries of the Region, the Nada-Kobe Consumers' Cooperative Society has sent this and another coloured film named "Living in Cooperation" to the Regional Office as gifts from their society.

8.11.1 The above two 16 mm coloured movie films have been received in the Regional Office. The members of the Council may like to put on record their sincere appreciation of the kind and helpful gesture of the Nada-Kobe Consumers' Cooperative Society Limited, Kobe (Japan).

PROMOTION OF COOPERATIVE TRADECooperative Trade Development

8.12 During the period under review, the Regional Office continued to perform clearing house functions for the promotion of cooperative trade. It supplied information on trade matters. Trade enquiries received at the Regional Office were re-directed to the International Cooperative Trading Organisation.

Trade Information Bulletin

8.13 The Regional Office continued to issue the monthly trade news bulletin - THE ICA TRADE NEWS. The journal completed the seventh year of its publication in June 1976.

Should this
not be done by
ICTO?

continued.....

To consider measures to improve and support business activities of the International Cooperative Trading Organisation (Pte.) Limited (ICTO), Singapore

8.14 The International Cooperative Trading Organisation (Pte.) Ltd. (ICTO) was sponsored by the ICA for the purpose of providing market information on products of interest to cooperative trading organisations in the Region and for assisting them in their import and export business. It was registered at Singapore on 7 June 1974. Cooperative organisations from eight countries of the Region, viz. Australia, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand have already joined the membership of this organisation. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (NAFED) from India has also intimated its decision to become a member of ICTO. They are waiting for permission from the Government of India for remitting their contribution to the equity capital of ICTO. The authorized capital of ICTO is S\$ 1 million. On 31 December 1975, the paid up capital amounted to S\$30,005 and increased to S\$429,005 as on 27 April 1976. A member is required to subscribe a minimum of 25,000 shares of S\$1 each, subject to a maximum of 50,000 shares.

8.14.1 The ICTO started business with effect from 1st July 1975. It is still not out of its teething troubles. It is trying to find out the requirements of member organisations in the Region and to build up contacts with important commercial houses and Trading Agencies. During the six months ended 31 December 1975, the commission earned by ICTO on the transactions effected through it amounted to only S\$8,479. The first six months operations ended with a loss of S\$50,714, after charging S\$10,663 as depreciation on fixed

What are these?

assets and equipment. During the first five months of the current year, the only significant transaction reported by ICTO was the sale of sole-crepe rubber from Singapore to a cooperative in Israel. It also put through the sale of coir mats worth M\$3,000 by a cooperative society in India to a Malaysian cooperative.

8.14.2 At the last meeting of the Board of Directors, held at Singapore on 5 June 1976, the Chairman of ICTO informed the meeting that the monthly operating expenses of ICTO amounted to S\$ 7,000 to 9,000. In order to cover its existing operating expenses, the ICTO needs a minimum business of S\$500,000 per month or S\$6 million per year, calculated on the basis of 2% commission from the seller. The Chairman also drew the attention of the meeting to the following points which he felt were essential for the successful functioning of ICTO :

- a) To establish itself and become a going concern, ICTO needed assistance and support from its shareholders especially in the way of competitive prices and quality goods for sale.
- b) ICTO was established to serve its shareholders, and unless these shareholders could extend full support to, and cooperate closely with, the Company, ICTO would not be able to realise any of its objectives. Steps should be taken to explore ways and means in which shareholders in each and every country could assist and support the Company in order that the Company could serve them.
- c) ICTO would appreciate it if shareholders could assist ICTO in making contacts with Government agencies and other organisations in their respective countries as and when necessary.

value?

What about the buyer of the commissions ICTO.

8.14.3 The Chairman emphasised that unless some positive action was taken by shareholders of each and every country to assist the ICTO, it would be very difficult for the Company to realise its objectives, let alone launch its business in a viable way.

8.14.4 The above position is being brought to the notice of the Council members, as they may like to offer suggestions for promoting the business activities of ICTO, so that its services could be utilised effectively by the member organisations and it could make an encouraging advance towards the achievement of the object for which it was established on the recommendation of the Council. The Regional Office feels that the potential for developing the business activities and usefulness of the organisation is definitely great provided the institution is further equipped with experienced and competent staff at senior level and the member-organisations offer their unstinted support.

Proposed ILO Workshop on Strengthening of
Inter-Cooperative Trade Relations

8.15 In order to assist cooperative trading organisations in the Asian Region to establish or improve direct trade relations with cooperatives in the developed countries, the ILO proposes to hold a 10-day Workshop in the second half of 1977 for representatives of (a) national cooperative business organisations which are engaged directly or are interested in international trade; (b) national government agencies concerned with cooperative development and promotion and (c) international organisations.

8.15.1 The Director of the ILO Regional Office for Asia discussed the project with the Regional Director and the Joint Director (T&T), and it was suggested by the ICA representatives that the Workshop should be held at Singapore

where the ICA had sponsored the establishment of the International Cooperative Trading Organisation (Pte.) Ltd. It was indicated that ICTO could offer some facilities and assist in making arrangements for holding the workshop. The ILO has accepted this suggestion and decided to hold the workshop at Singapore instead of Bangkok as proposed formerly.

Do we have the Project Proposal?
April 1977

8.15.2 On being approached by the ILO Office Bangkok, the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Government of Singapore sent to ICTO a copy of the draft ILO-SIDA Project description and asked for their views and comments. It is learnt that the matter was examined by the Board of Directors of ICTO and they have assured full support to the proposed project which has the same object as that of ICTO. It is learnt that the Government of Singapore has given its approval for holding the proposed Workshop at Singapore. The Regional Office feels that this Workshop should be very useful for professional managers connected with the handling of foreign trade in cooperative institutions and that the project may also indirectly assist ICTO in promoting its business contacts and planning its activities and programmes.

Asian Cooperative Development Bank (ACDB)

8.16 The ICA Council for South-East Asia, at its last meeting held at Manila in December 1975, decided that while setting up a Bank for both development and trade finance should be treated as a long-term objective, action should be taken, at the first instance, for the establishment of an Asian Cooperative Development Bank for providing development finance only. The Council requested the ICA Regional Office "to put up a definite proposal to the members after obtaining the Government of Iran's permission". The Council also appointed an Ad-hoc Committee of Messrs. Sassani (Iran), Basuki (Indonesia), Ismail Din (Malaysia) and a member from Japan, if available, with Mr. Sassani as the Chairman, for taking necessary action in this regard.

8.16.1 In order to formulate some idea about the economic and technical feasibility of the proposal for setting up an Asian Cooperative Development Bank, Mr. M.K. Puri, Joint Director, TA&T, studied the working of the Asian Development Bank at Manila during his visit to the Philippines in March 1976. A copy of his preliminary investigation report on the economic and technical feasibility of the proposed ACDB is attached vide Annex C.

8.16.2 The Joint Director (TA&T) has recorded the following concluding observations in his above report :

"It is abundantly clear from the above study that the proposed ACDB cannot function on purely commercial lines. A separate ACDB in the Region can be established only if the cooperative institutions from the affluent countries agree to participate in its capital stock and the Bank has an access to soft funds from I.D.A. or any other international financing agency. In order to have proper assessment of the situation for achieving these essential pre-conditions, it will be advisable to discuss this proposal in an international forum.

The proposal in its present form does not appear to be either economically viable or technically feasible".

*What about
the ICA
study on the
subject?*

8.16.3 A meeting of the Sub-Committee constituted by the ICA Council was called at Singapore on 6 June 1976 to consider the above report. This meeting, however, did not take place as none of the members of the Sub-Committee turned up at Singapore. It has now been decided to hold a meeting of the Sub-Committee at Teheran on 6 November 1976. The recommendations made at this meeting will be placed before the Council.

Study of the Role the Cooperative Movement could play in the task of increasing food production in the countries served by the ICA Regional Office for South-East Asia

8.17 At the 16th meeting of the ICA Council held at Colombo during November 1974, it was decided that the Regional Office should undertake a study of "The Role that the Cooperative Movement could play in the task of increasing food production", in a few selected countries of the Region. This decision was taken in pursuance of a Resolution adopted at the ICA Top-Level Cooperative Leaders' Conference held at Tokyo in October 1973.

8.17.1A proposal for this study was prepared by the Regional Office on the basis of the recommendations made by the Ad-hoc Committee appointed at the 16th meeting of the Council. It was sent to Head Office with a request for finance from the Cooperative Development Fund to make this study. It was considered a technical project for the development of the movement and so one which could be undertaken as a part of the Cooperative Development Decade programme. The Head Office thought that the proposed study could be related to the COPAC's proposed symposium on "Cooperatives and involvement of the Poor in their Development" which is expected to be held in 1978 and that our study could be considered as ICA's contribution to COPAC's symposium as well

8.17.2The Executive Committee of the ICA at its meeting held in October 1975 accepted the proposal to finance the above study from the Cooperative Development Fund.

8.17.3The Cooperative League of Thailand, agreed to assist the Regional Office to make this study during a period of three months starting in September 1976.

8.17.4 The Regional Office selected Mr.G.L. Bailur, Commissioner and Secretary, Departments of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of Haryana (India), to be the expert for making the above study with Mr.Pradit Machima, Director of the Cooperative League of Thailand as Associate Expert. The study is under way now and the report is expected to be completed in December 1976. The Cooperative League of Thailand has also kindly agreed to meet the internal travel costs of both the Expert and the Associate Expert, besides providing secretarial facilities.

8.17.5 This study will be followed by similar studies in a few other countries of the Region, in due course.

Why?
What about
the cost of
the Marketing
Surveys?

Joint Ventures with the Collaboration
of two or more movements

8.18 At the 14th meeting of the Council, held in Thailand during November 1972, a suggestion was put forward by the Regional Office for the establishment of joint projects with the collaboration of two or more member-movements. The proposal envisaged participation in equity capital, transfer of technical know-how and training of personnel, etc. on the basis of an ad-hoc formula to be agreed upon, in each case. The Council endorsed the proposal for joint-ventures and suggested that the Regional Office should ascertain from the member-movements the areas in which they felt that joint ventures could be established profitably and then coordinate such efforts in order to facilitate the establishment of such joint ventures.

8.18.1 In response to the communication issued by the Regional Office in this regard, replies were received from only a few member organisations indicating a few areas where,

in their opinion, joint ventures could be considered. Thereafter, the Council decided at its 15th meeting held at Tokyo during October 1973 that the Regional Office should ask the member-movements to indicate the specific areas in which they were interested to establish joint ventures. The Regional Office received a few suggestions concerning the areas in which joint ventures could be established but no concrete proposal was received from any country. The suggested areas of collaboration are as follows :

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Indonesia | - Agriculture, fishery, forestry,
mining, industry and transport. |
| Thailand | - Tapioca processing. |

8.18.2 Thereupon, the then Joint Director, TAST requested the member-movements at the 16th Meeting of the Council, held at Colombo during November 1974 to persuade their cooperatives to send to the Regional Office concrete proposals for the establishment of joint ventures in collaboration with cooperative movements of other countries.

8.18.3 The National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka mentioned that it would welcome a joint venture with cooperatives in Japan for processing cotton and synthetic textiles. The matter was discussed in the last meeting of the Council at Manila and the Council suggested that the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka should put up a concrete proposal in this regard to the Regional Office.

8.18.4 The National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka however, withdrew its proposal in February 1976 informing us that the Government in Sri Lanka had decided to set up six textile processing plants in that country. So far, no other proposal for joint ventures with cooperatives of other countries has been made by any of the member cooperative

movements in the Region.

Involvement of ICA and its Member-organisations
in the execution of UNDP assisted projects

get a copy

8.19 Under the UNDP Resolution on "New Dimensions in Technical Cooperation" it has been decided that Governments and Institutions in recipient countries should be increasingly entrusted with the responsibility for executing UNDP-assisted projects. The Administrator of UNDP has prepared some guidelines which govern the implementation of this new arrangement. It will be observed that the new arrangement is of particular significance to ICA and its member organisations as it opens up opportunities for the involvement of cooperative organisations in the formulation and execution of these projects, which are of great value for the social and economic advancement of their countries. The guidelines state that "Government execution will constitute an important aspect of the move towards decentralisation, as a means of economising on overheads, enhancing the capabilities of local expertise and institutions, and thereby promoting self-reliance".

8.19.1 It is stated in the guidelines that "In the case of a UNDP-assisted project executed by the Government, the Government, or an institution nominated by it, is both the final recipient of UNDP assistance and responsible for the execution of the project". The guidelines, however, state that UNDP will proceed on a careful and selective basis, especially to begin with, in implementing this approach. In making a request to UNDP the Government may propose that the responsibility for executing the project may be entrusted to them and UNDP Headquarters will make the decision on this proposal. A determination of Government capacity to execute the project will rest in part on the technical complexity and the nature of the project. While

presenting such a proposal the Government will be required to provide information on the technical and managerial capability of the Institution envisaged by them as the executing agency with reference to :

- (a) the experience of the institution in executing similar projects;
- (b) the depth of technical experience and know-how of the institution and its access to and links with national and international sources of expertise and know-how;
- (c) the ability of the institution to exercise adequate managerial and technical supervision over the project; and
- (d) the internal budgeting, accounting and audit arrangements of the institution.

8.19.2 The Government will provide a copy of the financial rules and regulations of the Institution.

8.19.3 Regarding implementation, the Government will execute the project in the same way as it executes its own projects, e.g.

- i) project staff will be responsible to the government;
- ii) equipment will be purchased by the government;
- iii) sub-contracts will be awarded by the government with arrangements between the sub-contractor and the government executing agency; and
- iv) salaries, conditions, etc. of project staff will be determined by the Government.

8.19.4 It is further provided in the guidelines that "if so requested by a Government, UNDP will provide the services required for the formulation of the project. If necessary... UNDP will... (call upon)... the appropriate specialized agency, or other organisation in the UN system, or private consultants,

consultancy firms or other organisations, including universities, development Institutions or voluntary non-governmental organisations to enable UNDP to provide the required services".

8.19.5 The ability of cooperative organisations to offer their services for formulation and execution of the project will vary from country to country, but they will have the advantage of being able to draw upon the resources of the ICA and have access to international expertise which is one of the qualifying conditions mentioned in the guidelines. Thus, cooperative organisations can be involved in the formulation and preparation of project documents and in the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and follow-up of the project.

8.19.6 These new guidelines are very significant for the work of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and for the promotion of cooperatives in the Developing Countries. The aspect of particular interest to cooperatives is the possibility for their involvement as agencies for the formulation and/or implementation of UNDP-assisted projects.

8.19.7 There are opportunities for various agencies to work together at various stages of the project cycle, giving the ICA and its members opportunities of cooperating with various U.N. Specialized Agencies. It would, therefore, be important for cooperative organisations to make contact with the pertinent agencies including UNDP Resident Representatives, Representatives of U.N. Specialized Agencies and appropriate Government Departments, both in order to submit projects and/or to express their interest in executing UNDP-supported projects.

8.19.8 The salient features of the two sets of guidelines issued by the Administrator, UNDP regarding collaboration of Non-Governmental Organisations at the field level with the offices of the U.N. system are given in annexes "B" & "C". The ICA and its Regional Office will, of course, be always prepared to assist and advise the member-organisations to enable them to play an effective role in the execution of UNDP-assisted projects in their respective countries. The Members of the Council are

requested to give their views in this regard.

Collaboration between ICA and the
Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

8.20 The new Director-General of the FAO has reviewed the programmes, structures and policies of the organisation and he is very keen on country programmes (as against regional) and practical field programmes. The Director of the ICA has briefed the new Director-General of FAO about the nature and work of the ICA and drawn his particular attention to the activities of the Regional Offices. He has also discussed about the possibilities of collaboration between the FAO and the ICA in view of the importance the ICA itself attaches to field projects in various countries. The Director-General was appreciative of the work being done by the ICA and of the need for collaborating with cooperative organisations since it is obviously impossible for FAO to reach the individual farmers.

8.20.1 The recent changes in the approach of FAO seem to open many opportunities for collaboration between the FAO and the ICA in the formulation and implementation of projects for increasing food production and improving the standards of living of the peoples of the Developing Countries. The possibilities of collaboration between FAO and ICA appear to be particularly bright under the following two programmes which have been recently introduced by the FAO :

- i) FAO Technical Cooperation Programme.
- ii) FAO Money and Medals Programme.

8.20.2 The salient features of these schemes are given in annexes "D" and "E".

A. FAO Technical Cooperation Programme

8.21 The new arrangements spell much potential involvement of cooperative organisations. It is felt that the Regional Office and ICA's member-organisations in the Region can effectively and meaningfully collaborate in these projects, which are to be funded under the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme, by helping to :

- a) identify needs,
- b) formulate projects, and
- c) implement such projects.

8.21.1 (The ROEC could be either the sole operating agent or a sub-contractor for a part of the project.)

8.21.2 The fact that cooperative organisations have actual experience of working with farmers at the grass-roots level and also have access to and links with national and international sources of expertise and know-how, qualify them as appropriate institutions for accepting and discharging the above responsibilities.

8.21.3 The Regional Office feels that ICA-FAO collaboration should in no way adversely affect collaboration between the government and the cooperative movement of the recipient country since cooperative movements in Developing Countries have already been working in close collaboration with their respective governments and have been recognised by the latter as suitable instruments for the implementation of programmes of economic and social development.

8.21.4 The FAO has made the following project proposals. In its opinion these projects would be entitled to receive assistance under the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme and, in their opinion, cooperative institutions can play a very

important role in them.

- i) Market-oriented small farmers cooperatives in green belts of large cities.
- ii) Follow-up of the ICA-NCUI Cooperative Education Field Project, Indore (India).
- iii) Small Farmer Training for increased food production.
- iv) Fertilizer distribution through cooperative organisations.
- v) Promoting the participation of women in Agricultural Production through Cooperative Action.
- vi) Assistance in the establishment of a Cooperative Institute - to undertake cooperative planning, promotion, training and research.
- vii) Contribution of Rural institutions to repayment of credit for production purposes.

8.21.5 The above list is only illustrative and it is meant to provoke the cooperative movement of each country to explore seriously ways and means in which they could offer effective and meaningful collaboration in respect of a few small and short-term projects which could be assisted under the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme. The Members of the Council are requested to give their serious consideration to these proposals and are invited to suggest projects which may be directly useful to farmers in their respective countries.

B. FAO Money and Metals Programme (MMP)

8.22 Under this programme it is intended to support projects which high-light people's participation and self-reliance both as an end and as a means. MMP funds are to be used primarily for field projects which would result in the active participation of small farmers and rural families in

steps taken for their own development. The project must show the involvement of the recipient in planning and decision-making as well as in the contribution of inputs in cash, kind, time or commitment to follow-up action.

The project should be in support of social economic activities which lead to increased self-reliance, by becoming self-supporting or by acquiring additional domestic resources for development. The MMP finances are available only for small projects which fall within the range of \$5,000 to \$50,000. It is understood that US\$300,000 may be available annually for MMP funded projects.

8.22.1 There is one special aspect of the MMP Programme which merits the special attention of the Members of the Council. Unlike other funds, the MMP Projects Fund does not require a request from the government of the recipient country. This means that a ~~cooperative~~ organisation or other ~~similar non-government~~ institution may submit a request for assistance direct to FAO. The government authority concerned should, however, have no objection to the project in principle and, if possible, should support the implementation of the project. It is felt that it should be easily possible for member-organisations in the Developing Countries to sponsor a few projects which would qualify for assistance under this programme. The Director-General of FAO has indicated that, if necessary, the FAO respective Country or Regional Representative will take action to obtain the clearance of the government concerned. The Members of the Council are requested to advise the cooperative movements in their respective countries to identify a few small projects which could be sponsored through the ICA Regional Office. This is the opportune moment as the FAO is presently biased in favour of practical projects which could yield quick and tangible results.

Why can
the R. & EE
not do it
also?

Co-financing contracts between the Commission of the European Communities and Non-Governmental Organisations for Development Schemes

8.23 So far, the Commission of European Communities (CEC) has been assisting only such projects as were received by them from the Governments of the developing countries. The Regional Office has been informed by the Head Office that the CEC has now decided to entertain, on a selective basis, even such projects as are sponsored by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) like the ICA, provided the approval of the Government of the recipient country has been obtained. The CEC will be prepared to contribute 50% of the cost of a NGO-sponsored project from Developing Countries.

8.23.1 The scheme intends to cover only small projects. The total cost of an individual project should not normally exceed US\$200,000. The CEC will finance only 50% of the total cost of a project subject to a maximum of \$100,000. The funds to match the CEC contribution can, however, include the local costs of the recipient country and other external funding, e.g. contributions from member-organisations, ICA Development Fund, etc.

8.23.2 In order to qualify for assistance under the co-financing scheme of the CEC, the project must have clear objectives, which are attainable in a specified time, and should satisfy the following conditions :

- (a) It should conform to the priorities and needs of the recipient country;
- (b) It should be approved by the authorities concerned of the recipient country;
- (c) It should promote the economic and social programmes of the least developed sections of the population; and

- (d) It should ~~lead to social and economic development~~ and be such as can be repeated in other regions.

8.23.3 The details of the scheme and prescribed application forms were supplied to all member organisations by the Regional Office. The ICA is prepared to sponsor proposals of cooperative development projects received from its member organisations. A letter was sent out to all member organisations in the Region in July 1976 requesting them to work out their development projects according to local conditions, requirements and the priorities set out by their National Governments. The CEC has earmarked about \$ 2.5 million in 1976 for the co-financing of projects sponsored by Non-Governmental organisations.

Collaboration between the ICA and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

(a) Any brochures or pamphlets?
 (b) What stuff do they have?
 (c) Financial resources - approved budget, is any?

8.24 At the instance of the Head Office, the Joint Director (T&T) called on the Regional Director of the International Development Research Centre at Singapore during March 1976 with a view to exploring the possibilities of seeking assistance from IDRC for financing some of our research projects.

8.24.1 The Joint Director (T&T) was informed by the Regional Director of the IDRC that the International Development Research Centre is a public corporation established by an Act of the Canadian Parliament with its object being to :

"initiate, encourage, support and conduct research into the problems of the developing regions of the world and into the means for applying and adapting scientific,

technical and other knowledge to the economic and social advancement of those regions, and, in carrying out those objects :

- (a) to enlist the talents of natural and social scientists and technologists of Canada and other countries;
- (b) to assist the developing regions to build up the research capabilities, the innovative skills and the institutions required to solve their problems;
- (c) to encourage generally the coordination of international development research; and
- (d) to foster cooperation in research on development problems between the developed and developing regions for their mutual benefit".

8.24.2 Although the IDRC is primarily encouraging research studies in the fields of science and technology, yet it has ~~also since recently extended~~ its scope to a few subjects in the field of social sciences and human resources. As such, the Regional Director of the IDRC has said that the IDRC could be interested in projects relating to cooperative development in the Developing Countries, and added that each case of research study for which financial support might be asked from the Centre will have to be examined by the Centre on the individual merits of such case, keeping in view the purpose of the research and its usefulness to the economic advancement of the Region. The general policy of the IDRC is that researchers engaged for studies supported by them should be drawn preferably from the Developing Countries. The Regional Office and Education Centre for South-East Asia will examine the possibilities of collaboration with the IDRC.

AGENDA ITEM No. 9

PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
AND LIBRARY SECTION.

9.1 Publications

The following publications were issued during the period under review (November 1975 to July 1976) :

i) CONSUMER COOPERATION IN SOUTH EAST ASIA:

This publication is an outcome of the First Open Asian Conference on Consumer Cooperation held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 1974, in collaboration with the Cooperative Union of Malaysia. The Conference discussed the subject under three main heads:

- (a) the role of consumer cooperatives in consumer protection,
- (b) the structure of cooperatives at the retail level and
- (c) production, importation and wholesaling for supporting consumer cooperatives and for international cooperative trade.

The publication comprises the Resolutions adopted by the Conference, the working papers presented, and the background papers circulated at the conference. Besides these papers this publication also includes the address of welcome given by Mr. N.A. Kularajah in his capacity as the President of the host organisation.

ii) THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT:

This publication contains the report of the Regional Conference on "The Role of Women in Cooperative Development" held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in collaboration with the Cooperative Union of Malaysia, from 21st to 28th July 1975.

iii) COOPERATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE:

This is a paper by Mr. P.E. Weeraman, ICA Regional Director for South-East Asia, submitted to the 7th Indian Cooperative Congress held in New Delhi in February 1976.

iv) AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING:

This publication contains the report of the Regional Seminar on "Agricultural Cooperative Marketing" held in Tokyo, Japan, in collaboration with the CUAC and the IDACA, from 2 to 22 September 1975.

v) THE AUTHOR'S COMMENTARY ON "A MODEL COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES LAW"

This is a Booklet containing the lecture given by Mr. P.E. Weeraman, ICA Regional Director for South East Asia, at the Seminar on "Cooperative Law and Development" held in Accra, Ghana, by the Ghana Cooperatives Council in July 1976.

vi) READINGS IN COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT :

This publication comprises papers read at different seminars on cooperative management held by the ICA. The manuscript has been edited by Dr. A.U. Shaikh, former Director of the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management, Poona, India. The publication is now in the press and is expected to be out by November 1976.

vii) The publication Entitled "Role of Cooperatives in Agricultural Development" was reprinted during the period under review. The Publication was first published in October 1970 and contains the discussions and conclusions of the Experts' Conference on "The Role of Cooperatives in Agricultural Development" held in Kathmandu, Nepal, in November 1969.

9.2 Publicity

The ICA Regional Bulletin was issued quarterly. The feature "Spotlight" was continued, giving accounts of the following:

- i. Norin-Nenkin-Pension Association for the Employees of Agricultural and Forestry Cooperative Organisations of Japan (Jan. 76 issue).
- ii. Supermarket Kooperatif, Kuala Lumpur (April 76 issue)
- iii. Shimomasaki (Multipurpose Agricultural Cooperative Society (July 76 issue).

