

ICA Council for South-East Asia

TWENTIETH MEETING

Venue BANGKOK, THAILAND

Dates DECEMBER 6-7, 1978

Agende Notes



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TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE ICA COUNCIL FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA
Bangkok, Thailand - December 6-7, 1978

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ANNEXE

- I. MINUTES OF THE 19TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 : WELCOME

1. Col. Surin Cholpraserd, Chairman, Cooperative League of Thailand and Council Member for Thailand, will welcome the members of the Council on behalf of the Cooperative Movement of Thailand.

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

2. Mr. R.B. Rajaguru, ICA Regional Director for South-East Asia, will welcome the members of the Council.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 : ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

3. The Members of the Council are requested to elect a new Chairman from among the members from the host country, viz. Thailand. The new Chairman's term of office will be till the next Council Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 : CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 19TH MEETING

4. The minutes of the last meeting, held at Bali, Indonesia, have been circulated to all the members. The alternate member for Japan, Mr. S. Nakabayashi, had suggested certain amendments in the minutes (para 24 on page 10) which were circulated among the members. No other comments have been received. The minutes may be confirmed.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 : BACKGROUND PAPERS ON "RECENT CHANGES, TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS OF THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT" IN THE REGION

5. It was decided at the last Council Meeting that the ICA ROEC be requested to prepare an up-to-date background paper in respect of each country which could then be printed and made available when necessary. The ICA ROEC requested all the member-organisations in the Region to

prepare a background paper on their respective countries and send it to ICA ROEC by 30th May, 1978. These papers were received from Australia, Bangladesh, India, Iran, Republic of Korea, Japan, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Background papers have not been received so far from Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines. These are awaited.

5.1 Papers received from the member-organisations are being circulated among the members for their information and observations. It is intended to print the document after the observations are received and amendments if any are made.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 : ADMINISTRATION

6.1 The ROEC is glad to report that the following member-organisations have contributed the amounts mentioned against their names to the fund of the Regional Office for the financial year 1977-78. Some members have made their contributions direct to ICA Head Office and we are awaiting adjustment.

Member Organisations	Remittance	Indian Rupees
National Cooperative Union of India		25,000.00
Sepah Consumers Cooperative, Tehran		5,490.00
Japanese Joint Committee on Coops	US\$3333.33	28,710.85
National Agricultural Cooperative Federation, Rep. of Korea	US\$1140.00	9,120.00
Cooperative Union of Malaysia, Malaysian Cooperative Insurance Society & Cooperative Central Bank		12,138.84
National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka	£60.00	912.00
Cooperative League of Thailand		8,000.00
		<u>89,371.69</u>

The total received for the year was Rs.89,371.69 and this generous support of the members has helped us immensely in the performance of our activities in the Region.

Contributions to the ICA ROEC in respect of work done for the Sub-Committee on Agriculture & Trade for S-E Asia

6.2 For the year 1977-78, contributions have been received from the member-organisations in Australia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The total received for the year was £405/-.

Concessions by the Government of India

6.3 The foreign experts attached to the ICA ROEC continue to enjoy income-tax and import-duty concessions from the Government of India. We express our sincere thanks and appreciation to our host government.

Staff Changes

6.4 Mr. Sten Johnsson, Specialist in Cooperative Housing, after completing his two-year assignment with the ICA ROEC, returned to HSB of Sweden in March 1978.

6.5 Dr. G. Djha joined the ICA ROEC for a period of one year on 14th July 1978 as its Cooperative Education Officer in the CEMAS Unit. Dr. Djha has worked as senior lecturer in the V.M. National Institute of Cooperative Management, Poona, and as Principal of the Cooperative Training College, Patna.

6.6 Mr. Daman Prakash, Education Officer (AVA), in the ICA ROEC, has been transferred to Sri Lanka to work as Cooperative Education Officer (AVA) in the Sri Lanka Project for Training of Cooperative Teachers which will be based in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He will be in Sri Lanka for a period of one year with effect from 1st September, 1978. This period may be extended.

6.7 Mr. Per-Erik Lannhagen, a Swedish national, has been appointed to the ROEC as its Specialist in Agricultural Cooperative Marketing with

effect from 4th August, 1978 on a two year assignment. During the last six years Mr. Lannhagen has had a position as Product Manager at the Feed Department of SLR.

6.8 Mr. M.V. Madane, who was on a assignment with FAO in Afghanistan as Cooperative Adviser to the PACCA Project, has been given extension upto 7th November, 1978. He has been requested to resume duties at ROEC on 8th November, 1978.

Obituary

1. Mr. Shyam Singh, Staff car driver, expired on 16th July, 1978 due to heart attack.
2. Mr. Jai Prakash, Technical Assistance & Trade Officer, at the ROEC expired on 6th September, 1978 due to scooter accident.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 : EDUCATION CENTRE

SECTION - I ACTION TAKEN ON THE MINUTES
OF THE LAST MEETING

7.1 The programme of activities approved by the Council for the year July 1977 - June 1978 has been partly carried out as is reported in Section-II. Other activities will be carried out during the remaining part of the year. In this connection, the following matters are referred to the Council for their information and decision.

7.2 Regional Seminar for Managerial Personnel of Fishery Cooperatives in the Region preceded by study visits in the Republic of Korea.

The Seminar was held by the National Federation of Fishery Cooperatives of Japan with the financial assistance of the Government of Japan. On account of certain procedural reasons, the study visits in Korea could not be carried out.

7.3 Experts Consultation on Member Education. As discussed at the last Council Meeting, an Experts' Consultation on the subject of Member Education was scheduled to be held in October 1978. However, as the assessment reports on Member Education from member organisations were received only from a few countries, holding of the Experts' Consultation has been postponed to the month of May during the current year. Follow-up action is being taken to obtain assessment reports from as many movements as possible.

SECTION - IIREVIEW OF EDUCATION ACTIVITIES
NOVEMBER 1977 TO SEPTEMBER 1978

7.4 The following educational activities were carried out by the Education Centre during the period November 1977 to September 1978.

REGIONAL SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

7.5 Regional Seminar on the "Development of Cooperative Housing"
The Seminar was held in Manila and Baguio (Philippines) from 10th to 30th November 1977 in collaboration with the member organisations in the Philippines. Twenty-three participants from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand participated in the Seminar. The Seminar discussed the subjects: promotion of cooperative housing, ways and means of starting cooperative housing societies, organisation patterns, types of bye-laws, financial needs, possible governmental support and educational programmes for the societies. The Seminar was inaugurated by Hon'ble Dr. Orlando J. Sacay, Under Secretary, Department of Local Government and Community Development, Government of the Philippines.

7.6 Fourth Open Asian Conference on "Cooperative Management" with special reference to Member Communication, Staff Relations and Manpower Development.

The Conference was held by the ICA ROEC in Singapore from 13-18th December 1977 in collaboration with the Singapore National Cooperative Union.

The Conference, organised mainly on a self-financing basis, was attended by 282 participants from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. An observer from the International Labour Organisation, also attended the Conference.

The Conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble Dr. Ahmad Mattar, Acting Minister for Social Affairs, Singapore.

The three main subjects discussed at the Conference were: (i) Member Communication, (ii) Staff Relations, and (iii) Manpower Development.

7.7 Regional Course in Training Methodology and Techniques for Cooperative Staff Training in South-East Asia. The Course was held in Poona by the ICA RQEC in collaboration with the National Cooperative Union of India and the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management. The Course was organised from 6th February to 15th April 1978. Sixteen participants from national and sub-national level cooperative training colleges from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand attended the course.

The Course was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Mohan Dharia, Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation, Government of India.

The Course was designed to give participants command of effective training techniques to enable them to construct or improve training programmes and to enable them to develop and produce their own training materials. In addition to giving them some theoretical training, the major part of the course was devoted to imparting to the participants the skills mainly in two techniques viz. case study method and use of audio-visual aids. They worked on Projects to prepare case studies and training packages based on visual aids.

