

asian youth seminar kuala lumpur



**cooperatives and the
socio-economic problems of asia**

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INTRODUCTION

The Asian Youth Seminar on Youth and Cooperative was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 11—22 January, 1964. The event, bringing together youth leaders and cooperation experts from all over the Asian region, was jointly sponsored by the International Cooperative Alliance and the World Assembly of Youth.

Included at the end of this publication are a list of the Seminar participants and the Seminar programme. The body of the publication is devoted to the report of the Seminar which was adopted by participants during the final plenary session. The report embraces a review of the work and purposes of the two sponsoring organisations, the reasons the Seminar was organised, and the conclusions of participants on the multifold topics discussed during the event.

WAY is publishing the report for wide distribution in Asia because of its desire to promote the development of cooperatives as one way of meeting the great social and economic needs of this vast continent. The Seminar was held to further Asian youth organisational interest in the cooperative movement and it is hoped that this report of the Seminar will not only aid in increasing this interest but also indicate to governments, trade unions, political parties, rural organisations and cooperative movements ways in which youth can become more actively involved in the cooperative movement.



(Right) Mr. Marian Radetzki, Director of the ICA Education Centre, addresses participants at the Seminar opening session; (Below) Guests and participants during the opening session programme.



THE FINAL REPORT OF THE SEMINAR

REPORT

SECTION I

Introduction

The International Cooperative Alliance and the World Assembly of Youth jointly organised in January 1964 a Seminar on Youth and Co-operation in collaboration with the Cooperative Union of Malaya Limited and the Malayan Youth Council. The Seminar, which was held at the Cooperative College of Malaya, Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur, was inaugurated by the Honorable Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives, Tuan Mohammed Khir Johari.

The delegates attending the inaugural function were also addressed by the Honorable Minister for Transport and President of the Malayan Youth Council, Dato Haji Sardon bin Haji Jubir. Mr. Jo Siow Loong Hin, Vice President of the World Assembly of Youth, and Mr. Marian Radetzki, Director, International Cooperative Alliance Education Centre for South-East Asia, also addressed the gathering. Honorable Dato Sambanthan, Minister of Works, Posts and Telecommunications addressed the delegates attending the Seminar during one of the working sessions. The valedictory address was given by the Honorable Minister for Transport, Dato Haji Sardon bin Haji Jubir.

Delegates were invited both by the International Cooperative Alliance and the WAY. Ten delegates and a number of observers participated on behalf of the Cooperative Movements and more than 25 delegates on behalf of the youth organisations from Asian countries. The countries represented in the Seminar were: Australja, Ceylon, Fiji, India, Israel, Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam. An observer of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions also attended. Two representatives of the ICA and two from the WAY participated in the Seminar.

International Cooperative Alliance

The International Cooperative Alliance is a world confederation of Cooperative Movements from all over the world. It has more than 130 members from 54 countries. The development of the Cooperative Movement in all parts of the world in accordance with the principles of Cooperation is the main aim behind the activities of the ICA. For achieving these objectives the ICA through its headquarters in London and also through its Regional Office and Education Centre for South-East Asia in New Delhi organises International Cooperative Congresses, Conferences on specialised subjects and also Regional Seminars and Conferences on subjects of importance to the development of the Cooperative Movement. So far the ICA has organised several international seminars in South-East Asia and has covered a variety of subjects which have direct bearing on the development of the Cooperative Movement in South-East Asian countries. Seminars on subjects such as Cooperative Credit, Cooperative Marketing, Cooperative Farming, Consumers Cooperation, Cooperative Press and Publicity and Cooperative Education have so far been organised. Participants from most of the countries of South-East Asia have attended and exchanged their experiences in these seminars.

Besides organising seminars and conferences on subjects covering various fields of cooperative activity, the ICA has also endeavoured to enlist the support of other international organisations for sponsoring joint activities aimed at extending the area of influence of the Cooperative Movement.

World Assembly of Youth

The World Assembly of Youth, founded in 1949, is a coordinating body for national youth councils. Its services, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations, are extended to youth of all the five continents and include seminars, conferences, goodwill delegations, technical assistance programmes and action in the field of human rights. Youth from representative organisations in 100 countries were present for the last WAY General Assembly held in Aarhus in July 1962.

WAY has assumed a unique role of providing a forum where youth organisations of all democratic tendencies ranging from religious youth

organisations to service groups, students' unions, youth workers' organisations, rural youth groups, and political youth organisations can come together and actively participate in activities aimed at promoting common interests. In WAY National Committees can be found groups ranging from the YMCA to the YMMA, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, the national unions of students, youth of different political parties, young workers' groups, rural youth etc. Although there are many international youth organisations in the world it is uniquely through WAY that the free and active association of different youth tendencies takes place.

The WAY programme reflects the diversity of its constituency. Regional young workers' seminars have been held in India, Peru and Switzerland and a World Young Workers' Conference was held in Morocco in April 1962. Three world rural conferences have been organised by WAY, the latest in the Netherlands in July 1962. WAY has organised general regional seminars on problems of special interest to the youth of the region involved in Vietnam, Japan, India, Australia, Tanganyika, Tunisia, Dahomey, Costa Rica, Cuba, Trinidad, Denmark, Belgium, Scotland and Switzerland. The Cooperative seminar in Kuala Lumpur is an example of this kind of regional event. WAY has also cooperated with national youth organisations in the organisation of national seminars, eight of these events taking place in 1963 alone in India, Japan, Gambia, the Congo (for Angolan Youth), Basutoland, Somalia, Nicaragua and Panama respectively. WAY has also an extensive publications programme, including two regular periodicals, the WAY Forum and the WAY Review, which help to keep youth organisations in different parts of the world informed on what is going on in youth circles elsewhere. Of special interest have been WAY's special publications on human rights' situations, including the ones on Angola, South Africa and Algeria.