(a) Collection of Cooperative News :

The collection of cooperative news from the region was continued during the period under review. The news is used in the Regional Bulletins as well as supplied to our Head Office for use in its journals.

(b) Press Releases

The practice of issuing press releases after the conclusion of seminars, conferences and other important events was continued during this period. These were sent to cooperative journals in the region for publication.

9.3 The Library

There are over 12,000 Volumes including bound periodicals and nearly 5,000 booklets in the library now. The library subscribes to many journals and also receives many on a complimentary basis. Altogether 200 journals are received by the library. It acts as a clearing house of information on books and documentation. The Library has been extensively used by cooperators, cooperative organisations, students and scholars.

9.4 Documentation Services

For reasons beyond our control, the Documentation Bulletins for South East Asia due in respect of 1974 and 1975 were issued together as one volume during the period under review. The Annotated Bibliography of cooperative literature has been issued in the usual way.

9.5 Supply and Exchange of Literature

The library undertakes the exchange of material with other libraries. It supplies on request free mimeographed material on cooperative subjects e.g. background papers presented at the various ICA Seminars and Conferences. It also acts as a clearing house of cooperative literature in English published by member movements. The Librarian provides on request background papers on the socio-economic conditions of the countries in the Region.

9.6 Consultative Services

The Library maintains close relations with the cooperative libraries of the Region and extends consultative services as and when required by them.

9.7 Library Services

At the XIth meeting of the International Working Party of Cooperative Librarians and Documentation Officers, held in Finland, the Working Party suggested that one of the ways in which cooperative libraries could help localities where very few or no public libraries exist, was by expanding their services and catering for the general readers in the locality. First a small collection of non-specialised literature on subjects such as cooperative farming and consumer goods might be made available to members of the library. Gradually, literary works and magazines, and books for children could be added, and the library could build up a general collection not only for its members but also for their families.

9.8 A Survey to determine the possibilities of implementing the above suggestion is being carried out among the member organisations of the ICA. The information required in respect of the South East Asian region is being collected by the Regional Office.

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR 1976-77

9.9 The following publications will be brought out during the year 1976-77 :

- 1) "Theory and Practice of Accounting in Fishery Cooperative Societies" :

The Fisheries Group of the Sub-Committee for Agriculture and Trade for South East Asia has recommended at its meeting held in Manila last year that a publication which can serve as a manual to primary Fishery Cooperatives should be brought out by the Regional Office. Accordingly the Regional Office has got this publication prepared by Mr. K. Ponnuthurai,

formerly of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service. Mr. Ponnuthurai was assisted by Mr. A.W. Viddiyasckera of the Department of Cooperative Development, Sri Lanka, in the preparation of the book.

ii) "Fisheries Cooperatives in the Republic of Korea"

The Fishery group recommended that a book on the fishery cooperatives in the Republic of Korea outlining their mode of functioning, problems faced in their growth and how these were solved should be brought out by the Regional Office. The Regional Office is now preparing a book in collaboration with the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives of the Republic of Korea.

iii) "Statistical Information on Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives in South East Asia"

A mimeographed publication giving important statistical information on agriculture and agricultural cooperatives in South East Asia was brought out in 1970. An up-dated edition of this book will be published.

iv) "Cooperative Series"

Publications dealing with topical aspects of the movement will be published under this series.

v) Speeches on Cooperation

Important speeches on matters of cooperative importance and interest will be issued in this series.

vi) Publicity

As usual the ICA Regional Bulletin will be issued quarterly during this year. Other publicity material will also be produced.

AGENDA ITEM NO.10 : DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ICA SUB
SUB-COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & TRADE FOR S.E. ASIA

10. The ICA Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Trade for South-East Asia is scheduled to meet on 6th November 1976 in Tehran. A resume of the decisions taken by the Sub-Committee will be given to the Council at the time of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO.11 : RELATIONS WITH MEMBER-ORGANISATIONS IN THE REGION

11.1 The ROEC continued to maintain close liaison with member-organisations in the Region through correspondence, personal visits etc.

11.2 The Regional Director, the Director (Education) and Joint Director (Education) attended the Seventh Indian Cooperative Congress held from 5th to 7th February 1976. The Regional Director extended the ICA's greetings to the Congress.

AGENDA ITEM NO.12 : RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

12. Cordial and fruitful relations continued to exist between the ICA ROEC and the UN Specialised Agencies as well as the international non-governmental organisations functioning in the Region. More specifically, the following instances of collaboration may be mentioned :-

12.1 ESCAP :- The Regional Director participated as an observer in the Thirty-second Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) held in Bangkok from March 24th to April 2nd, 1976.

12.2 FAO : The Joint Director (Publications)-cum-Specialist in Agricultural Cooperation participated in the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East held in Manila, the Philippines from August 4th to August 13th, 1976.

12.3 The ROEC also collaborated with the FAO in their discussions with the Government of India on their proposed "Survey of Training Facilities for Personnel of Agricultural Cooperative Banks of Selected Countries." A preliminary meeting was held in the premises of the ICA ROEC at New Delhi from 19th to 23rd July 1976.

12.4 UN : The Regional Director attended as an observer an informal meeting of National non-governmental organisations convened by the United Nations Information Centre on 6th August 1976 in New Delhi to consider the setting up of a Committee of National NGOs.

AGENDA ITEM NO.13 : VENUE AND DATES OF THE NEXT MEETING

13.1 The venues and dates of the previous meetings are as follows :

Meeting No.	Venue	Dates
First	New Delhi, India	20-22 October, 1961
Second	Tokyo, Japan	13-14 April, 1962
Third	New Delhi, India	1-2 May 1963
Fourth	Tokyo, Japan	17-18 April, 1964.
Fifth	Newara Eliya, Sri Lanka	18-19 November 1964
Sixth	New Delhi, India	25-26 November 1965
Seventh	Manila, the Philippines	24-25 October 1966
Eighth	Tokyo, Japan	2-3 November 1967
Ninth	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	13-14 November 1968
Tenth	Tehran, Iran	1-2 March, 1969
Eleventh	Seoul, Rep. of Korea	8-9 May 1970
Twelfth	New Delhi, India	17-18, February 1971
Thirteenth	Melbourne, Australia	8-9 November 1971
Fourteenth	Chiengmai, Thailand	19-20 November 1972
Fifteenth	Tokyo, Japan	30 October 1973
Sixteenth	Colombo, Sri Lanka	1-2 November 1974
Seventeenth	Manila, the Philippines	7 December 1975.

13.2 The venue and date of the Nineteenth Meeting may please be fixed by the Council. The attention of members is invited to paragraph 37 of the Minutes of the Sixteenth Meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, viz.:

"37. The Member for the Philippines invited the Council to hold its next meeting, Seventeenth in the series, at Manila, Philippines. The Member for Iran said that they would like to host the Council Meeting in 1976 and the Member for Indonesia invited the Council to hold its meeting in 1977 in his country. The Council thanked these members for their invitations and accepted the invitation of the Member for the Philippines to hold the next meeting in his country. The other two invitations were accepted on a tentative basis."

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Apr/May, 1977
Thank you
1978.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14 : ANY OTHER MATTER WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15 : MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ADVISERS OF IDACA

15. The Agenda Notes for this meeting will be sent in due course by the Managing Director of IDACA.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16 : VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIR

ANNEXES TO AGENDA NOTES

Marked

- | | | |
|------|---|-----|
| I. | MINUTES OF THE 17TH MEETING OF THE ICA COUNCIL FOR SOUTH EAST ASIA HELD IN MANILA, PHILIPPINES IN DECEMBER 1975. | "I" |
| II. | PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION REPORT REGARDING ECONOMIC & TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED ASIAN COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT BANK (ACDB). | "A" |
| III. | GUIDELINES FOR STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOs.). | "B" |
| IV. | A GUIDE FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS TOWARDS FURTHERING COLLABORATION AT THE FIELD LEVEL WITH THE OFFICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM. | "C" |
| V. | FAO TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME | "D" |
| VI. | FAO MONEY AND MEDAL PROGRAMME | "E" |
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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE
Regional Office & Education Centre
for South-East Asia
43, Friends' Colony, New Delhi-14 (India)

5th January 1975

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE
ICA COUNCIL FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA HELD IN
MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES, ON 7TH DECEMBER 1975

1. The Seventeenth Meeting of the ICA Council for South-East Asia was held at the Philippine Village Hotel, in Manila, the Philippines, on the 7th December 1975. Mr. N.A.Kularajah, Chairman of the Council, presided.

2. The following were present :

(a) Members

1. Mr. N.A.Kularajah, Chairman and Member for Malaysia (Non-agricultural)
2. Mr. I.Hunter, Member for Australia (Agricultural)
3. Mr. R.G.Tiwari, Member for India (Non-agricultural)
4. Mr. Tapeswar Singh, Alternate Member for India (Agricultural)
5. Mr. Eddiwan, Member for Indonesia (Non-agricultural)
6. Mr. Djoko Basuki, Member for Indonesia (Agricultural)
7. Mr. K.Yoshida, Member for Japan (Agricultural)
8. Mr. Ju In Song, Member for Korea (Agricultural)
9. Mr. Ismail Din, Member for Malaysia (Agricultural)
10. Mr. Khan Amir Abdullah Khan, Member for Pakistan (Agricultural)
11. Mr. B.P.Faustino, Member for the Philippines (Agricultural)
12. Mr. Monico Yadao, Alternate Member for the Philippines (Non-agricultural)
13. Mr. Mak Kam Heng, Member for Singapore (Non-agricultural)
14. Mr. M.Kulasegaram, Member for Singapore (Agricultural)

15. Mr.G.S.Dayananda, Member for Sri Lanka
(Non-agricultural)
16. Mr. L.M.V.de Silva, Member for Sri Lanka
(Agricultural) Alternate
17. Mr. Pradit Machima, Member for Thailand
(Non-agricultural)
18. Mr. Prachuab Burapharat, Member for Thailand
(Agricultural)
19. Mr. R.Shahr-babaki Khan, Alternate Member
for Iran (Non-agricultural)

(b) Secretary:- Mr. P.E.Weeraman, ICA Regional
Director for South-East Asia

(c) Observers:

1. Mr. Malte Jonsson of the Swedish Cooperative
Centre, Stockholm, Sweden
2. Mr. H.Togawa, Managing Director, IDACA, Tokyo,
Japan
3. Mr. W.Kidston, former Member for Australia
4. Mr. S.Futagami, Asst.Manager, International Dept.

(d) Other ICA Regional Office staff: CUAC, Tokyo

1. Mr. J.M.Rana, Director (Education)
2. Mr. Lionel Gunawardana, Joint Director (Publica-
tions) & Specialist in Agricultural Cooperation
3. Mr. M.K.Puri, Specialist in Consumer Cooperation
(designate) and Joint Director (Technical
Assistance and Trade) - (designate)
4. Mr.S.S.Avadhani, Personal Assistant to Reg.Director.

3. The following Councillors were absent :

1. Mr. M.Raushan Ali, Member for Bangladesh (non-
agricultural)
2. Mr. A.M.Yahya, Member for Bangladesh (Agricultural)
3. Mr. Taghi Salem, Member for Iran (Agricultural)
4. Mr. M.Kobayashi, Member for Japan (Non-agricultural)
5. Mr. Tai Chun Hong, Member for Korea (. agricul-
tural)

AGENDA ITEM NO.1 : WELCOME

4. Mr. B.P.Faustino, Councillor for the Philippines,
welcomed the Councillors on behalf of the Cooperative Movement
of the Philippines.

AGENDA ITEM NO.2 : OBITUARY

5. Mr. Kularajah moved a vote of condolence on the deaths of Mr. Shoji Matsumura, the Councillor for Japan, and Mr. M.J. Lane, Councillor for Australia. The meeting observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased councillors.

AGENDA ITEM NO.3: INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

6. Mr. P.E. Weeraman, referring to the death of Mr. S. Matsumura, former member of the Council and Managing Director of the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan, said, "It is a great loss. As you know, Mr. Matsumura was with us last year and he has been a worthy successor to Mr. Yanagida. He was a great supporter of the ICA and we miss him from our midst." Mr. Weeraman next referring to the death of Mr. M.J. Lane, member of the Council and President of the Cooperative Federation of Australia, said, "Mr. Lane did not have the opportunity of attending any of our meetings. He was actually coming to this meeting and it is very unfortunate that we lost him. He was one of the most dedicated cooperators that I have met in Australia. He was one of the foremost cooperators of Australia. He too was a great supporter of the ICA. We are sorry that he is not with us today."

7. On behalf of the ICA, he welcomed the Councillors and the others present.

AGENDA ITEM NO.4: BACKGROUND PAPERS ON THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT OF EACH COUNTRY

8. The Chairman stated that the country background papers giving the present position of their respective movements received from the members had been circulated and suggested that as usual instead of reading the papers in full, the Councillors should mention the special developments and changes that had taken place in their respective movements since the last meeting of the Council.

9. The oral reports made by the representatives of the national cooperative movements are given in appendix I.

AGENDA ITEM NO.5 : CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING

10. The minutes of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Council held at Colombo, Sri Lanka, were confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM NO.6 : ADMINISTRATION SECTION

11. Action taken on the minutes of the last meeting : The follow-up action taken on the minutes relating to the Administration Section, as reported in the Agenda Notes was noted.

12. 80th Anniversary of the ICA : The celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the ICA in New Delhi with the President of India as Chief Guest on 20th September 1975 was noted with appreciation

13. Contributions to the funds of the ICA ROEC :

The contributions made to the funds of the ROEC by the members for the financial year 1974-75 were reported as follows :

	Rs.
1. Cooperative Federation of Australia (A\$1,000)	11,507.30
2. National Cooperative Union of India	25,000.00
3. Dewan Koperasi Indonesia, Indonesia (US \$863.32)	7,216.30
4. Sepah Consumers Cooperative of Iran (5,500.00
5. Central Organisation for Rural Cooperatives of Iran	1,598.00
6. Consumer Cooperative Society, Ministry of Labour, Iran	1,200.00
7. Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan	28,634.48
8. National Agricultural Cooperative Federation, Korea	10,000.00
9. Cooperative Union of Malaysia	10,000.00
10. National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka	926.50
11. Cooperative League of Thailand	8,000.00
12. Singapore National Cooperative Union	3,250.00
Total: Rs.	1,12,832.58

roughly equal to US \$ 14,100/-

It was also reported that the Cooperative Federation of Australia had paid its contribution of A\$1,000/- for the year 1975-76.

14. Building Fund :

The Regional Director reported that the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan had completed the payment of Sterling Pounds 10,000/- towards meeting the cost of the ROEC office building as promised in 1968 and that although it was promised to be paid in ten years, the payment had been completed within 8 years. This announcement

was received with loud applause.

15. Contributions to the ICA ROEC in respect of the ICA Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Trade:

The following member-organisations had made their contributions of Sterling Pounds 50/- each for the year 1974-75 :

1. Cooperative Federation of Australia,
2. National Cooperative Union of India,
3. Dewan Koperasi Indonesia of Indonesia,
4. Central Organisation for Rural Coops of Iran,
5. Central Union of Agricultural Coops. of Japan,
6. National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of the Republic of Korea,
7. ANGKASA of Malaysia,
8. Cooperative League of Thailand, and
9. National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka.

16. Staff Changes :

The staff changes reported in paragraphs 15, 16 and 17 of the Agenda Notes relating to Dr. Dharm Vir, Mr. M.V. Madane and Mr. M.K. Puri were noted.

The appointment of Mr. M.K. Puri as the Specialist in Consumer Cooperation with effect from January 1976 was noted with acclamation by the Council.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 : ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIES OF THE ROEC

17. Assessment of the ROEC :

The report of the team appointed to assess the work of the ROEC and the report of the Experts' Consultation held on 5-6 December 1975 on the "Trends, Problems and Changing Needs of the Cooperative Movements in South-East Asia and the Role of the ICA in this regard" were introduced by the Regional Director.

The report of the Experts' Consultation is given as appendix II.

18. Priorities of the ROEC

The recommendations of the Experts' Consultation were considered by the Council and the following priorities were fixed for the guidance of the Regional Office and Education Centre:

- (i) The Regional Office should hold frequent Regional Conferences of top-level cooperative leaders.

- (ii) The Regional Office should assist the **national** movements to hold national and sub-**national** level seminars on cooperative leadership and management.
- (iii) The Regional Office should undertake and publicize in-depth case studies of cooperatives in which the problems of cooperative leadership and management have been dealt with successfully.
- (iv) The Regional Office should formulate and supply to member-organisations detailed guidelines on the respective functions and powers of chief executives and boards of directors for incorporation in the bye-laws of cooperatives. It was also suggested in this connection that the Regional Office should hold a Regional Seminar on "the relationship between chief executives and boards of directors in cooperative organisations."
- (v) The Regional Office should, in addition to the present teacher development programmes of the ROEC, organise training and refresher courses for the faculties of the national level cooperative training and educational institutions engaged in training the trainers and educators in the lower tiers of the training and education complex. The teacher development programme itself should be expanded and extended to cover training in the cooperative educational and training institutions of the more developed countries, even outside the region.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 : EDUCATION CENTRE

19. Action taken on the minutes of the last meeting:

Mr. J.M.Rana, Director (Education) stated that the recommendation of the Council that the Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC) should continue to hold its International Seminars in Sweden was communicated to them. While agreeing to the request, the SCC had stated that it would organise training programmes in Sweden for cooperators working in specific projects in the Region. Requests for such training should originate from the member movements and should be coordinated by the ICA ROEC.

The other action taken on the minutes was noted.

Activities of the past year

20. Mr. Rana gave information on the activities carried out by the Education Centre from September 1974 to October 1975. In regard to the Regional Seminar on "Agricultural Cooperative Marketing with Special Emphasis on Distribution Methods," Mr. Rana said that on the basis of the background information submitted by the participants, it appeared that not a single participant was connected with the Marketing Projects studied by the ICA Marketing Survey Teams, even though it was specifically laid down in the qualifications prescribed for participants that one of the participants nominated to the seminar from each country should be from an area studied by the Survey Teams. This indicated the need of follow-up work in respect of these marketing projects by the member movements. In this connection, the Chairman thought that it was possible that marketing survey reports were yet under consideration by the member movements.

21. Mr. Rana said that the Teacher Development Programme had been expanded during the current year, and six teachers had been selected for participation in the programme.

22. Mr. Rana said that it was highly encouraging that Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, the President of India had commended the ICA/NCUI Cooperative Education Field Project in Indore District. Mr. Rana then read out the relevant extract from the speech of the President delivered at the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the ICA in New Delhi.

"I would like to stress in this context the crucial role of cooperative education. I am glad to know that the ICA which has adopted Education as one of its important activities has been providing expertise and sharing its experience in organising a pilot project on cooperative education for a selected group of primary societies in Indore district of Madhya Pradesh in collaboration with the NCUI and the Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Union. The project which was started in February 1971 has now completed four years. The results have been so satisfactory that the societies themselves have now started coming forward to provide additional funds for continuing the programme. The project has shown mainly that cooperative institutions at the primary and district level have to be actively involved in the educational work and that an integrated approach should be adopted to education whereby emphasis is placed on meeting the entire requirements of the families for the agricultural

operation and for their other occupations to the maximum possible extent through the society and in having a farm guidance service as an integral part of the services provided by the cooperative societies. This is a concrete example of how the experience and the resources of international cooperative movement have helped in guiding the cooperative movements in the developing countries.

23. Mr. Rana said that it was very rewarding that the results of the Project had been recognised not only by the member-organisation but also by the head of the State. Mr. Rana added that the NCUI was starting ten cooperative education projects in the less developed States of India on the basis of the experience gained in the Indore Project. He also informed the Council that the National Cooperative Union of India was re-structuring its entire education programme by incorporating some of the features of the Indore Project.

24. Mr. Rana added that Dr. Dharm Vir who was currently working on a short-term assignment with the ILO Project in Sri Lanka had also formulated a Cooperative Education Project on lines somewhat similar to those of the Indore Project. The proposal to start a project in Bangladesh could not be implemented for unavoidable reasons.

25. Mr. L.M.V.de Silva said that similar projects should be started in one or two countries of the Region. Mr. Rana added that the ICA ROEC would try to start a similar project in one other country of the Region and that it was contemplating starting such project in a sub-region other than that of South Asia.

Programme of Activities for July 1976 to June 1977

26. The Chairman remarked that he was very happy that the member-organisations had forwarded a number of suggestions with regard to the subject of Regional Seminars.

27. Mr. Rana said that since the circulation of the Agenda Notes, a letter had been received from the NCUI proposing that the ICA ROEC should, in collaboration with the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO) and the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), hold a conference on the "Role of the Cooperative Movement vis-a-vis the Poor."

28. Taking into account the suggestions made in the Agenda Notes and the discussions at the Experts' Consultation on the "Trends, Problems and Changing Needs of the Cooperative Movements in South-East Asia and the Role of the ICA in this regard," that had just preceded the Council Meeting, the Council decided that the following Regional Seminars should be held :

- (i) Regional Seminar on "Cooperative Insurance and the Promotion of Savings" in collaboration with the IDACA

Venue : IDACA, Tokyo, Japan
 Duration: 21 days (1-21 September 1976)
 Participants: 25

- (ii) Regional Seminar on "The Relationship between the Board of Directors and the Chief Executive in a Cooperative Organisation"

Venue : Australia or Malaysia
 Duration: Two weeks (March/April, 1977)
 Participants: 25

(Note on (ii): Mr. Weeraman said that the seminar should be held in a country where the relationship between the chief executives and the boards of directors was exemplary. From this point of view, Australia seemed to be a good venue. The seminar could be held in March or April 1977.

It was agreed that Mr. I.H.Hunter would consult the Cooperative Federation of Australia and inform the ICA ROEC in about three months whether it would be possible to hold the seminar in Australia. In case Australia was not in a position to host the seminar, the Chairman as a Councillor from Malaysia said that two member organisations in Malaysia, viz. the Cooperative Union of Malaysia and the ANGKASA, would play host to the seminar in Malaysia.

Asian Conference on "Cooperative Credit and Financial Management"

29. It was decided that the third Open Asian Conference should deal with the subject of "Cooperative Credit and Financial Management."

30. It was agreed that the conference should be held on a self-financing basis. The Council discussed the question of charging a higher registration fee and felt that the fee should continue to be a token contribution by the participants towards meeting the secretariat expenses of the host movement. However, it was agreed that the amount charged (US dollars 15/-) was insufficient and that it should be raised to US\$ 25 per participant.

31. The Chairman said that the venue of the conference was normally decided having regard to the venue of the meeting of the Council. Mr. Weeraman mentioned that Mr. Sassani had already invited the Council to hold its next meeting in Iran. Mr. Rana added that the NCUI had written to the ICA ROEC that they would like to host the Open Asian Conference in India. The Council gratefully accepted both the invitations. Bombay was suggested as the tentative venue of the conference as it would facilitate the attendance of the conference by the Councillors who attend the Regional Council meeting in Iran.

32. It was agreed that further details regarding the conference should be decided by the ICA ROEC in consultation with the Chairman of the Council.

Training Programmes for Teachers

33. Mr. Rana indicated that a programme of training teachers of national level cooperative training colleges in the techniques of teaching would be carried out in place of the Teacher Development Programme in 1976-77 having regard to the availability of funds. He indicated that preparatory discussions had been held with the Swedish Cooperative Centre and the ILO International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training in Turin (Italy) to hold a joint training programme and it had been proposed that a 2-month training programme be held in Delhi to be followed by a 2-month training programme in Turin. The Turin Centre would send a couple of Resource Persons to the training programme in Delhi, and in turn the Director (Education) of the ICA ROEC would go as a Resource Person to the training programme at the Turin Centre. The Council approved of the proposal.

Programme of Training in Cooperative Management

Venue : ICA ROEC, New Delhi
 Duration : 2 months
 Participants: 12-15 Middle-level Managers

34. The Council approved of the above programme.

35. The Chairman suggested that the above training programme should be carefully planned keeping in view the diversity of the conditions that obtained in the cooperative movements of the Region. The Director (Education) agreed with the suggestion of the Chairman and said that the background of the participants and the position of the organisations from which they come would be taken into careful consideration when formulating the above programme. He added that this

programme was intended to serve as a model for replication by national cooperative training centres.

36.. The Director (Education) said that this particular programme as well as the Teacher Training Programme and the Cooperative Education Materials Advisory Service (CEMAS) would be efforts to improve the teaching standards of the cooperative colleges in the Region. The Director (Education) added that as the South-East Asian Specialist Group on Cooperative Training (SEASPECT) had been constituted, this body would be able to provide valuable assistance in this effort. He added that a proper liaison would be maintained with the AGITCOOP as well.

Meeting of the South-East Asian
Specialist Group on Cooperative Training (SEASPECT)

37.. The Council noted the information given in paragraph 64 of the Agenda Notes welcomed the setting up of SEASPECT.

Cooperative Education Materials Advisory Service (CEMAS)

38.. The Council noted the information given in paragraphs 65, 66 and 67 of the Agenda Notes and welcomed the introduction of this service.

Demonstration Project in the Field of Teacher Training

39.. The Council approved of the proposal to start this project in one of the national cooperative training centres in the Region. The objective of the project would be to identify appropriate teaching techniques for use in the selected national centre. The experience gained from the Indore Project confirmed the view that concepts and practices recommended by seminars should be applied in field projects to test their validity. If found suitable, they could thereafter be applied in demonstration projects.

Cooperative Education Field Projects

40. The Council agreed that cooperative education field projects should be started in two movements of the Region. The member movements should make proposals to the ICA ROEC in this regard. The Council stressed that financial responsibility for conducting these projects should be borne to the maximum possible extent by the member movements concerned and the ICA should provide the expertise and some supporting financial help.