7.8 Regional Course on Top Management Functions including Board-Manager Relationship. The course was held in Perth, Western Australia, from 11th to 20th June 1978. The Course was jointly sponsored by the International Cooperative Alliance, the Cooperative Federation of Australia and the Commonwealth Government of Australia. The objectives of the Course were: to study top management functions in a large cooperative and the functions and roles of an elected Board of Directors and the Chief Executive in a cooperative business organisation.

The Course was attended by 13 participants from eight countries of South-East Asia namely Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Mr. Irwin Hunter, President of the Cooperative Federation of Australia inaugurated the Course.

The entire costs for the Course were borne by the Cooperative Federation of Australia and the Commonwealth Government of Australia.

7.9 Regional Workshop on "Cooperative Press and Publicity". The Workshop was held in IDACA, Tokyo, Japan, from 6th to 27th September 1978. The Workshop was held in collaboration with the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan and the IDACA and was preceded by study visits in the Republic of Korea. Twenty participants from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and one observer from ILO attended the Workshop.

The objectives of the Workshop were to review the cooperative press and publicity activities carried out by the movements in the region and to impart skills to the personnel working in the field of cooperative press and publicity and journalism with a view to improving the quality of cooperative journals, books and publicity materials. The participants visited the Hirao Multipurpose Cooperative Society and on the basis of their observations prepared a house journal and publicity slides with narrations on the activities of the society.

The Workshop discussed the present position and prospects of cooperative press and publicity in the countries of the region and identified the major problems faced by the cooperative press. The Workshop recommended to the ICA authorities the setting up of a Regional Group of the ICA Working Party on Cooperative Press with a view to providing an opportunity for journalists/information officers engaged in the cooperative press to exchange their experiences and to discuss their problems in a common forum, at least once in two years.

NATIONAL SEMINARS AND COURSES

7.10 Three Pre-seminars on Agricultural Cooperative Marketing were held in the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia in collaboration with the SCC and the member organisations in the respective countries. One of the purposes of the Pre-seminars was to select participants for the International Seminar to be conducted by the SCC in Sweden. The Seminar in Sweden was held from 10th April to 10th June 1978. Seven participants each from Malaysia & Thailand and six from the Philippines, thus making a total of twenty, took part in the Seminar in Sweden.

7.11 Philippines: The seminar was held at the Agricultural Cooperative and Credit Institute at Los Banos from 4th to 12th January 1978 and was attended by 26 participants who were managers of agricultural marketing societies in the country.

7.12 Thailand: The seminar in Thailand was held in Bangkok from 16th to 27th January 1978 and was attended by 25 participants. The participants were mostly managers and directors of primary agricultural cooperative marketing societies.

7.13 Malaysia: The Malaysian seminar was held at the Cooperative College of Malaysia from 1st to 11th February 1978. The seminar was inaugurated by Hon'ble Datuk Shariff Ahmed, Minister of Agriculture and was also addressed by Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, President of ANGKASA. Twenty-five participants attended the seminar.

Mr. Lionel Gunawardana, Joint Director and Specialist in Agricultural Cooperation, ICA ROEC and Mrs. Anne Utter of the Swedish Cooperative Centre acted as Resource Persons in these seminars.

7.14 Bangladesh: A National Basic Course for Women Cooperators was held by the ICA ROEC in collaboration with the Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union in Dacca from 6th to 17th March 1978. The first part of the course, held in Dacca, consisted of lectures and discussions. The second part consisted of study visits to women's societies in and around Calcutta (India) and was organised with the assistance of the West Bengal State Cooperative Union.

The Course dealt with, among other subjects, special needs of women's cooperative societies, techniques and other questions concerning organisation of women's cooperatives, especially in the fields of consumer and small-scale industries, role of women in promoting thrift and credit and the ways of enhancing their participation in the cooperative movement. Stress was laid on the need and the methods of cooperative education and training among women.

7.15 India: A Technical Meeting on Training Package on Shop Layout and Shop Display was held from 10th to 18th July 1978 jointly by the ICA ROEC and the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi.

The meeting was held to review the Training Package on Shop Layout and Shop Display which was adapted by the two Indian participants to conditions in India. The original package was produced in Turin at a Joint ICA/ILO/Turin Centre Course on Training Methodology and Techniques held in 1977. It is proposed to carry out similar exercises in respect of training packages on the same subject produced and adapted by the participants from Malaysia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka

VISIT OF SWEDISH EDUCATION AND INFORMATION OFFICERS

7.16 A group of 32 cooperators from different cooperative organisations in Sweden, visited cooperative organisations in India and Sri Lanka, under the leadership of Messrs Herman Lamm and Soren Olsson from November 25 to December 13, 1978.

The visit was part of the seminar organised by the Swedish Cooperative Centre and the SIDA. The seminar participants were Education Officers responsible for carrying out education and information programmes within their own cooperative organisations.

The objective of the visits to the cooperative movements of India and Sri Lanka were to provide an opportunity to the participants to have first-hand information about the activities, problems and achievements of cooperative organisations in South-East Asia so that they could improve their education and information programmes for strengthening the technical assistance activities of the Swedish Cooperative Movement.

The Group's programmes in India and Sri Lanka were arranged by the ICA Regional Office and Education Centre in collaboration with the National Cooperative Union of India and the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka respectively.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION MATERIALS ADVISORY SERVICE (CEMAS)

7.17 The activities under the Cooperative Education Materials Advisory Service were continued. These included mainly advice on the availability on and supplying of wherever possible, cooperative education material to member organisations and cooperative training centres. The CEMAS has now built up an inventory of cooperative education materials produced in different parts of the world. A close coordination is maintained with CEMAS' unit in Head Office London and the CEMAS' unit in the Regional Office for Central and East Africa.

The member organisations and the national level cooperative training institutions in most countries have nominated liaison officers to maintain communication between them and the CEMAS unit New Delhi regarding cooperative education materials.

PROJECT FOR TRAINING OF COOPERATIVE TEACHERS IN SRI LANKA

7.18 Preparatory work was carried out for starting the Project in Sri Lanka. Mr. Bo Lund, a Swedish national and Mr. Daman Prakash, Cooperative Education Officer of the ICA have been provided as experts to the Project. The two national counterparts to these experts were given training in the ICA Regional Course in Training Methodology and Techniques held in Poona in February-March 1978. A short programme of study visits was also arranged for them in Sweden and U.K. The Project will be formally inaugurated on 23rd October 1978.

The objective of the project is to enhance the effectiveness of cooperative training activities being carried out or proposed to be carried out for the personnel and members of managing committees of the cooperative movement in Sri Lanka by undertaking programmes in the field of training of cooperative teachers, production of teaching material and other related areas. The project will disseminate results of its work among other movements of the Region and will provide an opportunity for training selected teachers from other movements of the Region.

Among other things, the project will identify teaching techniques which would enhance the effectiveness of teaching in the cooperative training centres in Sri Lanka and would conduct training seminars for

principals and teachers of these centres. The training seminars/workshops will be conducted on training methodology, techniques of teaching, research methodology, curriculum formulation and production of relevant teaching material. Consultative services will also be provided to the training centres in the above areas. It is proposed to concentrate the activities of the project on the School of Cooperation, Polgolla which is a national training centre and four or five selected regional/district education centres with a view to bringing about qualitative changes.

PROJECT FOR CONSUMER EDUCATION AND INFORMATION IN SRI LANKA

7.19 Preparatory work for starting the above Project was carried out. A training programme for Miss. J. Tennakoon, Director of the Project, was arranged in India and Sweden.

The objective of the project is to educate the consumers, particularly the housewives, of Sri Lanka in consumer matters such as nutrition, quality of various goods etc. and to create in them an awareness of the role that cooperatives can play in promoting and protecting consumer interests. Educational activities will give special attention to (a) nutrition and health (b) household economy and (c) general economics for consumers.

The project will be formally inaugurated along with the Teachers' Training Project on 23rd October 1978.

