YOUTH AND COOPERATIVES

Report of Open Asian Conference, 1984



International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office & Education Centre for South - East Asia, New Delhi

Eighth Open Asian Conference

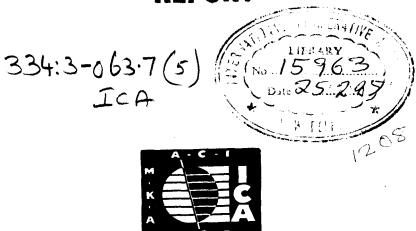
on

"YOUTH AND COOPERATIVES"

Bangkok, Thailand

12-16 NOVEMBER 1984

REPORT



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE Regional Office & Education Centre for South-East Asia "Bonow House," 43 Friends Colony (East), New Delhi 110-065



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE

Headquarters:

Route des Morillons 15 CH 1218, Le Grand Seconnex, Geneva, Switzerland

Regional Office & Education Centre for South - East Asia, Bonow House, 43 Friends Colony (East), New Delhi-110065, India.

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OPEN ASIAN CONFERENCE

ON

YOUTH AND COOPERATIVES

REPORT

I. Introduction

The Eighth Open Asian Conference on Cooperative Management was held at the Bangkok Palace Hotel, Bangkok (Thailand), from 11th to 17th November, 1984. The theme of the Conference was "Youth and Cooperatives". The Conference was organised by the International Cooperative Alliance Regional Office & Education Centre for South-East Asia (ICA ROEC) in collaboration with the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) on a self-financing basis. It was attended by about 200 participants from seven countries of the South-East Asian Region viz. India, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Thailand. In addition, observers from international organisations such as International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU) participated in the Conference.

The Conference was inaugurated by Mr. Chern Bamrungwong, Director General of Cooperatives, on behalf of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Royal Thai Government. The inauguration was presided over by Col. Surin Cholpraserd, President, Cooperative League of Thailand.

The Conference was chaired by Mr. Chern Bamrungwong as Chairman of the Conference and in his absence by Gen. Arcadio S. Lozada, President, Cooperative Union of the Philippines, who was elected Vice-Chairman of the Conference.

The Conference was directed by Mr. R. B. Rajaguru, Regional Director, ICA ROEC. He was assisted by officers of ICA ROEC and the CLT.

Names of participants, resource persons, observers, members of the secretariat and the members of the drafting committee are given in Annexes V & VI.

II. The Theme of the Conference and its Participants

The Eighth Open Asian Conference focussed on "Youth and Cooperatives" and was intended to be a preliminary exchange of ideas and experiences in this field which would lead to the initiation of more concrete action within the respective national situations during the course of 1985, which had been designated "The International Year of the Youth" by the United Nations. The conference was fortunate that a very large percentage of conference participants were from school and teachers cooperatives and were those already involved in working in the field of youth. There were also many from cooperative banking, thrift and credit society and agricultural cooperative sources who also had developed some programmes to assist youth.

The keenness displayed by the participants and the wealth of knowledge which they were able to share were a great asset to the conference and enabled the conference to arrive at several useful conclusions and recommendations.

III. Methodology of the Conference

The conference was conducted on the basis of Plenary Sessions at which four resource persons presented specialised papers; Commission sittings where the participants were divided into three Commissions to examine in depth some issues raised for Commission discussions, and to make suitable recommendations; a Plenary to discuss the Commission Recommendations and a final Plenary to arrive at the final Conclusions and Recommendations of the conference.

A two day field visit was made by some of the participants after the final plenary.

The following specialised papers were presented at the conference:—

1. Cooperatives and Youth—Mr. R. B. Rajaguru, Regional Director, ICA ROEC

2. KOBENA—A Case Study

from Malaysia-

Mr. Wahiduddin Wahab. Managing Director, KOBENA Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

3. Preparing Youth for Co-

operative Development— Dr. D. Vir

Joint Director (E)

ICA ROEC

4. Youth & Cooperatives—

Experience from Thailand--Mr. Panom Kawkamnerd

Deputy Under-Secretary of State Ministry of Education, Bangkok

In addition to the above, several background papers on various experiences in this field were circulated by the participants of the conference.

IV. Brief Synopsis of Papers Presented

A. Mr. Rajaguru in his paper highlighted the following:

- i. In his view youth should be treated as an integral part of the society at large-not as a separate entity-however there was a need to have a special focus on youth.
- ii. Youths face many problems—and all too often the institutional framework which is resorted to to solve the problems is that of a cooperative.
- iii. In many countries in the Region, governments, various voluntary agencies, have had, for several years, a special focus on youth and have developed various special programmes for the involvement of youth not only in economic activity, but also in socio-cultural and other activity.

(Note: It is regretted that for reasons of economy, the complete papers are not included in the report. These papers were, however, made available to all participants during the conference)

- (iv) In many situations there is a definition of youth by age limit—unless integrated programmes are worked out, there is a possibility of superannuating 'youth' finding themselves in a difficult position.
- (v) In many situations, the cooperative movements have made only feeble attempts to provide a cooperative forum for youth. Many of the efforts have been confined to such activities as school, college and university cooperatives, teaching of cooperation in schools and in some cases youth settlement cooperatives. The mainstream of cooperatives have generally not had a special focus except in Japan and Korea where youth has a special interest group and a lively forum for youth involvement and development. Nor have meaningful steps been taken by the mainstream cooperatives to forge linkages with and provide support to the on going government programmes for youth, even where the institutional framework was the cooperative form.
- (vi) There was a need for a more conscious and wholehearted effort by the mainstream cooperatives in all countries to keep youth on a special focus and to develop integrated approaches which will help strengthen cooperative effort in the long run.
- B. Mr. Wahiduddin Wahab in his Case Study on KOBENAthe National Youth Cooperative Society of Malaysia emphasized the following:—
 - (i) The youth movement in Malaysia was quite an active one.
 - (ii) The youth movement received support and encouragement from the Government of Malaysia—there was a separate Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.
 - (iii) Youth organisations were voluntary and catered to many of the 1.3 million youths in the country.

- (iv) The programmes for youth were development oriented and included a large measure of skills training for youth.
- (v) The cooperative from of organisation for youth involvement and development was of recent origin—only from about 1970. The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports has worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperatives to promote cooperatives for youth. There were several youth cooperatives operating at local levels.
- (vi) The National Youth Cooperative Society (KOBENA) is the apex body, affiliating all youth cooperatives. The setting up of this apex body was initiated by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and was very strongly supported by the youth movement. KOBENA has a membership constituted as follows:—
 - (a) Individual youth who are registered members of any registered youth organisation
 - (b) Youth Cooperatives
 - (c) Other individuals/cooperatives approved by the Board.

It has a membership of 12,000 individuals and almost all youth cooperatives, which means an indirect membership of 50,000.

It has a representative General Body and a Board which was originally half elected and half nominated by the Ministry of Youth-but which is now wholly elected by the Annual General Meeting. It undertakes a wide variety of Commercial Activities like Housing Construction, Motor Training, Insurance, Warehousing, Quarry, Public Relations and Advertising, Forwarding Services, Travel Tours and Investment Savings Scheme.

Through its various projects KOBENA has provided employment to over 3500 youth.

The surplus from its commercial operations are used for the benefit of the members and the community.