Women and Cooperatives

41. The Council noted that a Regional Conference on "the Role of Women in Cooperative Development" had been held in Kuala Lumpur in July 1974. Taking into account the recommendations of that conference, the Council recommended that the member movements should constitute national committees of women cooperators to develop educational and other programmes in order to increase women's participation in cooperatives. The Council further recommended that an Asian Council of Women Cooperators be constituted.

42. The Chairman remarked that the involvement of women in the cooperative movement was of critical importance for accelerating the development of the cooperative movement and necessary steps should be taken by the member movements in this regard.

43. The Council suggested that the ICA ROEC should carry out a survey of the "Role of Women and the extent of their participation in the Cooperative Movement" in a few selected countries with a view to recommending how women's participation in the cooperative movement could be accelerated.

44. The Council also agreed that the ICA ROEC should hold four national basic courses in Cooperation for women cooperators on the basis of requests made by member movements. The Council noted that such courses may be conducted in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, the Philippines and India.

National Seminars

45. The requests received by the ROEC from the member organisations to provide assistance in holding National Seminars were noted and the Council recommended that the ROEC should provide assistance to the organisations mentioned below within the limitations of its overall work programme:

(i) ANGKASA, Malaysia

Seminar subjects: (a) Integration and the Expansion of the Cooperative Movement.

(b) School Cooperatives.

(ii) National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka:

Seminar subjects: (i) Cooperative Land Settlements,
(ii) Management of Coop. Farms,
(iii) Member Education and Training of Teachers.

AGENDA ITEM NO.9: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRADE SECTION

46. The follow-up action taken on the minutes of the last meeting relating to Technical Assistance and Trade was noted.

Technical Assistance

47. The creation of a Dairy Development Fund in connection with the Bhor Project, the present position of the Fishery assistance project in Sri Lanka, the proposal for a fisheries project in the Philippines, the gift of two incubators from the Swedish Association of Guilds for the Women cooperators of Bangladesh, the gift of irrigation equipment worth 2,000 Canadian dollars by the Cooperative Maritime Services of Canada and the gift of 80,000 Swedish kroners by Swedish cooperators to the Rangunia Thana Central Cooperative Association in Bangladesh reported in paragraphs 77 to 84 of the Agenda Notes were noted.

48. It was reported that no progress had been possible in securing assistance for the other projects formulated by the Regional Office and submitted to the Head Office in previous years. In this connection Mr. Hunter of Australia mentioned that Mr. G.A.J. Beytagh, Chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the Cooperative Federation of Australia, and he had discussed with the Australian Development Assistance Programme their increased involvement in the non-government aid programme. He requested that information on all these projects be sent to the Cooperative Federation of Australia to examine the possibility of obtaining assistance for them from the Australian Development Assistance Programme.

49. The information given in the Agenda Notes (paragraphs 86 to 89) relating to the clearing house functions performed by the Regional Office and the issue of the "ICA Trade News" was noted.

Asian Cooperative Development Bank

50. The position explained in paragraphs 90 to 98 of the Agenda Notes was noted. The Regional Office was requested to put up a definite proposal to the members after obtaining the Government of Iran's approval. The Council also appointed a Committee consisting of Messrs. J. Sassani, Basuki and Ismail Din and a member from Japan, if available, with Mr. Sassani as Chairman, to take necessary action in this regard.

Studies in the Living Conditions of the Members of Agricultural Cooperatives in the Region

51. The position reported in paragraphs 99 to 102 of the Agenda Notes was noted. The Council decided to await the reports of ACCI of the Philippines and the DKI of Indonesia referred to in the Agenda Notes.

Study of the Role the Cooperative Movement could play in the task of increasing food production in the countries served by the ICA Regional Office for South-East Asia

52. The position reported in paragraphs 103 and 104 of the Agenda Notes was noted. Mr. Weeraman added that the original estimate of Rs.150,000 for the employment of an Expert had been reduced to Rs.110,000 and that this money would be made available from the Cooperative Development Fund of the ICA. The Council was very appreciative of the approval of funds for this purpose by the ICA.

Cooperative Development Fund

53. The position reported in paragraph 105 of the Agenda Notes was noted.

Joint Ventures

54. Mr. Weeraman reported that he had received a proposal from the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka for a joint venture with a cooperative in Japan in processing synthetic textiles.

55. Mr. Dayananda, explaining the position in Sri Lanka, said that there were 125,000 member-employees in the cooperative textile manufacturing enterprises in the handloom and powerloom sectors. Textiles worth Rs. 20 million could not be sold the previous year because the cooperatives did not have their own finishing equipment and . . . They had discussed with the government authorities the proposal to have a joint venture with a cooperative or private sector organisation in another country and had obtained government's approval of it.

56. Mr. de Silva added that the textile cooperatives formed a large sector of the Sri Lanka cooperative movement and that they were working both handlooms and powerlooms, that the government supplied yarn to these cooperatives, that the government had set up huge textile mills and that the private sector had a large number of small finishing plants and whenever the cooperatives went to the private sector for these services, they had raised their charges for these services inordinately. The Council suggested that Sri Lanka Council should put up a concrete proposal to the Regional Office.

57. Mr. Hunter added that such a proposal when received should be circulated by the RO among the member movements in the Region. He also said that a feasibility report should be submitted along with the proposal and that he would be glad to examine the possibility of getting necessary assistance for it.

58. Mr. Khan Amir Abdullah Khan said that they were in need of a fertiliser plant for the cooperatives in Pakistan and the Chairman suggested that the Pakistan movement should put up a proposal on the lines suggested in regard to the Sri Lanka proposal.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: PUBLICATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND LIBRARY SECTION

59. The information given in paragraphs 107 to 120 of the Agenda Notes on publications and in paragraphs 121 to 131 on Publicity, the collection of cooperative news, press releases, the library, documentation services, the supply and exchange of literature, the library's consultative services, the survey of cooperative libraries and the librarian's participation in the meeting of the Working Party of Cooperative Librarians and Documentation Officers was noted. The publications programme for the year 1975-76 as given in paragraphs 132 to 136 was noted.

60. The Joint Director (Publications) requested the Councilors to get their movements to send in success stories from time to time for publication in the Regional Bulletin.

61. In regard to publications, the Chairman suggested that in addition to publishing reports of seminars, it would be very useful if the working papers submitted to these seminars were also published as he thought "they are well worth printing and they give details of the subject-matter." He added that it was not of much interest to know the recommendations made by the participants. What was more important were the working papers which "give ideas more or less as text books," and illustrated his point with examples of the working papers submitted to the Seminar on "Cooperative Housing" held in Malaysia in 1970 and the recent Open Asian Conference on "Cooperative Management" held in Manila from December 1 to 4. He added that one would not get to know the subject-matter of the conference by reading only the recommendations of the conference.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ICA SUB-COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND TRADE

62. As the Sub-Committee meeting had been postponed for the following day, there was no discussion under this item.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: RELATIONS WITH MEMBER ORGANISATIONS IN THE REGION

63. The information given in paragraphs 138 to 140 of the Agenda Notes was noted.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13 : RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

64. The information given in paragraphs 141 to 147 of the Agenda Notes was noted. Mr. Weeraman referred to his attending a Conference of the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) of the Asian and Pacific Region, held by the Office of Public Information (OPI) of the United Nations and that he had suggested to this conference that the representative of every UN agency in a country should hold a half-yearly conference with the non-governmental organisations of that country which work in fields of interest to such agency so that such UN agency would come to know the needs of the non-governmental sector and that this proposal had been accepted by that conference. For instance, he added, the ILO representative in a country should hold a half-yearly conference with the representatives of cooperatives and trade unions of that country.

AGENDA ITEM NO.14: VENUE AND DATES OF THE NEXT MEETING

65. The invitation from the Cooperative Movement of Iran to the Council to hold its 18th Meeting in Iran, in the first week of November 1976, was gratefully accepted.

AGENDA ITEM NO.15 : ANY OTHER MATTER WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

The Name of the Council

66. Under this item, the Council decided to recommend to the ICA authorities that its name be changed to "ICA COUNCIL FOR ASIA" in view of the fact that the 14 countries served by the Regional Office belong to an area extending from West Asia to Australia. It was made clear that the name of the Regional Office should remain as it is.

Retirement of Dr. Mauritz Bonow

67. The Council received with acclamation the information given by the Regional Director that the building of the Regional Office had been named "BONOW HOUSE" by the Central Committee of the ICA.

68. The Council unanimously adopted the following resolution :

"In view of Dr. Mauritz Bonow's retirement from the Presidentship of the ICA after a long period of outstanding service to the World Cooperative Movement, the ICA Council for South-East Asia places on record its deep gratitude to Dr. Mauritz Bonow for his inestimable

services to the Cooperative Movement of the South-East Asian Region, particularly the key role he played in starting the Regional Office and Education Centre for South-East Asia and his continuous and strong support of it. The Council wishes Dr. Bonow a long and happy retirement."

AGENDA ITEM NO.16 : INSTITUTE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION IN ASIA (IDACA)

69. Instead of holding a separate meeting of the Board of Advisers of IDACA, Mr. Togawa, the Managing Director of IDACA, wished that its affairs be discussed by the Council as such.

(i) The minutes of the 12th Meeting of the Board of Advisers held in Colombo in November 1974 were accepted as correct.

(ii) Mr. Togawa informed the Council of the activities carried out by IDACA since the last meeting of the Board of Advisers. The seminars and courses held after the last meeting were classified as follows :

- (a) Project-oriented seminars;
- (b) General Training Courses in Agricultural Cooperatives; and
- (c) Seminars held in collaboration with the ICA and the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO).

70. He reported that project-oriented seminars were of short duration and were for participants recruited from areas where agricultural development programmes were being implemented. He found that due to the seminars being of short duration, it was difficult to expect the participants to get a full understanding of the working of multipurpose cooperative societies and of government policies in respect of agricultural and cooperative development in Japan. The participants had evinced keen interest in technical problems of agricultural production such as those relating to fertilizers, farm chemicals and farm machinery. However, such technical matters were not priority areas in these seminars.

71. Areas of common interest were found to be :-

- i) The achievement of modernization and industrialization
- ii) The main factors for high productivity in agriculture and the role of the cooperatives in this regard,
- iii) The achievement of 100 per cent involvement of farmer in cooperatives,

- iv) Government policies for agricultural and cooperative development, and
- v) The development of new farm land and the introduction of new crops, the formation of groups within cooperatives and the problems relating to the amalgamation of societies. These were factors in farming; but understanding the concept of a farming complex seemed difficult for the participants.

72. There were two project-oriented seminars. One was held in March 1975 for 7 participants in all, from the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand. One society studied was a reclamation cooperative society where all the members were settlers and the other was an ordinary amalgamated multipurpose society which is now making efforts for the development of new crops. The other project-oriented seminar was held for 14 participants from Thailand. The participants of this seminar were from the village level.

73. As regards general training courses in agricultural cooperatives, Mr. Togawa reported that the participants of the general training course were generally government officers. They were generally of two types: (i) those who work in cooperatives as Assistant Managers, Managers or Directors, and (ii) those who work in government departments concerned with cooperative development. There were 19 participants in such a course held from September to December 1974. They were all from Asian countries.

74. A seminar on "the Role of Cooperatives in Community development" was held in collaboration with RECA of AARRO in July-August 1975 and another seminar was held in August 1975 for four Brazilian cooperators.

75. A Regional Seminar on "Agricultural Cooperative Marketing with Special Reference to Distribution Methods" was held in collaboration with the ICA ROEC in September 1975. There were 23 participants 6 of whom were cooperative teachers.

76. A general training course in Agricultural Cooperatives was being held under the Colombo Plan from October to December 1975 with 20 participants of whom two were from Brazil and 3 from Africa whilst the rest were from the countries of the Region.

77. Reviewing the activities to be carried out in the next year (1976-77), Mr. Togawa reported that the basic policy of the activities of IDACA continued to be on the lines discussed and confirmed by the previous meetings. He said that emphasis was placed on project-oriented seminars whilst the Colombo Plan courses would relate to studies of multipurpose cooperatives,

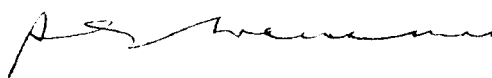
practical ways of running a cooperative, study visits at village level and observation of the working of cooperative organisations and of facilities afforded by them at village prefectural and national levels. He said that much importance was attached to the follow-up of these activities. This was done by issuing booklets and brochures giving information on the recent developments and achievements in the Japanese movement. to former participants.

78. The programme of activities for the next year (1976-77) would be as follows :

- i) A project-oriented Seminar for 15 participants from Thailand to be held from June to July 1976;
- ii) A project-oriented seminar of 4 weeks duration for 8 participants from the Philippines and Brazil in June-July and October-November 1976 respectively to study the role and functions of agricultural cooperatives in agricultural development;
- iii) A Regional Seminar to be held in September 1976 in collaboration with the ICA ROEC for 25 participants for a period of three weeks. The Council decided that the subject of this seminar should be "Cooperative Insurance and Promotion of Savings."
- iv) A Colombo Plan Course for general training in Agricultural Cooperatives to be held for 2½ months from October to December 1976 for 20 participants.
- v) A seminar to be held in collaboration with RECA of AARRO on the "Role of Cooperatives in Community Development" in March 1977 for 15 participants for a period of 3 weeks.
- vi) A special course of short duration (2 weeks) for a small number of cooperators provided the cost of international travel is borne by the participants or their organisations.
- vii) The publication of IDACA News and other reference books as usual.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17 : VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIR

79. Mr. Hunter of Australia moved a vote of thanks to the Chair and in this connection expressed the appreciation and the best wishes of the Council to Mr. Kularajah who had been Chairman of the Council for a number of years. This was carried with acclamation.



New Delhi,
January 9, 1976

P.E. WEERAMAN
ICA Regional Director &
Secretary, ICA Council for S.E. Asia

Preliminary Investigation Report regarding Economic
& Technical Feasibility of the proposed Asian Coop.
Development Bank (ACDB)

1. The Regional Council in their meeting held at Manila in December 1975 decided that while setting up a Bank providing both development and trade finance should be treated as a long-term objective, action should be taken for the establishment of an Asian Cooperative Development Bank for providing development finance. The Council requested The Regional Office, "to put up a definite proposal to the members of the Council, after obtaining approval from the Government of Iran." The Council also appointed a Committee consisting of Messrs. J.Sassani, D.Basuki and Ismail Din and a member from Japan, if available, with Mr.Sassani as Chairman to take necessary action in this regard.

2. The proposal for setting up an Asian Cooperative Development Bank in the Region has been under consideration of the Council since May 1970 and the matter has since then been discussed by the Council in several meetings. But the economic and technical feasibility of this proposal had never been examined. In order to formulate some idea about the economic and technical feasibility of the proposal for setting up a Cooperative Development Bank in the Region, I studied the working of the Asian Development Bank at Manila during my recent visit to the Philippines. I have recorded a separate note describing some of the important aspects about the working of the ADB. Here, I am stating below only such of the important features in the working of the ADB as are considered relevant for the purpose of examining the economic and technical feasibility of the proposal.

- i. The foreign exchange regulations in member countries do not present any problem to ADB which is owned by member Governments. The Bank did not face any problem in mobilising equity in the convertible currencies.

- ii. The membership of ADB has not been confined to Governments of only the developing countries in the Region. The Governments of 14 industrially advanced and major capital exporting countries from western Europe and North America are also members of the Bank.
- iii. The ADB is not a member of United Nations family of organisations. The ESCAP and the Secretary-General of U.N., however, played a leading role in its establishment and the UNDP funded the entire cost of the preparatory arrangements.

The Bank maintains a close working relationship with UN and its specialised agencies viz., World Bank, IMF, UNDP, ESCAP, FAO. It has also undertaken joint financing of certain projects with the World Bank group and other agencies. The Bank also functions as the executing agency of UNDP for specific projects in developing countries.

- iv. To enable the Bank to fulfil its purpose and carry out effectively the functions entrusted to it, all the member Governments have accorded certain status, immunities, exemptions and privileges; viz, (a) immunity from every form of legal process except in cases arising out of or in connection with the exercise of its powers to borrow money, to guarantee obligations, or to buy and sell or underwrite the sale of securities (b) property and assets of the Bank wherever located and by whomsoever held shall be immune from all forms of seizure, attachment or execution before the delivery of a final judgement against the Bank. (c) Property and assets of the Bank shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation or any other form of taking or foreclosure by executive or legal action. (d) The archives of the Bank and, in general, all documents belonging to it, or held by it, shall be inviolable, wherever located. (e) All property and assets of the Bank shall be free from restrictions, regulations, controls and moratoria of any nature. (f) Official communications of the Bank shall be accorded by each member treatment not less favourable than that it accords to the official communications of any other member. (g) All Governors, Directors,
-

officers and employees of the Bank, including experts performing missions for the Bank, shall be immune from legal process with respect to acts performed by them in their official capacity, except when the Bank waives the immunity. And where they are not local citizens or nationals they shall be accorded the same immunities from immigration restrictions, alien registration requirements and national service obligations, and the same facilities as regards exchange regulations as are accorded by members to the representatives, officials and employees of comparable rank of other members. (h) The Bank, its assets, property, income and its operations and transactions, shall be exempt from all taxation and from all customs duties. (i) No tax shall be levied on or in respect of salaries and emoluments, paid by the Bank to Directors, officers or employees of the Bank, including experts performing missions for the Bank (j) No tax of any kind shall be levied on any obligation or security issued by the Bank, including any dividend or interest thereon, by whomsoever held.

- v. The authorized capital stock of the Bank amounted to \$3,366 million on 31st December 1974. The authorized stock consists of "Callable" Capital Stock and "Paid-in" Capital Stock. The callable capital stock is subject to call only as and when required by the Bank to meet its obligations incurred on borrowings or on guarantees. The paid-in capital stock is payable in annual instalments, partly in gold or convertible currencies and partly in local currency of the member country. On 31 December 1974, the subscribed capital stock of the Bank amounted to \$2,770 million (Regional Members: \$2,004 million, Non-regional members: \$766 million) and the money actually received against all the matured instalments of paid-in capital amounted to \$803 million.

In order to augment its Capital Resources, the Board of Directors of the Bank has recommended to the forthcoming annual meeting of the Board of Governors, which is scheduled to meet at Jakarta in the last week of April 1976 to increase the authorised Capital Stock of the Bank to \$7,500 million.

vi. The financial resources of the Bank are classified in two groups :-

Ordinary Capital Resources: subscribed capital stock, funds raised through borrowings and reserves:,

Special Funds Resources: contributions made by member countries for concessional lending and technical assistance activities and capital set aside for concessional lending.

(The Bank is authorised to set aside 10 per cent of its paid-in capital to Special Funds for Concessional lending purposes).

vii. The Bank is authorised to accept contributions to Special Funds to be administered on terms agreed with the donors. Following discussions with potential donor countries an agreement was reached in 1973 for the establishment and funding of a single and unified Fund known as the Asian Development Fund. In November 1973, the Board of Governors approved a scheme for providing the Bank with \$525 million in contributions to the Asian Development Fund for Concessional lending activities. The Fund became operative on 28 June 1974 when 12 developed countries pledged contributions exceeding \$225 million. Contributing Countries were: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Australia, Norway. Total contribution to ADF by the end of 1974 amounted to \$245.47 million. Thus the total contributions received in two Special Funds together with set aside resources and the Asian Development Fund amounted to \$560.51 million by end of 1974. Out of this, \$491.94 million had been committed in concessional loans by end of 1974.

The ADB has recently secured agreements from contributing nations to replenish its soft window - Asian Development Fund (ADF) to the extent of \$830 million for 1976-78 period. ADB estimates its soft lending requirements for this period at \$1,000 million with a target of \$300 million during 1976. (The United States Government is reported to be reconsidering its

initial commitment of \$230 million towards Asian Development Fund).

- viii. On 31st December 1974, the paid-in portion of the capital stock of ADB amounted to \$803 million, Special Funds to \$560.51 million and Ordinary Reserves to \$77 million. Against this, the total loans approved by the Bank by the end of 1974 amounted to \$1,431 million from its Ordinary Capital Resources and \$492 million from Special Fund Resources. It had however actually disbursed only \$469 million from both Ordinary Capital Resources and Special Fund Resources.
- ix. The ADB generally advances loans to member Governments only. The Bank is however permitted by its charter to advance loans to units in private sector against guarantee of the member government or any other acceptable entity.
- x. During the year 1974, the ADB approved loans amounting to \$375 million from its Ordinary Capital Resources and soft loans of \$173 million from its Special Fund Resources. During the year it actually disbursed an amount of \$187 million. The Administrative expenses of the Bank for the year amount to \$13.45 million. The administrative cost works out to 2.9 per cent on the cumulative amount of loans disbursed (\$469 million) and 7.2 per cent on loans disbursed during the year 1974. It has to be noted that the Bank has been provided with a huge well furnished and well equipped building free of cost for its office at Manila by the Government of the Philippines.
- xi. The cost of appraising and financing small loans is generally much higher than that for loans of big amounts.
- xii. The World Capital Market is presently very tight and interest rates are ranging at high levels. The ADB has recently borrowed in the Japanese and Swiss markets at $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and from the Netherlands at 8.875 per cent for annum. These borrowing rates are applicable to major recognised borrowers who have already established their standing reputation, and credit-worthiness in the International money market. Till 31st December 1974, the ADB had borrowed from the world markets funds equivalent of \$324 million.

- xiii. In order to establish its credit-worthiness in the world capital market, the Bank has adopted the following measures :
- (a) Strict adherence to sound Banking Principles;
 - (b) Bank's decision not to borrow beyond the amount of "Callable Capital Stock" of the member countries whose currencies are convertible;
 - (c) Bank's policy of limiting its borrowings to the anticipated loan disbursement needs;
 - (d) Funds borrowed by the Bank are not used for its concessional lending. The concessional loans are made from Bank's special funds which as per charter of the Bank are "used, committed, invested or otherwise disposed of entirely separately from the Ordinary Capital Resources of the Bank".
- xiv. Whenever the ADB enters the world capital market for borrowing funds, its credit worthiness is reckoned not with reference to its total "callable capital stocks" but only that portion of the "Callable Capital Stocks" which is due from Governments of developing countries. This suggests that the ADB would have faced difficulties to raise funds in the international capital market if it did not have the support of Governments from the developing countries.
- xv. The ADB is charging interest at the rate of 8.75 per cent per annum on loans advanced out of its Ordinary Capital Resources. The loans advanced by the Bank out of its Special Fund Resources carry an interest rate of only one per cent and such loans are repayable over a period of forty years with an initial moratorium of ten years.
- xvi. In some less developed and small countries, there are wide gaps of technical know-how and expertise. They cannot even identify their projects. In such cases, the ADB provides technical assistance for project preparation, implementation, studies of economic problems and development planning, etc.

By March 1975, the Bank had been involved in 156 technical assistance projects in 21 countries at an estimated cost of \$25 million.

- xvii. The Bank has been invariably required to send out Missions to discuss and study the technical feasibility and to make on-the-spot appraisal of the projects for which loan is applied for. At times, the ADB even accepts the responsibility for implementing the projects assisted by it.
- xviii. The Bank maintains a professional staff of 235 persons with a supporting staff of 415 persons. It has on its establishment various types of specialists such as economists, agronomists, civil, electrical, mechanical and chemical engineers, Development Bank Specialists, financial experts and analysts. The Bank also hires experts as short-term consultants for individual projects.
- xix. The responsibility for Bank's operations rests with its Board of Directors. The Directors are resident in Manila. The Board of Directors exercises all powers delegated to it by the Board of Governors (General Body) and in conformity with the Charter of the Bank, the Board takes decisions concerning loans, guarantees and other investments by the Bank, borrowing programmes, technical assistance and other operations.
- xx. The Income and Expenditure Statement of the ADB for 1974 reveals the following :
- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|----|---------------|
| Income from loan operations.. | ... | \$ | 25.00 million |
| Income from investments | ... | \$ | 32.05 " |
| Total Gross Income | ... | \$ | 57.05 million |
| Administrative Expenses | ... | \$ | 13.45 million |
| Interest paid on borrowings | ... | \$ | 18.50 " |
| Total Expenses | | \$ | 31.95 million |
| Gross Income : | | \$ | 57.05 million |
| Expenditure : | | \$ | 31.95 " |
| Profit : | | \$ | 25.10 million |

It will be observed that the annual administrative expenses of the bank and the interest paid by it on its borrowings are not fully covered by the income earned from loan operations. The redeeming feature has been the income earned by it from investment of its surplus funds. But for this income of 32.05 million from investments of surplus funds, the annual operation of the Bank for 1974 would have ended with a loss.

- xxi. The ADB had fixed a target of total lending of \$700 million for the year 1975; \$450 million out of Ordinary Capital Resources and \$250 million out of Special Fund Resources. Against this, the Bank actually approved loans of \$494.3 million out of its Ordinary Capital Resources and \$166 million out of Special Fund Resources. Its target of total lending for 1976 has been fixed at \$825 million; \$525 million from Ordinary Capital Resources and \$300 million from Special Fund Resources.

3. In the context of the facts revealed by the study of the Asian Development Bank, we may now proceed to examine the economic and technical feasibility of the proposal for setting up a separate Asian Cooperative Development Bank in the Region. The maintenance of even a bare skeleton staff for the proposed Asian Cooperative Development Bank would call for a minimum annual cost of \$150,000, as indicated in annexure "A". Considering that an equity of \$1 million can support overhead expenses of \$50,000 per annum, the paid-in portion of the equity of the proposed Asian Cooperative Development Bank will have to be not less than \$3 million. Otherwise even the unavoidable operating expenses may cause gradual erosion of the Capital Stock of the Bank, resulting in a damage to the public image and credit-worthiness of the Bank. It is, therefore, apparent that in order to become economically viable, the proposed ACDB must have an equity base of \$15 million, out of which at least \$3 million should be paid-in portion.