The Project will be directly operated by the SCC and the Swedish Consumer Guild. The ICA ROEC will provide advisory services.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION FIELD PROJECT IN INDONESIA

7.20 Dr. D.Vir, Specialist in Cooperative Education in the ICA ROEC carried out a preliminary study in July 1977. A draft project outline has now been prepared and forwarded to the Dewan Koperasi Indonesia. The Director (Education) will visit Indonesia in November 1978 to finalise the various details so as to enable the Dewan Koperasi Indonesia and the ICA ROEC to prepare the project document. Necessary contacts with the donor agency will be taken after the project document has been finalised.

CONSULTATIVE AND ALLIED SERVICES

- 7.21 The Director (Education) attended the ILO Regional Workshop on Education and Motivation of Rural Workers for Family Welfare Planning, held from 1-5 November, 1977 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 7.22 The Director (Education) gave a valedictory address in April 1978 to the participants of the Diploma Course in Cooperation held by the Cooperative Training College, Poona.
- 7.23 The Director (Education) inaugurated the Course on Cooperation and Extension held by the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) and the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management on 21st September 1978 and gave a talk at the course on "International Cooperative Scene".
- 7.24 The Director (Education) attended on 19.4.1978 the meeting of the Cooperative Education Committee of the National Cooperative Union of India.
- 7.25 The Joint Director (Education) delivered a talk on "Member Education Programme for Women" to the trainees of National Centre for Cooperative Education, on 26.12.1977. There were about 30 trainees.
- 7.26 The Education Officer (Women & Youth) visited Sri Lanka in December 77 to assist in regard to the Project for Consumer Education through Cooperatives in Sri Lanka.
- 7.27 The Education Officer (AVA) assisted the Cooperative Training College, Madras in the conduct of Audic-Visual Workshop for Faculty Members of Cooperative Training Centres in Tamil Nadu from 7th to 26th January 1978.
- 7.28 The Technical Assistance and Trade Officer attended a two-day National Conference on Labour Contract and Construction Cooperatives held by the NCUI on 17th and 18th January 1978 in New Delhi.

7.29 The Librarian & Documentation Officer attended the Seminar on Resources Sharing among Libraries in India held by the All India Librarians Association at Bangalore from 29th January to 1st February 1978.

7.30 The Technical Assistance and Trade Officer attended a Workshop on the possibilities of involvement of cooperatives in social welfare activities held by the NCUI on 18th February in New Delhi.

7.31 The Education Officer (AVA) delivered two lectures on "Audio-Visual Aids in Cooperative Member Education" and "Teaching Aids in Cooperative Education" to the participants of the course held by the National Centre for Cooperative Education, New Delhi, on 31st January and 7th April, 1978 respectively. There were 23 participants at the Basic Training Course and 15 instructors at the Refresher course.

7.32 Joint Director (TAT) attended the First National Congress of Marketing Cooperatives held by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) in New Delhi on 11th and 12th April 1978.

7.33 The Specialist in Agricultural Cooperation and the Publications Officer participated as a resource person and participant respectively in the 19th International Seminar on Agricultural Cooperative Marketing held in Sweden in April/June 1978.

7.34 The Joint Director (Education) assisted the National Centre for Cooperative Education, New Delhi in planning and conducting the Course in Training Methodology for lecturers of junior Training Centres in India. There were 25 participants. He delivered two talks on "Approach to Training" and "Teachers' Training and Development" on 17th and 29th May, 1978.

7.35 The Education Officer (AVA) assisted in the conduct of Workshop on Audio-Visual Aids at the National Centre for Cooperative Education, New Delhi for lecturers of Cooperative Training Centres and Cooperative Education Officers held on 26th and 27th May 1978. There were 21 participants.

7.36 The Specialist in Consumer Cooperation delivered a talk on Consumer Cooperative Movement in South-East Asian countries to the Fellows of ILO-SIDA Scheme on 29.5.78 at the National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF), New Delhi.

7.37 The Joint Director (Education) attended the Meeting of the NCUI Committee on Cooperative Education and Training for Jammu & Kashmir State on 2nd June 1978.

7.38 The Librarian and Documentation Officer provided consultative services to the Cooperative Training College of Nepal in organising its library and documentation services. He visited Nepal from 18th to 24th June 1978 for the purpose.

7.39 The Education Officer (Women & Youth) carried out a two-week study on "Member Activities in the Japanese Consumers Cooperative Movement" from 14th June to 27th June 1978. She has prepared a paper on the subject which will be circularised among the member movements.

7.40 The Librarian and Documentation Officer provided technical guidance to the working group of Indian Cooperative Librarians in formulation of their documentation programmes. He also assisted the National Cooperative Union of India in this regard.

SECTION- III PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES, 1979-80

7.41 TOP LEVEL COOPERATIVE LEADERS' CONFERENCE

Tentative venue: Sydney, Australia.

Duration: 6 days in November 1979
 (4 days Conference plus 2 days study visits).

7.42 As mentioned at the last Council Meeting, discussions have been initiated with the Cooperative Federation of Australia which had indicated its willingness to host the Conference. Consultations have been held with the Afro Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO) to be the co-sponsorer of the conference. Latest position in regard to these discussions will be reported at the Council meeting.

7.43 The following Agenda subjects are being discussed among the sponsoring organisations:

- (i) Cooperatives & National Development
- (ii) International Cooperative Development Through Trade.
- (iii) Intogration of Rural Producer/Consumer Resources -
 Capital Growth for Cooperative Development.
- (iv) Human Resources Development in Cooperatives

7.44 The Conference would be followed by the Regional Council Meeting.

7.45 SIXTH OPEN ASIAN CONFERENCE

Venue: Open

Timing & Duration: 8 Days in March/April 1980.

Theme: Thrift and Credit Cooperation.

7.46 The above theme of the conference has been suggested keeping in view the importance of the subject of thrift and credit cooperatives to all countries of the Region.

7.47 In view of the heavy workload that would entail on account of the top-level leaders' conference proposed to be held in November 1979 to be followed by the Regional Council meeting, it is suggested that the timing of the Open Asian Conference be shifted for this year to the first half of 1980, preferably in March or April.

7.48 ICA/CUAC/IDACA REGIONAL SEMINAR IN JAPAN

Venue: Tokyo
 Duration: 3 weeks in September 1979.
 Theme: will be proposed at the time of the meeting.

7.49 The above is the normal annual activity in collaboration with the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan and the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) Tokyo. Normally one week's study visits prior to the seminar are arranged in Korea in collaboration with the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation.

7.50 REGIONAL SEMINAR ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING

Tentative Venue: Seoul, Korea
 Duration : Three weeks.
 Timing : To be decided in consultation with NACF.

7.51 The member organisation in the Republic of Korea, National Agricultural Cooperative Federation may be requested to host the above seminar in view of the very good progress made by agricultural cooperatives in Korea. If the above proposal materialises, it is suggested that one week's study visits may be arranged in Japan in collaboration with the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives where also the participants would have a great deal to learn.

7.52 REGIONAL SEMINAR ON ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL COOPERATIVE UNIONS

Venue: India
 Duration: Two weeks with one week's study visits.
 Timing: October 1979.

7.53 The above theme is proposed in view of the fact that the national cooperative unions in most countries are playing or are expected to play a key role in the promotion and development of the cooperative movement in their respective countries, be the spokesmen for the movement vis-a-vis government and other national and international bodies and carry out the vital functions of cooperative education, training and publicity.

7.54 The Seminar may discuss, among other things, the ways in which the national cooperative unions can be strengthened with a view to their playing a more dynamic role. The National Cooperative Union of India has indicated its willingness to host the seminar.

7.55 REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON CASE WRITING AND ITS
USE IN COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT TRAINING.

Venue: Open
Duration: Two months
Timing: 15th January to 15th March 1980.

7.56 The ICA ROEC has conducted two training courses in training methodology and techniques for teachers of cooperative colleges in the Region. The case method has been found by the participants as a very valuable training method for training of cooperative managers. A Workshop on this subject can help the cooperative teachers in developing the needed skills and the cases produced during the Workshop would be valuable additions to the limited number of cases on Cooperative Management so far produced in the Region.