C. Dr. Dharm Vir in his paper made general review of the various approaches being used in different countries for Preparing

Youth for Cooperative Development and involving them in various kinds of educational and development activities:

- i. He referred to the coordinated approach being used by the cooperative movement in United Kingdom where various autonomous youth organisations are trying to involve youth in cooperative educational and social activities. These organisations are members of the British Federation of Youth Cooperatives (BFYC) which works in close collaboration with the consumer cooperative movement in U.K.
- ii. He gave examples of collaborative efforts through school cooperatives and other youth cooperatives in Malaysia which are actively assisting in-school and out-of-school youth in solving some of the socio-economic problems. These special cooperatives have their own federations which collaborate with the government agencies and the national cooperative organisation i.e. ANGKASA.
- iii. Hé mentioned the noteworthy efforts being made by several state governments in the Federation of Australia which were using cooperative approach and programmes to solve the unemployment problems among youth in the country.
- iv. He made special reference to the integrated approaches made by the agricultural and fisheries cooperative movements in Japan and Republic of Korea where they undertake promotional activities for youth as a part of their business. Future farmers/fishermen were trained and provided with special assistance for establishing themselves. In addition, the Agricultural Cooperative Colleges of Japan and the Republic of Korea conduct special training courses for selected youth sponsored by the agricultural cooperatives. These courses were residential and of about 2 years duration. The youth trained at the colleges were later employed by the sponsoring cooperatives.

- v. The cooperative movements in Sri Lanka, Thailand and India were having special projects to assist young women in improving their incomes with the help of local cooperative and educational efforts. The National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka has been conducting a special programme of consumer education and income generating activities among rural women through multipurpose cooperative societies. The programme was started five years ago on a pilot basis with the help of Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC) and the ICA ROEC.
- vi. The consumer cooperative movement of Sweden through study circle and other educational activities educate young men and women in consumer questions and involve them in cooperative activities. The movement has recently started a pilot project 'Young in the Coop'. Under the project membership of selected cooperatives was open for young people and cooperative business has been adjusted to meet their special needs.
- vii. As in France and some other European countries in-school youth cooperative education and school cooperatives have been promoted in educational institutions in Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka and India. In Japan at the university level, the consumer cooperative movement has established deep roots in the student community. Most of the university cooperatives are affiliated to the National Federation of University Cooperative **Associations** (NFUCA). Approximately 41 per cent of all students and teachers in universities belong to the movement, and Tokyo University Cooperative which is a pioneering organisation has 99.7 per cent students and ,90 per cent of teachers and non-teaching employees as its members. A large number of citizens consumer cooperative in Japan have been initiated by students in their community after completion of their education.
- viii. He emphasized the need for developing a comprehensive approach for preparation of youth for cooperative develop-

- ment. The cooperative movements in different countries should take initiative to attract youth to the cooperative idea at the earliest possible stage and systematically bring them to the mainstream of cooperation. Other organisations should also coordinate their efforts to ensure that main problems of youth are successfully tackled through cooperative approach.
- D. Mr. Panom Kawkamnerd captioned his presentation as "Youth as a Major Force for National Development Through Cooperative Movement". He highlighted the following:
 - i. Many of the countries in Asia like in Thailand, had a predomidantly rural population; and the rural population was facing numerous problems due to industrialisation, inflation, unemployment, lack of skills to meet modern needs etc. The youth shared many of these problems.
 - ii. There is a need for institutionalised approaches to solve these problems. They cannot be solved on an individual basis.
 - iii. The Cooperative approach was one that had very good potential to tackle many of the problems like full utilisation of existing resources, transfer of technology, organisation of production and marketing. However success of cooperative effort depended on its acceptance by a change of attitude and outlook—changes take time and one must have a gradual approach as all depended on the faith and trust people have in cooperative effort.
 - iv. Education institutions have a major role to play. Consequently the Ministry of Education in Thailand decided that school children, youth and teachers should be used as change agents to work on cooperative principles.
 - v. Teacher Training Colleges now have programmes to equip teachers with cooperative knowledge, while cooperatives in many schools and colleges provide the forum for involving all inclusive of parents in cooperative effort.

- vi. To strengthen college cooperative stores, the Department of Teacher Education was planning to set up a College Cooperative Union which would function as the Apex organisation to and support cooperative effort within schools and colleges.
- vii. The Royal Thai Government had positive support for cooperatives. This backed by the efforts made by the Ministry of Education would go a long way in strengthening cooperative effort among students and youth in Thailand.

V. Issues for Commission Discussions

Three main issues were identified for discussions in the Commissions, which were as follows—with one Commission concentrating on one of the issues:—

I. There is an urgent need to inculcate the spirit of Cooperation amongst the young (those in school and out of school). Would you agree with this? If so, what recommendations would you make in this regard?

(Commission I)

II. In a situation of increasing unemployment and scarcity of investment capital on an individual basis, youth should be motivated and encouraged to find cooperative solutions to their multifarious problems. Please enumerate the problems of youth and indicate possible strategies in this regard.

(Commission II)

III. Though the cooperative form of organisation has often been resorted to in programmes devised by governments and other oganisations for youth, as yet there are no visible signs of the generality of cooperative movements in many countries in Asia taking meaningful steps to assist and support the greater involvement of youth in the mainstream of cooperative activity.

Further, the inlerlinkages that exist between the mainstream of cooperative effort and cooperative effort in the youth sector appears to be rather slender.

Please examine this situation. What recommendations would you have to improve the present position and strengthen cooperative effort in this regard?

(Commission III)

(Commission findings and recommendations are at Annexes II, III, IV).

VI. Conclusions and Recommendations of the Conference

Introduction

The Conference feels there is a pressing need for greater involvement of the youth in national development. There is need to implement the programme to inculcate the spirit of cooperation amongst the youth in to-day's world. The cooperative organisation is a suitable vehicle towards achieving the objectives. The cooperative movement should take greater initiative to bring the youths into the mainstream of the cooperative movement at national, regional and international levels.

The aim of greater involvement of youths in cooperative activities is to attain a better standard of living and improve the quality of life.

Major Issues Confronting Youth

The Conference recognises the existence of rural and urban youth with different needs, aspirations and deferring situations in any individual country. In view of these diversifying needs and problems specific strategies have to be evolved to overcome them. Some of these problems are unemployment, under-employment, low level of education, lack of skills, migration of youth, lack of opportunities for social and economic development, juvenile delinquency, crimes, drug abuse and other undesirable activities. Furthermore, the Conference recognised the special needs of the youth for opportunity to express themselves in decision-making and operations of community and national development activities.

1. Unemployment and Under-Employment

The most important problem in all countries is the high level of unemployment and under-employment of youth. The low level of

education and lack of skills specially among rural youth creates lack of opportunity for successful employment. The unskilled youth are liable to be exploited in the present depressed economic situation.

2. Low level of Education

There still exist in the region large number of youth who possess low level of education and in some instances are functionally illiterate. This is more predominant in the rural areas and especially among the female population.

3. Lack of Skills

The youth specially in rural areas are lacking useful skills and they do not have adequate means to sustain themselves in their surroundings.

4. Migration of Youth

With the hope of a wider scope of employment and of the opportunity for a wide range of social activities, youth are attracted to urban centres. This creates imbalances in labour situations in the rural areas. Economic and social problems arise in over populated urban areas.