4. The question then arises whether the Cooperative Movements in the Region will be able to mobilise capital stocks of this size for the proposed Asian Cooperative Development Bank. If the replies received from the various member countries in response to the Regional Office circular letter of April 6, 1973 are any index, the movements of the Region have expressed their inability to mobilise a capital stock of even \$1 million for this purpose. The Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan expressed their views on the proposal in these words, : "in view of the different stages of progress of the cooperative movements in respect of the countries of the Region and also of the nature of the guarantee fund, the objective conditions do not warrant institution of a fund but for positive assistance of the government." The National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of Korea informed that, "the present financial situation of NACF also prevents us from participating in the establishment of the Bank." Similarly, the Central Organisation of the Rural Cooperatives of Iran wrote in their letter dated 1st July, 1973, "we very much regret that in spite of our keen interest in this worthwhile project, we cannot participate in this great venture due to certain problems especially because of the implementation of certain problems which are in hand at the time of writing." The Cooperative League of Thailand informed, "we are not sure whether Thailand can join this programme from the beginning or not although Thailand should do it. This is because of the fact that the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives is not a cooperative bank but a government bank. However, we will try to convince the cooperative societies such as the CMPF and others could join individually." None of the countries in the Region intimated a positive or encouraging response to the proposal. It, therefore, seems imperative that the proposed Asian Cooperative Development Bank should invite cooperatives from affluent countries to become its members and to contribute liberally to its equity. Without their support, the proposed ACDB may not be able to mobilise the required capital stock which is essential for a Bank to become economically viable.

5. The experience of both the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank suggests that it may not be possible for the proposed Asian Cooperative Development Bank to borrow funds from the international capital market unless it can offer guarantee of reputable institutions from the affluent countries. This is another compelling reason why major cooperative institutions from the developing countries must collaborate in the proposed venture. Otherwise, the proposed Asian Cooperative Development Bank may find it difficult to raise funds from the world capital markets.

6. The proposed ACDB will be required to establish its creditworthiness and standing in the international money market by its earning record, competent management and efficient performance, before it can enter the world capital markets for raising of funds. In other words, for the first five years or more, the lending operations of the proposed Bank will depend largely on its own resources.

7. The Asian Development Bank which enjoys the support of 41 member countries, including 14 industrialised countries from Western Europe and North America, is able to raise funds from the world capital markets at interest rate of 8.752 per cent per annum. Currently the Toronto Dominion Bank of Canada has issued 6-years bonds for \$50 million carrying an interest rate of 9 per cent per annum. The proposed ACDB, with obviously low rating in the international money market, will have to pay somewhat higher interest rate on its borrowings from the world capital markets. It appears that at the present market rates, the proposed ACDB may not be able to borrow from the world capital markets at rates less than 10 per cent per annum. The proposed ACDB will advance loans to cooperative institutions through the medium of national level apex organisations who shall ensure proper utilisation and repayment of these loans. The apex organisation which assumes the responsibility for supervision and proper utilisation of the loan and guarantees its repayment to ACDB will naturally expect to get service charges at a minimum rate of 2 per cent. After providing a margin of just 1 per cent for the ACDB itself to cover its operating expenses, the rate of interest to the ultimate borrower on loans

advanced by the proposed Bank cannot be less than $(10+1+2) = 13$ per cent per annum. It will not be economically feasible for the proposed Asian Cooperative Development Bank to lend at rates lower than this. I wonder, how many cooperative institutions in the developing countries would be really interested to accept development finance at this high rate of interest.

8. It is abundantly clear from the above study that the proposed ACDB cannot function on purely commercial lines. A separate Asian Cooperative Development Bank in the region can be established only if the cooperative institutions from the affluent countries agree to participate in its capital stocks and the bank has an access to soft funds from IDA or any other international financing agency. In order to have proper assessment of the situation for achieving these essential preconditions, it will be advisable to discuss this proposal in an international forum. The proposal in its present form does not appear to be either economically viable or technically feasible.

9. It may be stated here that in May 1972, Mr. M.V. Madane Joint Director (T&T) visited Switzerland and had discussions with Mr. Dieter Grethe, Director of the International Cooperative Bank, Basle regarding this proposal for setting up an Asian Cooperative Development Bank, Mr. Madane reported that Mr. Grethe's reaction to the proposal was very positive. It was generally agreed that it would be better to start with a small equity capital say around \$1 million contributed by the cooperatives in the region. After his discussion with officials in INGEBA, Mr. Madane went to Frankfurt and held discussion with Mr. Moshe G. Hess, Secretary of the ICA Banking Committee and had reported, "There was general agreement that the points discussed at the meeting with Mr. Grethe should be taken into consideration while developing the proposal for the establishment of the ACDB. Mr. Moshe G. Hess indicated that it should be possible for the Banking Committee and INGEBA to jointly locate an expert to work in Asia."

10. I suggest that I should send a copy of this note to all members of the Committee, appointed by the Regional Council, and request Mr. J. Sassani, Chairman of this Committee to convene a meeting of the Committee to consider my findings along with the views expressed by Mr. Dieter Grethe of the International Cooperative Bank, "Basle and Mr. Gerhard Hess, Secretary of the I.C. Banking Committee and to decide about the future line of action regarding the establishment of an Asian Cooperative Development Bank. Had it not been for consideration of the time involved, I should have liked to discuss my findings with Mr. Dieter Grethe and Mr. M. Gerhard Hess, who are experts in international banking, before sending my findings to members of the Committee.

20 April 1976
New Delhi

M.K. Puri
Joint Director, TI&T

ANNEXURE "A"

ESTIMATED ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF ASIAN COOPERATIVE
DEVELOPMENT BANK

		S \$
1.	General Manager-cum-Financial Manager	... 75,000
2.	Accounts Officer	... 30,000
3.	Project Officer	... 30,000
4.	Secretary	... 10,000
5.	Typist-cum-Receptionist	... 6,000
6.	Book-Keeper	... 6,000
7.	General Clerk	... 5,000
8.	Office Boy	... 2,500
9.	Driver	... 5,000
		<hr/> 169,500
10.	Staff benefits at the rate of 15%	... 11,500
11.	Office Rent	... 25,000
12.	Light, water and airconditioning	... 5,000
13.	Telephone	... 8,000
14.	Car maintenance and taxes	... 10,000
15.	Petrol and local transport	... 15,000
16.	Stationery and correspondence	... 15,000
17.	Entertainment	... 6,000
18.	Miscellaneous	... 10,000
19.	Board Meetings	... 100,000
		<hr/>
	TOTAL S \$	375,000
	Equivalent to US \$	150,000

GUIDELINES FOR STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION WITH
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOs)

Over the past eighteen months, the UNDP has been exploring potentials for enhancing collaboration at the field-level with Non-Governmental Organisations. The Economic and Social Council recalling its Resolution 1580 (L) of 1971, which asked for a greater participation by non-governmental organisations in the implementation of the Strategy for the Second Development Decade, invited in its Resolution 1739 (LIV) the UNDP to report on its exploration of field-level cooperation with NGOs, commending "to Governments the desirability of taking into account the practical contributions as well as the experience of their national non-governmental organisations when drawing up their programmes for economic and social development and their project proposals for the United Nations system assistance.

A DAC survey conducted in 1973 estimated the external technical assistance provided by NGOs in that year at over \$1,025 million. With these funds, NGOs are recruiting and placing thousands of professionals and technical staff in low-income countries, and providing substantial consultative services, equipment and supplies. Over and above their technical assistance activities and their contribution to emergency relief and rehabilitation, NGOs also serve in many instances as moulders of public opinion on policy matters related to development planning and as strong supporters of national development efforts.

Many NGOs have approached the UNDP in this past year to explore the potential for closer collaboration with the UN system, particularly because a number of them are moving toward longer-term technical assistance efforts in addition to their charitable and relief assistance. They are also seeking to integrate their own efforts more closely with national development goals

and priorities, and to involve the recipients of their assistance more directly in decision-making, as well as implementation, so as to meet local needs more closely.

TYPES OF NGOS

The NGO community is a varied one. Each individual organisation independent from the others, represents specific concerns and is engaged in its own programming methods for achieving its formulated goals. In general, however, NGOs can be classified under several headings :

(a) national organisations such as youth, labour or women's groups. Some, such as YMCA's or Women's Federations may be affiliated with an international body; others have no ties with international associations.

(b) technical assistance organisations, headquartered in the industrialized world, that support and execute development projects. Examples here would include OXFAM, Catholic Relief Services, Christian Aid, etc.

(c) international associations comprised of national organisations which are often involved in information and technical assistance activities. Such international NGOs, such as the League of Red Cross Societies, the International Council on Social Welfare, and the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), often provide supporting services for their national units in the form of training workshops, experts, financial assistance, etc.

THREE ROLES FOR NGOS

Three roles are clearly identified for NGOs in connection with their collaboration at the field level

(a) as innovators of change, and initiators of new approaches and project activities at community and grass roots levels;

(b) as sources of funds and their own expertise for economic and social development in the LDCs;

(c) as promoters of public support for development activities and as interpreters of change to local peoples.

THREE SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS FOR NGOS

These in turn indicate three specific functions which NGOs might fulfill in collaboration with UNDP field offices:

- (a) bringing to the attention of our field offices information on indigenous efforts to meet local community needs and concerns.
- (b) providing supplementary support to UNDP-assisted projects, or being contracted directly by the executing agencies or the Governments to fill specific project related functions.
- (c) disseminating information on and promoting support for national development efforts.

COMPLEMENTARY ROLES OF UNDP FIELD OFFICES

- (a) bringing to NGO attention Government development priorities and information on current on-going projects in economic and social development.
- (b) providing occasional technical help, or information, on where it might be procured; providing opportunities for the NGO community to participate in training and planning sessions.
- (c) helping government agencies and bilateral agencies identify and use the potential NGOs have to offer in economic and social advancement.

The Administrator UNDP has expressed his strong support for greater collaboration between UNDP and NGOs, pointing out that this would provide welcome supplementary assistance to projects supported by the UN system, and more importantly, (it) would help enlist the fuller participation of nationals at all levels in the development efforts of their countries.

It is recognized that, while Headquarters contacts are most valuable in terms of information activities, effective coordination of technical assistance activities can only be achieved at the field level.

SOME SUGGESTED PRACTICES FOR FACILITATING COLLABORATION
BETWEEN UNDP FIELD OFFICES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS:

Draw up a list of inventory of NGOs engaged in development assistance work. A staff member should be assigned to establish and maintain contact with those NGOs engaged in significant technical assistance and development support activities. This might be done through occasional informal meetings with them, or through the periodic circulation of "notes".

When data exists, take account of the external assistance provided by non-governmental organisations in your planning. Where applicable, include this information in country programming documentation.

Keep NGOs informed of the Country Programme and forthcoming UNDP supported project activities so that NGOs might tailor their own activities appropriately. Provide advice and counsel to NGOs on their project activities which supplement or relate to the Country Programme, or might be so oriented. Make available to NGOs de-restricted information that might assist them in their project work.

Advise NGOs of forthcoming training opportunities, workshops, and similar sessions in order that they may submit applications through their government.

Call to the attention of government officials, when assisting in drawing up or reviewing Country Programmes, those major development projects which non-governmental organisations are executing, as well as their overall actual contribution to development. When feasible, explore with governments and with NGOs potential inputs which NGOs might be able to apply to the country's overall development effort at research, planning implementation and evaluation stages.

Keep Project Directors and staff apprised of NGOs that are supporting similar efforts and activities as their own. When possible, facilitate direct contacts between professional operative NGOs and appropriate system project staff.

Encourage UN system agencies to keep you informed of their collaboration and contacts with non-governmental organisations; facilitate exchanges when opportune.

Take advantage of major NGO meetings and conferences to both acquaint those present of UNDP-supported activities, including WFP projects, and to search out potentials for NGO inputs of ideas and resources.

Ascertain the types and kind of informational materials that NGOs will find most useful for their development information and support activities. Keep UNDP Headquarters advised of these needs.

Consult with the UN Information Centre on ways to increase communication with NGOs for the purposes of informing them of UN system development activities and of opportunities for their participation.

A GUIDE FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS TOWARDS
FURTHERING COLLABORATION AT THE FIELD LEVEL WITH
THE OFFICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM.

The United Nations system is beginning to recognize the effectiveness of development programmes being carried out by NGOs at international and national levels and, they are exploring patterns for establishing links of communication and cooperation at the field level with NGOs directly engaged in development assistance activities.

The international and national voluntary organisations are also acknowledging the possibilities of advancing their own objectives for development by working in cooperation with each other as well as the developmental efforts of governments aided by the United Nations system.

The regional and country representatives of the United Nations system, in an effort to bring about mutually fruitful cooperation, are being encouraged to develop closer relationships with national NGOs - both those substantively operational and those primarily involved in public information activities.

The UNDP and UNICEF have taken a forward thrust and have called upon the NGOs to strengthen their efforts for maximum effectiveness and impact in dealing with world-wide social and economic problems. In this renewed climate of cooperation, NGOs at international and national level should attempt to communicate actively with other NGOs working in the same field of interest and, when feasible, establish informal structures for exchange of information.

Roles of NGOs

The following list defines roughly the different types and roles of NGOs as identified by the United Nations system :

- (a) NGOs providing public information and public support.
- (b) NGOs playing an advisory role to governments on unmet needs that should be given higher priority.
- (c) National NGOs involved in group action for the social and economic advancement of their countries. For example, church groups, national social welfare organisations, teachers' associations, etc.
- (d) National and international NGOs engaged directly in technical assistance and development work.

While some NGOs may only relate to one category as listed above, others may be active in all four.

Many governments have formulated National Development Plans, clearly defining areas of governmental concern and priorities for meeting economic and social development needs. Within these National Plans, "country programmes" identify where UNDP, UNICEF and other United Nations development agencies, will apply their inputs. In some instances, national agencies and organisations have been consulted during planning processes, and later called back to take part in the re-appraisal of the national development effort.

Gains from closer cooperation

- a. It is a means for NGOs to become informed of national development programming, thus being able to focus their own activities for more positive, long-lasting and effective results.
- b. It avoids duplication of effort, and allows NGOs to take advantage of available independent studies, feasibility reports and information on the failures and successes of new programmes, new approaches.
- c. It provides more opportunities for NGOs to contribute directly to the planning, implementation and evaluation stages, since United Nations and government officials in the field become channels for conveying NGO thinking.
- d. It becomes a means for making more widely known the efforts of NGOs and identifies the value of this effort to development progress.
- e. It provides an opportunity for initiating innovative approaches which can reinforce - and evolve into - efforts to meet national on-going priority needs, and which can be a basis for government policy and extension of governmental programmes.
- f. It offers NGOs the opportunity to be in touch with the newest development techniques through contacts with experts of the United Nations system and staff members of such agencies as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, UNESCO, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNITAR, and the UN Regional Economic Commissions, etc.
- g. It gives national NGOs a greater opportunity to stimulate better understanding and involvement of people in the development efforts of their own countries.

Financial Assistance to NGOs

Only a few special budgets of the United Nations system provide for financial assistance to NGOs - an example being the United Nations Fund for Population Activities which has supported jointly sponsored conferences and workshops.

By and large the United Nations system normally does not make cash grants, but channels its assistance through governments in the form of :-

salaries for experts;
contracts for development work;
purchase of needed equipment; and
scholarship and training grants for nationals of
the country.

Thus, financial assistance for indigenous NGOs projects would only be available if that project is incorporated in a developing nation's country programme, or in the case of UNICEF, is part of a larger government project assisted by UNICEF.

In some cases, United Nations Agencies will contract qualified NGOs to execute parts of development projects.

Possibilities for Collaboration

The possibilities for collaboration will vary with each country. What is important is that NGOs and United Nations system officials should explore potentials together. While recognizing that lack of staff and time is an obstacle common to both the NGO field effort and the United Nations system field offices, the following specific suggestions are given for advancing possibilities of cooperation.

Preparing for Initial Contacts

As each country differs in its NGO strength, it is suggested that the member organizations of ICA should take the initiative, in working with other national NGO groups as well as with the field staff of the United Nations system. The following guideline may be helpful to NGO in preparing for initial contacts.

- a. National Development Plans and Priorities.
 - i. NGOs, if they have not already done so, should familiarize themselves with the National Development Plan. This may be acquired from government sources, from the UNDP Resident Representative or the United Nations Information Center. The Plan should be studied to determine where mutual programming or interests lie.
 - ii. NGOs should identify government contacts, and review previous relationships with government ministries and agencies.

iii. Documentation on United Nations system projects should be studied. These again are available from UN Information Centres, from the UNDP Office, from UNICEF field offices and, in some cases, from various United Nations Agency experts. Appropriate addresses of United Nations system field offices can be secured from Government development planning offices, or from international NGO headquarters. United Nations Information Centres and UNDP Resident Representatives offices are usually located in the capitals of the low-income countries; other agencies in the United Nations system usually have regional or area offices which cover several countries.

b. Voluntary organisation's appropriate documentation:

- i. NGOs should prepare a brief, concise report of their past activities and their current projects, indicating the sectors in which they are active, where these activities are being undertaken, and the special expertise and qualifications which they have to contribute to the development effort.
- ii. A brief brochure describing the origin, goals and membership of an NGO would also be a useful complementary piece to serve as introductory material to government and United Nations agency offices.
- iii. NGOs having affiliation with an international NGO should contact it to become informed on how counterpart organisations in other countries are collaborating with the United Nations system. This will provide some new ideas for the NGO, and will be a practical example for the United Nations system and government offices of the potential value of collaboration.
- iv. Review and make available the policies, resolutions, statements and programmes relevant to cooperation with the United Nations of the national organisation and the international body with which it may be affiliated.

Initial approach to government and offices of the United Nations system

- a. Appointments should be arranged in advance and governments and United Nations system field offices should be sent brief descriptive material about the NGO. The purpose of the visit should be stated in specific terms. It is advisable to make concrete reference to collaboration in a defined development sector or to a specific project.
- b. NGOs should take pertinent United Nations resolutions when approaching government and United Nations system offices. These will be timely reminders that NGOs have been asked by the United Nations system to collaborate in the development effort.
- c. NGOs should be prepared to recognize that not all government offices or United Nations system field offices will be similar in the warmth or extent of their response. Many see NGOs as primarily conveyers of information about development efforts and not as participants. Providing examples of NGO outreach and success in both these areas of development support activity is necessary.

Continuing relationships

- a. Designate a person from the NGO office to be responsible for continuing liaison with the government and agencies of the United Nations system. UNDP Resident Representatives are being asked to correspondingly appoint one staff member to work with NGOs.
- b. Brief memos should be sent on a regular basis to government officials and United Nations contacts on new development projects, or their termination, noting successes or failures, problems, conditions, attitudes, etc.
- c. NGOs should send memos to relevant government offices and United Nations system field offices on visits of their own consultants, experts, new staff, etc., - indicating how long they will be in the country, the projects they will be working on, and their special expertise.
- d. NGOs should keep alert to opportunities to engage their members in governmental development programmes. For example grants for training are provided by UNDP and such agencies as UNITAR, UNESCO, FAO, etc., and disbursed by government selection. Workshops and training sessions are sponsored by the United Nations system in conjunction with the government projects they are supporting. NGOs should encourage their members to apply through the proper government office.

- e. The NGO Liaison Officer should make frequent reports to the Executive Board of the organisation and to the international headquarters his organisation may be affiliated with. It is the responsibility of international headquarters to resolve any field level problems with the appropriate United Nations Office.
- f. It is mutually beneficial for international and national NGOs to report all successful contacts, so each may learn from the other.

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FAO TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Under the existing arrangements in FAO for providing assistance to agriculture in the developing countries, a serious deficiency has been pointed out by the new Director-General of the FAO inasmuch as that there is no flexible provision for providing immediate assistance to the developing countries for meeting their requests for emergent and urgent needs. Under its Regular Programme, the FAO has no flexible provisions for extending assistance to unprogrammed emergent short-term projects for meeting such unforeseen situations. Nearly the entire resources of FAO are earmarked, up to three years in advance, in terms of man-months and other objects of expenditure. Any diversion of such programmed resources requires suspension or cancellation of scheduled activities. It may even require reporting to or seeking the prior approval of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and the Council.

Considering that there are many instances in which relatively modest provision of assistance, if given quickly, can have practical value out of proportion to its size, in increasing food production and improving nutrition and living standards, the new Director-General of FAO has proposed that, out of the savings from the curtailment of 1976-77 programmed activities and new posts, a Technical Cooperation Programme be established, under which the Director-General should be authorised to make funds available for specific purposes and within specific criteria (laid down by the Council), in response to such requests from the developing countries. The FAO Technical Cooperation Programme is intended to assist the short-term projects which fulfil the following purpose(s) and criteria.

Purposes

(i) Emergencies

Provide emergency assistance to meet urgent rehabilitation needs after disasters or disturbances which affect the country's food and agricultural situation and which cannot be covered by the activities of UNDR0 or by WFP emergency food assistance. This may involve immediate despatch of an assessment and coordinating mission, or the speedy provision, on a small scale, of equipment or facilities of critical importance for rehabilitation of agriculture, pending full assistance from other sources such as Office for Special Relief Operations. The uses would be supportive

rather than duplicative, to the eventual mobilization of extra-budgetary resources of a large order.

(ii) Investment

Supplement resources available under the Regular Programme by providing consultant services and mission expenses in order to expand the resources available for investment work to take full advantage of all opportunities for increasing the flow of investment in agriculture.

(iii) Training

Finance training activities at the practical level. Where justified, supplementary assistance such as stipends for trainees, or a supply of teaching material, and strengthening the capacity of national training institutions, will be provided. The general intention is to intensify training at the farmer, fishery worker and forest level; to reach the rural areas; to assist training at the grass roots.

(iv) Small-Scale Unforeseen Requirements

Provide small-scale assistance to meet immediate practical needs where a speedy provision of assistance has a significant practical value; or where it can promote and facilitate the provision of larger amounts of assistance from other sources including FFH/AD projects and multi-bilateral programmes.

Criteria

The criteria proposed are as follows :

- (i) the project should be a short-term one - the maximum duration to be one year;
- (ii) appropriate weight should be given in the use of the funds to avoiding undue concentration in any particular country or countries and to paying particular attention to the needs of the LDC and MSA countries.
- (iii) the Director-General should be satisfied concerning the objective of the assistance and the case for assistance from the Technical Cooperation Programme;
- (iv) projects should be consistent with the general policies and guidelines laid down by the Director-General and Governing Bodies, taking account of the special importance of increasing food production in developing countries.

- (v) no fixed rules should be adopted for counterpart contributions, but recipient governments should be encouraged to share in providing resources to the greatest extent possible.

Size of the Project

The amount of assistance in any one instance should not exceed \$250,000. The average for single project is intended to be substantially less than the maximum limit suggested.

Allocation of Funds

(i) It is intended that the machinery for operating the Programme could be established quickly and that the first allocations might be made early in 1977. On this basis the Director-General proposes that the allocation for the Programme for the current biennium should be \$17.5 million.

(ii) Of this amount \$2.5 million would be earmarked for emergencies.

An inflexible distribution of the remaining amount would be inconsistent with the central purpose in setting up the Programme. On an indicative basis, however, the Director-General envisages that in 1976-77, there would be a more or less equal division of the remainder between investment work, training and other small-scale unforeseen requirements.

(iii) The projects being short-term, the principle of full funding would be applied. Because of the experimental nature of the operation, and because it is critically important to establish the scheme on a sound basis, it is essential that there should be no undue pressure for the money to be spent because it is available.

Procedures

As the essence of the arrangement is the small-scale quick response, the intention is to establish operational procedures which will result, in normal circumstances, in project activities commencing not later than three months from submission of the request.

Role of National Institutions

In the implementation of projects the maximum use would be made of national institutions - consistent with efficiency, effectiveness and objectivity - either by designating them as operating agents or by sub-contracting to them the whole or part of projects.

FAO MONEY AND MEDAL PROGRAMME

General Considerations

It is intended to support projects which highlight people's participation and self-reliance both as an end and as a means. This is broadly in accordance with the decision taken by FAO Council at its 51st session when it approved the Finance Committee recommendation that receipts would be used "to promote identifiable development projects of the organisation such as farm credit, farm cooperatives, and similar activities.

Criteria

Funds available under FAO Money and Medal Programme will be used for projects which fulfil the following criteria :

- i) MMP Funds shall be used primarily for field projects contributing to active participation of small farmers and rural families in the process of their own development.
- ii) The project must show the involvement of the recipients in planning and decision making and inputs in cash, kind, time or commitment to follow-up action.
- iii) Priority shall be given to projects in the poorest areas, bearing in mind the support given to the programme by the relevant central banks.
- iv) The Project shall be in support of socio-economic activities which lead to increased self-reliance, by becoming self-supporting or by attracting additional domestic resources for development.

- v) Projects receiving or likely to receive a donor contribution from another source may also qualify for MMP Funds, if the other criteria are made and
- if the MMP contribution is a necessary condition for the launching of the project.

Size of the Project

- (a) To be eligible for MMP support, the project should fall within \$5,000 and \$50,000.
- (b) MMP support for any particular project, including its follow-up, should not exceed two consecutive years.
- (c) Some provision for evaluation should be built into the project design.

Funds available

It is understood that some US\$300,000 may be available annually for MMP funded projects.

Special Features

There is one special aspect of FAO MMP Programme which merits special attention. Contrary to many other funds, this MMP project fund does not require a request from the government. That is to say that the cooperative movement or a similar non-governmental institution can submit the request. The relevant government authority should, however, support the project in principle and, if possible, also the implementation of the project.