The Secretariat of WAY, responsible for implementing the youth programmes decided upon by WAY General Assemblies (which meet every two years), is located in Brussels.

The organisation of the seminar on Youth and Cooperation sponsored jointly by the two world organisations was of mutual advantage to both the organisations. The Cooperative Movement is interested in enlisting the support of youth with a view not only to extend the area of influence of the Movement but also to ensure a succession of able leaders to run the cooperative organisations. The youth movement is anxious to provide training and guidance to youth so as to utilise the knowledge and the talents of the youth to the best advantage of their community. These common aims brought the ICA and the WAY together for sponsoring this seminar.

SECTION II

Cooperation and Its Role in the Socio-Economic Development — Origins of Cooperation

The origin of the Cooperative Movement can be traced back to the early part of the 19th century when the ill-effects of the industrial revolution were felt severely by the working classes and the farmers. The fast rate of industrialisation gradually disrupted the self-sufficient village economy. A continuous migration from villages to the industrial areas depopulated the agricultural areas. In the industrial centres factory-owners, traders and money-lenders exploited the industrial workers who had migrated to the cities. As all persons who migrated to the cities could not find work unemployment became a common feature of the economy.

The effects of Industrial Revolution were very serious in England. The Chartist Movement, in the second quarter of the 19th century tried in several ways to bring about social reforms through legislation but could not succeed. Individual efforts, therefore, were also made for changing the situation. Among the foremost in the group of early reformers was Robert Owen who through his writings and experiments in community living tried to improve the conditions of people. Robert Owen himself a manufacturer believed that the character of an individual was the result of his environments and if proper conditions were created around a person he would automatically improve his character. People were the victims of their circumstances and it was necessary to provide better conditions of living for improving their character. Owen experimented with his ideas of establishing cooperative villages by starting workers' colonies where the process of production and distribution was to be on a non-profit basis. He also established the Union Shops which sold articles at cost prices. These experiments could not succeed as the approach adopted by Robert Owen in his work was that he did not believe in the ability of the common people to help themselves. He maintained that only persons like himself who worked for the good of the people could help them. His experiment of consumer stores was further developed by Dr. W. King who organised cooperative con-

consumers' shops which could be run on the basis of self-help by consumers themselves. Dr. King's efforts created a sound basis for further experiments in this field and in 1844 the first successful consumer cooperative store was organised by a group of weavers at Rochdale near Manchester in England. The Rochdale Pioneers, several of whom were Chartists, adopted seven principles for the working of their stores, the most important of which were open membership, democratic control, limited interest on capital, and return of profits to the members on the basis of their patronage to the store. The idea of giving a patronage dividend to members in proportion to their loyalty was a unique one and it paved the way for the success of the cooperative stores all over the world. The Pioneers were also very careful in their process of organising the consumer stores. They debated and discussed the formation of the stores for several months before actually starting on the business. They had realised that such an activity could succeed only if the members understood the true nature and principles of co-operation and also their rights and responsibilities. To the Pioneers educational activity was an essential part of the working of a cooperative society.

In the field of agriculture and rural economy, the origin of the Co-operative Movement could be traced to the efforts of Herr Raiffeisen who in the year 1862 started the first cooperative credit society for giving easy credit to farmers, for selling their commodities and for meeting their agricultural needs. Many of the principles formulated by Raiffeisen for the working of rural societies were similar to the ones adopted by Rochdale Pioneers. Hence, the basic features of both rural and urban cooperation are almost identical. As a result of the land reforms during the first quarter of the 19th century the German peasants secured the lands but did not have the resources to cultivate their lands and market their produce. They were an easy prey of the money-lenders and unscrupulous traders. In the opinion of Raiffeisen self-help and mutual responsibility was the only solution to this problem. He, therefore, introduced the system of unlimited liability by which all members of the society were individually and collectively responsible for the repayment of the debt incurred by the society on behalf of the members.

Socio-Economic Benefits Through the Cooperative Movement

From its small beginnings the Cooperative Movement has now grown, in some of the Western countries, into a powerful force in the economic



The Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives of Malaysia, Tuan Mohammed Khir Johari, addresses the Seminar opening session.

sphere and is at present playing an important role in several developed countries. It has helped to create a healthy system of distribution of consumer commodities which guarantees to the consumer fair prices, quality goods and efficient services. In some countries, the Cooperative Movement has become one of the biggest consumer distribution enterprises and has also played an effective role in stabilising prices of consumer commodities.

The Agricultural Cooperative Movement has benefitted the farmers in many parts of the world. The rural population which followed Raiffeisen and which introduced credit and marketing cooperative societies, has been able to minimise the role of intermediaries. They have in several countries introduced through cooperative effort their own channels of production and marketing. It has also helped in increasing quality control in agricultural production. The cooperative societies in the rural areas have in several developed countries raised the standard of living of the rural population previously subjected to exploitation by vested interests.

