

# **Sixth Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia & the Pacific**

**Chiang Mai (Thailand): December 3, 2004**

## **AGENDA NOTES**



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## AGENDA NOTES

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**6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific  
Chiang Mai (Thailand): 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2004 {09:00 ~ 16:00 hours}**

**AGENDA NOTES**

**AGENDA ITEM 01: OFFICIAL OPENING**

Following joint opening ceremony of 3<sup>rd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum and Regional Assembly on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of ICA Regional Assembly will be officially opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> December by Mr. Ivano Barberini, President of ICA. Mr. Mu Li, President of ICA Asia and Pacific and Chairman of ICA Regional Assembly will chair.

**AGENDA ITEM 02: APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Delegates would be requested to accord formal approval of Agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM 03: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup>  
MEETING HELD IN CEBU ON 21<sup>ST</sup> FEB. 2003**

Minutes as enclosed at Annexure-1 were circulated to all the delegates and member organizations. No suggestions/observations/amendments have been received. Minutes may be approved.

**AGENDA ITEM 04: PERUSAL OF MINUTES OF ICA AP STANDING  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS SINCE LAST REGIONAL  
ASSEMBLY**

Since last Regional Assembly, three meetings of the Standing Committee were held. Confirmed minutes of the two meetings are enclosed at Annexure-2. Necessary follow-up action on these minutes has already been completed. Hon'ble delegates of the Regional Assembly may kindly peruse.

**AGENDA ITEM 05: PROGRESS REPORT FROM REGIONAL  
DIRECTOR, ICA AP**

Progress Report will be presented before the Regional Assembly by the Regional Director, ICA Asia and Pacific.

**AGENDA ITEM 06: APPROVAL OF WORK PROGRAM/BUDGET OF  
ICA-AP FOR 2005**

The Work Program/Budget for 2005 as approved by the Standing Committee is enclosed at Annexure-3. Regional Assembly may kindly approve.

**AGENDA ITEM 07:           MULTI-ANNUAL BUDGET OF ICA ASIA AND  
PACIFIC FOR 2005-2007**

The multi-annual budget of ICA Asia and Pacific for 2005-2007 is enclosed at Annexure-4. Regional Assembly may kindly approve.

**AGENDA ITEM 08:           APPROVAL OF PRIORITIES OF ICA ASIA AND  
PACIFIC FOR 2005-2008**

The Priorities of ICA Asia and Pacific for 2005-2008 as approved by the Standing Committee are enclosed at Annexure-5. Regional Assembly may kindly approve.

**AGENDA ITEM 09:           APPROVAL OF NEW RULES OF ICA AP**

The new Rules of ICA Asia and Pacific as approved by the Standing Committee are enclosed at Annexure-6. Regional Assembly may kindly approve.

**AGENDA ITEM 10:          REPORTS FROM ICA-AP SPECIALISED  
COMMITTEES**

Chairpersons of the following Specialised Committees will present their report at the time of Regional Assembly:

- (a) Women's Committee
- (b) Consumer Committee
- (c) Agricultural Committee
- (d) Regional Cooperative Banking Association
- (e) HRD Committee
- (f) Report on Youth Activities

**AGENDA ITEM 11:          REPORT OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> COOPERATIVE MINISTERS'  
CONFERENCE HELD IN NEW DELHI FROM 2<sup>ND</sup> TO  
5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2004**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference was convened by ICA-AP in New Delhi (India) from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2004. The Conference was hosted by the Government of India and the Cooperative Movement of India. It was inaugurated by the Deputy Prime Minister of India. A total of 172 delegates including 11 cooperative ministers, government officials, cooperative leaders and chief executives of 19 countries of Asia-Pacific region and nine international organizations participated at the Conference. The theme of the Conference was "Enabling Supportive Cooperative Legislation and Policy for Sustainable Growth of Cooperatives".

The Conference, in line with its past tradition adopted a Joint Declaration known as "New Delhi Declaration". The Declaration was signed by ministers and other representatives on behalf of their respective governments and cooperative movements.

The Conclusions and Recommendations of the Conference have been circulated to the governments and member organizations of ICA in Asia-Pacific region for taking appropriate action to implement the Recommendations.

**AGENDA ITEM 12:           REPORT AND NEW ISSUES ARISING FROM 3<sup>RD</sup>  
ICA REGIONAL COOPERATIVE FORUM**

Delegates are aware that 3<sup>rd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum hosted by the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) has been planned on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December. All the member organizations have been informed. We expect nearly 200 participants in this Cooperative Forum, besides local participants.

The theme of the Forum is "RE-ENGINEERING COOPERATIVES IN THE GLOBALISED ECONOMY" and Sub-themes are the following:

- (a) Cooperative Values vis-à-vis Competition;
- (b) Fair Globalization through Cooperatives;
- (c) Restructuring Cooperatives;
- (d) Governance of Cooperatives;
- (e) Sectoral Concerns; and
- (f) Social Cohesion through Cooperatives.

Detailed report and issues arising from the Forum will be placed before the Regional Assembly on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**AGENDA ITEM 13:           REPORT OF 4<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM**

The report will be placed before the Regional Assembly by the Chairperson of the Women's Forum.

**AGENDA ITEM 14:           REPORT OF 3<sup>RD</sup> ASIAN COOPERATIVE  
RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

The report will be placed before the Regional Assembly by the Chairperson of the ICA Research Conference.

**AGENDA ITEM 15:           CONSIDERATION OF VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT  
MEETING.**

The next meeting may be convened in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2006. The Standing Committee may be authorized to fix up the date.

As regards venue, delegates/prospective host member organizations may give their proposal at the time of the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 16:           CLOSING SESSION**

ANNEXURE - 1

**MINUTES OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE ICA REGIONAL  
ASSEMBLY FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC  
Cebu (Philippines) : 21<sup>st</sup> February 2003**

**AGENDA ITEM 01 : OFFICIAL OPENING**

The formal joint opening ceremony of 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum and 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly was held at Waterfront Hotel, Cebu (Philippines) on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2003. His Excellency Teofisto T. Guingona Jr., Vice President of the Philippines, delivered the keynote address. Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo also sent a message which was read by Hon'ble Secretary Efrén Moncupa, Chairperson of the Cooperative Development Authority. Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President and Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President delivered the opening remarks during the ceremony. Mr. Manuel P. Alonzo, Chairperson of NATTCO welcomed the delegates.

After conclusion of ICA Regional Cooperative Forum, the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific was held at Waterfront Hotel, Cebu (Philippines) on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2003. 160 participants from China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and ACCU attended the meeting. In addition, special invitees from Brunei, Canada, Germany, AARDO, CICOPA, ILO and ICA also attended the meeting. The list of participants of the meeting is annexed (Annex-1).

Mr. Mu Li, Vice President of ICA and Chairman of ICA Regional Assembly opened the meeting and welcomed all members and invitees. Mr. Mu Li said "I am very happy that most of the member organizations' representatives could come to Cebu to attend the meeting. He said that this was the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Assembly meeting in the new millennium to deliberate on important issues and make decisions on role of ICA in Asia-Pacific in strengthening cooperatives to face emerging challenges. He requested Mr. Ivano Barberini, President of ICA, to officially inaugurate this meeting".

Mr. Ivano Barberini said "I would like to congratulate the organizers for the excellent arrangements made for the Cooperative Forum and the Regional Assembly. We have had some excellent initiatives in these days, with very good speakers who have come up with analysis and results and useful and stimulating ideas. This has been seen in the presence and attention given by participants and the work carried out by each of them. For me, this is also a sign of the dynamism of cooperators in the Asia-Pacific region, a wide and important area of the world, destined to leave a deep imprint on the history of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and to overcome the challenges inherent in globalization. Challenges will involve social, economic, political and cultural aspects".

Commenting on the theme of the Regional Cooperative Forum, the ICA President remarked "Looking at the next 10 years does not mean trying to see the future in a crystal ball. We live in uncertain times of rapid changes and, in many cases, they are uncontrollable. It would be very risky to decide on choices based on long-term forecasts of the future. The future, it has been said, is not predictable, it happens. I think this is the right approach. This is the meaning of the research and discussions that have arisen from this theme. Building the future is a much more difficult task than trying to forecast it. It requires a combination of know-how, intelligence and passion, social visibility and the best economic performances".

Mr. Ian Macdonald Director General of ICA also addressed the opening ceremony. He said "The Regional Assembly is the higher democratic forum of ROAP, and as it only meets once

every two years, it is an eagerly awaited event. The fact that it exists at all is testament to the hard work of its Board and staff, but also to the vision of those who regionalized the ICA some 10 years ago. This was not some expedient whim, but an exercise in member participation and democracy – a fundamental principle of the Cooperative Movement. The ICA was immediately transported from being a somewhat distant global organization in Europe to cooperators in the four main continents of the world”.

He further said “Ten years on I think most would agree it has been a success. I would prove that by pointing to the number of request for even greater devolution – always a good sign. We are not of course complacent and improvements can always be made, but I think, however, that what is needed is a closer examination of our values and how we implement them”.