MINUTES

MR. J. M. RANA

**ICA Council
for South-East Asia**

EIGHTEENTH MEETING

Venue Tehran, Iran

Dates 6 - 8 November 1976

**International Cooperative Alliance, Regional Office
and Education Centre for South-East Asia, "Bonow
House", 43 Friends' Colony, New Delhi-110014, India**

International Cooperative Alliance
"Bonow House"
43, Friends Colony, New Delhi-14.

EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE ICA COUNCIL FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA
HELD IN TEHRAN, IRAN, ON 6TH, 7TH & 8TH NOVEMBER 1976

Inauguration of the 18th Meeting of the ICA Council
for South-East Asia and the 11th Meeting of the
Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Trade for South-East Asia

1. The inauguration ceremony of the Eighteenth Meeting of the ICA Council for South-East Asia and the Eleventh Meeting of the ICA Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Trade for South-East Asia was held in the Auditorium of the Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Rural Affairs, Tehran, on the 6th November 1976. The ceremonial meeting began at 10 a.m. with Mr. Jalil Sassani, Member for Iran in the ICA Council for South-East Asia, in the Chair. Besides the members of the ICA Council for South-East Asia and the ICA Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Trade for South-East Asia, there were about 100 Special Invitees. The distinguished guests included His Excellency Mr. A. Hoveyda, Prime Minister of Iran, His Excellency Mr. Mansur Rohani, Minister of Agriculture, Cooperation and Rural Affairs of Iran, Mr. Roger Kerinec, President of the International Cooperative Alliance, and Dr. S.K. Saxena, Director of the International Cooperative Alliance.

2. The Chairman welcomed the guests and invited the Prime Minister of Iran to inaugurate the meetings. The Prime Minister, Mr. Hoveyda, delivered his Inaugural Address. He was followed by Mr. Rohani, Minister of Agriculture, Cooperation and Rural Affairs. Mr. Roger Kerinec spoke thereafter. Mr. P.E. Weeraman proposed a vote of thanks. The inauguration ceremony ended at 11 a.m. The texts of the speeches mentioned above are given in the Annexe hereto.

Minutes of the Eighteenth Meeting of the ICA Council for
South-East Asia continued on 7th & 8th November 1976

3. The Eighteenth Meeting of the ICA Council for South-East Asia was continued at the Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Rural Affairs, Tehran, Iran, on the 7th and 8th November 1976.

4. The following persons were present:

Members of the Council

1. Mr. Irwin Hunter, Member for Australia (agriculture)
2. Mr. R.G. Tiwari, M.P., Member for India(non-agriculture)
3. Mr. Tapeswar Singh, Member for India (agriculture)
4. Mr. Eddiwan, Member for Indonesia (non-agriculture)
5. Mr. Djoko Basuki, Member for Indonesia (agriculture)
6. Mr. J. Sassani, Member for Iran (non-agriculture)
7. Mr. A. Mogghaddas, Member for Iran (Alternate) (agriculture)
8. Mr. S. Taguchi, Member for Japan (Alternate) (agriculture)
9. Dato N.A. Kularajah, Member for Malaysia (non-agriculture)
10. Mr. Supah Noh, Member for Malaysia (agriculture)
11. Mr. B.P. Faustino, Member for the Philippines (agriculture)
12. Mr. Monico G. Yadao, Member for the Philippines(non-agriculture)
13. Mr. Mak Kam Heng, Member for Singapore (non-agriculture)
14. Mr. M. Kulasegaram, Member for Singapore (agriculture)
15. Mr. M.R.B. Daswatte, Member for Sri Lanka (non-agriculture)
16. Mr. L.M.V. de Silva, Member for Sri Lanka(agriculture)
17. Mr. Pradit Machima, Member for Thailand (Alternate) (non-agriculture)
18. Mr. Bochana Sankariksha, Member for Thailand (Alternate) (agriculture)

Secretary: Mr. P.E. Weeraman, ICA Regional Director for South-East Asia

Observers: Mr. R. Kerinec, President, ICA
 Dr. S.K. Saxena, Director, ICA
 Dr. N. Newiger, Head of the Human Resources Division, FAO, Rome.
 Mr. H. Togawa, Managing Director, IDACA, Tokyo, Japan.
 Mr. R. Shahrabaki Khan, Sepah Consumers' Cooperative, Tehran, Iran.

Other ICA Regional Office staff

1. Mr. J.M. Rana, Director (Education)
2. Mr. Lionel Gunawardana, Joint Director (Publications & Public Relations) and Specialist in Agricultural Cooperation
3. Mr. M.K. Puri, Specialist in Consumer Cooperation & Joint Director (Technical Assistance & Trade).

5. The following Councillors were absent:

1. Mr. Robert J. Woolnough, Member for Australia
2. Mr. Ahmedur Rahman Chowdhury, Member for Bangladesh
3. Mr. Abdus Samad, Member for Bangladesh
4. Mr. M. Kobayashi, Member for Japan
5. Mr. Tal Chun Hong, Member for the Republic of Korea
6. Mr. Poo-yung Lee, Member for the Republic of Korea
7. Mr. Khan Amir Abdullah Khan, Member for Pakistan
8. Mr. Chaudhri Muhammad Saeed-Ul Hassan, Member for Pakistan

Agenda Item No. 1 : Welcome

6. Mr. N.A. Kularajah, the out-going Chairman, presiding over the meeting until the election of the new Chairman, thanked Mr. Sassani and his band of devoted workers for the wonderful arrangements made for the meeting and the gracious hospitality extended to the members of the Council. He invited Mr. Sassani to deliver his welcome address.

7. Mr. Sassani thanked all the members for coming to Tehran to attend the meeting and hoped that their stay in Tehran would be pleasant.

8. Mr. Kularajah then invited Mr. R. Kerinec, President of the ICA, to address the meeting.

9. Mr. Kerinec said that it was his first visit to Iran and it was the first opportunity he had of participating in the meetings of the ICA ROEC. He was very happy to be in Tehran and wanted the members of the Council to know that he was there to learn from them and to get acquainted with them rather than to tell them what they should do. The ICA was a great family and needed more and more communication. Communication between and among the members of this great family was a problem. This meeting was an opportunity for him to meet the leaders of cooperative movements in this part of the world. He would not have the opportunity to visit each country of this region to meet the leader. Of course he had the opportunity of meeting many of the cooperative leaders of the world, as President of the Alliance, at the ICA Congress held in Paris recently. The French Movement could be considered as the first beneficiary of having the ICA Congress. The Congress was very useful to the French Cooperative Movement. The Congress afforded a chance to him as well as to other cooperators of establishing closer links with all types of cooperatives in the world. The Congress gave all the cooperative movements represented in the Alliance a chance to outline constructive policy in a very fine atmosphere. It was now time for implementing that policy. "The Congress has brought about better understanding. The work of the Alliance is beginning to be more widely understood. The Alliance has always a fine team of workers and leaders /had but it is limited. The team which works in New Delhi is also a fine team and it is well-known. We must thank our Swedish friends for their donations and assistance to the New Delhi office.

10. "The operations of multi-nationals pose a big challenge to the cooperatives. This region has taken some initiative in meeting this challenge. The first Open World Conference on Fishery Cooperatives was a step in that direction. There was an assessment of the work of the Regional Office and Education Centre and the conclusions of this assessment were very positive. I congratulate the Regional Office once again for the fine work they have done. One of the recommendations of the Assessment Report is the holding of pre-seminars and follow-up seminars.

The task of the Regional Office has been clearly defined.

"The questions you face are the following:

- i) Education and training in management efficiency,
- ii) Training Methods and Field Education, example Indore Field Project in India,
- iii) Improving food production and food distribution,
- iv) The need of financial assistance from the developed countries on the basis of a new policy; this assistance should as far as possible be directed to national needs in highly specialised fields."

11. The President said that he had come to the meeting to learn from the members and not to make a speech and that he was very happy to be with them and thanked the Iran host for the kind invitation. He said he was very impressed by the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Trade the previous day and that he was convinced that such technical meetings were very useful. Every national movement would benefit from such meetings.

12. The pro-tem Chairman thanked Mr. Kerinec for the nice and kind words and said that the members of the Council were very happy and proud that the President of the ICA was with them in this meeting. He invited the President on behalf of all the members to visit each country and added that such a visit would give the national movements additional prestige if made every now and then. The pro-tem Chairman then called upon Mr. Weeraman to make his introductory remarks.

Agenda Item No. 2 : Introductory Remarks by the Regional Director

13. Mr. Weeraman said that the members of the staff of the ICA ROEC were greatly encouraged by the remarks of the President, Mr. Kerinec, showing full appreciation of what the people in the ICA ROEC were trying to do. On behalf of the Council he thanked Dr. Newiger for attending the meeting and extended to him a hearty welcome. Needless to say that all the members of the Council were very glad that both the President and the Director of the Alliance were present at the meeting. He mentioned that some members were attending a meeting of the Council for the first time. The new members were:

- Mr. S. Taguchi, acting on behalf of Mr. K. Yoshida, Member for Japan
- Mr. Supah Noh, Member for Malaysia
- Mr. Sardar Farooq Ahmed Ali, Member for Pakistan in the Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Trade
- Mr. M. R. B. Daswatte, Member for Sri Lanka
- Mr. Bochana Sankariksha, Member for Thailand

14. He informed the members of the Council that the outgoing Chairman, Mr. Kularajah had been awarded a very high honour - an honour which would be comparable to a Knighthood in England - the title of Datuk. The Council was proud of the honour which Chairman Dato Kularajah had received from his government and said that this honour was bestowed on him for his eminent services to the cooperative movements of Malaysia and South-East Asia.

15. Mr. Weeraman then explained the change in the Rules regarding the Chairmanship of the Council. The Council had a nominated Chairman originally. After the first ten years, the Executive Committee of the ICA had agreed that the Council should have an elected Chairman. A most competent person was elected to be the Chairman of the Council in the person of Mr. Kularajah in 1970 for a period up to 1972. The rules of the Council were amended and the tenure of the Chairman was fixed for 4 years from one Congress to the next Congress. This was after the Warsaw Congress. The rules had been changed again and now the Chairman was to be elected from among the Councillors representing the country in which the Council was holding its meeting. This, Mr. Weeraman believed, was a wise decision. This time, according to the Rules, the Council was required to elect a Chairman from among the local Councillors (Iran). He would accordingly request the pro-tem Chairman to call upon the council members to elect a Chairman from among the members for Iran. This newly elected chairman would function as Chairman till the next meeting of the Council.

Agenda Item No. 3 : Election of Chairman

16. The Chairman then requested some one to propose the name of a member from Iran to be the next Chairman. Mr. Faustino from the Philippines proposed the name of Mr. Sassani. This was seconded by several members of the Council. Mr. Sassani was unanimously elected Chairman of the Council. Mr. Kularajah the out-going Chairman requested Mr. Sassani to take the chair and also take over the responsibilities of the Chairman from him. Mr. Sassani thanked all for electing him Chairman. He requested Mr. Moghaddas, the other member from Iran, to act in his place as Chairman as he had to attend a meeting with the Minister. Mr. Moghaddas acted as Chairman and conducted the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 4 : Confirmation of Minutes

17. The Chairman said that the minutes of the last meeting had been circulated already and that no comments had been received. He proposed that the minutes be taken as read and confirmed. The minutes were confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 5 : Background papers on the Cooperative Movement of each country

18. The Chairman requested each member to make a brief statement regarding the cooperative movement in his country.

19. Australia : Mr. Hunter made a statement regarding the cooperative movement in Australia. The main point made by Mr. Hunter was the threat posed by the Multi-nationals to cooperatives in his country. The operations of Multi-nationals were creating a big problem for cooperatives in their working.

Dr. Saxena invited the attention of the Council to the U.N. proposal to draw up an International Code of Ethics for the operations of Multi-national corporations; He informed the meeting that the U.N. had invited all non-governmental organisations including the ICA to submit papers on this subject. Therefore he said the ICA would welcome any suggestions which the member from Australia or in fact any member from any other country might make. The ICA proposed to prepare a single document as soon as possible and send it to the U.N.

Prof. Yadao from the Philippines suggested that a Committee of 3 or 5 should be constituted to make its recommendations. Mr. Rana said that he was expected to discuss in the Sub-Committee meeting the previous day the papers that were submitted to the Standing Committee on Cooperation of the IFAP. The theme of the papers was "Strategy for the Agricultural Cooperative Movement to counter Multi-national corporations." Two excellent papers were presented at this conference from our Region. One was a paper by Mr. Yoshida of Japan and the other was a paper by IFFCO of India. A resolution was passed at that open conference and Mr. Rana would present that resolution in the afternoon to this meeting. Mr. Kularajah suggested that a Committee be appointed with Mr. Rana as Secretary, and with Mr. Hunter from Australia, Mr. Kularajah from Malaysia, Mr. Tiwari from India and Prof. Yadao from the Philippines as members to draft a resolution on this subject. This committee was to meet in the evening at 4 p.m.

20. India : Mr. R.G. Tiwari made a statement regarding the Cooperative Movement in India. He said he did not want to give many details as a paper had been presented and circulated by Mr. G.K. Sharma, Member for India on the Sub-Committee for Agriculture & Trade. He would only draw the attention of the members to the problems the Indian Cooperative Movement was facing, viz:-

1. Insufficiency of cooperative credit to reach the small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers in many areas of the country.
2. Regional imbalances in the level of cooperative development, particularly in the sphere of agricultural credit.

3. Non-viability of cooperatives due to lack of finances and to growing overdues.
4. Lack of the necessary infra-structure.
5. Emergence of Public Sector organisations, and
6. The need to check inflation.

21. Indonesia: Mr. Eddiwan stated some important aspects of the Cooperative Movement in Indonesia. He said that the cooperative movement had made good progress in the last few years especially in the rural areas. The effort was to make farmers self-reliant.

The number of cooperators had increased to about 3 million in one year. Because of the services given by cooperatives to farmers, the business activities of cooperatives were increasing. The problem of cooperatives in Indonesia was one of communication between some 13,000 islands. To overcome this problem a cooperative shipping company had been established to bring agricultural produce from these islands to the main collecting centres.

All financial assistance and aid to cooperatives from outside the country had to be channelled through the Government. Indonesian cooperatives had received assistance from outside through the good offices of Dr. Newiger of the FAO. The cooperatives had also received technical aid from several countries and international agencies such as the Netherlands, New Zealand, FAO, ADB, West Germany, France and the U.S.A. Indonesia was going to get assistance from the Cooperative League of the U.S.A. for the electrification of villages along the lines of the Philippines.

22. Iran : Mr. Moghaddas made a statement on behalf the Iranian Cooperative Movement. "To save the time of the meeting, I would just read two parts of the paper circulated by Mr. Sassani regarding the progress made by the Cooperative Movement in Iran. Since last year when the 14-point programme of the Shahanshah of Iran was announced, the face of cooperatives changed in Iran. People from all walks of life realised their responsibilities and duties. People accepted the concept of Cooperation in their everyday life and started applying the Principles of Cooperation in their day-to-day life. Cooperatives were started not only in business fields but also in educational institutions from the primary school level to the university level. The message of cooperation is being spread through mass media such as newspapers, magazines, radio and the T.V. The 14-point programme announced by the Shahanshah is intended to stop profiteering, give economic and social justice to the people and to give people eternal strength to be confident in all they do.

The problems facing the cooperative movement and the future programme are mentioned in the paper circulated."

23. Japan : Mr. S. Taguchi of Japan made a statement regarding the Cooperative Movement of Japan.

Mr. Tiwari said that in 1973 or so the Japanese cooperative movement had drawn up a programme for ensuring better living conditions for Japanese farmers to which Mr. Taguchi replied that these activities were still being carried out. Better living conditions were not judged from the subsidies given to the farmers by cooperatives or government, but were judged from the increase in the incomes of farmers. The price of rice which is the main crop, was fixed by government after consultation with the agricultural cooperative movement. The cooperatives always negotiate the price of rice with the government and try to secure a better deal for the farmers. While negotiating the price, they also take the cost of production into consideration.

Mr. Weeraman asked what the pattern was of ensuring better living conditions for farmer members. Was it providing better housing and other facilities. Mr. Taguchi stated that better living conditions meant providing modern kitchen facilities, mobile clinics, health check-up in rural areas, and ambulances for medical assistance.

24. Malaysia : Mr. Supah Noh gave a brief account of the cooperative movement in Malaysia. He said that the background paper on Malaysia had been distributed to every member of the Council and therefore he would make only a brief report, instead of reading the paper and highlight some points and supplement certain points.

There was the usual progress. Recently the government had thrown a pebble into the still waters of the cooperatives by disintegrating the cooperative movement and attaching certain types of cooperatives to certain ministries of government or authorities of government. Farmers' cooperatives and other agro-based cooperatives had been attached to one ministry and fishery cooperatives had been given to another ministry. Farmers' Associations were governed by the Farmers Associations Act. It was time that these farmers associations were merged into cooperatives. In the fishery sector also there had been some government programme but the programme had not met with any success.

There had also been some changes in the cropping pattern after the establishment of the Farmers Organisations Authority. This authority was trying to convert domestic farmers into commercial farmers by providing them with all types of agricultural inputs, such as machinery and fertilizers. But the management of these associations had not been very satisfactory because the promoters and organisers of these organisations did not have the necessary background of cooperatives. Similar was the story of fishery cooperatives. These were some of the problems of the rural cooperatives in Malaysia.

In the urban cooperative sector there were certain problems. Some big urban societies had diversified and had entered into industrial or processing enterprises. Up to now the traditional urban cooperatives

were enjoying certain facilities and privileges from the government. These societies were generally of wage and salary earners. They enjoyed facilities such as the deduction of society dues from salaries if the societies submitted their statements of dues to government. This privilege had been recently withdrawn by the government.

ANGKASA was an organisation of agricultural cooperatives and fishery cooperatives. It was at present engaged in bringing about a solution to the problem of cash flow into cooperatives and was having a dialogue with the government. ANGKASA would establish a wing called the Service Bureau to collate all overdues and submit a consolidated statement to government. This work would commence in January of next year (1977).

The other problem was the amendment of Cooperative legislation. There was a move to modify the Cooperative Act. The amendment was to make boards of directors vacate their positions every six years. This amendment would affect many societies. In the 1948 Cooperative Act, the Cooperative Principles were not included, the legislation only laid down what a cooperative should do and should not do. In the proposed amendment, the Cooperative Principles had been incorporated in accordance with the Cooperative Principles stated by the ICA.

There was also a serious backlog in the cooperative training and education programme of the country. Cooperative training was given only by the Cooperative College. There was no cooperative education programme. Cooperative training without cooperative education is not very good. There should be member education. "Malaysia seeks the assistance of this Council in implementing an effective cooperative education and training programme in the country. A programme of cooperative education for cooperative leaders, members and high government officials is very necessary. Malaysia does not have any problem in the field of cooperative training and management. What is urgently required is a programme of member education similar to the one in the Philippines on the lines of the Samahang Nayon."

Dr. Saxena wanted some more information regarding the question of automatic deduction of members' dues from their salaries and wages because this system is the strength of the credit movement. Dr. Saxena also wanted to know if there was some kind of a Master Plan by the Government. Mr. Supah Noh replied that there was no such Master Plan of Government for Cooperatives except in the case of some banks where the Registrar of Cooperatives was trying to launch a programme for the formation of district industrial cooperatives. Under this programme, small non-viable societies at the district level would be merged into a big multipurpose cooperative society. The Registrar was even trying to introduce a bit of compulsion. On ANGKASA protesting to the Registrar about this, the Registrar had modified his decision.

Mr. Kularajah informed the meeting that the government did not consult the cooperative movement regarding a **Master Plan**.

Mr. Tiwari said that the problem of restrictive laws and the problem of viable cooperatives were universal problems. For the membership of cooperatives consists of non-viable individuals. It was difficult to foresee a situation where an association of non-viable members could be a viable cooperative. The viability of individuals and the viability of cooperatives are interlinked. Mr. Tiwari emphasized that cooperatives should play a more dynamic role in improving the economic conditions of the farmer-members by offering the following services:

1. Credit assistance and a package of extension services during the various stages of agricultural operations prior to harvesting. The cooperatives should therefore develop their extension services on a massive scale.
2. Education of the farmer-members to adopt a multi-crop pattern of agriculture to increase their incomes.
3. Securing for their members incentive prices for their agricultural produce or a rational pricing policy.
4. Setting up agro-industries and providing modern implements to their members.

Mr. Supah Noh said that the cooperatives need not provide extension services as governments are providing these services. But cooperatives should take up where government agencies end.

Mr. Kularajah explained how restrictive laws of government hamper the development of cooperatives. Cooperatives are also taxed in Malaysia if their funds exceed M\$ 500,000/-. By this law larger cooperatives are affected. It means **that** large cooperatives should not make large profits but give more benefits to their members. The victims of this law are financial institutions. Members are exempt from taxes on monies received from cooperatives. If members wanted more information on this, Malaysia would supply it.

Dr. Saxena said that the problem of cooperatives being liable to income tax was discussed extensively by the Cooperative Union of Canada and he said that he would send a copy of the paper on the subject. He further said that some of these problems and questions will be discussed at the Experts Consultation the ICA is holding towards the middle of next year. The theme of the Experts Consultation is "Cooperatives and the Rural Poor."

Mr. Hunter agreed that larger cooperatives should not keep large profits but should distribute such profits to their members. There are different categories of cooperatives. There are times when cooperatives need to make high returns for implementing their long-term plans to withstand international market forces. Australia was now striving to have a uniform law. Soon developing countries in South-East Asia will find that the international market is going to set the price trend.

Mr. Kularajah mentioned that a cooperative which is less than 5 years old does not have to pay taxes in Malaysia.

Mr. Rana said that in countries like India and the U.S.A. a private enterprise which sets apart a certain amount for development purposes is exempt from tax in respect of that amount.

Mr. Kularajah said that 25 per cent of the profits is exempt from income tax for development purposes in Malaysia. Patronage dividend was exempt from tax.

Mr. Weeraman observed that from Mr. Supah Noh's statement it was clear that governments are now trying to split up the cooperative movement. In India too cooperative credit has been separated from the rest of the cooperative movement. In Malaysia too, fishery cooperatives are under the Department of Fisheries, Agriculture Cooperatives are under the Farmers' Organisations Authority and other cooperatives are under another Ministry.

Mr. Tiwari said that in India the 6 year term has been changed to 10 years.

Dr. Saxena said that the discussion on this subject was very interesting and suggested that the Secretary should table this topic for further discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Weeraman complained (with due deference to FAO) that FAO was promoting Farmers Organisations and ILO was promoting cooperatives. Among the U.N. agencies there must be some agreement about cooperatives. This point must be noted by all the members. Dr. Newiger of the FAO stated that FAO was supposed to promote all types of peoples' organisations suggested by member governments. The FAO was not interested in the form of peoples' organisations but their content and objectives. The FAO is not setting new ideas which attracted the governments. Tanzania is an example. There are very dynamic developments in so many countries indicating that the cooperative form is not necessarily convenient to those institutions which work under the term "cooperative". It is not the form that matters but the concept.

Dr. Saxena said that the higher officials of the various U.N. agencies could do a great deal today in shaping governments' views and opinions about cooperatives.

25. Pakistan: Mr. Sardar Farooq Ahmed Ali gave an account of the cooperative movement in Pakistan. At present there were about 30,000 cooperatives with a membership of 3.3 million. They were developing stores, housing, transport, industrial and women's cooperatives. The Punjab State Cooperative Bank has been nationalised. It is the apex bank. Its object is to facilitate the working of cooperatives. It is a scheduled bank. This step by government has given a great set-back to the cooperative movement. It is no longer financing cooperatives. Government was approached and a request was made to de-nationalise the bank. A small committee has been set up to supervise the bank's operations, and to examine the question of de-nationalisation.

There is a central law for cooperative banks. The Government of Pakistan is preparing a scheme for setting up a Federal Bank for Cooperatives to meet the credit needs of cooperatives. The structure of cooperative banks in the country is being re-organised. The Federal Bank for Cooperatives will be established under the Banking Companies Act. Cooperators in Pakistan have pleaded with the government not to set up the bank under the Banking Companies Act but to do it under the Cooperative Societies Act so that this institution would be cooperative in character.

Consumer Cooperatives have been set up. The Government has given them loans. There are 16 cooperative stores in Lahore and other cities. Government wants more cooperative stores opened.

26. Philippines: Prof. Yadao gave a brief account of the cooperative movement in the Philippines. There are farmers associations known as Samahong Nayon. A fund of 51 million pesos has been created. Rural banks have been established to help farmers and a central marketing organisation has been set up. The reason for government establishing Samahong Nayon was the failure of farmers' cooperatives in the past.

Another aspect is the organisation of the farmers' Area Marketing Societies. Funds were given from Samahong Nayon to finance the rural banks. In urban centres Consumer Cooperatives have been organised. The Area Marketing Societies are cooperatives of Producers and Consumers. The net profits of these cooperatives are distributed to the producers and the consumers. The area

marketing cooperatives in turn represent the Samahong Nayon. Funds were given by the Samahong Nayon to set up the Insurance System of the Philippines. The Canadian Government has given financial aid. The World Bank has also agreed to give financial aid to a group of Villages.

There is now only one Cooperative Law (decree) in the Philippines. Formerly there were different laws for different types of cooperatives. There is a new decree however for a rural Cooperative Electrification Bureau under the National Electrification Administration, and another decree for the supervision of marketing cooperatives. There is an organisation known as the Filipino Cooperative Wholesale Society for international trade.

Some of the problems faced by the Filipino Cooperative Movement are:-

1. Training people and retaining trained people in the movement.
2. Membership Education. It is not advisable to leave member education to the cooperatives alone; a cooperative education programme has also been included in the school curriculum. From the High School stage upto the university level the subject of Cooperation should be made compulsory. But the problem in the Philippines is lack of teaching material. If the ICA could take steps for the production of teaching material it would benefit many National movements.