7.57 COOPERATIVE EDUCATION MATERIALS ADVISORY SERVICE (CEMAS)

7.58 One of the functions of CEMAS is to produce prototype training materials of use to cooperative educators in the Region. The CEMAS is currently compiling a Bibliography of Cooperative Management Cases and is engaged in producing a book of Cases on Cooperative Management. Both these are expected to be completed in 1979-80.

7.59 It is proposed to institute three Fellowships to be awarded to senior cooperative teachers for the purpose of enabling them to produce training material for teaching of cooperative management.

7.60 NATIONAL SEMINARS AND CONSULTATIVE SERVICES

7.61 The ICA ROEC has experts in the following fields and it will be possible for it to assist the member movements in holding national seminars and providing consultative services in these fields. The ICA ROEC can also assist the member movements in holding national seminars/technical meetings on broad policy matters and cooperative developmental questions.

- i. Agricultural Cooperation including agricultural cooperative marketing.
- ii. Consumer Cooperation.
- iii. Training of Women Cooperators.
- iv. Education Methods.

7.62 The assistance by the ROEC would be made available to the member movements on the basis of requests and keeping in view the personnel and financial resources of the ICA ROEC.

7.63 PROJECT FOR TRAINING OF COOPERATIVE TEACHERS IN SRI LANKA

The above Project will be continued during the year.

7.64 PROJECT FOR CONSUMER EDUCATION AND INFORMATION THROUGH COOPERATIVES IN SRI LANKA

The ICA will continue to render advisory service to this Project.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND
TRADE SECTION

PART I

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

8.1 During the year under review, no fresh request for technical assistance was received from any member organisation in the Region.

8.2 The following is a brief report of the progress made in regard to implementation of the previous projects :-

Assistance to Fishery Cooperatives in Sri Lanka

8.3 The ICA Cooperative Development Committee had sanctioned in 1976 a grant of £Stg.5,000 to the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) for buying a bus and audio-visual equipment for carrying out publicity and educational programmes among the fishermen. A 'Volkswagen' microbus was shipped from West Germany to the NCCSL in September 1977. Out of the balance grant amount, which was about £Stg.1,100 arrangements have been made to ship ~~some audio-visual equipment~~ ~~from Singapore~~, through the agency of ICTO.

Swedish Assistance to Bangladesh

8.4 The Swedish Cooperative Movement had made a gift of Swedish Cr.80,000 to the Rangunia Thana Central Cooperative Association (RTCCA) in 1974 for purchase of cement. In view of difficulties in arranging shipment of a small consignment of cement, RTCCA proposed to the Swedish Cooperative Centre to allocate the gift money for implementing a project for rural development. The Swedish Cooperative Centre agreed to the proposal and accorded its concurrence in August 1976. As no feasible project proposal was received from the RTCCA, the matter was reconsidered by the SCC in April 1977 and it was decided that the grant money be utilised for training of women cooperators in Bangladesh. Accordingly, a Workshop on Women Involvement in Cooperative Activities was organised in March 1978. Proposals for the use of the balance monies are awaited.

PART II
PROMOTION OF COOPERATIVE TRADE

Trade Information Bulletin

8.5 As per decision at the last meeting of the ICA Council, the publication of the ICA Trade News Bulletin was discontinued from January 1978.

IC A Trade Directory

8.6 In January 1967, the Regional Office had published a Cooperative Trade Directory for South-East Asia. Two supplements to this directory were subsequently brought out in 1968 and 1970. Since the publication of the last supplement, a number of other cooperative organisations in the Region have entered the field of international trade and some of those already listed in the directory have extended the scope of their business.

8.7 A suggestion has been received that the ICA Regional Office should update this Trade Directory. The Regional Office has written to the International Cooperative Trading Organisation Ltd., Singapore to find out whether they have any plans to prepare a Trade Directory of Cooperative Organisations in South-East Asian countries. A decision will be made on receipt of a reply from ICTO.

CLUSA-ICA Trade Conference in New York

8.8 The International Cooperative Alliance, in conjunction with the Cooperative League of the USA (CLUSA), convened an International Cooperative Trade Conference in New York from 13-17 November 1978. The purpose of the conference was to promote trade and economic collaboration between and among cooperatives. The conference afforded an opportunity to representatives of Cooperative Trading Organisations to establish personal contacts and to explore and conclude actual trade agreements and ascertain potentials for further cooperation. It was intended to help cooperatives find suitable trade partners and pave the way for future trade and economic cooperation between themselves. The Regional Office had supplied the names and addresses

of its member organisations and other important cooperative trading organisations in the Region to its London office and requested them to extend invitation to all of them for attending the Trade Conference at New York.

Collaboration with ICTO

8.9 The Joint Director (TA&T) from the ICA Regional Office attended meetings of the Board of Directors of ICTO, as a special invitee. The Regional Office has been requesting the cooperative trading organisations in the Region ~~to~~ to extend their full support and patronage to ICTO.

ILO-SIDA Workshop on Strengthening of Inter-Cooperative Trade Relations

8.10 The Regional Office for Asia of the ILO has informed the Regional Office that they propose to hold the above Workshop in Singapore from 24 January to 6 February 1979. It is learnt that the ILO has already recruited the following staff in connection with the above project.

- i) Specialist in Coop Trade (Team Leader)
- ii) Marketing Specialist
- iii) Management Consultant
- iv) Expert on Supply Surveys and Marketing Specialist
- v) Associate Expert

8.11 The first phase of the project has already commenced. The expert on Supply Surveys joined his assignment in June 1978 and has since then started undertaking surveys for selected export products of cooperative trading organisations in the Region. The names and addresses of important cooperative trading organisations in the Region have been supplied to the Expert who visited the ICA Regional Office in July 1978.

8.12 The Workshop which is proposed to be held in Singapore from 24 January to 6 February 1979 will be conducted in two parts.

During the first part of 5 working days, 25 representatives of cooperatives from Asian countries will meet. The Team Leader, the consultants and the specialists on cooperatives and international trade from various national organisations and international bodies will present their points of

view and findings on the different aspects of cooperative trade (marketing and quality of products, organisational questions, national agreements, legal aspects, etc.). In addition, some measures to meet the requirements for the promotion of foreign trade will be discussed, such as providing consultancy services and organising training seminars.

8.13 For the second part (5 days), representatives from cooperatives in industrialised countries engaged and interested in foreign trade and representatives of international agencies, will join the workshop. During this phase, the present trade situation of cooperatives will be analysed and the possibilities of regular trade relations between the cooperatives will be discussed. The needs and ways of special trade promotion measures will be identified and mutual understanding of the respective needs and problems will be reached among the participants. It is expected that, based on proposals and recommendations elaborated during this Workshop, trade relations will be initiated which later would lead to proper trade agreements.

8.14 Singapore is proposed as the venue of the Workshop in order to ensure close association with the ICTO. It is learnt that the Singapore National Cooperative Union and ICTO have offered their services to assist the ILO in making practical arrangements for the Workshop.

8.15 The ILO has requested the ICA Regional Office to assist them in giving good publicity about the above Workshop and to bring to their notice the names of suitable participants. The ILO will, as an executing agency, have the final say on the selection of the participant to the Workshop. As usual, the ILO will issue invitations through Government channels. It has, however, been agreed to that all invitations to various governments will be copied to ICA Regional Office in order to enable the Regional Office to notify to its member organisations and to assist in obtaining suitable nominations in due time.

8.16 It is suggested that member organisations of the ICA extend their fullest cooperation to the Workshop and help establishing inter-cooperative international trade on a sound footing.

Fifth Meeting of the ICA Trade Promotion Group

8.17 In order to ensure that cooperative trade in agricultural commodities was given a special place in the deliberations of the ICA Council, the ICA Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Trade recommended in November 1970 the formation of the ICA Trade Promotion Group for South-East Asia. The Trade Promotion Group recommended the setting up of a Cooperative Trade Exchange in a centrally located place in the Region. The proposal of the Group was accepted by the ICA Council and ICTO came into existence in Singapore in June 1974, in the form of a private limited company, with cooperative institutions from eight countries in the Region as its stock-holders.