5. Undesirable activities

Unemployed youth both in rural and urban areas create traits for crime, drug abuse, vandalism and other undesirable activities.

6. Limited Opportunity for Expression

In an adult dominated society young people do not have adequate opportunities to express themselves and participate in decision—making process within the family and community in general.

7. Cooperative Responses

It was the general consensus that the involvement of youth in cooperative activities would be an avenue to overcome the above problems. Steps should be taken to evolve a planned programme to infuse the spirit of cooperation into organised activities of youth

for a beneficial and purposeful involvement for their personal and overall community development. Therefore, formation of youth cooperatives in urban and rural areas should be given greater emphasis. In this regard the government, the cooperative movement and the youth movement should be the key institutions to promote and organise the youth towards self-reliance, self-employment and upgrading their socio-economic well being.

Recommendations

- 1. The idea of cooperation should be imparted to children and youth at the school level. While organised group activities at the pre-kindergarten stage upto the primary school level would be one form to expose them to cooperative spirit, positive awareness of cooperative principles must be exposed at the upper primary level. This could be by means of school cooperatives and other informal and extra curricular activities.
- 2. At the secondary school stage formal cooperative subjects need to be included in school curriculum with some aspects for practical application of cooperative principles.
- 3. At the higher education level specialised courses on cooperative management and allied subjects should be offered.
- 4. Sufficient training and involvement of teachers are essential for imparting positive attitudes towards cooperatives among youth. The teachers working at different levels should receive special training in cooperative education and subject curricula should be developed by the school authorities concerned.
- 5. The parent-teacher association should play a complementary and supportive role to the development of school cooperatives. The practical aspect for information and training opportunities of the youth could be supported by the successful local cooperatives.
- 6. Other youth organisations should also be encouraged to consider and include cooperative activities for a more diversified roles of the youth.

- 7. In the initial stages governments could assist youth in setting up industrial, commercial and service institutions on a cooperative basis to enhance youth involvement in cooperatives.
- 8. Concerted and coordinated effort should be made between government, youth, women and other organisations to mobilise their resources towards the development of youth cooperatives.
- 9. Closer linkages should be established between the national youth movement and the cooperative system to enhance youth involvement in cooperatives. Where there is no national youth movement cooperatives should support the establishment of national youth movement.
- 10. Within the cooperative system itself there should be both horizontal and vertical collaboration for youth activity and national cooperative organisations should work towards setting up of youth wings within their framework.

Cooperatives should provide opportunities for youth to be inducted into their management committees to enable them to gain practical experience and develop their administrative skills.

- 11. Well established cooperatives should find ways and means of developing the skills of youth in various fields for their self-employment and cooperative employment opportunities.
- 12. Cooperative training institutions should play a more vital role in increasing awareness about cooperatives among youth and also in improving their management skills.
- 13. The national cooperative movement and government should help youth in the establishment of economically viable cooperative enterprises.

Since investment capital is a problem for youth they should be supported in the first instance by government and the Cooperative movement to enable them to become self-reliant.

14. Wherever necessary teachnical assistance could be sought

from international organisations like ICA, ILO, FAO and other established donor agencies.

15. The ICA RO should undertake a study to explore the possibility of regional affiliation of youth cooperatives within the region and where it is found feasible it should be taken up through the Regional Council for South-East Asia for implementation.

Conclusion

The Conference concluded that there is wide scope to bring youth programmes in the mainstream of cooperative activity and to involve them in cooperative efforts with a view to make them partners in the overall development of the cooperative movement of the country. This could be achieved through a planned process which would involve long term perspective planning in the cooperative movement as well as its coordination with the process of planning at the government level as also at the level of other non-official organisations engaged in youth programmes or activities.

ANNEXE-I

PROGRAMME

12th November				
0900-1000	Inaugural, Messages, Briefing on Methodology. Presentation of papers:			
1000-1130	(1)	Cooperatives and Youth. by Mr R.B. Rajaguru		
1130-1145		Tea		
1145-1315	(2)	KOBENA—Case Study from Malaysia. by Mr. Wahiduddin Wahab		
1315-1415		Lunch		
1420–1545	(3)	Preparing Youth for Cooperative Development. by Dr. D.VIR		
1545-1600,		Tea		
1600-1730	(4)	Youth and Cooperatives-Experiences from Thailand by Mr. Panom Kawkamnerd.		
13th November Con		mmissions (group work)		
14th November FN	FN Presentation of Commission Reports.			
AN Final Plenary.				
15th November 16th November	St	udy Visits		

REPORT OF COMMISSION - I

Chairman: Mr. K. Jayabalan,

Singapore

Rapporteurs: Ms Raja Maimon Raja Yusof,

Malaysia

Mr. Hasni Tamrin,

Malaysia

Issues for Discussion

There is an urgent need to inculcate the spirit of Cooperation amongst the young (those in school and out of school). Would you agree with this? If so, what recommendations would you make in this regard.

I. Introduction

The Commission unanimously felt that there is a positive and urgent need to implement programmes to inculcate the spirit of cooperation amongst the youth in today's world.

II. Need for Urgent Approach

Youth are the potential leaders of the future and the cooperative movement has the relevant opportunity for them to express their needs.

The immediate inculcation of cooperative spirit would help to curb or minimise the following "problems":—

- (a) Unemployment: Low level of education and unskilled situations create lack of opportunity for a successful employment in the depressed economic situation.
- (b) Migration of youths: With the hope of a wider scope of employment and of the opportunity for a wider scope of social activities attract youth to urban centres. This creates imbalances in labour situations at rural areas. Economic and social problems arises at over populated urban areas.

(c) Undesirable Activities: Unemployed youth both at rural and urban areas create traits for crimes, drug abuse, vandalism and other undesirable activities.

In this regard, the involvement of youth in cooperative activities would overcome the above problems. Steps have to be taken to evolve a planned programme to infuse the spirit of cooperation into organised activities of youth for a beneficial and purposeful involvement for their personal and community developments. The cooperative movement has the avenue to provide these requirements.

III. Recommendations

- (a) The Commission agreed that the idea of cooperation should be imparted to youth at school level. While organised group activities at pre-kindergarten stage upto primary school level would be one form to expose cooperation, positive awareness of cooperation must be exposed at upper primary level. This could be by means of informal and extra curricular activities.
- (b) At secondary school stage, formal education need to be included in school curriculum with some aspects for practical application of cooperative principles.
- (c) At this stage, when youths are geared for an independent and economically gainful life, their aspiration and need are manifold. Specified interests of these youth have to be identified at an early stage.
 - This would enable a proper and pragmatic concept of cooperative movement to be imparted to them.
- (d) The Commission identified that teachers should be conversant with cooperative principles and its applications. Sufficient training and involvement by teachers are essential to impart the positive need of cooperative to youth. While teachers have formed cooperatives for their own benefits, national awareness has to be created for all teachers and

- educators to understand the potential of cooperative for the development of youth organisations.
- (e) One other form to support could be the follow up by the parent-teachers associations. While the cooperative subject is learnt at school level, its practical aspects could be enhanced at the youth families and the immediate neighbourhoods. Cooperative organisation can step in to provide further practical information and training opportunities for youths by setting up small scale school cooperative enterprises.
- (f) Limitation to objectives of school cooperatives and age criteria should be geared for a viable enterprise by youths for their own involvement.
- (g) Other youth organisations should also be encouraged to consider and include cooperative activities for a more diversified role of the youths.
- (h) Coordinated effort by cooperative bodies with government, youth, women and related organisations must be undertaken for the continued expression of cooperative ideals and applications by the youths after completion of their education.
- (i) Well established cooperatives should conduct meaningful courses to train youths in skilled works for their self-employment opportunities.
- (j) The need to form youth wings under established cooperatives helps to sustain the cooperative applications.
- (k) The induction of youths into the management committees of successful cooperatives helps to develop their administrative skills.
- (1) The establishment of youth cooperatives with a viable business enterprise helps them to fully operate a business with the total complement of management and risk involvement.