Mr. Faustino made a few remarks. He also stressed the need for teaching material. He felt that there should be legislation for compulsory Cooperative Education in all schools and colleges. But the problem here is the lack of sufficient and suitable cooperative teaching material. Another related problem, assuming there was enough teaching material, was that of finding so many teachers or Instructors for teaching thousands of members. He hoped that the ICA could do something about it. He informed the meeting that a Cooperative Marketing System of the Philippines has been established which would be a member of ICTO. There were supermarkets whose membership consisted of half producers and half consumers. He wondered how this kind of a structure would work and requested the ICA to guide the Philippine Movement. The Filipino experience in this respect has so far been good and this experiment would continue in the Philippines. The first supermarket is doing very well, even exceeding their own expectations.

On the question of living conditions of farmers, the Land Bank of the Philippines is designing a scheme for establishing a Crop Insurance Scheme for different groups of Crops such as Rice and Corn. Mr. Faustino was the Head of this organisation as a non-government man. The FAO has held a number of conferences and seminars on Crop Insurance in the developing countries and Mr. Faustino asked for the documentation of these seminars and conferences.

Mr. Faustino said that a package of services to the farmers is needed if the farmers were to adopt multi-cropping methods. Other incentives such as price rationalisation for increased production would also be needed. The government in his country is giving serious attention to this question.

Mr. Gunawardana commenting on the Samahong Nayon in the Philippines being called pre-cooperatives said that "Pre Cooperatives" are organisations which have **only some characteristics** of Cooperatives and do not follow all the Principles of Cooperation. But the Samahong Nayons do follow the Cooperative Principles. However, they are not doing any business, **besides collecting savings**. They are members of the Area Marketing Cooperatives. The Boards of Directors of Samahong Nayon are elected. So Samahong Nayon are in fact cooperatives.

Mr. Faustino informed the meeting that there was a Board to assist the Cooperatives in management and training. This Board assists Cooperatives which are not able to get efficient managers from the open market. The government has set up a Fund for giving a management subsidy to assist the Cooperatives. The Cooperatives are given a hundred percent management subsidy in the 1st year, 75% in the 2nd year, 50% in the 3rd year and 25% in the 4th year. The entire salary is paid by the Society thereafter. The government sends its own managers only if the cooperatives ask for them.

In answer to Mr. Faustino's request for the supply of teaching material, Mr. Rana, Director (Education) explained the ICA's possible role in this respect. He said that a wing has been established in the ICA known as "Cooperative Education Materials Advisory Service (CEMAS)". There was a project Director in the London Office for this service. The work has started and units have been set up. There is one unit in New Delhi and another unit in Moshi, Tanzania. Through CEMAS the ICA would be able to provide information and also to supply relevant teaching material for use by the National Movements.

The function of CEMAS is to produce proto-type teaching material which could be adapted to local conditions. ICA would provide this material on specific requests from members. On an experimental basis a Cooperative Film Library has been opened for staff training in India. With the help of member-organisations and the Government of India the ICA ROEC expects to lend films to the Training Centres of its member-organisations. Efforts will be made to distribute these films through the UNESCO.

Mr. Supah Noh from Malaysia asked for literature on Samahong Nayan. Mr. Faustino agreed to supply this. Mr. Supah Noh, while appreciating the efforts of the Philippines to develop leadership and retain it in the movement, said that the subject of Cooperation has been included in the school curriculum in Malaysia. He also understood that Sri Lanka also had done this. The Cooperative Movement of Malaysia has created a reserve fund for this purpose. But the problem was that there were no teaching personnel. Mr. Faustino felt that the effort should be to mobilise funds from the local people for any development of the programme for education.

Dr. Saxena stated that the material produced by CEMAS was not directly relevant to the local situation. It was just a proto-type material. Feed-back is of extreme importance for developing this material. In one particular case the material produced by the CEMAS was field-tested in Ghana. Mr. Yadao informed the meeting that there was an on-going programme in the Philippines being carried out by the World Bank for the production of text books for schools and said that the proto-type material produced by CEMAS could be adapted to suit local conditions.

Mr. Kerinc informed the meeting that France was the first to introduce School Cooperatives. There was now a move to set up an International Committee on School cooperatives in the ICA.

At this stage Mr. Weeraman informed the meeting that the Cooperative Insurance System of the Philippines had become a new member of the ICA. Mr. Faustino said that the Filipino Cooperative Marketing System was also going to apply for membership.

27. Singapore: Summing-up the development of the Cooperative Movement in Singapore, Mr. Mak Kam Heng said that their cooperative movement was the smallest in the region with a membership of only 92,000. There were 77 societies with a capital of S\$ 33.4 million. The movement was largely a thrift and credit movement. The government had never shown any interest in the Cooperative Movement. It has now started giving serious attention to cooperatives after the Trade Union Movement began to show interest in them. Five major steps have

been taken by the government in the recent past to strengthen the cooperative movement viz:

- (1) Government redrafted the Cooperative Societies Act with the assistance of the German expert Doctor Munkner. The Trade Union Movement was given a copy of this draft legislation for its comments. The Trade Union rejected the Bill and asked that a new committee be set up to draft a new Act. The Singapore National Cooperative Union submitted its comments on the bill, rejecting the bill on the ground that the Bill had not adopted the Model Law drafted by Dr. Munkner.
- (2) The Government proposes to set up a cooperative training centre with the assistance of UNDP to provide in-service training and to conduct a cooperative education and membership campaign. The assistance of two countries, namely, USA and Sweden, will be sought for setting up this training centre.
- (3) A Central Cooperative Development Fund is to be created by the government for depositing five percent of the net profit of every society. This Fund would be managed by a Board of Trustees drawn from the ministry and the apex organisations. The Act has not been passed yet.
- (4) There is to be an apex organisation to strengthen the cooperative movement. A Working Committee has been set up to draft a Constitution based on the bye-laws of the Singapore National Cooperative Union. The Trade Union Group will be brought into this Union.
- (5) The Registrar of Cooperative Societies called a Convention of all cooperative organisations last year. Out of 77 Societies, 43 attended this Convention. The Trade Union was also represented at this Convention. It was decided at this Convention to dissolve the Working Committee and form a new Committee to redraft the Cooperative Law. The Act has not come into force even after the elapse of one year. The feeling was that it was very difficult to unify the three groups viz. Singapore National Cooperative Union, Cooperative Societies outside the Union and the Trade Union Cooperatives. The Cooperative Movement and the Trade Union Movement are two separate movements

and there should be full collaboration between the two if the Cooperative Movement is to get the support of the government.

Dr. Saxena mentioned that he was somewhat concerned about the relationship between the Trade Unions and the Cooperatives. He was also concerned about the way the Cooperatives were used by Trade Unions to promote their own interests. He did not understand why the Trade Unions were reluctant to promote cooperatives.

In his own mind he was quite confused about the situation in Singapore. He mentioned that a similar situation was developing in a few other countries. He felt that it was time to have a dialogue with the Trade Unions. Mr. Kerinec agreed with Dr. Saxena that the Cooperative Movement should have a dialogue both with the Trade Union Movement and the government. It was a very delicate and important question. In France the situation was a little better. The Agricultural Cooperative Movement in France was a large employer. What they did in France was to invite all the leaders of the Trade Unions to discuss their mutual problems. There were five kinds of Trade Unions in France. The Trade Union Movement agreed that the Cooperative Movement should remain independent of the trade unions.

Mr. Supah Noh said that Malaysia did not have this problem at the grass-roots level. The cooperatives at this level were able to provide Funds or Services with the assistance of the government. It was not necessary that they should align themselves with the Trade Union.

Dr. Saxena stated that there was a historical background to this situation. A series of studies have been published by the U.N. Five or six films have also been made on this subject. The ICA was not consulted for it was brought into the discussion only at the final stage. It was mentioned at the ECOSOC meeting that the Cooperative Movement should take a perspective look to see whether its form and structure are such that it could cater to the needs of the poor. 75% of the developing countries really belong to this category. This discussion is going on now. The two points now under discussion are (i) Does the Cooperative Movement need some change, and (ii) whether voluntary organisations can cater to the needs of the poor.

Mr. Weeraman said that the Trade Unions had no access to the rural sector and they were therefore trying to reach the rural people through the Cooperatives.

Mr. Mak stated that the Trade Unions were insisting on having nominated members in their cooperatives. This was against the principle of democratic control.

28. Sri Lanka: Mr. L.M.V.de Silva presenting his background paper stated that his country paper had already been circulated by Mr. Daswatte and he proposed to deal with another aspect of the Cooperative Movement viz., Cooperative Principles vis-a-vis land development and requested that the copies of his paper should be distributed. He then read his paper.

Dr. Saxena wanted to know what the term "Cooperative Janawasa" meant and what was the element of voluntariness in this type of organisation. Was it that a person could own land only if he became a member of this "Janawasa."

Mr. Rana felt that this was a somewhat problematic situation because a member might ask to get out of the cooperative once he got the ownership of the land.

29. Thailand: Mr. Machima gave an account of the Cooperative Movement in Thailand. There was not much change in the situation from what it was during the last year. Of course the country went through some political changes. The number of cooperatives have been reduced on account of amalgamation. Small cooperatives have been merged with big cooperatives. Consumer cooperatives increased from 106 to 117, thrift and credit societies from 142 to 153. Service cooperatives like those for housing, taxi service, and rural electrification increased from 14 to 15, and fishery cooperatives from 2 to 5. At present there were around 995 societies with a membership of 900,000.

The largest sector of the cooperative movement was the agricultural sector. There were 550 agricultural cooperatives with a membership of 400,000. This accounted for 10 per cent of the total number of farmers. Some big changes had taken place in the performance of agricultural cooperatives last year.

- (1) The societies performed all necessary services such as the provision of credit, the marketing of produce, and the distribution of farm supplies,
- (2) Processing cooperatives were established such as those for running rice mills,
- (3) 30 warehouses were established for the storage of rice and maize.

As regards consumer cooperatives these were successful only in big cities and towns. In Bangkok alone the membership of consumer cooperatives was 50,000. The other societies had a membership of 60,000. One of the stores in Bangkok had a total sale of 163 million bahts. This store was being studied by the ICA and a report would be published in two months.

In the field of cooperative education, the Cooperative League of Thailand was collaborating with the following:-

1. Research work done by the ICA, the Cooperative League of the USA and the University of Thailand.
2. A team of cooperative leaders from the USA who were studying the cooperative movement in Thailand. These studies were being examined by the government.

In the sphere of cooperative training, with the help of the government and the university, the CLT was trying to educate primary school, college and university students.

A national seminar was held in the last week of October and the first week of November on the subject of Population Education and Cooperative Development. The emphasis was on family planning. The seminar was held under the joint auspices of the CLT, ILO and the U.N.

In the field of Cooperative Legislation, there was nothing much to report except that the government gives a lot of freedom to the cooperative movement in the matter of its development. There were no restrictive laws.

In international cooperative trade, Thai cooperatives exported about 130,000 tons of corn to Japan and imported about 150,000 tons of fertilizer from Japan.

By way of technical assistance, a Dairy Project was established with the assistance of West Germany. The CLT was interested in getting assistance either from the FAO or from the ICA for its training programme.

The problems faced by the Thai Cooperative Movement are:-

1. Lack of managerial personnel for consumer and rural cooperatives, especially the rice mills.
2. More training centres are required for training personnel of rice mills and dairy projects and cassewa processing.
3. Want of financial resources. Though the cooperatives have a bank, the bank appears to be against the agricultural cooperatives. It prefers to grant loans to individual farmers. However, the Reserve Bank of Thailand is trying to help the cooperatives by asking the commercial banks to give credit to agricultural cooperatives.

4. Need of education for members and office bearers and of training for employees of cooperatives. The problem is accentuated by the high rate of illiteracy which is about 78 per cent.
5. Lack of coordination among the different departments of government dealing with cooperatives.
6. There was a dearth of experts on consumer cooperatives.

The future programme of development drawn up for the coming 4-5 years was as follows:-

1. Growth schemes for rural development including provision of credit to other types of cooperatives like consumer, housing, thrift and credit.
2. Proposal to change cooperative law enabling persons under 20 years of age to become members.
3. To change the constitution of the CLT to enable it to function as a business organisation and receive subscriptions from each cooperative society.
4. Submission of a Cooperative Development Plan to the Government.
5. To persuade government and university to include cooperative education in the curriculum.
6. To persuade government to involve itself more and more in the development of cooperatives to improve the lot of the rural poor.

Mr. Kularajah asked Mr. Machima whether the amalgamation and integration of societies was done on a compulsory basis. Mr. Machima stated that it was compulsory.

Dr. Saxena asked whether the Dairy Project started in Thailand with the assistance of DANIDA was a cooperative project. Mr. Machima said that the Dairy Project was not a cooperative project. He also said that they were going to set up another dairy with the assistance of New Zealand.

Mr. Kularajah mentioned that at present the ICA ROEC had an experienced Cooperative Housing expert with them and that he should be asked to help national movements to develop their housing programmes. Mr. Rana said that the housing expert, Mr. Johnsson, will be visiting selected countries to make studies and submit proposals.

Agenda Item No. 6 : Administration

30. (a) Bonow House

Mr. Weeraman reported to the meeting the follow-up action taken on the minutes of the last meeting. He informed the meeting that the ICA Regional Office building in New Delhi had been named "Bonow House".

31. (b) Member Contributions

Mr. Weeraman informed the meeting that contributions to the funds of the ICA ROEC for the year 1975-76 had been received from Australia, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand and contributions were expected from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and the Philippines.

Dr. Saxena mentioned that he was discussing this question with the SCC in Stockholm and said that so far only contributions made in cash by the member movements are being shown and contributions made by them in kind have not been shown. In his opinion the contributions made by member movements in kind should also be shown.

Mr. Weeraman informed the meeting that about 40 per cent of the costs of technical meetings are met by the member organisations. Dr. Saxena wondered whether some figures of such contributions in kind could be furnished by the member organisations. All the members of the Council agreed to furnish these figures. Mr. Kularajah said that it would be easier to give figures for the period January to December instead of July to June. It was decided that the member-organisations should be asked to furnish these figures. Even figures on a six monthly basis would be helpful and could be easily adjusted to the July-June budget year.

32. (c) Sub-Committee Contributions

Mr. Weeraman reported that contributions in respect of the work done by the ROEC for the ICA Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Trade for South-East Asia (£50/-) had been received from ICA members in Australia, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

33. (d) Staff Changes

Mr. Weeraman reported that Dr. Dharm Vir had rejoined the ICA ROEC in January 1976 after the completion of his ILO assignment in Sri Lanka; Mr. M.K. Puri had joined the ICA ROEC as Specialist

in Consumer Cooperation and Joint Director (Technical Assistance and Trade) in January 1976; and Mr. Sten Johnsson, an experienced Cooperative Housing Expert of Sweden (HSB) had joined the ICA ROEC in May 1976. Mr. M.V. Madane's term with the FAO had been extended and the ICA had released him for one more year i.e. up to November 1977. Mr. Weeraman added that it was good for the ICA to release its officers for such assignments in that they get an opportunity of working at the grass roots level and gaining field experience.

Agenda Item No. 7 : Education Centre

34. Action taken on the minutes of the last meeting : Mr. Rana, Director (Education) reporting to the meeting stated that there were no specific points for report except the following:-

(a) Regional Seminar on "the Relationship between the Board of Directors and the Manager" recommended by the Council at the last meeting could not be held because Australia and Malaysia, the proposed venues for this seminar, regretted their inability to host this seminar. ANGKASA in Malaysia who was also approached said that they were not in a position to hold the seminar at that point of time but said that they might be able to reconsider holding it at the end of the current year. Mr. Rana hoped that Mr. Kularajah and Mr. Supah Noh could indicate the position now. Mr. Supah Noh informed the meeting that ANGKASA was not in a position to hold the seminar. Mr. Weeraman said that he still felt that Australia was the ideal venue for the seminar. Mr. Hunter disagreed with Mr. Weeraman and explained that the situation in Australia was quite different and inapplicable to the situations in the developing countries. However, he agreed to explore and reconsider the proposal and suggested that the Council submit the Terms of Reference and the Theme of the seminar so that he could discuss this with his Board of Directors. If the Board agreed, the seminar could be held in 1977.

Mr. Kularajah said that in the cooperative management conference held in Manila last year, the point emerged that the elected Board of Directors were interfering in the day-to-day management of the Cooperatives. Particularly in financial management they were all laymen and tried to deal with what they did not know. The year 1975 has been a very bad year for Malaysia. He still thought that Australia was a better venue for this seminar. Mr. Hunter pointed out to the meeting that the seminar would obviously be at a fairly high level, and therefore the participants coming to this seminar should be able to absorb the training. He however said that he was not in position to commit himself to anything at this stage. For the

last two years the responsibilities of Directors of all organisations, Cooperative and Non-Cooperative, had been heavy. They had been asked to shoulder responsibilities of a high order. The Board of Directors wanted to help in selling and buying. There was always some communication gap between the elected board of directors and the man in charge of large societies. For taking proper and timely decisions the feed-back of information by the managers to the boards of directors was essential. Mr. Hunter said that assuming the seminar was held in Australia he would expect the participants to be General Managers or Chief Executives and Directors. Mr. Weeraman suggested that there should be a Resource Person from Japan. Mr. Hunter did not agree with this.

He thought that all the Resource Persons should be from Australia. He further said that if the Council gave him the Terms of Reference he would communicate the decision of his Board in two and half months time.

(b) Women and Cooperatives : Mr. Rana reported that the Council had suggested in the previous meeting that the member organisations should constitute National Committees of Women Cooperators for developing educational programmes for women in cooperatives. The Council had also recommended that an International Committee of Women Cooperators be constituted. India and Malaysia had already constituted National Committees of Women. Dr. Saxena hoped that some work programmes for women would be formulated.

Mr. Kularajah said that he had received reports from Malaysian participants that the International Seminar for women organised by the Swedish Cooperative Centre in Stockholm was a great success. He requested the Council to record its appreciation of SCC's efforts in this connection and suggested that a letter be addressed to the SCC informing them of the Council's appreciation.

(c) Teacher Training Programme in Turin : Mr. Rana reported that on their return from the ICA Congress held in Paris, Mr. Weeraman and he visited Turin and discussed this programme with the ILO International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training. It was decided at this meeting that Part I of this course would be in Poona in India and Part II would be held in Turin (Italy). The financial burden would be shared by the ICA ROEC and the ILO. The travel expenses would be borne by the ILO. The Course would take in 25 participants. A memorandum setting out the objectives of the course, and the qualifications required of the participants along with letters of invitations had already been sent out. The qualifications of participants for this course are that they should be working as teachers in National or Regional Cooperative Colleges teaching Cooperative Management and Cooperative business practices. These

teachers should have 5 years of teaching experience. The ICA ROEC desires that the capacity of this course should be fully utilised. The selection of participants would be made jointly by the ICA and the ILO. It is expected that persons of high calibre would be selected for this course and member organisations have been requested to select high level teachers for this course. Teachers include Principals. The quota of participants for each country is two. However member organisations have been requested to send additional nominations for consideration in the event of there being vacancies.

Dr. Saxena said that in the long perspective of collaboration between the ICA and the ILO, it was extremely important that this course should be a success. Mr. Rana said that the ILO had agreed to keep their member-governments and Area Offices informed of this training programme.

Section II : Review of Education Activities December 1975–November 1976

35. Mr. Rana reported on the activities of the Education Centre carried out since the last meeting of the Council (7.12.75).

(1) An Orientation Seminar for Asian Women Cooperators was held at the ICA ROEC from 29th March to 2nd April 1976.

(2) A Regional Seminar on Cooperative Insurance and Promotion of Savings was held in collaboration with the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan, the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA), the Cooperative Insurance Federation and the Central Cooperative Bank for Agriculture and Forestry of Japan in Tokyo from 1st to 21st September 1976.

(3) A National Seminar on Cooperative Farming was held by the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka with assistance of the ICA ROEC from 16-30th June 1976 at Colombo.

(4) ICA/NCUI Cooperative Education Field Project, Indore District, India

As agreed between the ICA and the NCUI the project in Indore District had been transferred to the NCUI on 1st July 1976 and the NCUI had assumed full responsibility for running the project. The success of the project had prompted the NCUI to start 15 similar projects in 10 cooperatively less developed States of India.

Mr. Weeraman informed the Council that the FAO was thinking of sending a Fact-Finding Mission to India to study the Indore Project with a view to assisting its replication in other parts of India.

(5) Cooperative Education Materials Advisory Service (CEMAS):

Mr. Rana informed that he had already given information about this service in the morning when the country background paper of Philippines was discussed.

(6) Cooperative Education Field Project

Mr. Rana said that the ICA ROEC had made a proposal to start a Cooperative Education Field Project on the lines of the Indore Project, in Indonesia in collaboration with the Dewan Koperasi Indonesia. Mr. Rana requested Mr. Eddiwan to give the latest information on this matter to the Council. Mr. Eddiwan stated that they had already written to the ICA on this subject saying that they were not in a position to start this project in the beginning of 1977 and that they would write to the ICA again. Mr. Rana said that the ICA would send some one to Indonesia to carry out a feasibility study of this proposal. In fact the Council had recommended that the ICA should start two such projects but on account of financial constraints, the ICA had agreed to start only one such project.

(7) Consultative and Allied Services

Mr. Rana mentioned that the ICA had rendered two kinds of services under this heading. One was the ICA personnel acting as Resource Persons delivering talks and lectures at training programmes in some countries of the Region, and the other service was the participation of the ICA personnel in technical meetings organised by U.N. organisations and other international organisations. Mr. Kularajah appreciated the good work done by the ICA.

Section III : Programme of Activities for July 1977 to June 1978

36. Mr. Rana presented the programme of activities the ICA ROEC proposed to carry out during the year July 1977 to June 1978 for the approval of the Council.

1. Regional Seminar in Japan : This was the normal activity which was carried out every year in September in collaboration with the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives and the IDACA of Japan. The subject of the next seminar had been discussed with the Central Union and Mr. Togawa of IDACA and their decision was awaited.

Mr. Taguchi said that the Central Union and the IDACA had suggested that the subject of the seminar should be "Management of Agricultural Cooperatives" with special reference to multi-purpose cooperatives. The Council approved of the subject.

Mr. Aziz of Malaysia said that the study of fishery cooperatives also should be included in the regional seminar to be held in Japan. Mr. Rana said that he would take this up with the Japanese member movement.

2. Regional Seminar on the "Development of Cooperative Housing in S.E. Asia"

Mr. Rana said that the ICA usually held two regional seminars in a year and accordingly proposed that the second regional seminar should be on the subject, "Development of Cooperative Housing in S.E. Asia". He added that the last seminar on this subject was held in 1970 - six years ago, in Malaysia. The need of cooperative housing had continued to remain urgent. The ICA now had a Cooperative Housing Expert with them.

The Council agreed with the proposal and suggested that the dates for this seminar could be either in the month of November or December 1977.

Mr. Pradit Machima agreed that the Cooperative League of Thailand would host the seminar in Bangkok, Thailand, and stated that he would inform the ICA of the dates convenient to the League for holding the seminar.

3. Open Asian Conference OR Top Level Cooperative Leaders Conference

Mr. Rana explained that he had placed two alternative proposals before the Council for consideration. One was the Open Asian Conference. The ICA has been holding these Open Asian Conferences since 1975. The proposed Asian Conference was the 3rd in the series. These conferences are held on a self-financing basis. The other proposal was a Top Level Cooperative Leaders Conference. The last top level conference was held in Japan 3 years ago (1973). It was worthwhile to hold such top level conferences periodically, say every four years, to discuss important matters of topical interest. The ICA could hold only one of these meetings in the coming year.

Mr. Kularajah said that the ICA should continue to hold Open Asian Conferences on a self-financing basis and that if the Dewan Koperasi Indonesia agreed the conference could be held either before or after the Council meeting.

Mr. Eddiwan stated that they were not against Open Asian Conferences, but they would like to know the subject of the conference. Indonesia agreed in principle to hold this conference. Mr. Kularajah suggested that the subject of the conference could be "Cooperative Management with special reference to Member Communication, Staff Relations and Manpower Development". The subject was approved by the Council and accepted by Mr. Eddiwan.

Regarding the Top Level Cooperative Leaders Conference, Mr. Kularajah stated that the last top level conference held in Japan was a great success and that the ICA should hold such conferences. Mr. Weeraman added that a Top Level Conference was a useful exercise once in four years. It was agreed that a Top Level Cooperative Leaders Conference should be held in 1978 as a preparatory meeting for the ICA Congress to be held in 1980.

4. Case Studies in Leadership and Management

Mr. Rana said that in accordance with the decision of the Council at its last meeting, three case studies had been proposed, out of which two studies had already been carried out and the reports of these studies were under preparation. These were:-

1. Sepah Consumers Cooperative of Iran, carried out by Dr. Dharm Vir.
2. Phrankorn Cooperative Consumer Store, Bangkok, Thailand, carried out by Mr. M.K. Puri.

The third study would be made by Mr. Lionel Gunawardana in the Republic of Korea before the end of June 1977.

The Council approved of making three similar in-depth case studies in the coming year.