The Cooperative Movement has also a very important role to play in raising the status of the individual in the society. In some countries people look to cooperatives as agencies responsible for giving a lead in better life by providing better services and by ensuring fair prices for consumer needs. The movement has also brought about a revolutionary change in housing standards by offering facilities in urban areas for construction of houses at moderate rates.

Cooperation in Asian countries

The Cooperative Movement in most of the Asian countries was introduced as an agency for providing distress loans to the farmers. The initiative for starting the cooperative organisations was taken in most cases by government agencies and the people's participation in the early stages of development was to the minimum. However, with the advent of independence in some Asian countries the Cooperative Movement is now gradually assuming the role of a popular movement, although, by and large the Cooperative Movement in South-East Asia is still in a developing stage. The development has taken place mainly in the field of cooperative agricultural credit. The rural economy is still to a large extent in the hands of the money-lender-cum-trader and his influence on the rural population, although on the decline, is still of a dominating nature. The cooperative organisations have not yet suc-

ceeded in transforming the rural economy nor have they succeeded in significantly raising the standard of living of the people. The difference in the income levels between the rural and the urban population is still very high. The Cooperative Movement has not been able to offer services which could help the farmer not only in getting cheap and easy credit but also in ensuring better production, better facilities for marketing the produce and safer channels of securing consumer commodities. The farmer needs capital as well as technical assistance for increasing his production. He also needs help in marketing the produce to his best advantage. The cooperatives, therefore, will have to play a more comprehensive role in transforming the rural scene from a subsistence economy to a developed economy.

Role of Government in Cooperative Development

The Cooperative Movement is essentially a voluntary and democratic movement. The initiative for starting cooperative activity should normally come from the people for whose benefit the cooperatives are organised. However, the organisation of cooperative activity on a voluntary basis presupposes the existence of a group or a community which is already conversant with the basic principles of cooperation.

Such a situation hardly exists in any country of Asia except Japan. There is, therefore, a constant need for external stimulus and guidance for encouraging people to undertake activities such as the organisation of cooperative society, formation of educational institutions etc.

In the countries of Asia the governments have played a very vital role in the development of cooperatives. As most of the cooperatives have been formed with initiative from the governments, the governments continue to guide and help the cooperatives as they are anxious to bring about a speedier economic development of their countries. Many Asian governments have already recognised cooperatives as one of the best agencies for economic development on democratic lines.

While it is necessary to provide external stimulus in the pioneering stages of development, it cannot be forgotten that sooner or later the cooperatives will have to be run by the people themselves. It should, therefore, be the endeavour of governments to gradually transfer the responsibility of the cooperatives to the leadership drawn from the membership of the cooperatives. Although governmental guidance and assistance will be needed for many more years to come, it is the duty of the government to gradually reduce its role to a position from which

it can fulfill its statutory obligations of registration and audit of co-operative societies and provide guidance for their development as a part of the general economic development of their respective countries.

Main Obstacles to Cooperative Development

The population of most of the Asian countries is rising every year and such increase tends to upset plans for economic development. This also seriously affects the development of cooperatives.

Another serious drawback in the development of the rural economy is the traditional structure that prevails in the rural areas and any change becomes a lengthy process. It would of course be a mistake to try to change radically the traditional social structure. However, the cooperative movement may have to assume a more positive role in transforming the social structure so as to facilitate the process of economic growth in the community.

A third obstacle in the progress of rural economy is the slow process of capital formation. The problem of capital formation is closely linked with the question of savings. The cooperative and other organisations in the rural areas have not so far succeeded in mobilising savings. The rural population lacks in propensity to save. No cooperative action could succeed unless the members cultivate the habit of thrift. The very basis of cooperation is thrift and unless a gradual change is brought about in the habit of the people with regard to savings it will be difficult for cooperatives to make any significant progress.

Lack of Cooperative Leadership

The main reason, however, for the comparatively slow progress of the Cooperative Movement in Asian countries is the absence of able leadership and the inability of the movement to maintain standards of efficiency in business. In many countries the Movement is still dominated by vested interests or a group of people who do not have direct interest in the functioning of the cooperative societies. One of the reasons for lack of able leadership is illiteracy. Lack of facilities for cooperative education is another serious difficulty. Inefficiency in business is also due to the fact that the Cooperative Movement has not been able to

attract talented and experienced workers as it does not offer facilities which the other economic organisations have been able to give to promising young persons. Absence of training facilities for employees in management and accountancy is also another important reason for the lowering of standards in cooperatives.

The younger generation has not so far been able to interest itself in the working of the cooperative societies. Youth today does not have the opportunity of knowing the principles and the benefits of the Cooperative Movement before entering their economic career. The only field in which the student community has been able to associate itself with cooperative action in some countries is in respect of students' cooperative stores in schools and colleges.