At this point Mr. Mu Li invited Mr. Manuel P. Alonzo, Chairperson of NATCCO and Member of the Standing Committee to chair the rest of the Session.

Mr. Alonzo thanked the members for electing him as Chair to conduct the rest of the meeting.

#### ***AGENDA ITEM 02: APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

The Chair asked the members whether they had any comments on the Agenda. The Agenda, which was circulated at the meeting, was unanimously approved.

#### ***AGENDA ITEM 03 : CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING HELD IN SINGAPORE ON 29<sup>TH</sup>-30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2000.***

The minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Assembly held in Singapore on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2000 were circulated to all the delegates and member organizations. No suggestions/observations/amendments had been received. The Meeting unanimously confirmed the minutes without any corrections.

#### ***AGENDA ITEM 04 : PERUSAL OF MINUTES OF ICA ROAP STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS SINCE LAST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY.***

Since last Regional Assembly, five meetings of the Standing Committee were held. Confirmed minutes of these meetings were circulated at the meeting. Necessary follow-up action on these minutes had already been completed. The delegates of the Regional Assembly endorsed the minutes of the Standing Committee.

#### ***AGENDA ITEM 05 : ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF ICA ROAP STANDING COMMITTEE.***

According to ICA Regional Assembly Rules (Article 3 (g), ICA Regional Assembly shall elect maximum of eight members in addition to Chairperson and two Vice Chairpersons. Since Chairperson of ICA Regional Assembly is Vice President of ICA from Asia-Pacific region, the



5<sup>th</sup> meeting of ICA Regional Assembly would elect two Vice Chairpersons and eight members of Standing Committee.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the SC at its recent meeting had agreed to propose the names of the following 11 persons for approval by the Regional Assembly:

- |                           |         |             |   |                  |
|---------------------------|---------|-------------|---|------------------|
| • Mr. Mu Li               | ACFSMC  | China       | - | Chairperson      |
| • Ms. Junko Ito           | JCCU    | Japan       | - | Vice Chairperson |
| • Prof Ungku A. Aziz      | ANGKASA | Malaysia    | - | Vice Chairperson |
| • Dr. Yehudah Paz         | CUCS    | Israel      | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Chung Dae-Kun       | NACF    | Korea       | - | Member           |
| • Dr. S.S. Sisodia        | NCUI    | India       | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Seah Kian Peng      | SNCF    | Singapore   | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Manuel P. Alonzo    | NATCCO  | Philippines | - | Member           |
| • Mr. D.P. Baskota        | NCFN    | Nepal       | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Sutrisno Iwantono   | DEKOPIN | Indonesia   | - | Member           |
| • Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe | NCC     | Sri Lanka   | - | Member           |

Mr. K.K. Ravindran from India raised the issue whether the Regional Assembly could elect members who were not present in the meeting.

Ms. Rahaiah Baهران from Malaysia said that nominations from Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Israel had been received. Malaysia had nominated Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz to the Standing Committee and got the endorsement from other member organizations in Malaysia. The ICA ROAP Rules are silent about election of members who were not present in the meeting.

Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya from Sri Lanka explained the unavoidable situation that rendered Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe unable to be present in the meeting.

Mr. Leow Peng Kui from Singapore said that the important issue was not the absence of member, but submission of proper nomination to ICA ROAP.

The Regional Assembly approved the above names as proposed by the Standing Committee.

**AGENDA ITEM 06 : PROGRESS REPORT FROM REGIONAL DIRECTOR, ICA ROAP.**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee made a power point presentation on the important activities carried out by ICA ROAP after the last Regional Assembly meeting in Singapore. He said that we have tried to spread out the activities in most of the countries served by ROAP. He presented the financial report for 2002 and informed the meeting that there was a surplus of US\$ 31,816 in ROAP and US\$ 2,070 at Singapore Business Office.

Some members wanted to know the criteria for selecting the activities for reporting, as they had organized a number of activities in collaboration with ICA ROAP in their countries. However, these were not mentioned in the report. It would be appropriate to include all activities carried out by ICA ROAP in the report.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that his report covered only very important activities. But all activities undertaken by ICA ROAP find mention in the Annual Report of ICA ROAP.

**AGENDA ITEM 07 : APPROVAL OF WORK PROGRAM/BUDGET OF ICA ROAP FOR 2003.**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the ICA ROAP Work Plan and Budget for 2003 which was earlier approved by the Standing Committee. He said that there would be a surplus of US\$ 28,212 at ROAP in 2003.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee thanked the development partners and member organizations for their financial support.

Mr. B. Subrahmanyam from India emphasized the need for as much as comprehensive consultations with the cooperative leaders in the mainstream to obtain their views on the issues for which ICA ROAP had initiated critical studies from time to time. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said that this would be kept in view while undertaking the 3<sup>rd</sup> Critical Study on Cooperative Legislation and Policy.

Mr. Bhagwati Prasad from India wanted to know the rationale of keeping the Singapore Business Office. Mr. Leow Peng Kui from Singapore informed the meeting that this matter was reviewed by the Task Force appointed by the Standing Committee in 2000. The findings and budget for Singapore Business Office was also approved. He also said that ICA must look forward due to diversity of our region.

**AGENDA ITEM 08 : REPORTS FROM ICA ROAP SPECIALISED COMMITTEES.**

**Women's Committee:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ICA Regional Women's Committee was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 18<sup>th</sup> February. Ms. Rahaiah Baheran, Chairperson of the Committee, chaired the meeting. The meeting had almost full attendance. Twelve members along with two Vice Chairpersons of the Committee attended the meeting. Election of the office bearers of the Committee was held. The members unanimously re-elected Ms. Rahaiah Baheran as Chairperson of the Committee. Ms. Preemashanti Sooriyarachchi of NCC, Sri Lanka and Ms. Junko Ito of JCCU, Japan were re-elected as Vice-Chairpersons for the next term of the Committee.

Ms. Savitri Singh, Secretary of the Committee presented a report of the activities. Important issues such as low membership of the Committee, establishment of national women's fora in member countries, financial position of the Committee, trainers' training programs for leadership development of women were discussed at length. The meeting called upon the members to make efforts to increase the membership of the Committee and collaborate with the member organizations for organizing national women's fora and women leadership development programs.

**Consumer Committee:** The 36<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 18<sup>th</sup> February. 22 delegates from Japan, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam participated at the meeting. Mr. T. Fujioka, Chairperson of the Committee, welcomed the participants and thanked the host NATCCO for providing valuable support to organize this meeting. He also

thanked Mr. Edgar Comeros, CEO of VICTO for agreeing to present a special report on cooperatives in the Philippines and arranging a study visit for the participants. Mr. Fujioka informed the meeting that Asian economy had been developing steadily. Hence consumer buying power would also increase and competition with private market will intensify. He invited the participants to discuss in more details as to how to cope with the competitive situation. Mr. Dudz Samson, Co-CEO of NATCCO Network – Visayas (VICTO) presented the report on consumer coops in the Philippines. The Union of Consumer Coop Societies, Kuwait, was accepted as a member of the Consumer Committee.

**Agricultural Committee:** The 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 18<sup>th</sup> February. 11 members from India, Indonesia, Korea, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand attended the meeting. Dr. Sutrisno Iwantono, Vice President of DEKOPIN was elected as Chairperson, while Mr. Wirat Iam-Ua-Yut, Chairman of CLT was elected as Vice Chairperson of the Committee. Both the elections were unanimous. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Agricultural Advisor at ICA Geneva presented a paper on the “*Impact of WTO Negotiations on Agricultural Cooperatives*”. The meeting felt that there was a need for a comprehensive farmers’ education programme to sensitise them about the implications of the WTO negotiations and requested agricultural coops and their federations to chalk out suitable strategy in this regard.

Mr. B.D. Sharma, Secretary of the Committee, presented a report on the critical studies on agricultural coops conducted in Bangladesh, India, Laos, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam, as an AGRITERRA funded project. The Committee appreciated AGRITERRA for their support. The meeting authorized the Chairperson to decide on the venue and date of the next meeting.

**Regional Cooperative Banking Association:** The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the RCBA was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 18<sup>th</sup> February. 16 delegates from India, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Thailand participated at the meeting. In the absence of Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, Chairperson, the meeting was chaired by Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, former Chairperson of RCBA.

The meeting was inaugurated by the President of ICBA. In his opening speech, he emphasized the importance of Coop Financial System for dynamic growth of cooperative economy. He said that the following important issues will decide the future growth of coop banks in the world, including Asia: (a) what kind of values coop banking system should adopt; (b) how the coops respond to needs of modern society; (c) prevalence of poverty despite globalization; (d) how do the coops market themselves; (e) banking laws; and (f) quality of product. It was decided that RCBA and ICBA should collaborate to conduct joint activities in Asia-Pacific region.