- Guidance by the national cooperative movement or appropriate government ministries may be required.
- (m) National youth movements could also be set up to cater for employment of youths and to determine their progress in cooperative ventures. Successful organisation like KOBENA exists. Other industry-oriented or service-oriented business should be encouraged.
- (n) Government assistance to promote small scale industry or cottage industry for traditional enterprises would be one form to enhance cooperative ventures.
- (o) Cooperative training institutions or other consultancy agencies would be called upon to provide training on administrative/management skills and member education.

IV. Conclusion

The Commission concluded that for an extensive programme of youth involvement in cooperative activities provisions has to be catered for linkage from school cooperative level to higher stages of participation in district, state and national level.

Regional associations would be appropriate among member countries. This could lead to a forum for international discussions with other developed countries to further exchange ideas of youth oriented cooperative activities.

REPORT OF COMMISSION - II

Chairman: Mr. Zaghlol Haji Hanafiah,

Malaysia

Rapporteur: Mr. Robert Koh,

Singapore

COOPERATIVE STRATEGIES FOR YOUTH

Issues for Discussion

In a situation of increasing unemployment and scarcity of investment capital on an individual basis youth should be motivated and encouraged to find cooperative solutions to their multifarious problems. Please enumerate the problems of youth and indicate possible strategies in this regard.

1 Introduction

The Commission sets its sights on the issues enumerated by the secretariat that "in a situation of increasing unemployment and scarcity of investment capital on an individual basis, youth should be motivated and encouraged to find cooperative solutions to their multifarious problems. Please enumerate the problems of youth and indicate possible strategies in this regard".

The Commission recognises the existence of rural and urban youth with different needs, aspirations and deferring situations in the individual country. In view of these diversifying needs, it makes the works of the Commission that much harder to recommend specific strategies to suit the situation in individual country. However, the Commission could only dwell itself on the general principles and concepts of the issue.

2. Problems of Youth

The Commission realises that problems of the youth can be defined into two dimensions, i.e. tangible and intangible elements. The tangibles are unemployment, under employment, juvenile

delinquency, petty and organised crimes, drug abuse, anti-social activities, etc. whilst the intangible elements are the needs to be heard and the right to express themselves.

3. Strategies

As regards strategies to combat these social ills, the Commission feels that the cooperative is one of the important means to provide employment and minimise such related problems. Therefore, formation of youth cooperatives in urban and rural areas should be given greater emphasis.

The Commission feels that three parties, i.e. the governments, the cooperative movement and the youth movement should be the institutions to promote and organise the youth towards self-reliance, self-employment and upgrading their socio-economic well-being.

4. Recommendations

The Commission has the following recommendations for consideration of the Conference:

- (A) Institutional Framework: The Commission recognises that there is sufficient legal framework in countries of the region for the development of cooperatives that the youth needs to be organised through youth manuals to meet their social needs and the formation of Youth Cooperatives to meet their economic needs. Towards these goals, both the government and cooperative organisations should place a greater emphasis on the development of youth cooperatives especially in commemoration of the International Year of Youth. The government, on the other hand, should play positive and supportive roles in launching of such youth cooperatives with financial assistance and the requisite support during its infancy stage.
- (B) Education: Cooperative subjects should be included in the education system for teachers and for students in order to inculcate cooperative principles and concepts to youths

while they are in schools and the rural provinces where the poor do not enjoy basic education, the cooperative movement or the cooperative promotion department could initiate programmes to create cooperative awareness and its benefits.

- (C) Training: It is noted that vocational and skill training are being undertaken by public and private sectors. However, the cooperative organisations should engage more actively in providing specific trainings for the youth to cope with cooperative ventures. It is noted that some countries have cooperative colleges to meet these needs.
- (D) Resources: Presently there are already youths who are playing active roles in cooperatives and these resources and expertise could be tapped to initiate youth cooperatives. Technical assistance could be obtained from international organisations, i. e. MATCOM, ILO, ICA, SCC, etc. or other established national organisations.
- (E) Capital Investment: Capital of youth cooperatives should be on the basis of self-financing. However, financial assistance could be provided in various forms by the more successful cooperatives within the movement, government sources and other local and international agencies.

5. Conclusion

In order to achieve the successful implementation of the recommendations above, the three major institutions viz. government, cooperative movement and youth movement should promote and organise the youth towards self-reliance, self-employment and upgrading of their socio-economic well-being through youth cooperatives.

ANNEXE-IV

REPORT OF COMMISSION - III

Chairman

: Mr. M. M. Vyas,

India

Rapporteur

: Mrs. Faridah Khalid,

Malaysia

Issues for Discussion; Though the cooperative form of organisation has often been resorted to in programmes devised by governments and other organisations for youth, as yet there are no visible signs of the generality of cooperative movements in many countries in Asia taking meaningful steps to assist and support the greater involvement of youth in the mainstream of cooperative activity. Further, the interlinkages that exist between the mainstream of cooperative effort and cooperative effort in the youth sector appears to be rather slender.

Please examine this situation. What recommedations would you have to improve the present position and strengthen cooperative effort in this regard?

Introduction

The Commission feels that there is a pressing need for greater involvement of the youth in national development. The cooperative organisation is a suitable vehicle towards achieving these objectives. The cooperative movement should take greater initiative to bring the youths to the mainstream of the cooperative movement at the national, regional and international level.

The aim of greater involvement of youths in cooperative activities is to attain a better standard of living and improved quality of life.

Rationale

Keeping the above goal in mind the Commission discussed the following issues:—

- 1. Various methodologies or approaches adopted by government and cooperative movement.
- 2. No concerted effort by government and cooperative movement to involve youths in cooperative activities.
- Lack of interlinkages between government and cooperative movement in mobilising youths at different levels of cooperation.

Problems in Situation

Based on the issues discussed, the Commission identified the various problems concerning youth. Since the situation varies from country to country, the Commission grouped these problems into the following broad categories:—

- 1. Economic
- 2. Social
- 3. Political
- 4 Cultural
- 5. Ethical

The Commission gave a serious thought on the methodology or manner in which programmes on youth could possibly be brought into the mainstream of the cooperative activity of the organisation. In this connection the Commission took a review of the on-going programmes of the countries of the region. In this context the Commission felt that inspiration from Japanese Movement in regard to youth groups and their activities in training young farmers and the way in which they are brought under cooperative idealogy. Yet, another aspect is university cooperatives in Japan. Similarly in Korea prospective farmers and fishermen are trained and brought under the cooperative fold. There are other examples before us, such as, cooperatives for youth activities in Malaysia

and cooperative village settlement activities in Sri Lanka. In Australia, young persons are trained in cooperation. In the Philippines also cooperative education has been introduced in schools and colleges and they have cooperation as a specilised subject at the university level. There are some other examples such as in U.K. The Consumers' Movement has forged links with youth movement which is autonomous in Britain. In France, school cooperatives have taken deep roots while Canada has developed very valuable material for bringing about cooperative development in schools and colleges. This position reveals that there are special programmes undertaken by different countries and they may be taken as a source of inspiration or guidance. However, each country will have to evolve its own programme in view of the fact that youth problems are country specific and, therefore, we may not be able to generalise programmes, except the general need to involve cooperatives in the youth programmes.