Youth Organisations and the Enlarged Scope of Their Activities

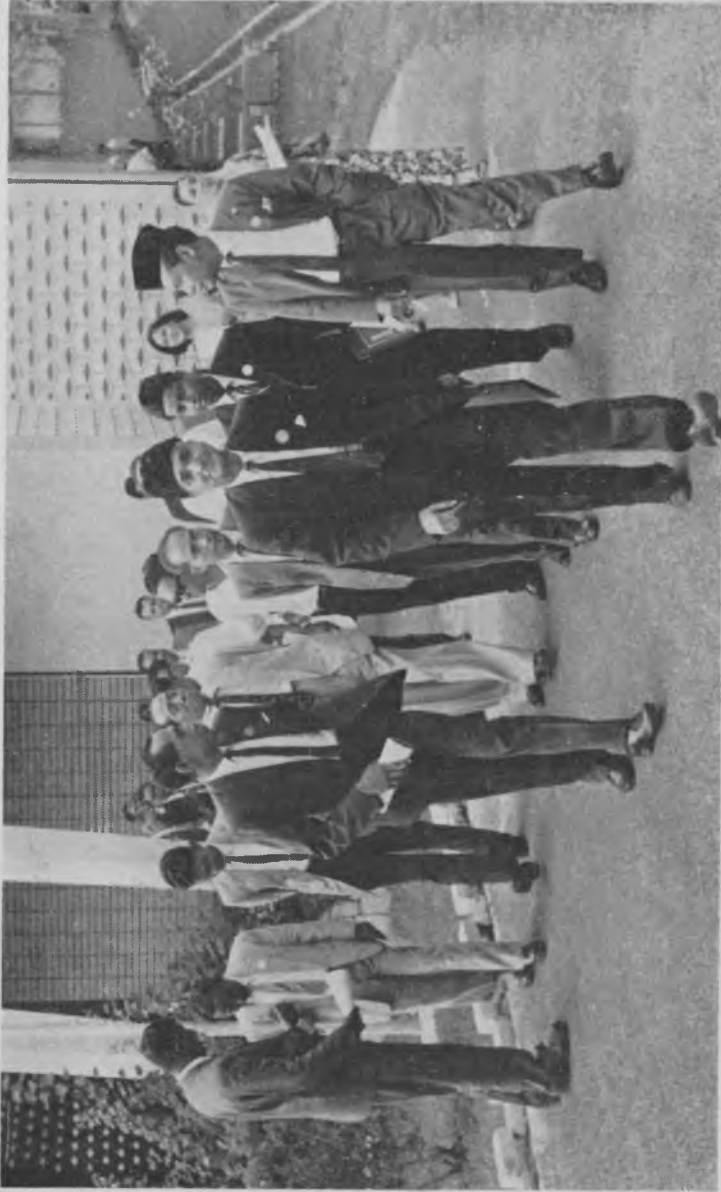
For many years the assorted youth organisations had a tendency to move predominantly within their own orbits, dealing exclusively with the problems of their members and the comparatively limited objectives of the organisations. Important work was done and is still being done today in this vein. Simultaneously almost all the youth organisations, regardless of orientation, have played and are playing a fundamental role in giving young people training in civic responsibility. This training is valuable as supplementary to what can be obtained in schools and colleges. It also provides an invaluable leadership experience preparing the youth for future responsibilities. In the past few years, however, more clearly than previously, has emerged the concept that there is fundamental value in all of the youth in a country, regardless of organisation, cooperating in a single framework at the national level. Part of this relates to the recognition of the importance of youth. In his inaugural address, the Malaysian Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives pointed out his Government's cognizance of youth being Malaysia's biggest asset. Youth in fact in most developing areas of the world forms well over half a nation's population. It is thus a resource whose training a nation cannot neglect. But also and equally important, the impetus towards a national framework to coordinate youth work has come from the voluntary youth organisations themselves because of their recognition that youth organisations, acting in concert, have a direct role to play in national development. Thus more than ever before, and particularly in the past three or four years, one finds youth organisations cooperating nationally on schemes for combatting illiteracy, for rural

development, for building libraries in rural areas and engaged in campaigns to protect natural resources. In some cases youth organisations have also participated in programmes for developing the understanding of the democratic process among the masses. Examples of such tangible cooperation at the national level are probably still the exception rather than the rule. Practical obstacles such as lack of finance, and lack of qualified leadership have minimised the number of cases of such effective cooperation. It is clear, therefore, from one's contacts with youth leaders in international meetings that to an ever-increasing extent, there is a recognition that a youth organisation's aims and objectives and responsibilities now transcend the limited framework of the individual organisation's constituency. They extend to the problems of society as a whole.

Problems Facing the Youth

The increased educational facilities and the changed environments enable youth to attain maturity at a comparatively younger age than before. They have to wait longer for the time when they could assume responsibility of economic life. Sometimes, they are disillusioned, sceptical and biased towards the material values of gain and comfort. But it must also be recognised that today's youth has a strong wish to ensure security for his future whether in employment or as a student. This struggle to obtain security is sometimes misunderstood and is considered as the main reason for his apathy in social and political life.

Another very serious problem affecting youth today is their concentration in the urban industrial areas. The tendency to migrate to and seek careers in urban areas is increasing to such an extent that there is evidence of lack of youth leadership in the economic and social life of the villages. Most of the young people who go to the cities for education do not return to their villages and therefore the benefits of their education and knowledge that may have been made available to the rural community are not forthcoming. One of the important reasons for this trend may be the absence of youth organisations in rural areas which may provide the youth with guidance for pursuing constructive socio-economic activities. The youth finds himself a stranger in the village after returning from the cities and wants to return to the comfortable and secure life of the urban areas. However, it is not always that he finds comfort and security as competition for securing employment in urban areas drives most of the people to occupations which they did not originally intend to pursue.



Participants leave the Seminar plenary hall after the Seminar opening session.