**HRD Committee:** The 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICA Committee on HRD was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 19<sup>th</sup> February. 22 members from six countries, namely, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and ACCU attended the meeting. The meeting unanimously elected Mr. Leow Peng Kui, Chief Executive of SNCF as Chairperson and Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, CEO of NCUI as Vice Chairperson. The meeting recorded its thanks and sincere appreciation for the significant contributions made by Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz and Dr. Yehudah Paz to the Committee. Brief country reports on HRD activities were presented by members from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen, Development Director of ICA Geneva made a presentation on the “*Global Virtual Coop Learning Centre*”. Mr. Ranjith Hettiarachchi, General Manager of ACCU made a presentation on “*Action Research on Institutional Development*”. The meeting appreciated the support and hospitality provided by NATCCO.

**AGENDA ITEM 09 :       REPORT OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> COOPERATIVE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE HELD IN NEPAL FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> TO 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2002.**

Mr. B.D. Sharma presented a report on the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministers' conference. The 6<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference was convened by ICA ROAP in Kathmandu (Nepal) from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> April 2002. The Conference was hosted by His Majesty's Government and Cooperative Movement of Nepal. It was attended by cooperative ministers, government officials, cooperative leaders and chief executives of 17 countries of Asia-Pacific region and eight international organizations. The theme of the Conference was "Establishing relevant Legislation and Policy for Cooperatives in the new Millennium".

The Conference, in line with past tradition, adopted a Joint Declaration known as "Kathmandu Declaration". The Declaration calls upon the governments to formulate and implement public policy and other sectoral policies that support development of member-based cooperatives. The Conclusions and Recommendations of the Conference have been circulated to the governments and member organizations of ICA in Asia-Pacific region for taking appropriate action to implement the Recommendations.

**AGENDA ITEM 10 :       REPORT AND NEW ISSUES ARISING FROM 2<sup>ND</sup> ICA REGIONAL COOPERATIVE FORUM.**

The ICA ROAP successfully conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum in collaboration with NATCCO at Waterfront Hotel on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2003. More than 650 delegates (including 350 Filipinos) from Brunei, Canada, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and five international organizations (ACCU, AARDO, CICOPA, ILO and ICA) attended the Forum.

The formal joint opening ceremony of 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum and 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly was held at Waterfront Hotel, Cebu (Philippines) on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2003. His Excellency Teofisto T. Guingona Jr., Vice President of the Philippines, delivered the keynote address. Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sent a message which was read by Hon'ble Secretary Efren Moncupa, Chairperson of the Cooperative Development Authority. Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President and Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President delivered the opening remarks during the ceremony. Mr. Manuel P. Alonzo, Chairperson of NATTCO welcomed the delegates.

The theme of the Forum was "COOPERATIVES: PAST 10 YEARS AND 10 YEARS AHEAD" with the following four sub-themes:

- (a) Asian Values as Reinforcing Element to Strengthen Cooperative Values;
- (b) Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific – An Introspective View;
- (c) Globalisation – Its Impact on Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific; and
- (d) Facing the Future.

Mr. Hans H. Muenkner from Germany made a summary of the presentations at the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum on 20<sup>th</sup> February.

**AGENDA ITEM 11 : REPORT OF 3<sup>RD</sup> REGIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM.**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> ICA Regional Women's Forum was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 18<sup>th</sup> February wherein 85 delegates participated. The objectives of the Forum were to determine whether Asian values enhance the participation of women in cooperatives; and to identify mechanisms to overcome factors that limit women's participation in cooperatives. Ms. Rahaiah Baهران, Chairperson of the ICA Regional Women's Committee extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest, Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President; speakers; participants and observers and gave the opening remarks.

In his inaugural address Mr. Ivano Barberini, President of ICA observed that the role of women in cooperatives continued to be limited specially at managerial and leadership levels. He emphasized the need for a women-friendly legal system, particularly in the context of the impact of globalization on women, and concluded that coops offer an important opportunity to confirm the rights and needs of women more than any other types of enterprise.

Hon'ble Corazon Juliano Soliman, Secretary, Department of Social Development, Philippines, delivered the key-note speech. Ms. Remmy Rikken, Operations Director of CAPWIP presented a well researched paper on the theme. Ms. Rameshwary Ramachandra of DEW Credit Coops in Singapore made a presentation based on her experience in an UP Project in North Korea. Participants from India, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Japan and Thailand also presented country papers. Group discussions were held for the participants to provide an opportunity to interact with each other, on a sub-theme chosen, "*Asian values as facilitator or obstacle for women's participation in coops*".

**Call for action:** Based on the findings of the presentations and discussions at the Forum, the Forum called on men and women cooperators and cooperative organizations in Asia and the Pacific at all levels for the following action:

*"Develop and design more programs towards leadership development and empowerment of women in cooperatives, like daycare for children and elderly, reproductive health and medical services, business information and know-how for women entrepreneurs, and education for member on leadership, gender concerns in coops, etc"*.

At the concluding session, Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director, emphasized ICA's commitment for the cause of women.

**AGENDA ITEM 12 : REPORT OF 2<sup>ND</sup> ASIAN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Cooperative Research Conference was held at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu on 18-19 February. Almost 80 researchers and coop leaders from Brunei, Canada, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, AARDO, ACCU and the ILO participated at the deliberations.

Mr. Akira Kurimoto, Chairman of the Global Research Committee presided over, while Mr. M.V. Madane, Chair of the Asia-Pacific Research Group coordinated the Conference. Mr. Iain Macdonald, ICA Director General presented a paper and Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President also participated.

The main theme of the Conference was current problem vexing the cooperatives the world over, viz. Globalisation of the economy and how cooperatives could cope with the situation

to the satisfaction of stakeholders. Another equally important theme of the Conference was Gender Integration. Many speakers, especially from Malaysia, presented very elaborate papers on gender integration in coops.

This Asia-Pacific Research Group hoped to organize the 3<sup>rd</sup> Research Conference during the next Regional Assembly in Thailand.

**AGENDA ITEM 13 : PRESENTATION OF NEW ILO RECOMMENDATION ON COOPERATIVES (ILO RECOMMENDATION NO. 193).**

Mr. Huseyin Polat, Program Coordinator, INDISCO, Senior Cooperative Development Specialist of ILO Geneva made a presentation of new ILO Recommendation on Cooperatives (ILO Recommendation # 193). The Regional Assembly expressed its appreciation of ILO and ICA collaboration in bringing out ILO Recommendation # 193 on Promotion of Cooperatives. The Regional Assembly hoped that the Recommendation, which includes ICA Cooperative Identity Statement, would provide very useful guidelines for cooperative development in the new millennium.

**AGENDA ITEM 14 : CONSIDERATION OF VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

The Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) offered to host the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly and related meetings in Thailand by end of 2004 or early 2005. The date and venue would be decided in consultation with the secretariat. The meeting unanimously accepted the invitation and thanked CLT for their kind offer.

**AGENDA ITEM 15 : OTHER MATTERS**

A resolution on IDACA was presented at the meeting which was earlier approved by the Standing Committee. The Regional Assembly unanimously approved the following Resolution:

We, the participants of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Assembly, are aware that the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) has been playing an important role in the sphere of human resource development for agricultural cooperatives in Asia-Pacific region with a significant support of Japanese Government (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries-MAFF). In this context, the ICA ROAP has been jointly implementing a project on Agricultural Cooperative Management Training for the last 17 years and a Rural Women Leaders Training Course for the last 12 years. We are happy to note that IDACA has completed its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its dedicated services to agricultural cooperatives. On this occasion, the following Resolution is placed for adoption by the Regional Assembly:

**“Recognising** the significant role of IDACA in the field of human resource development for agricultural cooperatives by training 4,500 managerial personnel and cooperative leaders for the last 4 decades with the substantial financial support of Japanese Government and JA-ZENCHU (Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives) of Japan;

**Appreciating** a very long collaboration between ICA ROAP and IDACA to catalyse the process of human resource development in agricultural cooperatives of Asia-Pacific region;

**Further appreciating** the large financial support of Japanese Government to enable IDACA and ICA ROAP to undertake the management training for agricultural cooperatives and rural women leaders training course to strengthen agricultural cooperatives to enhance farmers income, women empowerment, standard of living of people and poverty alleviation in the spirit of self-help and mutual help;

The Regional Assembly earnestly calls upon the Japanese Government to continue its support to IDACA and ICA ROAP to enable them jointly moving forward effectively to build up strong agricultural cooperatives of Asia-Pacific region.”

Mr. B. Subrahmanyam from India raised a question at the meeting. He said his organization had been remitting funds to attend ICA GA and RA. Every eligible member has a right to attend the meetings without any fee. So ICA should not charge any registration fee for attending GA and RA meetings. He also said that this was a serious issue and should be considered favourably.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said at the moment we follow ICA rules.

Mr. Iain Macdonald said that ICA is an enormous organization with huge expenses. The host also takes care of considerable expenses. It is not only for the RA but for all the events conducted in Cebu. We fully understand the question, but it is a case of costs and expenses.

Mr. Subrahmanyam replied that ICA was looking at the financial angle only. To strengthen ICA funds other avenues should be explored.

Mr. K.K. Ravindran from India suggested that the dates of meeting of Specialized Committees and related events should be so synchronized that there is no time gap between the two. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed that in future while preparing the schedule of various events ICA ROAP would ensure their synchronization.