Recommendations

The Commission, therefore, recommends that each country would have to examine youth problems and draw specific programmes taking into consideration the examples indicated above and with such modifications that are relevant to their own situations to attract youth in the cooperative movement and make efforts to offer solutions to their problems and enable them to realise their aspirations and ambitions through cooperative way of life.

Nevertheless, cooperatives cannot rest content with their own programmes on youth. They will have to establish effective linkages within the cooperative movement itself with different levels of institutions such as primary, secondary and national federations. This means that youth programmes would have to be built up in such a way that there is vertical and horizontal linkages to ensure total approach to the problem of youth in the country. Further, there need be a proper link-up and coordination with the youth programmes and activities undertaken by the government and other non-government organisations. However, proper care will have

to be taken to ensure that cooperative effort and programmes are not solely dependent on government programmes or their attitude towards youth or cooperatives.

Conclusion

To sum up, the Commission emphasized that there is wide scope to bring youth programmes in the mainstream of the cooperative activity and involve them in cooperative efforts with a view to make them partners in the overall development of the cooperative movement of the country. This should be achieved through a plan process which would involve long term perspective planning in the cooperative movement as well as its coordination with the process of planning at the government level as also at the level of other non-official organisations engaged in youth programmes or activities.

ANNEXE V

DRAFTING COMMITTEE

- 1. Gen. Arcadio S. Lozada, Philippines Chairman
- 2. Mr. K. Jayabalan, Singapore
- 3. Mr. Zaghlol Haji Hanafiah, Malaysia
- 4. Mr. M M. Vyas. India
- 5. Ms Raja Maimon Raja Yusof, Malaysia
- 6. Mr. Hasni Tamrin, Malaysia
- 7. Mrs. Faridah Khalid, Malaysia

ICA Secretariat

- 1. Mr. R.B. Rajaguru, Conference Director
- 2. Dr. D. Vir
- 3. Mr. Prem Kumar

PARTICIPANTS

India

- M. M. Vyas
 General Manager
 Gujarat State Cooperative Bank Ltd.
 Relief Road, Ahmedaba¹.
- Arif Hasan
 Manager (Personnel)
 M. P. Rajya Sahakari Bank Maryadit
 Multistoreyed Bldg. New Market,
 T. T. Nagar, Bhopal.
- B. P. Mishra
 Managing Director
 U. P. Coop Cane Unions Federation
 Lucknow.
- K. Srinivasa Gowda
 Director
 Karnataka State Coop Marketing
 Federation, No. 8 Cunningham Road,
 Bangalore.

Indonesia

- Sabinen Ada
 Marketing Adviser
 Jalan Imam Bonjol
 (Universitas Tanjungpura)
 Pontianak, Indonesia.
- Syamsudin Djahmat
 Auditor
 Jalan Imam Bonjol
 (Universitas Tanjungpura)
 Pontianak Indonesia.

7. Djanalis Djanaid
Planning Division
Dewan Koperasi Indonesia,
Jakarta.

Korea

Ki-Won Suh
 Director, Research Department
 National Agricultural Coop Federation
 75, 1-ka, Choongjong-ro, Jung-ku
 Seoul.

Philippines

Brig Gen Arcadio S. Lozada
 President
 Cooperative Union of the Philippines
 Rm 400-G, 4th floor, Delta Bldg.
 West Avenue, Quezon City.

Malaysia

- Syed Alwi Syed Hamzah
 Vice President
 Penang Government Servants
 Cooperative Society Ltd.
 Wisma Koperasi, Top fioor
 25 Bishop Street, Penang,
 Malaysia.
- 11. Teoh Khoon Peng
 Director
 Penang Government Servants
 Coop. Society Ltd., Penang.
- 12. Zaghlol Haji Hanafiah
 Vice Chairman
 Koperasi Bas Mini
 Wilayah Persekutuan Bhd.
 Tingkat 3, Bangunan Mah Sing,
 112-114, Jln, Pudu
 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Harunarashid Hj. Salleh Director Koperasi Bas Mini Wilayah Persekutuan

14. Hanipah Ahmad Committee Member Koperasi Guru-Guru Melayu Negeri Perlis, No. 11 Jalan Syed Saffi, Kangar, Perlis, Malaysia.

15. Mutadho BahriTreasurerKoperasi Guru-Guru Melayu Negeri Perlis.

Hassan Basri Abd. Karim Secretary Koperasi Guru-Guru Malayu Negeri Perlis.

- Abd. Ghani Ibrahim
 Committee Member
 Koperasi Guru-Guru Malayu Negeri Perlis.
- Mansor Ibrahim
 Committee Member
 Koperasi Guru-Guru Malayu Negeri Perlis.
- Idris Deris Daud
 Committee Member
 Koperasi Guru-Guru Malayu Negeri Perlis.
- Tengku Aziz Tengku Jaafar
 Committee Member
 Koperasi Guru-Guru Malayu Negeri Perlis.
 No. 11, Jalan Syed Saffi
 Kangar, Perlis, Malaysia.

Yusoff Haji Din Committee Member Koperasi Guru-Guru Malayu Negeri Perlis.

Dahlan Tamby Secretary Syarikat Kerjasama Kenderaan (YN) Bhd. No. 134, Jalan Hang Tuah Malaka, Ma'aysia.

23. Koh Kim Swee Hon. Secretary Young Malaysians' Economic Development Cooperative Society Ltd. Wisma Koperasi 32 & 34 Lorong Tambi 2, Off Jalan Berunal Pudu, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

24. Ariff Babu Salam Committee Member Koperasi Pegawal Kerajaan Pahang No. 61A, Jln. Mahkota Kuantan, Pahang Malaysia.

25. Abdul Karim Awang Mohd. Committee Member Koperasi Pegawal Kerajaan Pahang

Yeo Jin Kooi Chairman The Penang Teachers' Coop. Society Ltd. No 1-G, King Street Penang, Malaysia.