It is true that youth is reluctant to return to the villages. However, he could hardly be blamed for such lack of interest. The villages do not provide the young with opportunities of employment and minimum standard of living according to the modern conditions. The majority of the young might have preferred to stay on in the villages and pursue the indigenous occupations if facilities for living a decent life had been offered to them. In this context the following paragraph, taken from a recent world survey on rural youth activity and published by the World Assembly of Youth would be of interest:

"A great part of the most serious problem affecting rural areas in the urban industrial countries derives, at present, from the difference in levels of living which exists between the agricultural-rural and non-agricultural urban parts of the national population. In the last analysis these problems are, therefore, nearly all related to the phenomenon of the generally relatively declining agricultural incomes when these are compared with the non-agricultural incomes. In fact if the level of living of the agricultural population had been satisfactory to the point of compensating for the drawbacks of living far from a town, it would also have meant that most of the other problems at present affecting the rural areas of the industrial countries would have been automatically solved; individual as well as mass media of communication would have been better, the depopulation of the rural areas would seldom have reached such a high proportion, many services would have been better etc."

SECTION III

Role of Youth in National Development

In most of the developing countries the youth have played a significant role in the freedom struggle. Most developing countries have today succeeded in achieving political independence. The freedom from colonial rule has provided these countries with a framework for constructive action leading to economic progress which may result in the raising of standard of living of the people. Political independence alone would be insufficient to meet the aspirations of the people unless it is accompanied by serious efforts to accelerate the process of economic growth. If political independence is not followed by economic progress it will bring frustration among the youth which might eventually lead to despair and thereby undermine the basic values of freedom and democracy. It is, therefore, necessary that the economic aspects of this problem are considered in right-earnest. Youth has to be provided with a programme of action which will provide him with a basis for constructive action.

Multiplicity of Objectives

There are a number of youth organisations in the world with different objectives and it is, therefore, likely that the common interest of developing the youth may be forgotten. The WAY however, attempts to ensure that the common interest is achieved. In addition to the general common interest that may be provided on international platforms it is necessary to provide the youth with guidance for leading a constructive economic life which will make him a useful citizen in future. They must be made to realise the important role they have to play in refashioning the society in which they live. For this it is necessary to help them understand the problems of their community and to give economic content to their life.

Role of Cooperation

The Cooperative Movement has a very important role to play in improving urban and rural economy and also in attracting the younger generation to constructive economic action. The cooperative society can provide a rallying point for the youth and also can serve as an instrument of attaining economic and social objectives desired by youth. There are several examples in the world where youth has played a significant role in transforming the rural scene. Apart from revitalising the existing rural economy the youth has in a few cases helped in reclaiming new lands and providing constructive values either through youth organisations or through cooperative societies.

The cooperative society has to provide opportunities to the young and has to ensure that the minimum expectations of the youth could be met in the villages. It is, therefore, necessary for the cooperative society to evolve a plan for rural economic development which will not only increase agricultural production but also endeavour to provide employment and good wages to the young people who will be invited to work in the rural areas. Although the traditional set up in the villages may not allow young people immediately to change old values it will have to be ensured that youth is permitted to introduce experiments, ideas and methods which have given good results in other parts of the world.

Rural Cooperative Youth Clubs

The Cooperative Society in the village can help the young people to organise themselves as a group within its framework. The village society should consider it important to associate the youth with the various activities undertaken for development. The youth must be made to feel responsible for the development of his village and must be made a part in such developmental activities. For this it may be necessary to create a cooperative youth group or an informal group in the village consisting of either cooperative or other workers. Through this group a succession of leaders not only for cooperative work but also for the community as a whole could be ensured. However, no dogmatic approach could be adopted on this subject. The pattern of youth organisations will vary according to local conditions.

Cooperative Action Among Youth

Various forms of cooperative activity have been promoted among young people in different parts of the world. These activities differ widely and according to the extent of progress made by the Cooperative Movement. The activities also differ according to the efforts made by the cooperative movements for attracting the young to their fold. Successful cooperative societies for the youth have been so far undertaken in the developed countries and the notable examples of which are found in countries like the United States of America, Sweden, England, Israel, Japan and a few continental countries. The following are the main activities which could be undertaken by youth in the Cooperative Movement.

Cooperative Youth Groups and Cooperative Youth Clubs

Although cooperative youth groups are only one of the many activities organised for youth, they are one of the best means for associating the youth with constructive activity. Such groups can either be formed at the initiative of the cooperative society itself or through the efforts of the youth organisations in a community. The aims of such clubs should be:

- a. to secure future leadership for cooperative societies;
- b. to propagate cooperation among young people with a view to enlarge membership of cooperative societies;
- c. to disseminate social and economic education;
- d. to create cultural and entertainment activities for the younger generation;
- e. to secure efficient employees for running the cooperative organisations, and
- f. to provide a meeting ground for the younger people.

Some of the important functions that could be undertaken by the cooperative clubs and groups are:

1. to discuss cooperative activity and relate this activity to the economic life of the families;
2. to arrange for practical demonstrations for the younger people with a view to enable them to understand the benefits of cooperative activity;

3. to develop among them the habit of buying from the cooperatives;
4. to help in the development work of the villages;
5. to bring together the young people to organise cooperatives for meeting actual needs of the group;
6. to organise with the help of schools and colleges students' co-operative stores;
7. to undertake organisation of educational activities either through study circles or correspondence courses for the members of the group;
8. to organise short-term courses for persons willing to join the co-operative youth groups;
9. to promote thrift among members;
10. to participate in the educational and cultural activities organised by cooperative societies;
11. to organise dramas and cultural plays based on cooperative needs;
12. to help in the management of the cooperative society;
13. to publish cooperative literature for youth including cooperative journals;
14. and to arrange for the meeting of the young by organising gatherings, debates, conferences and such other activities.