Dr. Saxena suggested that if the case studies carried out revealed a negative picture, the studies should not be published. The time allotted for the case studies appeared to be too short to Dr. Saxena. But Mr. Weeraman felt that it might be difficult to spare the ICA specialists and experts for longer periods. Prof. Yadao felt that the publication of studies which are adverse is not sound, for then nothing could be learnt from such studies. Dr. Saxena suggested that in such cases, the report of such a study should be treated as a highly classified document and its distribution made only to a limited circle. In such studies a strategy should be adopted. Mr. Rana mentioned about the difficulties of getting suitable national counterparts for conducting the case studies. The selection was very difficult. Prof. Yadao suggested that the services of universities should be utilised for recruiting counterparts. Mr. Kularajah disagreed with this suggestion. He was of the opinion that studies carried out by

university teachers tended to be more academical than practical as they did not have any field experience. Prof. Yadao said that there were some university teachers who had teaching as well as working experience and they could be utilised for such studies. Mr. Hunter agreed with Prof. Yadao. He cited the example of Harvard University. Dr. Saxena explained that this situation existed because of the British tradition in India and Malaysia and the American tradition in the Philippines. Mr. Weeraman felt that the ICA was short of people whilst there were so many case studies to be made.

Dr. Newiger of the FAO stated that the FAO had some experience in this field and they had framed a policy in matters like this. The policy of the FAO was that (1) whatever study or research was to be carried out would be entrusted to the local institutions such as a university. Their experience had been that local institutions were more appropriate bodies to conduct such studies. The FAO only prepared the framework or the outline of the study or research on the basis of which the local institutions would carry out the study adjusting the outline to suit local conditions.

5. Demonstration Project in the Field of Teacher Training

Mr. Rana said that the ICA member-organisation in Sri Lanka had agreed to have this project in their country. A Swedish expert, Dr. L. Skaaret, had carried out a feasibility study. The report was now with the ICA. The ICA would study this report and then take suitable action.

6. Meeting of the South-East Asian Specialists Group on Cooperative Training (SEASPECT)

Mr. Rana informed the Council that the date of the next meeting of this Group had to be changed in view of the second part of the Teachers Training Programme in Turin. This meeting would now be held in February 1977. Nominations had been received from six countries.

The NGUI had suggested some modification to the Constitution of SEASPECT viz. that persons in administrative charge of training should also be included in the Group. When the Constitution was approved, it was envisaged that this group would be a highly technical group. The work of this group would be directly relevant to the teaching work done in National Training Centres, such as production of teaching material, identification of gaps and needs of production material, teaching techniques,

curricula, etc. Mr. Faustino said that as the work of the SEASPECT was of a highly technical nature, the work should be entrusted to technical people only. The group now proposed should be kept as it is. Mr. Taguchi informed the Council that the Principal of the Central Cooperative College, who was also one of the Directors of CUAC, was unable to attend the meetings of SEASPECT because of some difficulties. Mr. Rana suggested that the Principal could nominate one of his senior staff members to attend this meeting. He said that this meeting would be held in February 1977 for two weeks. Mr. Tiwari said that the NCUI had made its points clear. The opinion expressed by it was reasonable. However he would not press the matter.

7. Dr. Newiger's Remarks

At this point in the discussions, Dr. Newiger of the FAO intervened and asked permission to say a few words as he had to leave the meeting. He thanked the ICA and the members of the Council for inviting him to attend this meeting. He considered this meeting as a very important one in which he learnt a good deal about the ICA activities in this region. The discussions were very stimulating and purposive. He hoped that with this meeting a very fruitful and meaningful collaboration between the FAO and the ICA had begun. He extended special words of thanks to the President, Mr. Kerinec, and the Director, Dr. Saxena, of the ICA and Mr. Weeraman the Regional Director for making this collaboration possible. Dr. Newiger expressed his grateful thanks to the Iranian hosts for their fine hospitality.

8. Women and Cooperatives

After some discussion the Council decided that the proposed Asian Council of Women Cooperators be formed after National Committees of Women Cooperators had been formed in all the countries of this Region. Mr. Tiwari suggested that instead of constituting a separate council of women cooperators, some women cooperators could be invited to sit in the ICA Council for South-East Asia. Mr. Tiwari even wanted some women cooperators to be represented on the Executive Committee of the ICA. Dr. Saxena said that it was for the national bodies to elect women to this body. Mr. Kularajah agreed with Mr. Tiwari's suggestion. Mr. Rana informed the Council that Sri Lanka was carrying out a survey on the "Role of Women and the extent of their participation in the Cooperative Movement". If any other member-movement wished to make a similar survey and needed the ICA's assistance, the ICA would provide this during the next year but this assistance could be made available to only one country during 1977-78.

/with the
assistance
of the ICA.

Mr. Rana also informed the Council that during the current year the ICA would assist member-movements in conducting national basic courses in Cooperation for women cooperators.

9. National Seminars

Mr. Rana informed the Council that once in-depth case studies have been made and reports on them have been issued, short National Seminars would be held in those countries on the subject of leadership and management as a follow-up action on the case studies.

10. Consultative Services

The subject areas in which the ICA had specialists were (i) Education Methods, (ii) Agricultural Cooperation, (iii) Consumer Cooperation, (iv) Housing Cooperation, and (v) Cooperative Law.

Mr. Rana informed the Council that the ICA ROEC would be able to assist member-movements in holding National Seminars and provide consultative services on request in those subject areas.

11. Member-Education

Referring to the Indian problem of Member-Education, Mr. Tiwari requested the ICA to assist the Indian Movement in formulating a Member-Education programme which is cheap as well as effective for the massive membership of the Indian Cooperatives. The existing education programmes were totally inadequate for the 60 million membership of the Indian Cooperative Movement. He requested the Council to have a study made of this problem of the Indian Movement with a view to finding out ways and means by which the member education programme could be effectively carried out in as short a period as possible.

Mr. Kularajah agreed with the views expressed by Mr. Tiwari and said that the question of member education was a very very important one and he would like to remind the members of the Council that the ICA/was first established to carry out member /ROEC education programmes mainly and that they did a good job of it but 16 years had now passed and there had been many changes in the region both in the methods and the practices of Cooperation. It was therefore time for the ICA to have a second look at the member-education programme in the various countries of this region. He suggested that the ICA should carry out a study of the member-education programmes currently undertaken by its member-movements and record its findings. He was aware that this

was an immense task covering the 60 million membership in India and another 40 million in the rest of the region. He felt that rationalisation of member-education programmes in the region was needed. The ICA should report whether the present methods were right, or whether some new methods could be introduced. He wanted the ICA ROEC to make positive recommendations on a member-education programme for the next 5 years. He added that this was not intended to be a criticism of what had been done by the ROEC so far. The suggestion was made to see if something new could be introduced. Except in Australia and Japan, the member education programmes had not been as effective as one would have liked. Something ought to be done about it. The specialists in the ROEC with the assistance of specialists in the ICA Headquarters alongwith the specialists in the local movements in the region, and perhaps more **technical** experts from Japan could join hands and make a study by which the member movements in this region would greatly benefit. Mr. Kularajah said that this was his fervent plea.

Mr. Weeraman said that the first thing was to make an assessment of the member education programme of each country and see what should be done.

Mr. Togawa said that the member education programme in Japan had particular relevance to the national movement only, whereas cooperative training or staff training was **applicable** to other countries also. The member education programme in Japan was shaped by the historical conditions of Japan which were quite different from that of other countries and therefore their programme had no relevance to the conditions prevailing in other countries. In his opinion there could not be a proto-type member education programme suitable for all countries and all situations. Each national movement should design its own programme according to its needs.

Mr. Tiwari explained that when he asked for assistance in designing a suitable member education programme for India, he wanted the ICA to suggest the methodology and techniques which would help in carrying out the programme as quickly as possible and as cheaply as possible.

Mr. Togawa said that the member education programmes of each country must conform to its historical and socio-economic conditions in order to be effective.

Mr. Kularajah requested that Mr. Weeraman should make an assessment of the existing member education methods in the Region.

Mr. Hunter supplementing Mr. Kularajah's remarks said that a research study should be carried out by the ICA in order to identify the needs and/or priorities of the type of education necessary for each country and this could be done by the member

countries having regard to the historical and political background of each country. It was essential that priorities be established first. Mr. Faustino made a suggestion that each National Movement should indicate the overall educational design and purpose and how ICA could step in and make an assessment. Mr. Weeraman explained that when he said "Assessment" he included the fixing of priorities and steps for improving the situation. Dr. Saxena summed-up the discussion by saying that the consensus of the Council was that the ICA should prepare its own overall framework and send it to all member organisations as a first step. He felt that taking stock of member education programmes of 14 countries was a very **big** task. It involved a lot of material in local languages and diversities of all kinds. The first step was therefore for the Regional Office to develop a framework of enquiry and check with member-organisations. This overall enquiry was likely to be extremely expensive. The framework should contain the priorities that the ICA considers proper and the ICA should send it out for the reactions of the member-organisations.

Mr. Kularajah thought that the exercise was not that expensive **as** the ROEC knew the background. Mr. Weeraman said that the ICA should not fix the priorities before the study was made. Mr. Rana thought that the results of such a study would depend upon the support of the member organisations and their willingness to participate in this enquiry. The ROEC could, as suggested by Dr. Saxena, work out guidelines and priorities on the basis of which the member movements could make an in-depth study. The ICA could make a study of two or three countries on a selective basis and suggest certain priorities which could be regarded as useful guidelines for member education work. These could then be adapted and fitted to local situations as underlined by Mr. Togawa. Mr. Kularajah said that the ICA had held over 100 seminars and at all these seminars papers had been presented giving information about country situations. It only needed some one from the ROEC to study these papers. Dr. Saxena wanted to know if Mr. Kularajah's suggestion was that the ICA ROEC should study and analyse the existing material available and make its recommendations on the basis of this. Mr. Faustino then suggested that this available information could be up-dated by making visits to those countries.

Mr. Rana stated that he was very happy and felt encouraged by the interest and response of the Council in regard to the member education programme. Dr. Vir and he had felt discouraged by the existing member education programmes. Until 1973 or 1974 the ICA had organised a large number of seminars both regional and national on the subject of member education and had also conducted Fellowship Programmes of 3 or 6 months and at least one person from each country had participated in this programme. The response to this programme had not been so good.

Mr. Kerinec thought that the man in charge of member education work should convince the managers and leaders of cooperatives that it was a good investment to support all programmes which are aimed at improving member education methods. Mr. Togawa commending the work of the ICA in this field said that new ways and means must be found to increase and evoke the interest of the people in Cooperation. To do this, the measures and methods adopted should suit the social conditions of the country. Basically, this was the responsibility of the national movement, but at the same time the ICA should help the national movements in this task. Mr. Aziz suggested that the ICA could collect the mass of information contained in the papers presented at the various international, regional and national seminars held in that country. Even the reports of annual general meetings of cooperatives could give a great deal of information.

Mr. Weeraman agreed that the ICA could use all the information available, whatever was available or published in the English language. But the problem was that quite a lot of information was in local languages. The communication between the ICA and its member organisations was very bad. If each movement appointed a man to give the ICA the needed information and an assessment of the situation in his country that would help, Dr. Saxena said that if there was 20 per cent response from member organisations it was considered reasonable. Mr. Kerinec suggested that the man appointed to give information and communicate with the ICA should have some authority or power.

Mr. Weeraman agreed that the ICA should do something in a year or so. He requested the members to send their assessment in the next three months and the ICA would make a study and give its own assessment within a year. Mr. Rana suggested that a high level or senior officer should be put in charge of the member education programme in each movement. Mr. Weeraman thought that the assessment should also be made at a high level.

12. Special Studies

Mr. Tiwari mentioned the problems arising in the wake of the new economic programme started by the Prime Minister of India. The problems were three-fold.

1. Distribution of agricultural land to landless people. The number of such landless people ran into millions. They did not have money to pay the share capital to join cooperatives in order to get assistance from cooperatives.
2. Sites for the construction of houses. The number of such people also ran into several hundred thousands.

3. Legislation in some States of India abolishing private money-lending. This had created hardships to poor people inasmuch as there was no alternative agency to provide credit to poor people for **buying** consumer needs.

Mr. Tiwari requested the ICA to make a study of these problems and suggest ways by which the cooperatives could help the people in these three fields.

13. Committee on Consumer Cooperation for S.E. Asia

Mr. Rana informed the meeting that the First Asian Conference on Consumer Cooperation held in Malaysia in 1974 had recommended the constitution of a Working Committee on Consumer Cooperation for the Region. The ICA took time about this as it did not have on its staff an expert on Consumer Cooperation. After Mr. Puri joined the ICA ROEC office, the work was taken up as suggested by the Conference. The ROEC had prepared a draft Constitution for the Committee. It was given on pp. 24-27 of the agenda notes. Mr. Rana suggested that the Council should go through the draft constitution clause by clause.

Mr. Weeraman intervened and said that before the Council took up the draft constitution, he wanted to suggest that instead of naming the body as ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for S.E. Asia, it should be named as ICA Sub-Committee on Consumer Cooperation as the ICA has already a main Committee on Consumer Cooperation in London. Mr. Kerinec agreed with Mr. Weeraman's suggestion and said that the ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation was formed only a few years ago and its secretariat is in Paris. They had made many mistakes in the beginning and the ICA ROEC could learn from these mistakes. It was the right moment to form this Sub-Committee. "The ICA, London could give you a lot of material and exchange a lot of experience. The quorum should be at least five persons. Three is not enough." Dr. Saxena said that the ICA could become truly international if it extended the work of its auxiliary committees. He informed the Council that if the Council approved the Constitution now, he would then place it before the Executive Committee of the ICA in March and get its approval.

Mr. Kularajah moved a motion that the Constitution with amendments suggested by the Council be accepted by the Council. He also moved that Mr. M.K. Puri should be the Secretary of this Sub-Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eddiwan and was carried.

14. Multi-national Corporations and their effect on Cooperatives

Mr. Rana invited the attention of the Council to its decision taken the previous day regarding the constitution of a Sub-Committee with him as Secretary to draft a Resolution on the question of the operations of Multi-national Corporations and their effect on cooperatives. Dr. Saxena said that the objective of this exercise was two-fold: (i) to increase the competitiveness of cooperatives; (ii) to create a cooperative lobby in the governments. When the ICA informs the member-movements they must take up the question with their governments and pressurise their governments. Mr. Hunter said that the points made by Dr. Saxena be added to the resolution. Mr. Faustino seconded. The following resolution was adopted:-

RESOLUTION:

The 18th Meeting of the Regional Council for S.E. Asia held in Tehran, Iran, on the 7th and 8th November 1976 notes the resolution adopted by the Open Conference held in Paris on the 23 September 1976 by the ICA Agricultural Committee and the IFAP Standing Committee on Agricultural Cooperation and the submission made by the Council Member for Australia regarding the threat posed by the Multi-national Corporations to the progress of cooperatives;

URGES the cooperative movements in the Region to study the impact of multinational corporations on the activities of the cooperatives and on their farmer and consumer members and to take fast and energetic action to increase the competitiveness of cooperatives by rationalising their structures horizontally and vertically, by completely integrating agricultural production and marketing and by improving management efficiency through appropriate manpower training and development programmes and any other means;

RECOMMENDS to the cooperative movements of the Region to create cooperative lobbies in their respective countries with a view to persuading their governments to take necessary measures to limit the economic power of the multi-nationals;

CALLS upon the cooperative movements of the Region to devise joint programmes on a regional basis and to give their full support to the speedy development of ICTO;

CALLS UPON the ICA Regional Office to prepare a document for submission to its Head Office representing the views of the movements of the Region for assisting the latter in its task of formulating a practicable cooperative strategy to counter the world-wide expansion of the multi-nationals.

Agenda Item No. 8 : Technical Assistance & Promotion of Trade

1. Technical Assistance

37. Mr. M.K. Puri reported that some projects had been placed before the Council for securing assistance from developed countries. Mr. Hunter had suggested that the ICA ROEC could process the projects and send it to him along with feasibility study reports for securing assistance. The report was sent to the Cooperative Federation of Australia and the CFA took up the matter with the Australian Development Agency in April 1976. The CFA informed the ICA ROEC that it was not possible to find assistance. The NACF project for a Fruit and Vegetable Processing Plant was also submitted to the Australian Federation for exploring the possibility of securing financial assistance from the Australian Development Assistance Programme. In April 1976, the Federation informed the ICA ROEC that it was not possible for them to find funds at that point of time. Later the ICA received a communication from the Federation that it might be possible for them to consider the NACF project. The ICA wrote to them. Mr. Puri requested Mr. Hunter to inform the Council of the latest position. Mr. Hunter informed that the Government has shown willingness to assist the project but wanted more information. Mr. Puri said that the Feasibility Study prepared by a person from the USA was sent to the Federation but the Federation again informed that it had failed to find the needed assistance. Mr. Hunter asked the ICA ROEC to re-submit the application and he would take it up with the Government of Australia.

2. Asian Cooperative Development Bank

38. Mr. Puri informed the Council that at the last meeting of the Council it was decided that an Asian Cooperative Development Bank be established instead of the Asian Cooperative Bank as it was found that it was not possible to do both trading and providing development finance. A Committee was set up to take action to establish the ACDB. The Committee consisted of Mr. J. Sassani (Chairman), Mr. Basuki and Mr. Ismail and one person from the Japanese movement and this Committee had submitted a memorandum on the establishment of this bank. The earlier decision was to start the bank with an

equity capital of one million US dollars. But it was not possible to have a bank with one million dollars as equity. The further generation of capital, the rate of interest on lending and borrowing etc., were questions which needed study. Therefore a preliminary investigation was necessary. Accordingly Mr. Puri had undertaken the study and had prepared a preliminary investigation report. After the study he had come to the conclusion that it was not possible to establish the bank with an equity of one million. At least an equity capital of US dollars 3 million would be necessary. The other question would be the generation of further capital for lending. It would be difficult to mobilise 3 million dollars as capital. If the Bank was to raise capital by borrowing, then it would need some kind of support or guarantee. Equity capital raised from member organisations in the Region would not be an adequate guarantee for mobilising funds from the international money market. Even established banks which had already built up a reputation and rating had found it difficult to raise capital by borrowing. The experience of ADB was that it would be difficult to borrow from the international money market on the basis of equity capital from our own members. A good deal of our capital would have to come from the governments of affluent countries. If the bank is to generate further capital, it would be necessary to have as members cooperative movements which enjoy international reputation or have international standing.

39. Another point for consideration was that for the first five years even the ADB could not enter the international money market for raising capital. It was necessary for them to first establish their reputation through efficient and successful performance and competent management. Therefore the proposed Bank would have to depend on its own resources at least for the first 5-7 years. So we need equity capital of not only 3 million but also need money for administrative costs. This would be possible only if we have the support of cooperative institutions from affluent countries. Currencies of some countries in this region are not convertible except Japan, Australia and Singapore.

40. Then there was the question of rate of interest. The international money market was **very tight**. The rate of interest on loans ranged from 9 per cent. The ADB borrowed at 8.75 per cent and the Canadian Bank issued bonds for six years at 9 per cent. There has been a further increase in the rate of interest in the international market of affluent countries. It is $9\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 per cent. Therefore our lending rate cannot be less than 13 per cent. Our own administrative costs would be 1 per cent. The ADB's operating costs come to about 2.9 per cent. Our lending has to be through member organisations as we would not be able to supervise loans given by the Bank direct. The national movements would also ask for 2 per cent for their risk. All this would mean that the rate of interest to the borrower would work out to 13 per cent. He had doubts whether this rate of interest would be acceptable. We must get some soft loans from international financial institutions like the IDA, World Bank or

other international sources. On commercial loans it would not be possible for the proposed ACDB to advance loans for development purposes.

41. Another problem was the government taxation policy in each country. The bank's profits would be taxable. Other problems likely to be faced by the proposed bank had been mentioned in the note attached to the agenda notes as appendix "A". The membership of ADB is limited to governments only and confined only to the governments in the region. The governments in the 14 countries of this region where the ICA has membership are also members of the ADB where they enjoy certain privileges, amenities and concessions. There is also an Asian Development Fund created by the ADB to which affluent countries have promised contributions. Out of this fund, the ADB is granting concessional loans on which only one per cent interest is charged and the loans are repayable in 40 years with a grace period of another 10 years. This is possible because they have access to the soft loans. Therefore this proposal is not economically feasible, and will have to be shelved. We may move this proposal in the international forum to ascertain the views of affluent countries whether they can help this bank. He suggested that we discuss the proposal with the Bank in Basel and with the Secretary of the Banking Committee in our Head Office in London.

42. Mr. Kularajah proposed that in the circumstances the proposal should be dropped for six years, say until 1982. The proposal could be re-opened after 1981. Dr. Saxena agreed with this view. He said that the ICA had spent a lot of time and money on this proposal. It was advisable to put this proposal in cold storage. The point made out by Mr. Puri about the high rate of interest of 13 per cent is not valid. This rate was not really high. The ICA had a Liaison Committee on Cooperative Thrift and Credit. The ICA had held a conference in 1974 on Cooperative Thrift and Credit. There was a proposal now to have a programme on cooperative credit unions for development at the international level. This programme is being supported in terms of a feasibility study by the Canadian CIDA. Two experts, Mr. St. Seigens, formerly of FAO, and one more person with a Banking background from Canada will spend about 4 to 6 months in making a full enquiry formulating a suggestion for a mechanism for transfer of funds from affluent countries. The ICA, London, will keep the Regional Office informed on this development.

3. Pending Proposals for Assistance

43. Mr. Puri then reported that there were four old pending projects for assistance. They were (i) The Fruits and Vegetable Processing Project of the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of the Republic of Korea; (ii) The Fishery Project of Zambales Province in the Philippines. The ICA was trying to get assistance from the

International Development Authority of Canada through the Cooperative Union of Canada. The ICA head office in London had agreed to discuss this project with the Canadian Cooperative Union; (iii) The Swedish gift to the Bangladesh Handicraft Cooperative Federation. At the request of the SCC the ICA ROEC had sent this money to Bangladesh on 18th June 1976. The amount involved was Sw.Kr. 3,000/- for the purchase of spindles and looms for a woollen rug project in the Rajshahi District in Bangladesh; (iv) Gift of Irrigation Equipment and Incubators to the Rangunia Thana Central Cooperative Association in Bangladesh. The equipment had already reached Bangladesh.

4. Fresh Proposals for Assistance

44. Mr. Puri mentioned that there were four fresh proposals for technical assistance. They were:

- i. A Fertilizer Plant for the benefit of the Cooperative Movement in Pakistan which was not withdrawn by Pakistan.
- ii. A request from the Bhor Dairy in India for 10 tons of skim milk powder, from the German Consumers Cooperative Congress. Mr. Hunter said that it was advisable to make use of the funds available from Germany for purchase of machinery and should not be used for purchase of milk powder. He also thought that the balance amount made available by Germany as assistance to Bhor Dairy should be used for purchase of any machinery and that the purchase of milk powder for Bhor Dairy should be entrusted to ICTO or to Australia.
- iii. There was a proposal from the Philippines Cooperative Credit Union at Olangapo in the Philippines. About 16,000 entertainers or hostesses in this place had formed a cooperative. The cooperative movement in the Philippines had supported the request of this cooperative for financial assistance in the form of audio-visual equipment. The proposal was under the consideration of the ICA ROEC.

Mr. Faustino furnished further information regarding this cooperative. A cooperative had been registered with 15,000 members with a share capital of Pesos 50,000/-. The assistance this cooperative needed was in the field of education material. The organiser of this unique cooperative was a blind man called Mr. Maniken. A study was also being undertaken in which the ILO was also interested. The government had also asked for assistance.

Members from Sri Lanka and India stated that the organisation of such cooperatives had a great social content and significance as their purpose was to rehabilitate an exploited class of society. The effort of the cooperative movement in the Philippines was noteworthy and deserved appreciation.

- iv. A request from the Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka for assistance to buy audio-visual equipment and for a Printing Press for the 26 Education Centres. The proposal was under examination. The cost of this proposal was about £84,000/-. There were two possible donors for this proposal, the Canadian Development Authority and the Cooperative League of the USA. Before recommending assistance by these two organisations, the ICA ROEC had asked for a copy of the Survey Report on the Educational Needs of the Sri Lanka Cooperative Education Centres for examination. This report was awaited.

Dr. Saxena mentioned that the UNESCO and the World Bank were also willing to assist education programmes and the ICA ROEC should examine this source of assistance also.

5. Japanese Gift of Films on Consumer Cooperatives to ICA ROEC

45. Mr. Puri reported that the Nada-Kobe Consumer Cooperative Society at Kobe, Japan, had made a gift of two films (16mm) on the subject of "Cooperation and Cooperative Brands Rearing", and "Living in Cooperation". Mr. Puri further said that he had the chance of seeing one of the films during his recent visit to Japan. The films were very useful and he proposed that the Council should place on record its thanks to the National Consumer Federation of Japan for this gift.

6. ICTO

46. Mr. Puri said that the subject had already been discussed at length earlier and therefore there was no need of further discussion on this subject.

7. ILO Workshop on Strengthening of Inter-cooperative Trade Relations

47. Mr. Puri mentioned that there was a joint ILO/SIDA Project to hold a Workshop in the South-East Asian Region for the establishment and improvement of direct trade relations between the cooperatives in the developed countries and those of the developing countries. After this Workshop, three Experts will be appointed to work in the Region. The

ICA ROEC has asked the ILO to hold this Workshop in Singapore where it has already set up ICTO so that ICTO could also be involved in the Workshop. The ICA proposal had been accepted by the ILO and the ILO had agreed to shift the venue of the Workshop from Bangkok to Singapore. The ICA Head Office had advised the ROEC to explore possibilities of securing the collaboration of the International Trade Division of ESCAP. The ESCAP had already conducted a similar seminar in East Africa. It was also possible to find funds from ESCAP for holding a similar activity. ICA ROEC could also hold this as a separate activity.