27. Yeo Jin Kooi (Mrs.) The Penang Teachers' Coop. Society Ltd.

- 28. P. Kanagarajah
 Executive Director
 The Penang Teachers' Coop. Society Ltd.
 No. 1-G, King Street
 Penang, Malaysia.
- 30. Tan Guan ChengDirectorThe Penang Teachers' Coop. Society Ltd.
- 31. Chong Bee SoonExecutive DirectorThe Penang Teachers Coop. Society Ltd.
- Wilfred Ewe Kheng HeangDirectorThe Penang Teachers' Coop. Society Ltd.
- 33. Poh Tian HooiDirectorThe Penang Teachers' Coop. Society Ltd.
- Raja Maimon Raja Yusof
 Lecturer
 Cooperative College of Malaysia
 103, Jln. Templer
 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.
- 35. S. Ahlaimuniandy
 Lecturer
 Cooperative College of Malaysia.
- 36. Wan Fadzin Wan Hussain Committee Member Kop. Perumahan Guru-Guru Negeri Perlis 79, Lolong Dua Kompleks Kampong Guru Kangar, Perlis, Malaysia,

- 37. Bazali OsmanCommittee MemberKop. Perumahan Guru-Guru Negeri Perlis
- 38. Shaari SaadCommittee MemberKop. Perumahan Guru-Guru Negeri Perlis
- 39. Chin Kok On
 Manager
 Kop. Jayadiri Malaysia Berhad (KOJADI)
 20th floor, Wisma MCA
 Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 40. Zakaria Hamzah
 Asstt. Director
 Farmers Organization Authority
 Block B, Damansara Heights
 Jln. Dungun, Kuala Lumpur
 Malaysia
- 41. Wong Ah Sang
 Asstt, Director
 Farmers Organization Authority
- 42. Nording Ali Hussain
 Asstt. Director
 Farmers Organization Authority
- 43. Hasni Tamrin
 Chairman
 Farmers Organization Authority
- 44. Hj. Rosedin Hj. Yaakob
 Chairman
 Farmers Organization Authority

45. Hj. Aziz Rabin
Chairman
Farmers Organization Authority

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46. Salih Pavi Ali

Treasurer
Kop. Serbaguna Kakitangan Bank
Pertanion Malaysia Bhd.
P.O. Box 10815, Leboh Pasar Besar
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

- Ahmad Azamuddin Aman Secretary
 Kop. Serbaguna Kakitangan Bank Pertanian Malaysia Bhd.
- 48. Anuaruddin Mohd. NoorDirectorKoperasi Lembaga Letrik NegaraPeti Surat 11003, Kuala Lumpur
- 49. Azizah OsmanDirectorKoperasi Lembaga Latrik Negara
- 50. Aminordin Harun Executive Officer Koperasi Lembaga Letrik Neghra
- 51. Ab Hamid Abd. Ghani Secretary Kop. Pegawal Melayu Kalantaan Bangunan Koperatif 2529-H, Jln. Kabun Sultan Kota Bharu, Kelantan, Malaysia.
- 52. Haji Wan Abdul Kudus Haji Wan Awang Chairman Kop. Pegawal Melayu Kerajaan Kelantan.

- 53. Mas Shuri Ahmad
 Executive Accounts Officer
 Rubber Smallholders Cooperative
 RISDA Head Quarters,
 Ampang Road, Kuala Lumpur,
 Malaysia.
- 54. Ms. Noraini Bt. Md. Nooh Executive Account Officer Rubber Smallholders Cooperative
- 55. Ibrahim Haji Ahmad
 Secretary
 FELCRA Settlers Coop. Malaysia Ltd.
 24, Jalan Gurney
 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 56. Abdul Wahad Hj. Ahmad Treasurer FELCRA Settlers Coop. Malaysia Ltd.
- 57. Ishak Idris
 President
 The Selangor Government Servants
 Cooperative Thrift and Loan Society Ltd.
 66, Jalan Kandang Kerbau
 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 58. Tan Sri A Rahim Datuk Tak Vice President The Selangor Government Servants Cooperative Thrift and Loan Society Ltd.
- 59. Cho Mun Kit Secretary/Treasurer The Selangor Government Servants' Cooperative Thrift & Loan Society Ltd.
- 60. R. Sathasivam
 Committee Member
 The Selangor Government Servants'
 Cooperative Thrift and Loan Society Ltd.

- 61. Mustapha Md. Nasir Secretary/Treasurer Kop. Telekom Malaysia 66 & 68, Jln. Pasar Baru Pudu, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia.
- 62. Low Cheng SoonVice PresidentKoperasi Telekom Malaysia
- 63. Abdul Manap Mohd. Sidin Vice President Koperasi Telekom Malaysia
- 64. Safri bin Haji Abd. Rahman
 Chairman
 Kop. Kakitangan Kerajaan Ipoh Bhd.
 111 B, (Tkt. 1)
 Jln. Datuk Onn, Ipoh Perak
 Malaysia.
- 65. Kamarudin Md. Zain Committee Member Kop. Kakitangan Kerjaan Ipoh Bhd.
- 66. Hj. Samsuddin Ibrahim Chairman Kop. Guru-Guru Malaysia Bhd. 55-3A, Jln 2/64A, Jln. Ipoh Kecil Off Jln. Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 67. Lim Kok Tin
 Secretary
 Kop. Guru-Guru Malaysia Bhd.
- T. ArasappanTreasurerKop. Guru-Guru Malaysia Bhd.

- 69. Mohd. Khalid H.N. Zain
 Committee Member
 The Mercantile Coop. Thrift & Loan
 Society Ltd.
 54, Jln. Masjid India,
 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Mohd. Yunus Ibrahim
 Committee Member
 The Mercantile Coop. Thrift & Loan
 Society Ltd.
- 71. Mohd. Isa bin Jani
 Committee Member
 The Mercantile Coop. Thrift & Loan
 Society Ltd.
 54, Jln. Masjid India
 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Abdul Wahid Manan
 Committee Member
 The Mercantile Coop. Thrift & Loan
 Society Ltd.
- 73. Jaafar bin Muda
 Secretary
 Kaperasi Guru-Guru Terengganu Bhd.
 3-A, Tingkat em
 Wisma Guru, Jin. Hiliran
 Kuala Terengganu
 Terengganu, Malaysia.
- Engku Hj. Ubaidillah Ahmad
 Chairman
 Koperasi Guru Guru Terengganu Bhd.
- 75. Tan Yoke Tee
 Board of Director
 Koperasi Kakitangan Perkhidmatan
 Pelajara Johor

172, Jalan Lembah, Taman Tasek, Johor Bahahru, Johor, Malnysia.

- 76. Lee Pak Kwee Board of Director Koperasi Kakitangan Perkhidmatan Pelajaran Johor.
- Adman Md. Zin
 Board of Director
 Koperasi Kakitangan Perkhidmatan
 Pelajaran Johor.
- 78. Ahmad Seth Abdul Wahid
 Treasure:
 Koperasi Kakitangan Perkhidmatan
 Pelajaran Johor.
- 79. Haji Osman Sudin
 Chairman
 Kop. Jabatan Perubatan dan Kasihatan
 Kedah Bhd.
 Bangunan Koperasi
 1528, Jalan Mahsuri, Alor Star
 Kedah, Malaysia.
- 80. Fadzil Ahmad Secretary Kop. Jabatan Perubatan dan Kesihatan Kedah Bhd. Bangunan Koperasi, 1528, Jalan Mahsuri, Alor Star Kedah, Malaysia.
- 81. Saw Choo Pik
 Chairman
 The Penang Employees Coop. Society Ltd.
 146-A, Macalister Road
 Penang, Malaysia

- 82. Goh Khoon YeanVice ChairmanThe Penang Employees Coop. Society Ltd.
- 83. Edward Ong Ah Lee
 Committee Member
 The Penang Employees Coop. Society Ltd.
- Ramalingam S/O Pakirisamy
 Committee Member
 The Penang Employees Coop. Society Ltd.
- 85. B. Muniandy
 Negeri Sembilan Tamil School Teachers
 Multipurpose Cooperative,
 2114, Taman Negeri Sembilan
 Aatu 2, Jalan Rasah, Seremban, Malaysia.
- 86. V. KatheraveluNegeri Sembilan Tamil School TeachersMultipurpose Cooperative
- 87. Ramakrishnan s/o Karupan
 Negeri Sembilan Tamil School Teachers
 Multipurpose Cooperative
- 88. Abd. Aziz b. Abd. Jalil
 Koperasi Serbaguna Kakitangan Lembaga
 Pelabuhan Kelang
 157-A, Jalan Tengku Badar
 Pelabuhan Kelang, Malaysia.
- Jamaludin b. Md. Zim
 Koperasi Serbaguna Kakitangan Lembaga
 Pelabuhan Kelang,
- Aris b Ariffin
 Koperasi pegawai-pegawai Kerajaan
 Taiping Berhad
 21, Jalan stesyen, Taiping
 Perak, Malaysia.