Students' Cooperative Societies

The students' cooperative societies started in schools and colleges in Asian countries are organised mainly for the distribution of stationery, books and other articles required by students. A very few stores have succeeded in running canteens and providing additional services like youth hostels to the students. The students' stores in most of the schools are either controlled by members of the staff or are run under the guidance of the teachers. The students do not play a prominent part in the management of the stores. Hence they do not get opportunities to acquaint themselves with the functioning of the cooperative organisation.

One of the most important reasons for the lack of independence of students in the management of their stores is their very low age as most of them are minors and as such the authorities and the teaching staff are reluctant to entrust them with the responsibility of running the stores independently. Although many of the countries provide through cooperative legislation for the recognition of the students' stores, instances of independent management in cooperative societies are not

many. It is, therefore, necessary to entrust the management of the cooperative stores to the students so as to create confidence among them for the running of such organisations and to provide them with training in democratic management. The students' cooperative stores should also enlarge the sphere of their activities and in addition to providing cheap buying facilities, should conduct cooperative canteens and cooperative youth hostels. It should also be the endeavour of the students' stores to provide stationery, books etc. for the poor students and offer scholarships for such students whose parents are not in a position to provide for the fees for their education.

The problem of changing membership does not allow continuity in the working of the cooperative stores. However, the problem could be solved by enlisting the students from the very junior standards so that the continuity of membership is ensured. The students' stores should also organise educational activities among the student communities and should take advantage of the facilities for cooperative education offered by the cooperative unions and the cooperative societies.

SECTION IV

Educational Needs of the Young

With a view to equip youth in undertaking the various activities discussed above it is necessary to provide him with the opportunities of securing knowledge which will enable him to function in the villages as efficiently as the dominating moneylenders and traders. The youth who will go to the villages will have to match the qualities of the village moneylenders with regard to his ability and efficiency to handle the trade. The education to be given to youth must help him to adapt himself to the basic needs of the village community and for this it will be necessary for him to understand the social and economic structure of the rural areas. He must respect the traditional values and also should participate in the traditional ceremonies which are an integral part of the rural community. He will have to know much more than the average rural inhabitant and still will have to restrain himself from criticising those who did not possess the same amount of knowledge. As far as possible a young leader in the village must be a member of the local community as outside leaders may not be able to fit themselves into the new environments.

Although the youth will be required to adapt to the local conditions he must be able to initiate efforts for gradual transformation of the village scene through education of the village community. The village leader should know the principles of cooperation and must himself adhere to the principles he will teach others in the village. The educational facilities therefore to be provided to young people willing to serve in the villages must be based on a realistic approach. In the initial stages it might be necessary to provide these facilities in the urban areas. However, the venue for providing education and training should gradually shift to rural areas. On the spot training is the best type of training that a cooperative can provide for people who are to work in these surroundings.

In the urban areas the cooperatives should provide educational opportunities to youth through organisation of special classes and by

arranging debates and essay competitions. The youth should be provided with library facilities where they can read literature on the Cooperative Movement. Whenever youth festivals are organised the cooperative societies should attempt to introduce in such festivals programmes which will offer opportunity to the youth to learn more about the cooperative movement.

Cooperative Literature for Youth

The objectives of producing cooperative literature should be:

- a. to create an awareness among young people about the existence of the cooperative societies;
- b. to introduce the cooperative movement to them;
- c. to create cooperative activities by way of youth projects, students' stores etc., and
- d. to develop cooperative leadership.

The literature produced should cover not only cooperative activities but also problems of general interest to the youth.

To enable the young people to acquaint themselves with cooperative principles and methods it is necessary gradually to introduce cooperation at all levels of their educational activities. For students of primary schools it may be necessary to introduce some lessons into their text books based on cooperative stories and the benefits of the Cooperative Movement. For the higher classes lessons giving principles and working of the cooperative societies in general should be introduced. In addition to this, it may be necessary to provide the students with literature for general reading which will give them knowledge about the work of cooperative societies in different parts of the world.

For university students it may be difficult to publish special literature unless cooperative education is provided through special courses in the colleges. Till such material is published the university students should be encouraged to read the existing cooperative literature on different aspects of Cooperation. Efforts, however, should be made to introduce the teaching of cooperation in universities and these efforts should be supplemented by publishing cooperative literature on specialised subjects to meet the requirements of the university students.

For the use of members of the youth clubs and youth groups it will be useful to publish simple literature in the form of leaflets, posters and booklets describing the cooperative activities and highlighting the

benefits received through them. The material should mainly be informative. However, on a gradual basis material discussing different aspects of cooperation and the problems faced by the Cooperative Movement should be introduced.

In addition to the informative material the cooperative youth clubs and groups would require literature for working on different projects undertaken by the youth club members. The project material should not only give information to the club members but also provide them with a basis for discussion. It should also involve them in practical work and further reading of cooperative subjects.

In the youth clubs and groups which have made sufficient progress in educational activities it should be possible to introduce literature which will seriously discuss the current cooperative problems. The members of the youth groups should be encouraged to undertake discussion of the current problems and give their individual and collective opinions.