8.18 After the establishment of ICTO, the ICA Trade Promotion Group for South-East Asia was virtually disbanded and no meeting of the Group was held. Taking cognizance of the fact that the share of cooperative trading organisations in the growing volume of international trade of the developing countries had been gradually declining, the ICA Council for South-East Asia in their last meeting held in December 1977 at Bali (Indonesia) decided that the ICA Trade Promotion Group for South-East Asia, which had become defunct since 1974, should be reactivated and Mr. I.H. Hunter, President of the Cooperative Federation of Australia was elected as its Chairman. The services of Mr. M.K. Puri, Joint Director (TA&T) in the ICA ROEC were provided to serve as a Secretary of the Group.

8.19 The 5th meeting of the ICA Trade Promotion Group for South-East Asia was held on 17 July 1978 in Singapore. Besides, suggesting that the Trade Promotion Group be reconstituted as an independent Sub-Committee to be called as, ICA Sub-Committee "for Trade Development for South-East Asia", the Trade Promotion Group also made the following recommendations in this meeting :-

1. The Group should, once again, impress upon the Cooperative Movements in the Region, the urgent need for their entering into international trade seriously so as to be able to meet effectively the growing threat of competition from the big trans-national and multi-national business houses.
2. As far as possible, the cooperative trading organisations at the apex levels in each country should set up separate departments for international trade and take upon themselves the responsibility of collecting, compiling and disseminating information to the concerned cooperative institutions.

3. The National Cooperative Movements should consider the possibilities of sending trade missions to visit cooperative organisations in such other countries in the region where they see potentials for developing inter-cooperative trade.
4. To explore the possibilities of entering into bilateral trade agreements with cooperative trading organisations in the region and to encourage the establishment of joint committees for the promotion of trade on bilateral basis.
5. A workshop on "Strengthening of Inter-Cooperative Trade Relations" is expected to be organised by the ILO in November/December, 1978 at Singapore, under an ILO-SIDA project. The National Cooperative Movements should ensure that right type of persons are selected from their countries to participate in this workshop. This will be a good opportunity for the cooperative trading organisations in the region to establish personal contacts with the representatives of trading organisations from the developed countries.
6. The management of the International Cooperative Trading Organisation (ICTO) should also make use of the above opportunity and try to establish personal contacts with the representatives of cooperative trading organisations from both the developing and developed countries.
7. The cooperative organisations should explore the possibilities of setting up trade creating joint ventures with cooperative organisations in other countries in the region.
8. The cooperative trading organisations in the region should pay more attention to public relations and try to develop good rapport with the government departments and statutory organisations like the State Trading Corporations and Government Marketing Boards who are connected with the handling of international trade in their respective countries. They should also develop close liaison with the Export Promotion Councils and such other bodies which are connected with the promotion of international trade.
9. The Cooperative Trading Organisation (Pte.) Ltd. (ICTO) in Singapore should be requested to intimate to the cooperative movements in the region, from time to time, about the kind and nature of goods and products, from each country, which are being transacted or are figuring in the international trade in Singapore market. This information can prove very useful to the cooperative trading organisations in the region in organising their marketing strategy.
10. The ICA Regional Office should be requested to provide training facilities in international trade for key personnel of the cooperative trading organisations in the region by arranging their placement in such of the trading organisations in the developed countries which have long experience of handling import and export trade.

ICA Collaboration with United Nations Organisations

Collaboration between ICA and the FAO

8.20 As reported in the last meeting our member organisations from Sri Lanka and Philippines had submitted two projects to FAO seeking assistance under the Money and Medal Programme. The Regional Office has no information whether these projects have been approved or turned down by the FAO. The member organisations have been requested to intimate to the Regional Office whether they would need any kind of assistance from the ICA in order to pursue their projects with the FAO. Replies from the concerned member organisations are still awaited.

Promotion of Industrial Cooperatives- Collection of Information

8.21 The International Committee of Workers' Cooperative Productive and Artisanal Societies, which is an Auxiliary Committee of the ICA, is interested in collecting background information on industrial cooperatives in South-East Asia. The Committee collaborates with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) for the promotion of industrial cooperatives in developing countries.

8.22 At the request of the above Committee, the Regional Office wrote to its member organisations to furnish (a) general information about all types of industrial cooperative societies in each country and (b) more detailed information in respect of such of the industrial cooperative societies which are producing goods as are being exported or have potential for export outside the country. So far information has been received in respect of five countries, namely, Australia, Iran, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Council members from other countries are requested to advise the concerned organisations in their respective countries to supply the requisite information to the ICA Regional Office as early as possible.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

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PUBLICATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS
AND LIBRARY SECTION9.1 PUBLICATIONS:

The following publications were issued during the period under review (November 1977 to October 1978):

- (i) Statistical Information on Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives in South-East Asia.

The ICA ROEC has brought out a book in mimeographed form in 1970 giving statistical information on agriculture and agricultural cooperatives in the region. A revised edition of this book has now been brought out. In addition to general information on agriculture the book contains statistical information on agricultural cooperatives in Bangladesh, India, Australia, Iran, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

- (ii) Management of Agricultural Cooperatives with special reference to multipurpose cooperatives

This is the report of the Regional Seminar on Management of Agricultural Cooperatives with special reference to Multipurpose Cooperatives held in September 1977 in Tokyo, Japan, in collaboration with the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives.

- (iii) Model Cooperative Societies Law with Author's Commentary

This is a reprint of an earlier booklet written by Mr. P.E. Weeraman, former Regional Director. The present book also includes the Author's Commentary, a paper presented by the author, commenting on his own model, and delivered at the Seminar on Cooperative Law and Development held in Accra, Ghana, from 18th to 30th July, 1976.

- (iv) ICA in South-East Asia

The booklet has now been revised and gives information on the activities of the ICA in the South-East Asian Region.

(v) Speech No. 18 : Democracy and Cooperative Development

The above booklet, under the Speeches series, includes the inaugural address delivered by Mr. Morarji Desai, Prime Minister of India and the address given by Mr. Mohan Dharia, Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies & Cooperation, Government of India, to the Conference of State Ministers of Cooperation held in New Delhi, in December 1977. These speeches emphasize the need for full autonomy and democracy in the cooperatives, free from official interference and exploitation.

9.2 PUBLICITY

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

San Dionisio Credit Cooperative Story
- January 78 issue

Laeton Ricegrowers Cooperative
- April 78 issue

Warananagar Cooperative Complex
- July 78 issue

Hirao Multipurpose Cooperative Society
- October 78 issue

(a) Collection of Cooperative News

Collection of cooperative news from the Region was continued during the year under review. The news is used in the Regional Bulletin and supplied to our Head Office for use in its journals as well.

(b) Press Releases :

The practice of issuing press releases after the conclusion of a seminar, conference or other important event was continued during this period. The press releases were sent to cooperative journals in the Region for publication.

9.3 LIBRARY

There are 13,200 volumes including bound periodicals on cooperatives and allied subject and nearly 5,100 booklets in the library now. The library subscribes to many journals and also receives many on a complimentary basis. Altogether over 200 journals are received by the library. It acts as a clearing house of information on books and documentation. The library has

been extensively used by cooperators, cooperative organisations, students and scholars.

9.4 DOCUMENTATION SERVICES

The following have been issued :

1. Documentation Bulletin for South-East Asia, Volume XI, No. 4, March 1977.
2. Documentation Bulletin for South-East Asia, Volume XII, No. 1, June 1977 (January-March)
3. Documentation Bulletin for South-East Asia, Volume XII, Nos. 2-3, April-September/September-December 1977 combined issue.
4. Annotated Bibliography of Literature on Cooperative Movement in South-East Asia 1976 (January-December)
5. Special Bibliography on "Cooperative and Poor - Dairy Cooperatives in India with special reference to Kaira District Milk Producers Union Limited - AMUL".
6. Cumulative List of Library Books since 1962-1975 : ICA Library Catalogue, Part I, II and III.