- 91. Zainu Hasri Koperasi Pegawai Pegawai Kerajaan Taiping Berhad.
- 92. Aloyious Benito Lopez
 The Socfin Employees Coop. Society Berhad
 Wisma Socfin, Jalan Semantan
 PO Box 10330, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 93. Zainal Abidin b. Hamzah
 The Sociin Employees Cooperative Society
 Bhd.
- 94. R. Ramasamy
 The Federation of Housing Cooperative Ltd.
 No. 20 (2nd floor) Lorong Bunus 6 off Jalan Masjid India
 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 95. Osman b. Mohd SaidKoperasi Guru-Guru Kerajaan Berhad19 B, Taman City, Jalan KuchingKuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 96. V. Gunaseelan Koperasi Guru-Guru Kerajaan Berhad
- 97. S Sivapathan Koperasi Guru-Guru Kerajaan Berhad
- K. Krishnan
 Koperasi Serbaguna Kakitangan Lembaga Pelabuhan Kelang
 157-A, Jalan Tengku Badar Pelabuhan Kelang, Malaysia.
- Abbas b. Mohd Ali
 Koperasi Serbaguna Kakitangan Lembaga
 Pelabuhan Kelang

- 100. K. Vijayasuriar
 Malaysian Coop. Printing Press Society Ltd.
 120, Jalan Semangat, Peti Surat 154
 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
- 101. Mohd. Ali b. Ibrahim
 Koparasi Perumahan Orang-Orang Melayu
 Perak Berhad
 45, Jalan Pasar, Rapat Setia
 Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia.
- 102. Abdul Wahab b. Hj. Tahir Koperasi Perumahan Orang-Orang Melayu Perak Berhad
- T. Tharmakulasingam
 The Jaffnese Cooperative Society Ltd.
 P O Box 10265
 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 104. B. RajaduraiThe Jaffnese Cooperative Society Ltd.
- 105. A. SachithananthanKoperasi Suruhanjaya Pepabuhan15, Green HallPulau Penang
- 106. Leong Weng KunKoperasi Suruhanjaya PelabuhanPulau Penang Berhad
- 107. N. Loganathan Koperasi Suruhanjaya Pelabuhan Pulau Penang Berhad
- 108. Beoy Foong Phin Koperasi Suruhanjaya Pelabuhan Pulau Penang Berhad

- 109. Abdul Hamid b. Mohd
 Malayawata Steel Employees Coop
 Society Berhad
 P.O. Box 60, Butterworth
- 110. Gooi Mong SongMalayawata Steel Employees CoopSociety BerhadButterworth
- 111. S.N. Narayanan Malayawata Steel Employees Coop Society Berhad Butterworth
- 112. R. Sadasivam
 Koperasi Anggota-Anggota Jabatan
 Penerangan Semenanjung Malaysia
 283 & 284 Ho. Garden, Rasah Road,
 Seremban
 Negeri Sembilan
- 113. Salleh b. Talib Malayan Railway Civil Engineering Employees Coop No. 4A, Jalan Kandang, Kerbau Off Jalan Brickfields Kuala Lumpur
- 114. P. Palaniandy Malayan Railway Civil Engineering Employees Coop Kuala Lumpur
- 115. Karman b. Samsudin Malayan Railway Civil Engineering Employees Coop Kuala Lumpui

- 116. A. Varathan Malayan Railway Civil Engineering Employees Coop Kuala Lumpur
- 117. Abdul Rani bin Ismail
 Malayan Raitway Civil Engineering
 Employees Coop
 Kuala Lumpur
- 118. Mrs. Faridah KhalidCentral Cooperative Bank Ltd.107 Jalan BunusKuala Lumpur
- 119. N. Nadarajan Central Cooperative Bank Ltd. Kuala Lumpur
- 120. P. LaeninnCooperative Union of MalaysiaKuala Lumpur
- 121. Ahmad Pauh bin Hj. Mohd Nor Medical & Health Cooperative No. 14 Nambiar Street Penang
- 122. Ninn Sararaksh
 Medical & Health Cooperative
 Penang
- 123. Hussein bin Abdullah Medical & Health Cooperative Penang

Singapore

124. A.J. Hendricks
Chairman
SASCO
Post Box 366, Maxwell Road Post Office
Singapore 9007

- 125. Roland Tay
 General Secretary
 SASCO
 - 126. Theo Sin Peng
 Asstt. General Secretary
 SASCO
 - 127. K. Jayabalan Vice Chairman SASCO
 - 128. Rosdi bin Ahmad Council Member SASCO
 - 129. Robert Koh Seng Leong C/o SASCO
 - 130. Con Eng Seng
 Committee Member
 PSA Emyloyees' Cooperative Thrift
 & Loan Society Ltd.
 Apt. 03-01/02 Citiport Centre
 50 Telok Blangan Rd.
 Singapore 0409
 - 131. Yusof bin MusaCommittee MemberPSA Employees Coop. Thirft & LoanSociety
 - 132. Michael A. NonicCommittee MemberPSA Employees Coop. Thrift & LoanSociety Ltd.
 - 133. Chua Huck Leng
 Welfare Chairman
 Singapore Mercantile Coop. T & L Society
 Blk. 86, St. 03-216 Marine Parade Central
 Singapore 1544.

- 134. Victor Pang
 Committee Member
 Singapore Mercantile Coop.
 Thrift & Loan Society Ltd.
 Blk. 86, St. 03-216 Marine Parade Central Singapore
- 135. Jumahat A. Razak Singapore Mercantile Coop. Thrift & Loan Society Ltd.
- 136. De Silva GregoryAssistant Mercantile Coop.Thrift & Loan Society Ltd.
- 137. Steven Leh
 Chairman
 Singapore Bank Employees Cooperative
 Thrift & Loan Society Ltd.
 c/o SASCO, Post Box 366
 Maxwell Road Post Office
 Singapore 9007
- 138. Kadiresan s/o N. Thangaveloo Hon. Asstt. Secretary Singapore Coop. Housing & Agencies Society Ltd.
 P.O. Box 2840 Singapore 9048
- 139. Zainal A. Nasoetion
 Director
 Singapore Coop. Housing & Agencies
 Society Ltd.

Sri Lauka 140. M. R. B. Daswatte President National Cooperative Counicl of Sri Lanka 455 Galle Road, Čolombo 3, Sri Lanka.