The Chairperson thanked the members for coming and attending the meeting. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**SHIL KWAN LEE**  
Regional Director

**5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly**Cebu : 21<sup>st</sup> February 2003**List of Participants**

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Sri Lanka Consumer Coop Societies Federation  
No. 11, Saunders Place, Colombo-12, Sri Lanka.
- 135 **Mr. Priyanath W. Peiris**  
Consultant (Management and Business)  
Sri Lanka Consumer Coop Societies Federation  
No. 11, Saunders Place, Colombo-12, Sri Lanka.
- 136 **Udaya Ranjith Seneviratne**  
Director General  
National Institute of Cooperative Development  
Polgolla, Kandy, Sri Lanka.
- THAILAND
- 137 **Mr. Sa-Ngiam Kaeolangka**  
Board of Director  
Cooperative League of Thailand  
13, Pichai Road, Dusit  
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- 138 **Mr. Phanuwat Wanraway**  
International Relations Officer, CLT  
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Bangkok-10300, Thailand.
- VIETNAM
- 139 **Dr. Nguyen Ty**  
President  
Vietnam Cooperative Alliance  
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Hanoi, Vietnam.

- 140 **Mrs. Tran Thu Hang**  
Interpreter, VCA  
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Hanoi, Vietnam.
- ACCU 141 **Mr. Ranjith Hettiarachchi**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions  
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- BRUNEI 142 **Mr. Zainuddin bin Haji Tuah**  
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- GERMANY 143 **Dr. Hans J. Munkner**  
Professor  
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- CANADA 144 **Mr. Robby Tulus**  
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- ILO 145 **Mr. Huseyin Polat**  
Programme Coordinator, INDISCO  
Senior Cooperative Development Specialist  
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- 146 **Ms. Teresita de Leon**  
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- AARDO 147 **Mr. Mehmoodul Haq**  
Special Assistant to Secretary General  
Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation  
2, State Guest Houses Complex  
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021, India.
- CICOPA 148 **Mr. Ruben Villa Benayas**  
President  
Union de Cooperativas Madrilenas Trabajo Asociado  
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- ICA
- 149 **Mr. Ivano Barberini**  
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- 150 **Mr. Iain Macdonald**  
Director General  
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- 151 **Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen**  
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- 152 **Mr. Shil Kwan Lee**  
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- 153 **Mr. B.D. Sharma**  
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New Delhi-110066, India.
- 154 **Mr. Jiro Ito**  
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- 155 **Mr. Sung-Chul Kim**  
Advisor – Agricultural Programs  
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- 156 **Ms. Savitri Singh**  
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- 157 **Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan**  
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New Delhi-110066, India.

ANNEXURE - 2



**Minutes of the ICA ROAP Standing Committee Meeting**  
**New Delhi (India): 5<sup>th</sup> February 2004**

The following members attended the ICA ROAP Standing Committee (SC) Meeting that was held at the Ashoka Hotel in New Delhi (India) on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2004 from 10:00 to 13:15 hours:

**In attendance**

- |     |   |                   |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| 01. | Dr. Yehudah Paz, Israel   |                   |
| 02. | Dr. S.S. Sisodia, member, India   |                   |
| 03. | Mr. D.P. Baskota, Nepal   |                   |
| 04. | Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe, Sri Lanka  |                   |
| 05. | Mr. Zhang Wangshu, representing Mr. Mu Li, Chairperson, China               |                   |
| 06. | Mr. Leow Peng Kui, representing Mr. Seah Kian Peng, member, Singapore       |                   |
| 07. | Mr. Lyu Keun-Won, representing Mr. Chung Dae-Kun, member, Korea             |                   |
| 08. | Dr. Mohd. Ali Baharum, representing Royal Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, VC, Malaysia |                   |
| 09. | Ms. Akiko Yamauchi, representing Ms. Junko Ito, VC, Japan.                  |                   |
| 10. | Ms. Rahaiah Baheran, ICA Board Member, Malaysia                             |                   |
| 11. | Mr. Nasir Khan Yahaya, ANGKASA, Observer                                    |                   |
| 12. | Mr. Iain Macdonald, Director General, ICA                                   | - Special Invitee |
| 13. | Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen, Development Director, ICA                             | - Special Invitee |
| 14. | Mr. Guy Malacrida, Finance Director, ICA                                    | - Special Invitee |
| 15. | Mr. Jiro Ito, Director (Special Programs), SBO                              | - Observer        |
| 16. | Mr. Sung-Chul Kim, Advisor (Agri-Programs), SBO                             | - Observer        |
| 17. | Mr. B.D. Sharma, Senior Consultant, ICA DT                                  | - Observer        |
| 18. | Ms. Savitri Singh, Gender Advisor, ICA ROAP                                 | - Observer        |
| 19. | Mr. P. Nair, Communication Officer, ICA ROAP                                | - Observer        |
| 20. | Mr. K. Kukreja, Finance Officer, ICA ROAP                                   | - Observer        |
| 21. | Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA ROAP                              | - Secretary       |
| 22. | Mr. K. Sethu Maddhavan, Planning Officer, ICA ROAP-                         | (Recording)       |

**Apologies**

01. Mr. Sutrisno Iwantono, Indonesia.

**Agenda Item 01: Opening Remarks**

In the absence of the Chairperson, Mr. Mu Li, and Vice Chairpersons, Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA ROAP, requested Dr. Yehudah Paz from Israel to chair the meeting. Dr. Yehudah Paz opened the meeting and welcomed all members and invitees.

**Agenda Item 02: Approval of the Agenda**

Dr. Yehudah Paz asked the members whether they had any comments on the Agenda. The Agenda was unanimously approved.

### **Agenda Item 03: Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Meeting**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the minutes were sent to the members and no comments had been received. Dr. Mohd. Ali Baharum informed the meeting that in the minutes the name of the Committee had been mentioned as "ICA Regional Standing Committee" and in the Agenda it had been mentioned as "ICA Standing Committee". Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said that the correct name is "ICA ROAP Standing Committee". The Chairman said that the correct name should be mentioned everywhere. With this change, the minutes were confirmed unanimously.

### **Agenda Item 04: ICA ROAP Activity Report for 2003**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the activities carried out by ICA ROAP during the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003.

Dr. Sisodia wanted to know whether we are satisfied with the number of participants in the activities. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the number was alright, but we should try to improve the quality of the participants. He further said that in some cases, the same persons attend many meetings and the participation of Executives in the meetings was very low.

Dr. Yehudah Paz said that ROAP had done a good job in 2003 under the leadership of Mr. Shil Kwan Lee. He further said that the seminars and training courses conducted by ROAP were very useful for the development of cooperatives in the region. He expected more involvement of member organizations for this purpose in the future.

### **Agenda Item 05: ICA ROAP Financial Report for 2003**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the financial report for 2003. He informed the meeting that there is a surplus of US\$ **94,614** at New Delhi Office and US\$ **14,640** at Singapore Business Office.

Some members wanted to know what ROAP was going to do with the surplus. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that during the last 5 years there is an accumulated deficit at ROAP and the surplus would go to ICA HO account.

Mr. Iain Macdonald informed the meeting that any surplus will go to the current reserve and the ICA Board had already agreed to this system.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that there was only two staff members working at Singapore Business Office and they were on deputation from JCCU and NACF. Dr. Yehudah Paz thanked JCCU, NACF and NCUI for secondment of their staff to work with the ICA ROAP.

Ms. Rahaiah Baهران wanted to know the basis of re-distribution of ICA subscription. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that last year we got 21% of the subscription collected from our region and this year we would get 23%.

Some members said that MO's indirect support (in kind) was not included in the financial report. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that MO:s spend lot of money when we organized any activity in their country. However, it was not easy to calculate the MO's indirect support.

### **Agenda Item 06: ICA ROAP Work Plan for 2004**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the ICA ROAP Work Plan for the year 2004. He said that we are trying to spread out the activities in most of the countries served by ROAP.

Mr. B.D. Sharma said that the activities mentioned in the work plan are based on the Key Result Areas which was approved by the Standing Committee earlier. Whenever a project was materialized, it was brought to the attention of the Standing Committee.

Some members suggested that ROAP should undertake more trade-related activities. Mr. Lee informed the meeting that trade promotion was very important and we held a trade seminar in Bangkok last year. This year there would be a Trade Forum and Exhibition in Beijing. Further, in the ROAP's website there would be a separate section for coop trade with commodity information. We would also collect more information on coop trade and put it in the website.

### **Agenda Item 07: ICA ROAP Budget for 2004**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the ICA ROAP budget for 2004 and said that there would be a surplus of US\$ 11,000.

Mr. Guy Malacrida said that each Region should increase their membership subscription by 5% in 2004 and 60% of the increased subscription was returned to the respective regions.

Mr. Iain Macdonald said "increasing the subscription by 5% is not an easy task. Only 25% of the members pay their subscription according to ICA Rules. This applies to all regions. I suggest that members should pay their subscription according to ICA Rules. So we need your support to increase the subscription by 5%".