The following are under preparation :

1. Documentation Bulletin for South-East Asia, Volume XII, No. 4, March 1978 (October-December).
2. Documentation Bulletin for South-East Asia, Volume XIII, No. 1, June 1978 (January-March).
3. Cumulative list of Library Books since 1962-75 : ICA Library Catalogue, Part IV.
4. Annotated Bibliography of Literature on Cooperative Movement in South-East Asia 1977 (January-December).

9.5 SUPPLY AND EXCHANGE OF LITERATURE

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

9.6 CONSULTATIVE SERVICES

- (1) The Librarian & Documentation Officer provided consultative services to the Cooperative Training College of Nepal in organising the library and documentation services (18th to 24th June, 1978).
- (2) Provided technical guidance to the working group of Indian Cooperative Librarians in formulation of their documentation programmes.
- (3) Provided consultative services to the National Cooperative Union of India and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India in organising their library and documentation services.
- (4) Participated in the XIIIth Meeting of the International Working Party of Cooperative Librarians Documentation Officers (3-6 September 1978) at Stockholm. The meeting discussed the possibilities of technical assistance to the Development of cooperative library, documentation and information services in the developing countries. On way back to India, he also visited Paris to study the library and documentation services of UNESCO, OECD and French Cooperative Movement.

PUBLICATION PROGRAMME FOR 1978-79

The following publications would be brought out during the year 1978-79.

i. Indian Cooperative Rules vis-a-vis Cooperative Principles:

The above publication, included in the last year's programme, could not be brought out as the authors' have not finalised their report. Efforts will be made to bring this publication out during this year.

ii. Readings in Cooperative Marketing :

Publication comprising of papers on various aspects of cooperative marketing presented in seminars conducted by the ICA and some papers specially written for the publication is being prepared.

iii. Cooperative Movement in the countries of the Region:

The publication, comprising general background papers on the cooperative movements in the region, will be brought out during this year. This will form a basic document on the cooperative movement in the different countries of the region.

- iv. Amalgamation of Primary Agricultural Cooperatives -
The Japanese Experience.

The above publication will be revised and brought out during this year.

- v. Cooperative Series :

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

- vi. Speeches on Cooperation:

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

- vii. Publicity :

As usual the ICA Regional Bulletin will be issued quarterly during this year.

Establishment of a Regional Working Party on
Cooperative Press

The ICA ROEC held a Regional Workshop on "Cooperative press and publicity" in Tokyo, in collaboration with the CUAG and IDACA, from 29th August to 27th September, 1978. The Workshop unanimously recommended, the establishment of a Regional Working Party of the ICA Working Party on Cooperative Press for the Region of South-East Asia.

The Workshop suggested that the members of the Regional Working Party should consist of editors/journalists and information officers of the movements in the region.

The Regional Working Party, it was suggested, should meet at least once every two years and that leading members from the ICA Working Party on Cooperative Press be invited to the inaugural meeting of the Regional Working Party.

The Workshop recommended that the Regional Working Party should discuss various aspects of successful cooperative paper editing and publishing and the possibility of a short time exchange of journalists/information officers between the movements within and outside the Region and also the possibility of providing training facilities for the journalists.

A draft constitution, for the Regional Group would be circulated at meeting of the Council for consideration.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 : DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ICA TRADE PROMOTION GROUP, SUB-COMMITTEES ON CONSUMER, FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

10.1 A resume of the decisions taken by the Trade Promotion Group and the Sub-Committees on Consumer, Fisheries and Agriculture will be given to the Council at the time of the meeting.

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

11.1 As in the past, the Regional Office & Education Centre was in constant touch with the member-organisations in the Region through correspondence, personal visits, consultancy services etc.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12 : RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

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

12.2 UN/ESCAP : The Joint Director (TAT) attended the 21st Session of the ESCAP Committee on Trade at Bangkok, Thailand, from 10th to 16th January, 1978.

12.3 The Regional Director attended the 34th Annual Session of ESCAP at Bangkok from 7th to 17th March, 1978.

12.4 COPAC : On a request made to the Committee on Promotion of Aid to Cooperatives (COPAC) by the Government of Sudan to arrange a Consultation Meeting of likely donors to assist their cooperative development programmes, COPAC arranged for a six member Mission consisting of representatives from the ICA, FAO, ILO, COPAC, U.N. Housing Division and an Expert on Cooperative Training from the Government of Tanzania to visit Sudan during the period 10th to 20th February 1978. The Mission was led by Mr. R.B. Rajaguru, ICA Regional Director for S.E. Asia. The

Mission's chief responsibility was to finalise the project documents prepared by the Ministry of Cooperation for presentation to the Donor Consultation. It is expected that the Donor Consultation will take place in Khartoum in this year or early 1979.

12.5 The FAO granted the ICA an author's contract to provide them with country studies on "Increasing Agricultural Production Through Cooperative Action" in respect of selected countries of the Region. Such studies were contracted for through our member-organisations in respect of Nepal, the Republic of Korea and India and to supplement these studies the studies undertaken by the ICA ROEC under the Cooperative Development Committee studies in respect of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Thailand were also updated to meet with the requirements of the FAO and these too were made available to the FAO through the Head Office in London.

These studies formed part of the background papers for the FAO Consultation on "Increasing Agricultural Production Through Cooperatives" held in Bali, Indonesia, between 9th to 14th October, 1978.

12.6 The Regional Director and Specialist in Agricultural Cooperation attended the FAO Expert Consultation on "Increasing Agricultural Production Through Cooperatives" at Bali, Indonesia from 9th to 14th October, 1978.

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

13.1 The ROEC has been in correspondence with the Cooperative Federation of Australia to hold a Top Level Cooperative Leaders' Conference in Sydney in 1979 - correspondence is still proceeding. The Cooperative Federation of Australia has expressed a desire to host the next Regional Council Meeting and the Member for Australia may like to indicate his views on the subject.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15 : VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIR

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

Minutes of the Nineteenth Meeting of the ICA Council for
South-East Asia held at Bali, Indonesia, on 9th December 1977

1. The Nineteenth Meeting of the ICA Council for South-East Asia was held at Bali, Indonesia, on 9th December, 1977.

2. The following were present :

Members of the Council

1. Mr. Eddiwan, Chairman & Member for Indonesia
2. Mr. I.H. Hunter, Member for Australia
3. Mr. Ali Hossain, Member for Bangladesh
4. Mr. M.A. Haque, Member for Bangladesh
5. Mr. R.G. Tiwari, Member for India
6. Mr. Tapeswar Singh, Member for India
7. Mr. Djoko Basuki, Member for Indonesia
8. Mr. S. Nakabayashi, Alternate Member for Japan
9. Mr. S. Miyagawa, Alternate Member for Japan
10. Mr. Poo Yung Lee, Member for Korea
11. Dato N.A. Kularajah, Member for Malaysia
12. Mr. Supah Noh, Member for Malaysia
13. Mr. B.P. Faustino, Member for Philippines
14. Mr. Monico G. Yadao, Member for Philippines
15. Mr. M. Kulasegaram, Member for Singapore
16. Mr. Mak Kam Heng, Member for Singapore
17. Mr. M.R.B. Daswatte, Member for Sri Lanka
18. Mr. Wichien Sobhon, Alternate Member for Thailand
19. Mr. Wichien Inthachat, Member for Thailand

Absent

1. Mr. Robert Woolnough, Member for Australia
2. Mr. J. Sassani, Member for Iran
3. Mr. Taghi Salem, Member for Iran
4. Mr. Hee Ryung Lee, Member for Korea
5. Khan Amir Abdullah Khan Rokari, Member for Pakistan
6. Mr. M.P. Jayasinghe, Member for Sri Lanka

Secretary Mr. R.B. Rajaguru, ICA Regional Director for South-East Asia

ICA Regional Office Staff

1. Mr. J.M. Rana, Director (Education)
2. Dr. D. Vir, Joint Director (Education)
3. Mr. Lionel Gunawardana, Joint Director (PPR)
4. Mr. M.K. Puri, Joint Director (TAT)

In attendance

1. Mr. H. Usui, CUAC, Tokyo
2. Mr. Akira Kurimoto, JCCU, Tokyo
3. Mr. Prem Kumar, Personal Assistant to Regional Director, ICA ROE

Agenda Item 1 : Welcome

3. Mr. Eddiwan, Vice-President, Dewan Koperasi Indonesia, welcomed the members on behalf of the Indonesian Cooperative Movement. He also welcomed the new Regional Director and also paid a tribute to Mr. P.E. Weeraman, the former Regional Director, for his excellent record of service. He thanked all the members for coming to Bali to attend the meeting and hoped that their stay in Bali would be pleasant.