Thailand

- Surin Suthachai
 Chairman
 Chiengmai Teachers' Thrift & Credit
 Coop. Ltd.
- 142. Chalee Maliwan
 Pathumthani Teachers' Thrift &
 Credit Coop. Ltd.
- 143. Seontorn PorrasuntisukSecretaryPattalung Teachers' Thrift & Credit Coop. Ltd.
- 144. Arom Meechai
 Nakornsrithammarat Teachers' Thrift &
 Credit Coop. Ltd.
- 145. Mrs. Thasnee Channarong
 Manager
 Popratubchang Agri. Coop. Ltd.
- 146. Somboon Tongglun
 Roard-Member
 Electricity Generating Authority of
 Thailand Coop. Store Ltd.
- 147. Col. Sheur LouprasertBoard-MemberKalasin Police Thrift & Credit Coop. Ltd.
- 148. Adisorn Saisook
 Board-Member, Dept of Secondary
 Education T & Credit Coop. Ltd.
- 149. Sumrit Asakit
 Manager, Muang Sakolnakorn Agri.
 Coop. Ltd.
- 150. Manit Naul-In Manager, Munang Song Agri. Coop. Ltd.

- 151. Kiat Umpray Vice Chairman Nakornsawan Teachers' Thrift & Credit Coop. Ltd.
- Mrs. Pod. Janart Chaiyasart
 Phranakorn Coop. Store Ltd.
- Miss Nangnoi Chantana
 Phrankorn Coop. Store Ltd.
- 154. Utai Palang
 Sukhothai Technical College Coop.
 Store Ltd.
- 155. Rungsan Lesvilai
 Board-Member
 Prachinburi Police Thrift & Credit
 Coop. Ltd.
- 156. Snouth TublaChairmanMuanqminburi AgriculturalCooperative Ltd.
- 157. Miss Thanya Pongsang
 Manager
 Lard Lum Kaew Pattana Agricultural
 Cooperative Ltd.
- 158. Terd JaiharnChairmanSamngam Agricultural Cooperative Ltd.
- 159. Thamrong Saengthong
 Chairman
 Muang Surin Agricultural Cooperative Ltd.
- 160. Pokkrong ChannuchChairmanLomkao Agricultural Cooperative Ltd.

161. Bua Na-MuangChrirmanCha-Am Agricultural Cooperative Ltd.

162. Kollayuth SriyotheeManagerKud-Chab Agricultural Cooperative Ltd.

163. Prakong SupalakChairmanThai Saco Thrift & Credit CooperativeLtd.

164. Dee ChaiwanChairmanVbolrajthani Teachers Thrift & CreditCoop Ltd.

165. Sakkarin Surintraboon Chairman Lurirum Teachers Thrift & Credit Coop Ltd.

166. Chatchawan KongseubchatAssistant ManagerBurirum Teachers Thrift & Credit Coop. Lt

167. Chaturaporn Hongsaprabhas
 Chairman
 Chulalongkorn University Thrift & Credit
 Coop Ltd.

168. Kiatpan NoimaneeBoard MemberMinistry of Interior Thrift & CreditCoop Ltd.

169. Charoen Chochas
Chairman
Srinakarinviroj Bangkhen Cooperative
Store Ltd.

- Suraporn Narknakorn
 Board Member
 Petburi Teachers College Coop Store Ltd.
- 171. Miss Suwanna Wattanapornpatsal Manager Sukhothai Vocational College Coop Store Ltd.
- 172. Tieb ChooruangSecretaryHaad-Yai Cooperative Store Ltd.
- 173. Amnuay TubtimtoVice ChairmanPrachinburi Police Thrift & Credit Coop.Ltd.
- 174. Mrs. Pranee SalacheepBoard MemberMuangklang Agricultural Cooperative Ltd.
- 175. Pokkrong ChannuchBoard MemberLomkao Agricultural Cooperative Ltd.
- Miss Atcha Mallikamas
 Board Member
 Nakornsrithamarat Vocational College
 Coop Store Ltd.
- 177. Pin SribanjamBoard MemberKudchab Agricultural Cooperative Ltd.
- 178. Maitree Vichitporn
 c/o Cooperative League of Thailand
- 179. Saman Munqswadi
 c/o Cooperative League of Thailand

Observers

ICFTU

V.G. Cornel
 ICFTU-APRO Representative
 R.S. Hotel
 269 Larn Luang Road
 Bangkok

ILO

 M.A. Khan, Regional Adviser on Rural Institutions and Cooperatives International Labour Organisation P.O. Box 1759 Bangkok

FAO

3. S.H. Kim
Regional Marketing, Credit & Coops.
Officer
Food & Agriculture Organisation
Maliwan Mansion, Phra Atit Road
Bangkok

ACCU

Somehit Varangkananyubol
 General Manager
 Asian Confederation of Credit Unions
 P.O. Box 24-171
 Bangkok

Resource Persons

- R.B. Rajaguru
 Regional Director
 ICA Regional Office & Education Centre
 for S.E. Asia
 43 Friends Colony, New Delhi-65
- D. Vir
 Joint Director (Education)
 ICA Regional Office & Education Centre
 for S.E. Asia
 New Delhi-65

- Wahiduddin Wahab Managing Director KOBENA
 273 Jalan Pekeliling Kuala Lumpur
- Panom Kawkamnerd
 Dy Under-Secretary of State
 Ministry of Education
 Bangkok.

Cooperative League of Thailand

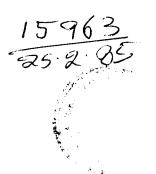
- 1. Taweewat Charoensook
 Director
- 2. Mrs. Prakobsri Petsawang

ICA Regional Office & Education Centre, New Delhi

- Lionel Gunawardana Joint Director (PPR)
- 2. M.K. Puri
 Joint Director (TA)

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

- Prem Kumar
 Personal Assistant to Regional Director
 ICA Regional Office & Education Centre
 New Delhi
- Sithon Nikrota
 Cooperative League of Thailand
- 3. Surasit Imphol
 Cooperative League of Thailand
- 4. Taweesap Tantasukitvanit Cooperative League of Thailand



- 5. Boon Piyachant
 Cooperative League of Thailand
- 6. Somkiat DuriyangCooperative League of Thailand
- 7. Noppakao Chusakul Cooperative League of Thailand
- 8. Nichit Boonplod
 Cooperative League of Thailand

THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE

is one of the oldest of non-governmental international organisations. It is a worldwide confederation of cooperative organisations of all types. Founded by the International Cooperative Congress held in London in 1895, it now has affiliates in 66 countries, serving over 365 million members at the primary level. It is the only international organisation entirely and exclusively dedicated to the promotion of cooperation in all parts of the world.

Besides the Head Office of the ICA, which is in Geneva, there are three regional offices, viz., the Regional Office & Education Centre for South-East Asia, New Delhi, India, started in 1960; the Regional Office for East and Central Africa, Moshi, Tanzania, started in 1968 and the Regional Office for West Africa, Bingerville, Ivory Coast, started in 1979.

The main tasks of the Regional Office & Education Centre are to develop the general activities of the Alliance in the Region, to act as a link between the ICA and its affiliated national movements, to represent the Alliance in its consultative relations with the regional establishments of the United Nations and other international organisations, to promote economic relations amongst member-movements, including trading across national boundaries, to organise and conduct technical assistance, to conduct courses, seminars and conferences, surveys and research, to bring out publications on cooperative and allied subjects and to support and supplement the educational activities of national cooperative movements. The Regional Office and Education Centre now operates on behalf of 15 countries, i. e. Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.