In addition to the literature discussed above the books and booklets giving useful information on the various aspects of the organisation of cooperative societies and on management and accountancy should also be published in simple form for the benefit of the youth club members. This literature should be able to help the young cooperators who are keen on organising cooperative societies among themselves or who would like to associate themselves with the running of existing cooperative organisations. Also the journals published by the cooperative organisations and the youth organisations should contain sections covering news and articles on youth activity with special reference to cooperative youth activities.

For interesting the youth in cooperative activity, it would be useful if cooperative films, film-strips, models, charts and posters are produced and circulated.

The main agency for undertaking the publication of cooperative literature should be the Cooperative Union. The unions should take initiative in publishing such literature and distribute it to the schools and colleges and also for the youth groups working in their country. In addition these efforts will have to be supplemented by cooperative societies on different levels and universities in cooperative education.

Organisation and Financing of Cooperative Youth Activity

It will be difficult to be too dogmatic in respect of organisation and financing of cooperative youth activity. The form of organisation for youth work both in and out of the Cooperative Movement will very much depend upon the resources of each organisation and also upon the ability of the group to work within the particular framework. In addition to the cooperative youth clubs and groups within the cooperative society groups could also be formed within youth organisations consisting of young people who would like to associate themselves with cooperative activity or who would be keen on gaining knowledge about the movement. For coordinating the activities of the youth group in and out of the cooperative movement it will be necessary to create youth cooperative committees at various levels of the cooperative structure. These committees could be created within the national cooperative organisations and also district and state cooperative organisations if such organisations exist. The committees in the national unions should function as national bodies for all youth groups.

It will be necessary to start cooperative youth activity with an initial contribution from the group members. It is likely that for several years to come the finances from societies may not be forthcoming as most of the cooperative societies in the Asian region may not be able to finance cooperative youth activities out of their own resources. However, in cases where it is possible to provide such finances the cooperative societies should give full encouragement for organisation of youth activity on a wider scale. One of the best activities for securing income would be the starting of cooperative stores or organising of cooperative cultural activities by cooperative youth groups. It might also be worthwhile for the Cooperative Movement to consider the possibility of introducing a system of contribution by cooperative societies for cooperative youth work. This contribution could either be given through the net profits of the society or could also be based on the membership strength of each organisation.

Collaboration Between Cooperative and Youth Organisations

The present seminar was an excellent example of collaboration between youth and cooperative organisations. The joint efforts initiated by the International Cooperative Alliance and the World Assembly of Youth



(Right) The Minister of Transport of Malaysia, Dato Haji Sardon bin Haji Jubir, addresses Seminar participants; (Below) The Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives, Tuan Mohammed Khir Johari (left) greets participants after the Seminar opening session.



should result in extending the collaboration between the cooperative and youth organisations to the national, regional and local levels. There are several ways in which joint action for involving the youth in cooperative activity could be undertaken. Among them the following could be listed as most important.

The cooperative and the youth organisations should develop contacts with each other and maintain these contacts through activities which might be of mutual benefit. An important activity in this direction should be the organisation of joint educational programmes by both the organisations. Educational activities organised either by cooperatives or by youth organisations should be able to help further strengthen the contacts and provide a forum for exchanging information and experiences gained in both the fields.

Participation in activities organised by the youth and cooperative organisations should be a normal feature of their activities. The cooperative and youth organisations should invite each others representatives for participation in educational activities conducted by them. In addition summer and evening classes should be organised for youth workers from time to time.

To supplement the efforts made in the field of education it will be necessary to have a programme of publications formulated jointly by the cooperative and the youth organisations. In addition, exchange of literature published by both the organisations should be made possible in each country. Exchange of such publications between various countries should also be encouraged.

With a view to follow up the recommendations made during the seminar and to explain the benefits of these discussions to other workers in the field, the possibility of undertaking a publication based on the report of the seminar should be explored. This publication should be further enlarged by incorporating the various papers concerning the youth and cooperative activities. In addition a larger review of the Cooperative Movement with its history and the possibility of cooperative action among youth should also be added to this publication.

One of the most important ways of creating continuous activity aimed at involving the youth in cooperative work is the creation of a nucleus for youth work in national, regional and local cooperative organisations. If it is not possible to create a body within these organisations at least one person should be made responsible for youth work and it should be the endeavour of such bodies or persons to keep in constant contacts with the other bodies created in different organisations at different levels. Continuity of interest and efforts will be needed to follow up the good work started by the organisation of this seminar.

For creating keen interest among youth regarding cooperative activity it is necessary to give practical training to the young people. With this aim in view educational study tours should be organised to show the youth various cooperative activities undertaken in different countries. This will enable youth to have a proper perspective on the potentialities for socio-economic development through the Cooperative Movement.

In addition, occasions like the International Cooperative Day should be used as platforms for involving youth in educational activity. The WAY should also associate the cooperative organisations wherever possible in the celebrations undertaken at various levels. It should be the endeavour of the ICA and WAY to bring about coordination among all activities discussed above. It will also be very helpful if the recommendations of this seminar are sent, in addition to the cooperative and youth organisations, to the government cooperative departments, to trade unions, to educational organisations and the rural youth movements and political parties so as to impress upon them the need for involving the youth in economic activity with special reference to cooperative activity in their respective fields.

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A Malaysian rubber worker taps a tree on one of Malaysia's rubber plantations. One of the highlights of the Seminar was an address by Dato Sambanthan, Minister of Works, Posts and Telecommunications, on a rubber plantation cooperative which he has been responsible for establishing.