Agenda Item 2 : Introductory Remarks by the Regional Director

4. Mr. R.B. Rajaguru, ICA Regional Director for South-East Asia, extended a warm welcome to the distinguished Councillors to the 19th meeting. He requested the Councillors to give the ICA ROEC more positive directions and guidance in order to map out the strategy of work for the years to come. He drew the attention of the Councillors in regard to the need to reexamine the role and functions of the various Sub-Committees of the Council and invited the distinguished Councillors to provide the necessary guidance and directions in this regard. He took the opportunity of thanking the Chairman for the kind words he had expressed about him and about the previous Regional Director, Mr. P.E. Weeraman, who worked in the Regional Council for over nine years.

Agenda Item 3 : Election of Chairman

5. Mr. Eddiwan, Member for Indonesia, was elected Chairman of the Council till the holding of the next Council Meeting.

Agenda Item 4 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 18th Meeting

6. The following amendments were proposed by Mr. Mak Kam Heng in respect of the statement on Singapore Cooperative Movement at para 27 (page 16) of the Minutes :

- (1) line 4 to read as "The Singapore National Cooperative Union submitted its comments on the bill" and the balance portion of that paragraph to be deleted.
- (3) the last line which reads "The Act has not been passed yet" to be deleted.
- (4) the last line "The Trade Union Group will be brought into this Union" to be deleted.
- (5) the fourth sentence to be redrafted as follows: "It was decided that a new Committee should redraft the constitution for the apex organisation".

Subject to these amendments, the minutes of the Eighteenth Meeting of the ICA Regional Council held at Tehran, Iran, on 7th and 8th November 1976, were confirmed.

Agenda Item 5 : Background Papers on the Cooperative Movement of each country

7. In order to avoid repetition of information in the background papers of each country, the Council requested the ICA ROEC to prepare an up-to-date background paper in respect of each country which could then be printed and made available when necessary. Once the basic information was available in this form, only the subsequent development should be reported at the next meeting of the Council.

8. The Chairman suggested that in future the title of the background paper which would be presented at the Regional Council Meeting should be

"Recent Changes, Trends and Developments of the Cooperative Movement" in the member country.

9. The background papers already prepared were available with the Councillors. At the request of the Chairman, each member made a brief statement regarding the present position of the cooperative movement in his country.

Agenda Item 6 : Administration Section

10. The information given in the Agenda Notes was noted by the Council. The Regional Director requested the member-organisations to furnish the ICA ROEC with statements of costs incurred by them in respect of any project or programmes worked in collaboration with the ICA ROEC to enable him to furnish this information to both the ICA and the SCC.

Members' Contributions to the Funds of the ICA ROEC

11. The member for Australia said that the Australian Cooperative Movement had already made contributions to the funds of the ICA ROEC through ICA Head Office in London and suggested that necessary corrections be made in the statement. The Regional Director said that the communication from London Office was received after this document was prepared and that the necessary amendments would be made. The member for Malaysia also said that their contribution had been made to the ICA Head Office. As there was no common practice in vogue it was decided that membership subscriptions should be made to London and other contributions to the ICA ROEC in Delhi.

Concessions by the Government of India

12. The Regional Director thanked the Government of India for the continued concessions that were being granted to the ROEC in respect of its day-to-day activities and also in regard to expatriate experts working in India.

Staff Changes

13. The Regional Director reported the following staff changes that had taken place in the ROEC :

1. Mr. P.E. Weeraman, after serving the International Cooperative Alliance as Regional Director for South-East Asia for nine years, retired on the 31st July, 1977.
2. Mr. R.B. Rajaguru has been appointed as the new ICA Regional Director for South-East Asia in succession to Mr. P.E. Weeraman, who has retired.
3. Mr. M.V. Madane, who was on a assignment with FAO in Afghanistan as Cooperative Adviser to the PACCA Project, has been given extension for one more year upto 31st August, 1978.

Agenda Item 7 : Education Centre

14.1 Action taken on the minutes of the last meeting relating to educational activities was noted.

14.2 The Director (Education) informed the meeting that the Course on "The Relationship between the Board of Directors and the Chief Executive in a Cooperative Organisation" had to be postponed due to the difficulties in securing suitable participants in sufficient number. The member for Malaysia indicated that the difficulties for member movements in nominating proper participants were on account of the requirement that participants should be not above 50 years of age and on account of the fact that senior board members and chief executives in large business organisations generally reach these positions at rather late stage. Mr. Rana pointed out that as the course dealt with the subject of relationship between the Board of Directors and the Chief Executive in a cooperative organisation, the participants to the course should be from the two categories viz. (a) senior board members, and (b) chief executive of a cooperative organisation.

14.3 With regard to the above, Mr. Hunter indicated that as the course was designed at a very high level it was essential to have senior management personnel. He further indicated that only one-third of the course contents would be devoted to the question of relationship between the board and the chief executive and that nearly two-thirds of the course would be devoted to "Top Level Management Functions and Techniques". On the basis of this information, the meeting was of the opinion that the participants need not be only board members/chief executives but could also be middle level management personnel who have the potential to rise to senior positions. It was also agreed that the age limit should not be rigidly adhered to for this course. The Chairman suggested that the title of the course should be changed and that the ROEC should inform the member-organisations about the course content so as to facilitate nominations. It was also agreed at the meeting that the ratio of an almost equal number of participants from each of the two categories viz. board member and chief executive need not be insisted upon and that it would be perfectly alright if there were more managerial personnel in the course in relation to the board members.

14.4 Member Education (pp.30-33, para 11, Section III) : Mr. Rana indicated that there was a typographical mistake and the relevant pages to be referred to should be pages 30-33. In this connection, he indicated that action has already been taken. Member organisations have been requested to prepare assessment reports on Cooperative Education Programmes in their countries and send these to the ICA ROEC. The ICA ROEC would compile these reports. It is also proposed to hold an experts consultation on the subject of member education so that guidelines could be prepared on this important subject for the benefit of member movements

in the Region. The assessment reports will provide a valuable basis for holding the experts' consultation.

14.5 As regards the request of the NCUI, contact will be taken with the NCUI and necessary assistance rendered.

Review of Activities (November 1976 - September 1977)

15.1 The Council noted the activities carried out by the Education Centre for the period November 1976 to September 1977. Dato Kularajah complimented the ROEC on the very good educational programmes carried out by it during the year.

15.2 Mr. B.P. Faustino reported about the Regional Seminar on Cooperative Housing which had been recently conducted in the Philippines. He mentioned that the seminar was a very timely one from the point of view of the Filipino movement and that it generated a great deal of interest on the part of the Filipino authorities. The Philippines movement will be holding soon, in collaboration with the Philippines Housing Authority, a National Seminar to formulate a programme of cooperative housing and requested the ICA ROEC to make available Mr. Sten Johnsson as a resource person.

Programme of Activities (July 1978 - June 1979)

16. Mr. Rana presented the programme of activities the ICA ROEC proposed to carry out during the year. The Council approved of the following activities scheduled for the financial year 1978-79 :

16.1 Regional Workshop on Cooperative Press & Publicity in Japan

Venue	:	Tokyo, Japan
Duration	:	21 days, September 1978
Participants	:	25

This seminar would be held in collaboration with the CUAC and IDACA.

16.2 Regional Seminar for Managerial Personnel of Fishery Cooperatives in the Region preceded by study visits in the Rep. of Korea

Venue	:	Tokyo, Japan
Duration	:	3 weeks, October-December 1978
Participants	:	25

This seminar would be held in Japan preceded by study visits in the Republic of Korea. A tentative agreement from the member-organisations in Japan and the National Federation of Fishery Cooperatives of the Republic of Korea was already available. However, once government financial assistance was assured the seminar would be held. This was a tentative proposal at that stage.