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee said that we are trying to expand our membership. He also requested the Standing Committee members to pay more attention to increase the membership.

### **Agenda Item 08: New Rules of ICA in Asia-Pacific**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that as desired by the Standing Committee at its last meeting in Norway, the secretariat had prepared the new draft Rules of ICA in Asia-Pacific and sent to the members in advance through e-mail. The meeting discussed the new Rules by Article by Article and suggested some changes. The revised Rules are attached, as per the suggestions made by the members.

Mr. Lee said that the members could still send their suggestions/comments to the secretariat regarding the new Rules till November 2004. The final draft of the new Rules will be submitted to the next Standing Committee meeting for its approval.

### **Agenda Item 09: ICA ROAP Priorities for 2005-2009**

The Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the Regional Assembly had approved the existing ICA ROAP Priorities for 2000-2004; and priorities for 2005-2009 need to be decided before the end of the current year. He then presented the ICA ROAP Priorities for 2005-2009.

Ms. Rahaiah Baheran said that the recommendations of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ministers' Conference should be kept in mind while preparing the Priorities for 2005-2009.

Ms. Akiko Yamauchi suggested that on page 4 Priority # (f) should read as "Gender Mainstreaming and Involvement of Youth".

Mr. Leow Peng Kui suggested that on page 4 Priority # © should read as "Strengthening of Cooperative Directors Management Capabilities".

The meeting authorized Mr. Shil Kwan Lee to make necessary changes in the Priorities for 2005-2009 and submit it to the next Standing Committee meeting for its approval.

#### **Agenda Item 10: Preparations for next Regional Assembly**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that based on the preliminary discussions he had with Mr. Wit Praturuckchai, Executive Director of Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) regarding the next Regional Assembly/Coop Forum and other related events to be held in Thailand, the tentative schedule of the meetings may be as follows:

- 6<sup>th</sup> December : *Arrival of participants*
- 7<sup>th</sup> December : *Specialized Committee meetings/Women's Forum/ Research Conference.*
- 8<sup>th</sup> December : *Joint Opening Ceremony & Cooperative Forum*
- 9<sup>th</sup> December : *Cooperative Forum*
- 10<sup>th</sup> December: *Regional Assembly*
- 11<sup>th</sup> December: *Field trip*
- 12<sup>th</sup> December: *Departure of participants*

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee further mentioned that the Secretariat had identified the following two themes for the Cooperative Forum:

1. *Building Cooperative Competitiveness in a Globalised Economy.*
2. *Achieving Millennium Development Goals through Cooperatives.*

After discussions, Dr. Yehudah Paz suggested that the main theme could be "Cooperatives Facing Globalization" and the sub-theme could be "Increasing Cooperative Competitiveness" and Achieving Millennium Development Goals".

The meeting authorized Mr. Shil Kwan Lee to finalize the theme of the Cooperative Forum and later on inform the members accordingly.

In view of the ICA Board Meeting to be held in Kenya from 10<sup>th</sup> December and the ICA Regional Assembly for African region from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> December, it may be ensured that there is no overlapping of dates of ICA ROAP Regional Assembly and the events in Africa. Therefore, the meeting authorized Mr. Shil Kwan Lee to contact the concerned people and decide the dates accordingly.

Mr. Lee informed the meeting that the CLT would prefer to have the venue of the events in Bangkok. The meeting agreed to it.

### **Agenda Item 11: ICA Membership from Asia-Pacific Region**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the present membership of ICA ROAP consisted of 54 organizations in 24 countries. The membership of the following organisations had been terminated in 2003 due to non-payment of subscriptions:

- The National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India.
- The Union of Consumer Societies, Turkmenistan.

The following organizations had been admitted to ICA membership in 2003:

- The Coop Jerusalem of Israel.
- National Coop Housing Foundation for Asia and the Pacific based in Malaysia.
- Cooperative College of Malaysia.
- National Institute of Cooperative Development, Sri Lanka.

Ms. Rahaiah Baهران informed the meeting that the National Cooperative Housing Foundation for Asia and the Pacific was not registered in Malaysia.

The meeting suggested that Brunei should be approached for membership of ICA again.

### **Agenda Item 09: Other Business Matters Arising**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that there was a proposal for establishing a separate Youth Committee. Some members suggested that the age of the youth should be defined clearly and the campus youth should also be involved.

Ms. Rahaiah Baهران said that need for constituting a Special Committee for YOUTH may be examined in the context of availability of resources.

Ms. Akiko Yamauchi said that there was already some networking of the youth in the Asian region.

The meeting requested Mr. Shil Kwan Lee to look into the above suggestions and submit a proposal to the next Standing Committee meeting in Bangkok.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the present staff strength of ICA ROAP was nine (9) including three deputations from NCUI (India), NACF (Korea), and JCCU (Japan).

The meeting also expressed its appreciation to the Regional Director and his able staff.

Mr. Sisodia thanked Dr. Yehudah Paz for conducting the meeting so successfully and answering all questions.

### **Agenda Item 10: Date of Place of Next Meeting**

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee informed the meeting that the ROAP Work Plan/Budget for 2005 has to be sent to ICA Geneva in September after Standing Committee's. Therefore, we could have a separate SC meeting in September or get the approval of the SC members through e-mail.

After discussion the meeting authorized Mr. Lee to send the documents to the SC members through e-mail.

It was decided that the next meeting of the Standing Committee would be held in Bangkok (Thailand) in December 2004 in conjunction with the Regional Assembly/Cooperative Forum. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair at 13:15 hours.

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25<sup>th</sup> March 2004

**Minutes of the meeting of the ICA Regional Standing Committee**  
**05 September 2003 at Oslo, Norway**

Present

1.	Mr. Mu Li	Chairperson	China
2.	Ms. Junko Ito	Vice Chairperson	Japan
3.	Ms. Akiko Yamauchi	JCCU	Japan
4.	Mr. Song Jin-Hwan	NACF	Korea
6.	Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe	Member	Sri Lanka
7.	Ms. Rahiah Baharen	ICA Board Member	Malaysia
8.	Hj. Mohd. Ali Baharum	ANGKASA	Malaysia
9.	Dr. S.S.Sisodia	Member	India
10.	Dr. Yehudah Paz	Member	Israel
11.	Mr. D.P. Baskota	Member	Nepal
12.	Mr. Guillermo P. Cua	NATCCO	Philippines
13.	Mr. Seah Kian Peng	Member	Singapore
14.	Mr. Leow Peng Kui	SNCF	Singapore
15.	Mr. Iain Macdonald	DG, ICA	Geneva
16.	Mr. Ivano Barberini	President, ICA	Geneva
17.	Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen	Director, Development (ICA)	Geneva
18.	Mr. Guy Malacrida	Director, Finance (ICA)	Geneva
19.	Mr. Shil Kwan Lee	Regional Director, ICA ROAP,	India
20.	Mr. B.D. Sharma	Senior Consultant, ICA DT,	India
21.	Mr. P. Nair	ICA ROAP	<b><u>Reporting</u></b>

Mr. Mu Li welcomed the members and congratulated every one for a successful General Assembly.

The Agenda of the Standing Committee meeting was approved by a voice vote.

Confirmation of the minutes of the Last Meeting:

Since no amendments or modifications were suggested by any member, the minutes of the last meeting was confirmed unanimously.

Amendment to Rules of the Standing Committee

Dr. Sisodia suggested that the rules of the Standing Committee need to be changed in view of the amendments to the ICA Rules. All other members agreed that there should be amendments to the Standing Committee rules in view of the changes in the Rules of the ICA. The Regional Director was requested to review the rules and submit the modified proposal for the Standing Committee at the next meeting.

Mr. Mu Li requested the Regional Director to review the Rules of the Standing Committee in consultation with the members of the Standing Committee so that the regional rules comply with the global rules and that it is conducive to co-operative development in the Region. It was also proposed that the proposal for amendment will be reported by the Regional Director at the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

#### Report of the Regional Director on activities for 2003

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, presented the report on the activities for the year and also the future activities for the year 2003. Dr. Sisodia mentioned that he was happy with the performance of the Regional office and wished that further detailed figures for the budget, for the current and the coming year should be provided.

Dr. Yehudah Paz congratulated the Regional Office for the large number of activities and especially on the members' financial support for the Regional activities. He needed a break down on the budget for the Singapore office.

Mr. Mu Li congratulated the RD on the large number of activities undertaken by the Regional Office and specially on the financial support received from the member organizations.

#### ILO Programme on Poverty alleviation

Mr. Mu Li suggested that the ICA ROAP should take up the ILO programme on poverty alleviation seriously as the project could be very big. He thanked the Regional Director and members who contributed to the ROAP's development programme and suggested that the ROAP should widen the scope of members' involvement in activities. He requested the members to give more attention to the activities of the Regional Office.

#### Critical Study on Co-operative Legislation

Ms. Rahaiah Baharen said that Malaysia is keen to collaborate with the Regional Office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> critical study on co-operative legislation and wanted the Regional Office to collaborate with the ICA Ho on ILO Recommendation No.193. She also explained about the Regional Women-Co-operative Leaders' Training Programme.