48. Mr. Puri further reported that he had a meeting with the ESCAP people in Bangkok in September. The problem was of finding funds for this activity. The ILO was trying to get funds from Sweden for this activity. The International Trade Division of ESCAP had agreed to provide Resource Persons. The ILO said that it was not possible for it to finance this activity out of its regular budget. If Swedish financial help was not forthcoming, then the ILO would try to hold this Workshop out of its own budget. The Workshop was proposed to be held in the second half of February 1977 in Singapore. ICTO had suggested that the Workshop should be held in April or later. Mr. Kerinec suggested that the Chairman or General Manager of the INTERCOOP should be invited to attend this Workshop. Dr. Saxena said that he would keep in touch with the Regional Office regarding this matter. Mr. Puri said that the final selection of the participants of this Workshop would be made by ILO in consultation with the ICA in order to get the right type of participants.

49. Mr. Puri made another point. It was necessary to acquaint the ESCAP Experts with the nature of the problems of the cooperatives. He therefore suggested that country papers should be sent in advance to ESCAP and the ESCAP should prepare guidelines. Member movements should send their country papers to ESCAP direct.

50. Dr. Saxena said that the formulation of the programme and selection of the participants should be made by the ICA. Mr. Hunter informed the Council that the ICTO would be willing to adjust its time for the Workshop if that was necessary.

8. Study of the Role the Cooperative Movement could play in the task of Increasing Food Production in the countries served by the ICA ROEC

51. Mr. Puri said that as this matter had already been discussed in the Sub-Committee, it was not necessary to discuss it here again.

9. Joint Ventures with the Collaboration of two or more movements

52. Mr. Puri stated that the latest position regarding collaboration between two or more movements for joint ventures had been given in the agenda notes. He invited the members of the Council to

reconsider the position and make fresh recommendations. He said that he was of the opinion that the initiative for starting joint ventures should come from developed movements like Japan and Australia. The Indian Movement could also set up joint ventures in the field of sugar and fertilizer industry. Cooperative joint ventures need not be confined to countries within this region but could even be undertaken outside the region. He said that Sweden was willing to enter into joint ventures and the member movements in this region should take some initiative themselves and not wait for the initiative to come from outside.

53. Dr. Saxena said that there were a lot of problems involved in this. The Regional Office should examine this more closely and come up with suggestions.

10. Involvement of ICA and its Member-Organisations in the execution of UNDP assisted projects

54. Mr. Puri informed the Council that the assistance programme of the UNDP was similar to that of the F.A.O. Guidelines had been prepared by the UNDP in which four points had been underlined as very important :

- i) Decentralisation;
- ii) Economy;
- iii) Capability; and
- iv) Self-reliance

Mr. Puri said that the guidelines prepared by the UNDP had been appended to the Agenda Notes as appendix "B". The guidelines contained information on the formulation, execution and monitoring of the projects for assistance and the identification of the needs of projects. This assistance programme of the UNDP offered a lot of scope for cooperatives. Dr. Saxena informed the Council that the UNDP was experiencing liquidity problems. The ICA had asked its representative in the UN to send out a one-leaf note on ICA to each of the UNDP country representatives.

11. Collaboration between the ICA and the FAO

55. Already discussed vide minutes of the ICA Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Trade.

12. Co-financing Contracts between the Commission of the European Communities and Non-governmental Organisations for Development Schemes

56. Up to now the Commission of the European Communities had been assisting only projects received through the governments of the developing countries. They had now made a change in this policy. They

are now prepared to consider for assistance, projects sponsored by non-governmental organisations. They would meet 50% of the cost of such projects. But only projects which had the approval or endorsement of the government of the recipient country and projects which conform to the priorities of the recipient country would be qualified for assistance. Financial assistance to such projects would be limited to US\$ 100,000/- and the total cost of a project should not exceed US\$ 200,000/-.

57. Mr. Weeraman informed the Council that there were many proposals of assistance to developing countries by the UN agencies which could be taken advantage of by the cooperatives. He requested the members to send their requests for assistance to the ICA. The ICA was ready to help member organisations in the formulation of project outlines. Some worthwhile projects must be sent to the U.N. agencies for the assistance which is now made available by these agencies as a result of a change or shift in their policies.

58. Dr. Saxena added that if these projects could be sent to the ICA by the beginning of the year, it would give ICA enough time to approach the appropriate U.N. agencies for assistance. Mr. Kerinec also informed the meeting that the ICA had very good connections with the man in charge of the CEC (Commission of the European Community) and the ICA should send some information on the kind and type of assistance the CEC would be ready to give to each member-organisation in the Region.

13. Collaboration between the ICA and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

59. Mr. Puri informed the Council that the IDRC was a public corporation established under an Act of Parliament of the Canadian Government. This corporation had 4-5 regional offices at different places in different countries. There was one Regional Office at Singapore. The ICA ROEC had received information from the ICA Regional Office in Moshi, Tanzania, that they had been able to get some kind of collaboration from the IDRC Regional Office in Nairobi. They are prepared to consider assistance for research in social sciences. It should be possible for us to have collaboration with them for financing some of our research projects and for holding seminars and conferences to solve some of our problems. This question was being examined in the Regional Office.

Agenda Item No. 9 : Publications and Public Relations and Library Section

60. 1. Mr. Gunawardana informed the Council that the publications brought out by the ICA ROEC the previous year had been listed in the Agenda Notes. What is not mentioned in the Agenda Notes is the publication on the Open Conference on Cooperative Management.

61. Mr. Gunawardana reported to the Council that the ICA ROEC was now operating on a Revolving Fund for its publication activities. All these years, the money had come from Sweden for publications. The ICA ROEC was now getting money from Sweden for only its publicity work.

62. Regarding publicity work, the ICA ROEC was still having difficulties in collecting news from the member movements. Mr. Gunawardana requested the Council Members to give a little more cooperation in the matter of collection of news for the ICA Regional Bulletin.

2. Library

63. Mr. Gunawardana reported the documentation work being carried out by the library of the ICA ROEC. The librarian of the Sri Lanka Cooperative Council was being trained at the ICA ROEC library in New Delhi. The ICA ROEC had offered a scholarship for 2 months to the librarian to undergo training in library science and documentation work in the ICA library. The ICA ROEC's own librarian had also received advanced training in library work.

64. Finally, Mr. Gunawardana said that in the previous meeting of the Council the question was raised regarding getting news and information about the socio-economic conditions of cooperatives. He said that the ICA ROEC had now a wealth of information and material in the library. This information was freely given to interested parties. If members sought specific information, the ICA ROEC could supply this information and material.

Agenda Item No. 10 : Decisions and Recommendations of the ICA Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Trade for S.E. Asia

65. Mr. Weeraman said that there was nothing to add to what was decided at the Sub-Committee Meeting on November 6th. As all the Councillors were present at that meeting, there was no need to give a resume of the decisions taken there.

Agenda Item No. 11 : Relations with Member-organisations in the Region

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

Agenda Item No. 12 : Relations with International Organisations

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

Agenda Item No. 13 : Venue and Dates of the Next Meeting

68. Mr. Weeraman read the letter received from the Dewan Koperasi Indonesia inviting the ICA ROEC to hold its next Council meeting in Indonesia. Mr. Eddiwan suggested that the meeting be fixed for some time in December 1977. The Council noted this information with appreciation and thanked the Member for Indonesia for the invitation.

69. Mr. Pradit Machima, Member from Thailand, proposed that the 20th meeting of the Council be held in Chiangmai, Thailand, in 1978.

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

70. Mr. Eddiwan from Indonesia suggested that the name of the Council be changed to "ICA Council for Australasia" as Iran and Australia were not strictly in South-East Asia. Dr. Saxena said that this question had been discussed in the Executive Committee of the ICA and the decision was that the name should be kept as it is.

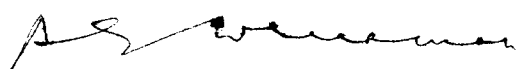
Agenda Item No. 15 : Meeting of the Board of Advisers of IDACA

71. Mr. Weeraman explained that the Meeting of the Board of Advisers would not form part of the Council agenda as was the case last year as he had received a letter from the Managing Director of IDACA, Mr. Togawa, that the meeting should be held separately. Mr. Weeraman therefore suggested that the practice of holding the IDACA Board Meeting separately be reverted to. The Council agreed with this proposal and it was decided that the IDACA Board meeting be held separately.

Agenda Item No. 16 : Vote of thanks to the Chair

72. Mr. Kularajah proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair.

New Delhi
18 January 1977


P.E. WEERAMAN
ICA Regional Director for S.E. Asia &
Secretary, ICA Council for S.E. Asia

Annexe

Speech made by H.E. Mr. A. Hoveyda, the Prime Minister
of Iran at the ICA Council Meeting at Tehran

I would like to congratulate all the participants in this gathering on the opening of the annual session of the Council of South Eastern Asian countries, hosted by the Iranian Government here in Tehran. Fortunately, the convening of this Council in Iran coincides with the auspicious occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Pahlavi Dynasty.

The Golden Anniversary of the Pahlavi Dynasty, in the Age-Old History of our nation, is reminiscent of half a century of hard work for the development of Iran and the revival of its timeless grandeur and cultural splendour.

One of the great social manifestations of this prosperous era is the emergence and expansion of the cooperative movement in this country. Cooperation in the western countries started some hundred and fifty years ago, but in our country it is hardly fifty years old. However thanks to a long tradition of religious teachings and moral instructions, collective work has long existed in this country, especially among rural people, and some remarkable characteristics of this cooperation can still be seen in many aspects of life in this country.

It is very fortunate that along with the development of the cooperative movement in the world, multi-faceted efforts are being made in our country to promote cooperation, particularly in recent years. The way has been paved for the development and promotion of cooperative organisations in our country.

We are all aware of the significant role played by cooperatives in enhancing living standards and the welfare of different classes of people and we well know that in the present age the cooperatives are the most effective instrument for the realization of economic and social aspirations and for securing the material and spiritual needs of humanity. In effect, in this period of history when extensive efforts are undertaken in various corners of the globe to maintain peace, tranquility and security in the world, we should need this basic principle that it is with the help of the principles of cooperation that materialization of joint objectives, firmer solidarity and mutual help can be achieved.

Our great leader, the Shahanshah Aryamehr, has repeatedly said that never before has the solution of economic and social problems been so dependent on self-help, willingness to cooperate among people, co-existence and the idea of cooperation at national and international level. Therefore, cooperatives constitute the basis for the successful application of a democratic economy. They provide the vital basis for peace and social justice throughout the world. The wider the public participation is in this great world movement, the greater will be its prospects of strength and success. Basic changes in various economic and social fields in our country have underlined the need for the promotion of a nationally oriented system of cooperation in the fast changing Iran of today.

More than ever before, this need and the positive results of cooperatives can be felt and seen in Iran and fortunately, in the light of the Shah-people revolution, and thanks to the blessing of cooperatives and imaginative collective cooperation among the people, it has been made possible for Iranians to enjoy greater security and welfare than at any other time in the nation's history.

It is obvious that with the better awareness of the significance of cooperation and its qualitative and quantitative development in modern Iran, the aims and aspirations of our revolution could be realised better and more fruitfully. The holding of such a meeting fortunately gives us a good opportunity to assess the past activities of cooperatives and to promote more and more the principles of cooperation, to encourage and foster the spirit of cooperation, self-help and collective work among the people.

In order to materialize this goal and promote a wide-based national system of cooperation, the people should become familiarized more and more with the concept of cooperation through extensive educational planning in order to show them the significance of cooperation and to make them dependent on cooperative ideals to set the scene for a healthy economy so that different classes of people in the society could enjoy a comfortable life characterized by social solidarity and equitable distribution of wealth, based on economic and social democracy.

It is hoped that the International Alliance of cooperatives as well as its affiliated advisory council of South Eastern Asian countries would succeed in the successful implementation of its plans. I wish success to all the participants in this session in their valuable task of achieving the higher goals lying ahead.

Speech made by H.E. Mr. Mansur Rohani, Minister of Agriculture,
Cooperation and Rural Affairs at the ICA Council Meeting
at Tehran

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen :

I would like to congratulate and welcome you to the 18th Council of International Cooperative Alliance for South-East Asia, the 11th Meeting of ICA Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Trade and the 14th Meeting of the IDACA Board of Advisors and wish you all the best in achieving the great Cooperative Objectives.

Cooperative concepts and collective work are deeply rooted in the Iranian society, particularly in the rural areas and dates back to a long distant as a major component of agricultural production. However, cooperation in its modern sense and in written laws and regulations can be considered as one of the great achievements of our social Revolution initiated some fifteen years ago. It is a great pleasure that the 18th Council of ICA is held in a country where great strides have been taken toward development and expansion of cooperative movement.

As an illustration I wish to refer to the total number of rural cooperative societies, nearly 3,000, with an approximate capital of 100,000,000 U.S. dollars which covers two and half millions rural families in 45,000 villages. These societies have in the past 15 years granted 1.5 billion dollars as low-interest rate loans to the farmer members and have supplied roughly 200,000 tons of improved seeds and one million metric tons of fertilizers. The latest statistics indicate that these cooperatives have purchased half a million tons of farm products, produced by the members, exclusively in this year.

The first Article of Shah-People Revolution, initiated by His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah Aryamehr was devoted to the Land Reform Programme. His Imperial Majesty in one of his speeches declared the need for the formation of rural cooperative societies, which has led to a very wide coverage for the cooperative network, an expansion which seemed quite far-reaching in 15 years ago.

Approval of Cooperative legislation, changing of the then Agricultural Bank to Agricultural Cooperative Bank - partly owned by the farmers - establishment of Central Organisation for Rural Cooperatives, as the agent responsible for the training and promotion of cooperatives, formation of the organization of the Urban and Rural Consumers Cooperatives, creation of more than one thousand Consumer Cooperatives, 700 credit cooperatives, and 540 housing cooperatives are just samples of the multi-faceted efforts made to promote cooperative movement in Iran. Development of cooperative concepts and ideas in every walk of life is one of the major objectives of the government.

Explanation of the achievements in the past decade will go beyond the patience of the meeting and I hope you will spare enough time to visit some of them.

Needless to say that my August Sovereign has repeatedly declared the cooperative movement as the key to the successful application of a democratic economy which will provide the basis for peace and social justice in the country and also the world.

The convening of the council presents a unique opportunity to evaluate the achievements, objectives and to exchange experiences of successful achievements in other countries.

Wishing you a most pleasant stay in Iran, and best success for the Council.

Speech made by Mr. Roger Kerinec, President,
International Cooperative Alliance, at the
ICA Council Meeting at Tehran.

Mr. President,
Your Excellency Mr. Prime Minister,
Your Excellency Mr. Minister of Agriculture,
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen :

As President of the International Cooperative Alliance, I wish to say that as Cooperators we are greatly honoured by your presence, and appreciate very much your gesture, which underlines the interest your Government is taking in the work of the Cooperative Movement.

Like everyone else, I am aware of the fact that as from 1963 - the year of the White Revolution - Iran has been involved in an accelerated process of development, and that it is within the frame of such a policy that the Government of this country has decided to promote cooperative activities in different fields; not only agriculture (with various types of cooperatives - credit, supply, collective farming, marketing) but also in distribution, housing, fisheries and so on. We know that your movement under the leadership of Mr. Sassani is one of the best in this Region.

It is now fifteen years since Iran began to show one of the most spectacular growth-rates in the world, a growth which it plans to maintain for many years ahead. But it is really a great challenge for any development effort - and cooperative development at that - when it has to be achieved in the context of a tremendous past history and with the prospect of such a fascinating future.

I imagine that this challenge will entail the solution of many very difficult problems. If I may be allowed to give my point of view, the fact that you are going to live in an affluent society with a population which is not yet quite used to it could be one of the reasons why you will have to plan your expansion, as you are already doing, I think.

Cooperation, I am quite sure, can help a great deal. It can contribute to a cultural and economic evolution without social disintegration. It can mobilise the energies of the people, a mobilisation which is necessary for all development of joint action for the benefit of the community. Of course, governments have a

major role to play in supporting the movement in its early stages, as you are doing, in order to help them to organise cooperatives and to acquire staff capable of managing them. As soon as possible however cooperatives must be run and sustained by the cooperators themselves if cooperatives are to be efficient. People must truly feel involved in them. If not, the cooperative movement can fail and nobody will worry about them.

As the President of the French Republic said a few weeks ago, when addressing the ICA Congress in Paris "the Cooperator is a person who is asked not to remain passive and, in a period when men have a tendency to hand over their own responsibility to others, and in particular to the State, Cooperation offers a positive conception of responsibility" and, I think that is true under all regimes which believe in Cooperation.

Your Excellencies, we also know your government is playing a very important role in the field of development. You have clearly defined your position in favour of active participation in the creation of a new economic world order, and the cooperators cannot but approve of such a policy. That is also what the ICA is aiming at, especially through the work of its Regional Offices. And that is why we are glad to hold the 18th meeting of the ICA Council for South-East Asia as well as the meetings of the Sub-Committee for Agriculture and Trade and of the Board of Advisers of the IDACA in Tehran.

I would like to thank the Iranian Cooperative Movement and especially, Mr. Sassani, for inviting me to participate in these meetings.

I am convinced that they will be very successful meetings for the benefit of all of us and especially the people involved in the cooperative movements in this part of the world.

Vote of thanks by Mr. P.E. Weeraman, ICA Regional Director for South-East Asia at the inauguration of the Eighteenth meeting of the ICA Council for South-East Asia on 6 November 1976 by His Excellency Mr. A. Hoveyda, Prime Minister of Iran

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my great privilege this morning to speak a few words on behalf of the International Cooperative Alliance, as its Regional Director for South-East Asia.

It would be presumptuous on my part to assume that the International Cooperative Alliance, commonly known as the ICA, needs no introduction to you.

The ICA is one but the oldest international non-governmental organisation in the world. It was formed 81 years ago, in 1895, in London where its headquarters have been up to now. Today it is the world body of the Cooperative Movement with a membership covering 65 countries and 326 million cooperators. It is thus not only one of the oldest but also the most widespread non-governmental organisation in the world. The ICA seeks to substitute for the profit-making regime a cooperative system of production and trade based on joint self-help and organised in the interests of the whole community. This it seeks to do in complete independence and by its own methods. By its very rules the ICA is neutral ground where people holding the most varied opinions and professing the most diverse creeds may meet and act in common. The ICA seeks to achieve unity of action by cooperators throughout the world.

The ICA started a Regional Office and Education Centre for South-East Asia in New Delhi in 1960. It serves fourteen countries from Iran to Japan and Australia. During its sixteen years of existence the Regional Office and Education Centre, with massive support from the Swedish Cooperative Centre, has held over one hundred technical meetings such as Experts and Policy-makers Conferences, Seminars and Workshops in

which nearly 4,000 have participated. It has a section for the coordination of technical assistance from developed movements and aid-giving agencies and for the promotion of international inter-cooperative trade. The most important achievement in this direction has been the setting-up of the International Cooperative Trading Organisation (the ICTO) at Singapore to facilitate cooperative selling as well as cooperative buying and ultimately to bring cooperative producers and cooperative consumers into direct trade relationships so that the producers will get more money for their products while those same products will be available at cheaper prices than before to the consumers, due to the elimination of the profit-making middlemen all along the line. The ICTO can pave the way to this paradoxical but nevertheless true situation. This can however be achieved only if large cooperative buyers and sellers will give up their established business with middlemen and work through ICTO, having the interests of the producers and consumers at heart. In the field of publications the Regional Office has published several books and booklets on very important subjects of concern to the Movement, the results of its own research and its technical meetings.

The Regional Office has specialists in the fields of Cooperative Law, Cooperative Administration, Cooperative Education, Educational Methods, Agricultural Cooperation, Consumer Cooperation and Cooperative Housing.

In all its work, the Regional Office is guided by the wholesome advice given by its Council - the ICA Council for South-East Asia - and its Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Trade with its two Working Groups on Fisheries and Trade. We expect to have a similar Sub-Committee on Consumer Cooperation. The ICA Council for South-East Asia is also the Board of Advisers of the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA). All these bodies will hold their meetings during these three days beginning today. Each national cooperative movement is represented by two Councillors, one for agricultural interests and the other for non-agricultural interests.

We have also with us today a special invitee in the person of Dr. Nicol Newiger, Head of the Human Resources Division of FAO. We have invited him to discuss with us the new policy of FAO in regard to small projects, for this can mean much progress for the Developing Countries of Asia.

The Council and its auxiliary groups meet every year in one of the countries served by the Regional Office on the invitation of one of its member movements. This is the second time we are meeting in Iran. The first such occasion was in 1969, one of the best sessions we have had so far.

And today, on behalf of the ICA, I take this opportunity to thank the Sepah Consumers Cooperative, one of ICA's member-organisations in Iran, and one of the best cooperatives in our entire Region, for the wonderful arrangements they have made for this year's meetings and the lavish hospitality they have extended to the delegates and the ICA. We are glad to see behind all this the hand of General Jalil Sassani, the cooperative leader of Iran. He was the leader in 1969 and today in spite of the elapse of seven years, we see him stronger than ever, both cooperatively and physically, and we express to him our best wishes for continued strength to his cooperative elbow.

We are heartened by the cooperation and assistance that he has received from the various ministries of the Government - the Prime Ministry, the Ministry of Cooperation and Rural Affairs, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources in whose beautiful amphitheatre we are meeting even before its formal inauguration.

We are very grateful to His Excellency Mr. Rohani, the Minister of Agriculture, Cooperation and Rural Affairs and Mr. Sadaghiani, the former Minister of Cooperation and Rural Affairs, for making this inauguration ceremony their responsibility by inviting you, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, to this ceremony and we are deeply grateful to you for gracing this occasion with your presence.

During the last three days, after my arrival in Tehran, I have come to know the very great assistance that Mr. Sassani has received from the officials of the two Ministries and the very great interest they have taken to make this inauguration a success. My deepest thanks to them all.

I have reserved for the last my most important duty, that of expressing to His Excellency Mr. Hoveyda, Prime Minister of Iran, our deepest gratitude for his graciousness in coming here and inaugurating our Eighteenth Sessions.

This is the first time that a Prime Minister has, in person, opened our Sessions. In 1974, the Prime Minister of my country, Sri Lanka, was to open our sessions but due to unavoidable reasons she had to be in your country on that day, and so it was the Deputy Prime Minister who opened our sessions that year. The inauguration of our present sessions by His Excellency, Mr. Hoveyda is an indication of the measure of importance His Imperial Majesty's Government attaches to the Cooperative Movement. We know that Iran is the only country that has declared a Cooperative Year so far. The Prime Minister's gracious act this morning is an underlining of the policy indicated by that declaration made by His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah a few years back. We cooperators feel greatly encouraged by this attitude. We know that His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah of Iran is personally devoted to the Cooperative Movement and is convinced of the value of Cooperation for the social and economic development of Iran. We have no doubt that under Mr. Sassani's dynamic leadership the Cooperative Movement of Iran will be able to deliver the goods.

The social and economic importance of the Cooperative Movement for every country hardly needs reiteration. On the economic front it eliminates exploitation by capitalists and middlemen, gives producers and consumers their due returns, places producers and consumers in control of the economy in place of capitalists and middlemen, and so brings about economic democracy without which political democracy would not be meaningful. On the social front, it develops the people's self-reliance and their

capacity to manage their own affairs, and trains people in the processes of democracy as well as inculcates in them the discipline of remaining loyal to democratic decisions. Without these attainments, political democracy will come to a grinding halt. The value of cooperative activity cannot therefore be over-rated. In fact all this would amount to a Social Revolution, but a revolution without the "R". Truly, Cooperation is a way of life. It inculcates in people the spirit of service to humanity and the spirit of abstaining from exploiting another's need, a spirit best explained in the words of an early cooperator: "I shall have my hand in no man's pocket and no man shall have his hand in mine." "A true Cooperator," says Holyoake, the cooperative historian of the last century, "has three qualities - good sense, good temper and goodwill. 'Good sense' to dispose him to make the most of his means; 'good temper' to enable him to associate with others; 'goodwill' to incline him to serve others and be at trouble to serve them, and to go on serving them, whether they are grateful or not in return, caring only to know that he does good, and finding it a sufficient reward to see that others are benefited through his unsolicited, unthanked, un-requited exertions. Sooner or later, generally later, they will be appreciated." This is the type of citizen that Cooperation develops.

The development of self-reliance, a capacity for managing one's own affairs, and the attitude of service for its own sake, give character to a people. So every country needs a Cooperative Movement to achieve true development. Every government too needs it. Firstly, because cooperatives are strongest where any government is at its weakest - the grass-roots level. The collaboration of cooperatives is therefore necessary for the success of any scheme of development which needs the people's participation for its success. Secondly, cooperatives are continuous barometers of public opinion which can inform the government continuously about the needs of the people and join hands with the government to satisfy those needs. But this collaboration must be as free and willing partners of the State in the great task of nation-building. All state assistance to cooperatives must be without effect on their character and independence as stated in the famous ILO Recommendation No. 127 of 1966.

We must remember that "Cooperation", as said by one of India's greatest men, Rabindranath Tagore, "is an ideal not a mere system, for at every turn it communes with our spirit." And he added "the manhood of man is at length honoured by the enunciation of this principle." We must also remember that an ideal is not a dream or fantasy. It is, as said by the Indian savant Swami Vivekananda, what has been actually achieved by men. Therefore, as said by him, men should not try to lower ideals to their standards but endeavour to raise their standards to the level of the ideals. And this is precisely the position with cooperators. What was achieved in reality at Rochdale in 1844 was set down as the Principles of Cooperation. The Cooperative Movements of 65 countries, joined under the banner of the ICA, are trying to live up to that ideal. One of these countries is Iran and we who seek the spread of our Movement are greatly encouraged by the support given to it by the Government of Iran as indicated by the Prime Minister's gracious inauguration of our Sessions. On behalf of the ICA and the representatives of its member-organisations in South-East Asia assembled here today and on behalf of the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia, I offer my deepest thanks to Your Excellency Mr. Hoveyda, and Your Excellency Mr. Rohani for all that you have done for us and to you, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, for honouring us with your gracious presence.

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