PROGRAMME

SECTION I

January 11, 1964

- 11.00—12.30 p.m. Introduction to ICA Activities.
Introduction to Working Methods of the Seminar.
- 2.30 p.m. Inauguration of the Seminar.
- 4.00— 5.00 p.m. Presentation of Background Papers by delegates.

January 12, 1964

- 9.00— 9.45 a.m. Role of Cooperation in Socio-Economic Development (with special reference to Western Countries).
Introduced by: Mr. Nils Thedin,
KF, Stockholm 15.
- 9.45—10.30 a.m. Role of Cooperation in Socio-Economic Development (with special reference to South East Asian Countries).
Introduced by: Prof. Ungku A Aziz,
Head Economics Department,
University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur.
- 10.30—11.00 a.m. Discussion.
- 11.15—12.00 p.m. Nature and Principles of Cooperative Movement.
Introduced by: Mr. Marian Radetzki,
Director ICA Education Centre,
New Delhi.
- 12.00—12.30 p.m. Discussion.
- 2.30— 3.30 p.m. Introduction to WAY Activities.
Aims and Objectives of the Youth Movement.
Introduced by: Mr. David W. Baad,
Programme Coordinator,
World Assembly of Youth, Brussels.
- 4.00— 5.00 p.m. Discussion.

January 13, 1964

- 9.30—10.15 a.m. Origin of the Cooperative Movement in Western Countries.
Introduced by: Mr. M. V. Madane, Deputy Director,
ICA Education Centre, New Delhi.
- 10.15—10.45 a.m. Discussion.
- 11.00—11.45 a.m. Review of Cooperative Development in Countries of South East Asia.
Introduced by: Mr. G. S. Dass,
Assistant Commissioner,
Department of Coop. Development,
Kuala Lumpur.
- 11.45—12.15 p.m. Discussion.
- 12.15— 1.00 p.m. Group Discussions.
- 2.30— 3.30 p.m. Address on National Land Finance Cooperative Society.
Introduced by: Honorable Dato V. T. Sambanthan,
Minister of Works, Post and
Telecommunications, Government of
Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur.
- 3.30— 5.30 p.m. Group Discussions (continued).

SECTION II

January 14, 1964

- 9.30—10.30 a.m. Role of Agricultural Cooperation in Revitalising Rural Economy.
Introduced by: Dr. Jehuda Don,
Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan,
Israel.
- 11.00—12.30 p.m. Discussion.
- 2.30— 3.30 p.m. Consumer and the Cooperative Society.
Introduced by: Mr. Marian Radetzki.
- 4.00— 5.00 p.m. Discussion.

January 15, 1964

- 9.30—10.15 a.m. Students' Cooperative Stores in Schools and Colleges.
Introduced by: Mr. M. V. Madane.
- 10.15—10.45 a.m. Discussion.
- 11.00—12.30 p.m. Group Discussions.
- 2.30— 3.30 p.m. Group Discussions.
- 4.00— 5.00 p.m. Plenary on Section I and II.

January 16, 1964

Study Visits.

January 17, 1964

Free.

SECTION III

January 18, 1964

- 9.30—10.15 a.m. Aims and Functions of Cooperative Youth Groups and Cooperative Youth Clubs.
Introduced by: Mr. Marian Radetzki.
- 10.15—11.00 a.m. Discussion.
- 11.15—12.00 noon Cooperative activities organised by Youth Movement.
Introduced by: Mr. Ravindra Varma M.P.,
Former President WAY, New Delhi.
- 12.00— 1.00 p.m. Discussion.
- 2.30— 4.00 p.m. Group Discussions.

January 19, 1964

- 9.30—10.15 a.m. Areas of Common Interest to Youth Movement and the Cooperative Societies.
Introduced by: Dr. Jehuda Don.
- 10.15—11.00 a.m. Discussion.
- 2.00— 4.00 p.m. Film Show.

January 20, 1964

- 9.00—10.15 a.m. Panel Discussion on "Role of Cooperatives and Youth in National Development".
Chairman: Mr. M. V. Madane.
Panel Members: Mr. Marian Radetzki.
Dr. Jehuda Don.
- 10.15—11.00 a.m. Educational Needs of Youth for the Development of Future Cooperative Leadership.
Introduced by: Dr. Jehuda Don.
- 11.15—12.00 noon Discussion.
- 12.00— 1.00 p.m. Group Discussions.
- 2.30 p.m. Study Visits.

January 21, 1964

- 9.30—10.15 a.m. Youth Activities organised by Cooperatives.
Introduced by: Mr. N. A. Kularajah,
General Manager, Malayan Coop.
Insurance Society, Kuala Lumpur.
- 10.15—11.00 a.m. Discussion.
- 11.15—12.00 noon Organisation and Financing of Youth Activities by Cooperative Societies.
Introduced by: Mr. Abdul Majid, Principal,
Cooperative College of Malaya;
Petaling Jaya.
- 12.00—12.30 p.m. Discussion.
- 2.30— 4.30 p.m. Group Discussions.
- 4.45— 5.30 p.m. "Possibility of Future Collaboration between Youth Movements and Coop. Organisations in South East Asian Countries" — by Mr. M. V. Madane.

January 22, 1964

- 9.30—11.30 a.m. Plenary on Section II and III.
Final Plenary.
Follow-up.
- 12.00— 1.00 p.m. Valedictory address by Honorable Minister for
Transport, Government of Malaysia,
Dato Haji Sardon bin Haji Jubir.