#### Planned Activities for 2004

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee presented the planned activities of the ROAP for the year 2004. Mr. Lee also mentioned that he will report further detailed plan and budget by e-mail to Standing Committee members, when it is ready.



### New Members

Mr. Ivano Barberini, the ICA President, said that all co-operative organizations can and should become members of the ICA. Mr. Mu Li added that we should attract more members. He further said that in many cases, the current members of the ICA ROAP are weak and affiliated members of the apex organizations are some times stronger. He said that ROAP should facilitate the affiliated members of apexes to become ICA members and that the apexes should support the application of the affiliated members. The ROAP should strive to recruit more members but the ICA should consult the apexes and the Standing Committee. Mr. Lee requested the Standing Committee members to support the Regional Office in new member recruitment in different countries.

Dr. Sisodia mentioned that he is trying his best to get the National Co-operative Dairy Federation back into the ICA fold.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Ministers' Conference and its theme

Mr. B.D. Sharma explained the preparations for the Ministers' Conference. Dr. Sisodia suggested that for a successful Co-operative Ministers' Conference, very active collaboration among the ICA ROAP, the NCUI and the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, may have to be ensured. He assured all support of NCUI in this regard. He also suggested that the ROAP should contact MOs from all countries on this.

Mr. B.D. Sharma explained the arrangements for the Ministers' Conference and requested guidance from the Standing Committee on the theme of the Conference. Dr. Yehudah Paz suggested that Recommendation No.193 of ILO should be translated into Co-operative Law and should be discussed as the theme after properly wording it. Dr. Sisodia supported the suggestion of Dr. Paz. Mr. B.D. Sharma further explained the situation and said that at the Government Level, ILO 193 fall within the purview of the Ministry of Labour, which is the nodal agency for ILO to deal with. Co-operative Ministers may have some reservations in deliberating on the ILO 193. He suggested that since ILO 193 is fully in line with the ICA's perception on co-operative legislation and policy in the region, it may be taken as an important background paper for deliberation and the theme may be worded in such a way as will embrace the contents of ILO 193 and also visualization of ICA. Dr. Paz agreed to the suggestion.

Mr. Seah Kian Peng from Singapore supported the idea of 193 for the theme of the Ministers' Conference. Mr. Leow Peng Kui mentioned that the ICA ROAP had already conducted 2 workshops on Recommendation 193 and suggested the wording could be "Incorporating Recommendation 193 into Legal Framework and Policies for Co-operative Law".

Dr. Sisodia accepted this and needed some background of the Ministers' Conferences. Mr. B.D. Sharma explained the background of all Ministers' Conferences and said that in the

past the theme were to do with 'Co-operative Laws'. Dr. Sisodia also felt that some other ministries may not be interested with 193. Mr. Gill Cua, Philippines, agreed to the suggestion. Dr. Sisodia mentioned that the wording of the theme should be carefully worked out.

However, it was finally agreed that the theme should be properly re-worded to include 193, so that proper legislation could be made in member countries.

#### Visa Problems for Israeli's to Kuwait

Dr. Paz put forward the problem of the Regional Consultation in Kuwait, where he said that the Israelis may not be able to get visas. He says this was not acceptable and enquired what action the ICA would take on it.

Mr. Barberini agreed that it is a problem of ICA and suggested that a letter be sent to Kuwaiti government signed by himself and Mr. Mu Li. May be a copy could be marked to the UN.

Dr. Sisodia enquired from B.D. Sharma as to what was the response of the Kuwaiti side when he first discussed the matter. Mr. Sharma explained that the problem was not with the Co-operative movement but this was a political and diplomatic issue and the Government of Kuwait, as a policy, cannot issue visas to Israelis. The same situation arose in Iran, when we had last meeting there. The Kuwaiti delegates at the General Assembly expressed their inability to influence the issue of visa.

Mr. Mu Li mentioned that he already had a discussion with the Kuwaiti delegation in Oslo. He said that the Kuwaiti movement and government have made elaborate efforts for the Regional Consultation. He agreed that the situation where delegates from any country cannot participate in an ICA event is not correct. His view was that any ICA MO should agree to participation by all members, since we are co-operatives, there should not be any violation of co-operative fraternity. The present problem is by the government of Kuwait and not the co-operative movement. We should make all out efforts to allow Israeli delegates to participate. He agreed and welcomed the suggestion of Mr. Barberini to send a letter to Kuwait. However, he does not agree to send any letter of copy to the UN, since this is not a UN issue. He also suggested that the President and Director General of ICA should make it clear to all member organizations in future to allow all MOs to participate in all activities in any country.

Mr. Mu Li further mentioned that when the Ministers' Conference was held in China, they were able to persuade the government to allow ICA member from a country which had no diplomatic relations with China. He felt that the problem with the Kuwaiti authorities could be sorted out.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee mentioned that it was with great difficulty that the ROAP managed to bring middle east countries to ICA activities and hence we should not spoil the relations with the member organizations in the middle east.

Dr. Paz thanked the ICA President and the Chairperson/Members of the Standing Committee about the efforts promised by them on his 'exclusion'. He further said that the ICA should refuse to hold any activity in any such country. He said that he was instrumental in setting up the Cairo office of the ICA and welcomed the expansion of ICA activities to the Middle East. The ICA should follow the example of China and Malaysia. He requested that the promised letter to Kuwait be issued immediately by the President and Mr. Mu Li and the response intimated to him.

Mr. Mu Li hoped that all members agree to the discussions and a letter signed by him and Mr. Barberini will be written soon. We should take care in the future to avoid such problems.

Dr. Sisodia enquired what would be the next course of action, if Kuwait refuses to issue visas for the Israelis. Mr. Mu Li felt that things may work out after writing the letter. Mr.Barberini mentioned that he could refuse to go to Kuwait if needed.

The Regional Director requested the Committee to instruct the ROAP as to what we should do. Should we stop activities with Middle East countries, if this issue is not solved?

Mr. Baskota of Nepal mentioned that we should think positively and he felt things will work out in Kuwait. Mr. Mu Li agreed with all members of the Standing Committee and felt that we should wait for a response from the Kuwait movement.

#### Venue and dates for the next meeting

Dr. Sisodia offered to host the Standing Committee meeting in February 2004 in New Delhi.

The Director General thanked all members and mentioned that he is visiting China in April and possibly Delhi office too.

Mr. Mu Li thanked every one present and closed the meeting.

ANNEXURE - 3

## ICA - ASIA AND PACIFIC WORK PLAN FOR 2005

S.#	Activity Details	Time Frame	Venue
1	1st Part of the 19th ICA-Japan Training Course on Strengthening Management of Agricultural Coops including Study Visits to Agricultural Coops in Indonesia.	16th January to 12th March	India/Indonesia
2	2nd Part of the 19th ICA-Japan Training Course on Strengthening Management of Agricultural Coops.	13th March to 23rd April	Japan
3	5th ICA-Japan Training Course for Strengthening Women's Agricultural Coops in Rural Areas and Improvement of Farm Management & Rural Life.	August/Sept.	Malaysia/Japan
4	Training Course for Board Members of Consumer Cooperatives.	14-22 May	Japan
5	Regional Workshop for Senior Managers of Consumer Cooperatives.	July	Singapore
6	Three Training Programs for Managers of Consumer Coops (Miyagi/Tokyo/Kanagawa).	Sep/Oct/Nov.	Japan
7	Two Exposure/Networking Program for Women Cooperative Leaders.	Sept/October	India/Korea
8	Joint Program of ICA Regional Women's Committee and APHCO on Prevention of HIV/AIDS	May	Thailand
9	Trainers' Training Program for Women Leadership Development.	May	Sri Lanka
10	Asia-Pacific Health Cooperative Organization (APHCO) Board/General Meeting and Seminar.	25-27 February	Nepal
11	Critical Study on Consumer Cooperatives and National Workshop in Thailand.	October/ November	Thailand
12	Replication of success story of "SAIGON COOP" to selected regions of Vietnam.	Jan-December	Vietnam
13	Publish quarterly ASPACON and ICA-AP Annual Report.	Jan-December	ICA-AP

S.#	Activity Details	Time Frame	Venue
14	Promotion and Development of Consumer Cooperatives in the Philippines.	Jan-December	Philippines
15	Study Tour to Agricultural Cooperatives in the Republic of Korea.	September	Korea
16	ICA-ACCU Workshop on Micro Finance.	November	India
17	Project on Organization of Informal Workers in Cooperatives.	Jan-December	Nepal
18	Cooperative Policy and Legislation Dialogue between Governments and Cooperatives.	September	Malaysia
19	Conference on Role of Cooperatives in Poverty Alleviation.	June	Vietnam
20	<b>ICA-AGRITERRA Project on Promoting and Strengthening Agricultural Coops:</b>	January-July	Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam.
	<i>a) National workshops on sensitization of policy makers, senior officials, rural leaders, farmers organization.</i>		
	<i>b) Training programs for formulation and implementation of area-specific and coop specific business development plan.</i>		
	<i>c) National workshops on capacity building of members, board members, managers and employees of cooperatives.</i>		
	<i>d) Review and formulation of appropriate policy and cooperative legal framework.</i>		
21	<b>Committee Meetings:</b>		
	<i>Meetings of ICA Regional Committees on Agriculture, Consumer, HRD, Women, RCBA.</i>	Jan-December	

5.11.04

**ICA ASIA AND PACIFIC  
BUDGET FOR 2005**

Description	Amount Swiss Francs
<b>INCOME:</b>	
Re-distribution of Membership Subscription	145,130
Administrative Contribution	118,440
Contribution from MO (NACF & ACFSMC)	50,400
Meeting Revenue	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>313,970</b>
<b>EXPENSES not covered by programs:</b>	
Personnel Expenses	195,300
Travel Expenses not covered by Programs	37,800
General Office Expenses (including Audit Fee)	30,870
Communication	17,640
Meeting Expenses	12,600
Contingency (Other Expenses)	6,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300,510</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>13,460</b>
<b>Negotiated (2005)</b>	
MAFF, Government of Japan	710,338
JCCU, Japan	119,700
AGRITERRA, Netherlands	252,700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,082,738</b>

**SINGAPORE OFFICE BUDGET FOR 2005**

<b>INCOME:</b>	
SNCF, Singapore	22,050
JCCU, Japan	2,520
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,570</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
Travel Expenses	4,788
Rent and General Office Expenses	15,120
Communication	4,662
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,570</b>

**ANNEXURE - 4**



## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE ASIA AND PACIFIC (ICA-AP)

<b>MULTI-ANNUAL BUDGET - ICA AP</b> <i>(All Amounts are in Swiss Francs)</i>	<b>THREE-YEARS BUDGET</b>		
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>INCOME:</b>			
Re-distribution of Membership Subscription	145,130	145,580	145,430
Administrative Contribution	118,440	118,440	126,000
Contribution from MO {NACF & ACFSMC}	50,400	50,400	50,400
Meeting Revenue	-	50,400	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>313,970</b>	<b>364,820</b>	<b>321,830</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
Personnel Expenses	195,300	201,600	207,900
Travel Expenses not covered by programs	37,800	37,800	37,800
General Office Expenses (incl. Audit Fee)	30,870	32,760	34,020
Communication	17,640	18,270	18,900
Meeting Expenses	12,600	25,200	12,600
Contingency (Other Expenses)	6,300	6,300	6,300
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>300,510</b>	<b>321,930</b>	<b>317,520</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>13,460</b>	<b>42,890</b>	<b>4,310</b>

## SINGAPORE BUSINESS OFFICE

<b>INCOME:</b>			
SNCF, Singapore	22,050	22,050	22,050
JCCU, Japan	2,520	2,520	2,520
	<b>24,570</b>	<b>24,570</b>	<b>24,570</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
Travel Expenses	4,788	4,788	4,788
Rent and General Office Expenses	15,120	15,120	15,120
Communication	4,662	4,662	4,662
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>24,570</b>	<b>24,570</b>	<b>24,570</b>

ANNEXURE - 5

## **PRIORITIES OF ICA-ASIA AND PACIFIC**

2005 - 2008

### ***Preamble***

01. Previous Strategic Plan of ICA- Asia and Pacific based on ICA Organizational Review held in Singapore in 1999 was formulated in 2000 for a period of five years (2000-2004) that will be concluded in December 2004. During this five year-period, a lot of new trends have taken place in socio-economic complexion of various countries. The Strategic Plan identified the following Key Result Areas (KRAs) as the basis of Work Plan of ICA-AP:

- a. *Cooperative Identity and Image;*
- b. *Policy Development and Legislation;*
- c. *Leadership and (value-based) Professional Management;*
- d. *International Cooperative Trade Network (ICTN);*
- e. *Gender Mainstreaming;*
- f. *Information, Communication and Technology; and*
- g. *Specialization and Integration (sectoral development).*

02. These Key Result Areas were based on the trends that occurred in Asia-Pacific region. Important of these trends was Asian financial crisis that brought forth the resilience of cooperatives to survive the negative impact of globalization and growing realization on the part of both the governments as well as movements to closely coordinate with each other to create enabling environment for cooperatives to grow in a competitive environment. A number of governments in the region initiated cooperative legislation and policy reforms.

03. While the postulates based on which previous Strategic Plan was prepared, by and large, still hold good, there may be need for redrawing them in view of other changes that are taking place and/or likely to take place in coming years.

### ***Activities Undertaken***

04. Based on the above referred Key Result Areas, postulates visualized therein, ICA-AP undertook a number of activities, important of which are as follows:

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA Regional Cooperative Forum;
- b. Workshops on ILO Recommendation 193 on Promotion of Cooperatives;
- c. Workshop on Employment Generation, Poverty Alleviation and HRD: Perspectives of Cooperative and Trade Union Movements;
- d. Regional Workshop on Role of Cooperatives in Poverty Alleviation with reference to PRSPs.

- e. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Cooperative Research Conference;
- f. Validation and Cooperative Trainers' Workshops on Value-Based Professional Management;
- g. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Critical Studies on Cooperative Legislation and Policy Reforms;
- h. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Consultation of Permanent Secretaries in-charge-of Cooperatives in the governments and Chief Executive Officers of National Cooperative Organizations in Asia-Pacific; and
- i. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference.
- j. Sectoral Cooperative Development Activities:

Agricultural Cooperatives

- 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Training Courses on "Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives";
- Project on Strengthening Agricultural Cooperatives; and
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Training Courses on Strengthening of Rural Women Leaders in Agricultural Coops.

Financial Cooperatives

- Seminar on Surveillance System for Cooperative Credit and Banking Institutions;
- Regular meetings of Regional Cooperative Banking Association (RCBA).

Consumer Cooperatives

- Training Programs for Senior Managers of Consumer Cooperatives;
- Four Regional Workshops on Management of Consumer Coops;
- Regular meetings of ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation.

- k. Development of International Cooperative Trade Network:

- Organization of seminars; and
- Organization of Trade Forum and Exhibition.

- l. Gender Mainstreaming:

- Meetings of Regional Women's Committee;
- Regional Women Fora; and
- Trainers' Training Program for Women Leadership Development.

m. Youth Development:

- Regular meetings of University Students Committee; and
- Regional Seminar on Youth and Cooperatives.

n. Social Sector:

- Regular meetings-cum-seminar on Asia-Pacific Health Coop Organization (APHCO).

### ***Trends in Asia-Pacific***

05. Asia has recovered from the crisis and is back on the growth path. Most of the countries of the region are showing signs of good growth with China and India as the fastest growing economies of the region. However, intensive competition unleashed by globalization continues to affect private, public, and cooperative sector in respect of their structure, business and management practices. The WTO negotiations are likely to subject agriculture to acute competition and thereby adversely affect family farmers and small farmers and their cooperative institutions. Many fear that with increasing emphasis on commercialization of agriculture, problem of food security looms large in a number of countries in Asia-Pacific region.

06. Poverty is endemic in developing countries and newly liberated countries which are abound by the poor. Asia does possess more than two-third of the world's poor. Poverty alleviation, therefore, is a priority issue with the concerned governments.

07. Poverty is the result of unemployment. Informal sector continues to be largest provider of employment. However, informal sector workers suffer with lack of appropriate institutional set up that could organize them. Cooperatives are thought to be viable option in this regard. Further displacement of workers due to downsizing and closure of companies further add to the problems.

08. Although Information Technology (IT) is spreading very fast, many of the countries in the region are yet to harness its full potential. Further benefits of IT are yet to percolate to grass-root level and governance systems.

09. The cooperative sector of Asia-Pacific is also trying to adapt with the changes that are taking place at macro level. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Critical Study on Cooperative Legislation and Policy Reforms reveals that although there has been increasing realization on the part of movements and the governments to initiate reform process – some countries have modified their laws and policies – its pace continues to be slow. In most of the countries, particularly developing ones, economic reforms continue to lag behind the on-going economic reforms in national economy. The study, therefore, emphasizes that the process of change in cooperatives ought to be dynamic. Another important trend identified by the Study is that cooperatives supported by the Government with equity and subsidy have miserably failed when support is withdrawn.

10. Important areas of concern for cooperatives noticed by the Study Team during the course of field studies are:

- *Lack of effective mechanism for policy implementation;*
- *Absence of professionalisation of management;*
- *Absence of manpower planning and development strategies;*
- *Absence of business planning;*
- *Absence of integrated working and networking among cooperatives;*
- *Problem of recapitalization and dealing with non-performing assets;*
- *Problem of revitalization of sick cooperatives;*
- *Slow pace of institutional restructuring; and*
- *Slow progress in technology application and upgradation.*

11. A significant development, which will have positive impact on cooperative development, has been facilitated by the ILO Recommendation 193 of 2002 on Promotion of Cooperatives. The Recommendation not only endorses the definition, values and principles of cooperation as mentioned in ICA Cooperative Identity Statement, it also provides practical guide points regarding role of state, policy and legislation reform process and management practices for cooperatives in the changing contexts.

At multilateral level while ILO continues to play very important role in promoting cooperatives, other multilateral agencies particularly World Bank and Asian Development Bank do not seem to be much enthusiastic to facilitate development of cooperatives. Similarly with budgetary cuts in FAO, agricultural cooperatives appear to have vanished from their agenda. The situation seems somewhat paradoxical, while multilateral agencies and the governments implement their developmental programs through civil society organizations; in case of cooperatives they appear to have forgotten NGO character of cooperatives.

#### ***Priorities of ICA ROAP: 2005-2008***

13. Noting the speed of changes that are taking place around us and limitation of ICA-AP in terms of financial resources and manpower, it would be appropriate to define priorities based on which a well focused and achievable work program could be undertaken during 2005-2008. In this context, however, it sounds propose to take note of important happenings that are likely to impact positively the growth and development of cooperatives in coming years.

14. In view of the above, it is proposed to draw out the following priorities for ICA-AP that will form the basis of its Work Plan during 2005-2008:

- a. Propagation of Cooperative Values and Principles***
- b. Cooperative Legislation and Policy Reforms***
- c. Strengthening of Cooperative Management Capabilities***
- d. Active Participation in Poverty Alleviation***
- e. Promotion of International Cooperative Trade***
- f. Gender Mainstreaming and Involvement of Youth***
- g. Improvement of Information and Technology in Cooperatives.***

ANNEXURE - 6

## **RULES OF ICA-ASIA AND PACIFIC**

*(Based on the Rules approved by ICA General Assembly on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2003)*

### **Article 1: Mission Statement**

The International Cooperative Alliance - Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) shall strive to promote and strengthen the Cooperative Movement in the region.

### **Article 2: Objects**

The International Cooperative Alliance in Asia-Pacific, in compliance with Article 2 of the ICA Rules, shall have the following objects:

1. To promote the Cooperative Movement in Asia-Pacific region;
2. To promote and protect Cooperative Values and Principles;
3. To facilitate the development of economic and other mutually beneficial relations between its member organisations;
4. To promote sustainable human development and to further the economic and social progress of people, thereby contributing to peace and security in Asia-Pacific region; and
5. To promote equality between men and women in all decision-making and activities within the Cooperative Movement.

ICA-Asia and Pacific shall not affiliate itself to any political or religious organisation and shall maintain independence in all its activities.

### **Article 3: Regional Assembly**

1. Under Article 16 of the ICA Rules, there shall be a Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific region, consisting of representatives appointed by the ICA member organisations in the region.
2. The Regional Assembly shall, as a rule, take place every second year, alternating with ICA General Assembly, if not decided otherwise by it.
3. The total number of voting representatives from any country shall not exceed the maximum number of member organisations from any country in the region.
4. Member organisations in the region shall be entitled to additional votes based on multiple of ICA Geneva membership subscription or as otherwise approved by the Regional Assembly.



5. Member organisations from the region shall have the right to send non-voting Observers to the Regional Assembly upon payment of registration fee.
6. Non-members of ICA such as international organizations, parastatal organizations and other institutions concerned with the promotion of cooperatives can be invited to the Regional Assembly as Observers upon payment of registration fee.
7. The functions of the Regional Assembly shall be:
  - a. Draw up their own business procedures and representation rules, subject to approval by the ICA General Assembly;
  - b. Establish the priorities for the ICA-AP work programme in the region;
  - c. Implement the decisions of the ICA General Assembly in the region;
  - d. Submit reports, proposals, and resolutions for the consideration of the General Assembly;
  - e. Elect a person as President of the region who shall also serve as global **ICA Vice-President**, subject to ratification by the General Assembly. The President of the region shall, as a rule, be the **Chairperson** of the **Regional Assembly** and the **Standing Committee**. The person to be eligible for election as President of the region must have served on one or more ICA governing bodies for at least two years;
  - f. Elect two Vice Presidents, one of whom shall preferably be a woman. The two Vice Presidents shall be the Vice Chairpersons of the Regional Assembly and the Standing Committee;
  - g. Elect a maximum of eight Members to the Standing Committee, in addition to President and two Vice Presidents, from among the candidates proposed by member organisations in the Region;
  - h. The term of office of President, Vice Presidents and Members of the Standing Committee shall be **FOUR** years. In case any elected person ceases to represent or is withdrawn by his/her sponsoring member organization, the sponsoring organization shall be entitled to co-opt a new member until the next Regional Assembly; and
  - i. Establish Regional Specialized Committees and Thematic Committees and approve their Constitutions.

#### **Article 4: Standing Committee**

1. Under Article 20 of the ICA Rules, there shall be a Standing Committee (Regional Elected Body) consisting of a President, two Vice Presidents and eight Members elected by the Regional Assembly. No more than one person from one member country can be elected to the Standing Committee.

2. The Asia-Pacific members of the ICA Board, who are not members of the Standing Committee, shall have the right to attend and speak at meetings of the Standing Committee.
3. No person shall be entitled to serve on the Standing Committee whose organisation has ceased affiliation with the ICA.
4. A quorum of the Standing Committee shall be constituted when more than half of its members are present. Acceptance of a resolution shall be on a simple majority of all Committee members present and voting. Each member of the Committee is entitled to one vote.
5. The Regional Director of ICA-AP shall be the Secretary of the Standing Committee.
6. The functions of the Standing Committee shall be:
  - a. To work within the policy guidelines and decisions laid down by the Regional Assembly;
  - b. To manage the affairs of ICA at regional level between the meetings of the Regional Assembly;
  - c. To prepare the Agenda and organise the meeting of the Regional Assembly;
  - d. To reinforce member organisations' active participation in ICA activities in the region;
  - e. To promote sustainable cooperative development in the region;
  - f. To strengthen and expand Sectoral Organizations and Thematic Committees in the region and ensure their cooperation with their global equivalent;
  - g. To enhance the image of ICA and the Cooperative Movement in the region;
  - h. To provide recommendations on membership applications from its region to the ICA Board; and
  - i. To ensure regional finance and budgeting is strictly monitored and within the general guidelines of ICA;
  - j. To approve and monitor the annual budget and work plan prepared by the Regional Director before submitting to the Director-General and ICA Board for final approval.



1. The Regional Assembly shall be convened by the Standing Committee. The ordinary Regional Assembly takes place every second year, alternating with the ICA General Assembly. The time and venue of the next Regional Assembly shall normally be decided by the previous Regional Assembly or by the decision of the Standing Committee.

2. If necessary, the Standing Committee may convene a special Regional Assembly either on its own decision or at the request of at least **one-third** of the ICA member organisations in the Region.
3. The Standing Committee meeting shall be convened by the President of the region at least once in a year.
4. The Regional Director shall be responsible for preparation and circulation of meeting documentation, and for practical arrangements of the Regional Assembly/Standing Committee.
5. The official language of the Regional Assembly/Standing Committee shall be English. Delegates using other than English shall arrange their own interpreters.

#### ARTICLE 10

1. The delegates or their sponsoring organisations shall be responsible for covering the expenses of their participation at the Regional Assembly/Standing Committee.
2. Participation in the Regional Assembly and other related meetings will be subject to payment of Registration Fee as prescribed by the Standing Committee.
3. In line with ICA tradition, Regional Assembly shall be hosted by the member organisations in the region who may take care of logistic and other related costs as mutually agreed upon.
4. The budget and financial resources for implementing the work plan of ICA-Asia and Pacific shall be derived from the following sources:
  - a. Re-distribution of membership subscription to the region;
  - b. Funds provided through agreements with development agencies including governmental organisations;
  - c. Special contributions; and
  - d. Income from other sources as agreed by the Regional Assembly on the recommendation of the Standing Committee.

#### ARTICLE 11

1. These Rules and any subsequent amendments shall be subject to the approval of the Regional Assembly.
2. For all other matters, which are not covered by these Rules, ICA Rules (September 2003) shall apply.

5<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2004

## ICA COOPERATIVE IDENTITY STATEMENT

### DEFINITION

A Co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

### VALUES

Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, Co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

### PRINCIPLES

The Principles of Co-operation are guidelines by which Co-operatives put their values into practice.

**First Principle: Voluntary and Open Membership:** Co-operatives are voluntary organisations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

**Second Principle: Democratic Member Control:** Co-operatives are democratic organisations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women, serving as elected representatives, are accountable to the membership. In primary Co-operatives, members have equal voting rights [one member one vote], and Co-operatives at other levels are also organised in a democratic manner.

**Third Principle: Member Economic Participation:** Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their Co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the Co-operative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their Co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the Co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

**Fourth Principle: Autonomy and Independence:** Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their Co-operative autonomy.

**Fifth Principle: Education, Training and Information:** Co-operative provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees, so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their Co-operatives. They inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of Co-operation.

**Sixth Principle: Co-operation among Co-operatives:** Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the Co-operative Movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

**Seventh Principle: Concern for the Community:** Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

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