16.3 Top Level Cooperative Leaders' Conference

Venue : Sydney, Australia (Tentative)
 Period : October-November 1979

As suggested by the last Council meeting in Tehran, a Top Level Cooperative Leaders' Conference would be held prior to the holding of the ICA Congress in 1980. The theme of the conference could be "How to enhance cooperatives' capability".

Mr. Hunter proposed that this conference be held in Sydney, Australia. If the Council approved, he would approach the Commonwealth Government of Australia and if government agreed to this proposal, then this conference could be held in Australia in 1979. Mr. Hunter suggested that we should invite participants also from New Zealand, the Pacific Islands and also some of the movements in South America. The Council accepted these suggestions. The Chairman suggested that it should be a conference of Asia/Pacific Top Level Cooperative Leaders. The Regional Office was asked to work out the details keeping in view the above directions given by the Council. Invitations should be sent to Ministers and Commissioners of Cooperative Development to this conference as was done in the case of previous Top Level Conference. Mr. Rana said that the ICA might be able to approach the IARRO and other international organisations for some of the funding of this conference.

16.4 Open Asian Conference

Venue : Thailand (Tentative)
 Period : December 1978
 Participants: 150

The Council felt that the ICA ROEC should hold an Open Asian Conference on a self-financing basis in 1978. It was suggested that the maximum of 150 persons should be accepted for this conference. The member for Thailand said that he will take up the matter of holding the Open Asian Conference after the Regional Council meeting in Thailand with the Board of Directors of Cooperative League of Thailand and will inform the ICA of the decision. The ICA ROEC was asked to write to the Cooperative League in this regard.

The Council suggested the following two topics for this Open Asian Conference :

1. Management Planning
2. Cooperatives and Multinationals

16.5 Follow-up Programme of Cooperative Teachers

Venue : Philippines
 Duration : 3-4 weeks in February 1979
 Participants : 15

This programme will be for selected participants to the courses which have been organised previously for cooperative teachers. Only those participants who have prepared the teaching material as agreed by them and whose material comes up to a reasonable standard would be invited to this follow-up programme.

The members for Philippines suggested that the presence of the cooperative teachers should be utilised to hold a Technical Meeting along with University Teachers in the Philippines teaching Cooperation for discussing the curriculum on Cooperation in University Courses in the Philippines. The technical meeting may be held after the course is over.

16.6 Field Projects

(1) Cooperative Education Field Project in Indonesia

The Director (Education) reported that some preparatory work had been carried by Dr. D. Vir and that he was in the process of formulating project proposals. It was hoped to make this project operational during 1978-79.

(2) Project for Training of Cooperative Teachers in Sri Lanka

The Director (Education) said that the project document had been worked out and that the ICA ROEC and the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka had basically agreed on the document and that the Government of Sri Lanka too had accepted the project. It was expected that this project too would become operational in 1978-79.

(3) Project for Consumer Education & Information in Sri Lanka

This is a project which would be supported by the Consumer Guilds of Sweden. The initiative came from the women leaders of the Consumer Guilds for starting such a project. The necessary preparatory work had been done. The ICA had carried out a survey about the present position and role of women in cooperatives in Sri Lanka and that survey provided a basis for formulating the project proposal. The project document had already been agreed to by the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka and the Government of Sri Lanka. The SCC and the Consumer Cooperative Guilds have also accepted the project document.

The Regional Director informed the Council that the approval of SIDA was awaited to commence the project.

The Council approved the above three projects.

16.7 National Seminars

The Councillors requested assistance from the ICA ROEC for holding the following national seminars in their respective countries :

Malaysia (ANGKASA)	:	Education Methods
Korea & Bangladesh	:	Training of Women Leaders
India	:	How to combat poverty through cooperatives
Sri Lanka & Bangladesh	:	Agricultural Cooperation
Bangladesh	:	Consumer Cooperation

The Director (Education) said that depending on the resources and the specialists available, the ICA ROEC will try to assist the member movements in holding the above national seminars.

16.8 Women & Cooperatives

The ICA ROEC would carry out following activities during the year :

- a) Two national basic courses in cooperation for women cooperators,
- b) Study in one country of the Region about the extent of womens' participation and how it can be enhanced, and
- c) Case studies of two cooperative organisations regarding womens' participation.

16.9 Youth & Cooperation

The Regional Director said that the intention in putting this item in the Agenda was to enquire from the Council whether there was anything the Councillors would expect the ICA ROEC to do in this particular field. The member for Malaysia said that they had some literature on cooperation and youth and that could be distributed through national organisations. The member for India informed the Council that they had recently held a National Seminar on the subject and thought that more emphasis should be given to this aspect.

Agenda Item 8 : Technical Assistance and Trade Section

17. The Council noted the activities of the Trade and Technical Assistance Section (Part I & II) during the period under review and noted the follow-up action taken on the recommendations made at the last meeting of the Council.

Agenda Item 9 : Publications and Public Relations and Library Section

18. The Council noted the different publications that had been brought out by the PPR Section and also the efforts that were being made by the Section for collection of cooperative news from the Region. The Joint Director (PPR) requested the members to ensure that cooperative news of interest were conveyed to the ROEC for inclusion in the Regional Bulletin on a regular basis. He further requested that a separate person be nominated in the member-organisations who would be responsible for the supply of information to the ROEC regularly.

19. The services provided by Librarian and Documentation Officer to the libraries in the Region was noted with appreciation.

20. The proposal to hold a Orientation Course for Librarians was discussed. The members of the Council were of the opinion that the course would be useful to the librarians. It was suggested that the course be held on a self-financing basis and the reactions of the member-organisations be obtained on the holding of the course on a self-financing basis. It was also suggested that some scholarship may be given to countries which had foreign exchange difficulties.

Publications for 1977-78

21. The following publications would be brought out during the year 1977-78 :

- (1) Indian Cooperative Rules vis-a-vis Cooperative Principles
- (2) Role of Cooperatives in Increasing Food Production
(This will be published after ascertaining the reactions of the Cooperative League of Thailand)
- (3) Readings in Cooperative Marketing
- (4) Cooperative Series : two or three publications under this series.
- (5) Speeches on Cooperation : Speeches made by eminent cooperators will be published under this series.
- (6) Publicity : i. Four issues of the ICA Regional Bulletin
ii. Other publicity material e.g. ICA in South-East Asia

Agenda Item 10 : Decisions and Recommendations of the ICA Sub-Committee on Agriculture & Trade for South-East Asia

22. The Secretary of the Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Trade briefed the Council on the important recommendations that had been made by the Sub-Committee at its meeting held on 8th December, 1977 - the reactivation of the Trade Promotion Group and the formation of a separate Sub-Committee on Fishery Cooperatives for South-East Asia.

23. The Council approved the formation of a separate Sub-Committee on Fishery Cooperatives for South-East Asia and reactivation of the Trade Group. Mr. I.H. Hunter was elected Chairman of the Trade Promotion Group with Mr. M.K. Puri, Joint Director (TAT) as the Secretary.

24. Mr. Irwin Hunter, Member for Australia, expressed the view that various Sub-Committees of the Regional Council if they were to perform effectively should consist of persons knowledgeable in the particular field of the Sub-Committee and should be able to meet well before the Regional Council meeting to enable it to programme its activities, review performance and thereafter to report to the Regional Council. Else the best benefits from the function of separate Sub-Committee would not be derived. Some of the Council members however felt that in view of the additional travel costs that would be involved, it would be difficult to accept this suggestion. After some discussion it was agreed that the ICA ROEC should take necessary action to make the Council and Sub-Committee meetings more effective. It was also suggested that the ICA ROEC should explore the possibility of holding the Sub-Committee meetings on Consumer, Trade and Fisheries on a self-financing basis and if such was not possible then Sub-Committees would meet as before - before the Regional Council meeting. However, the Agriculture Sub-Committee would meet along with the Regional Council.

Agenda Item 11 : Relations with Member-organisations in the Region

25. The information given in the Agenda Notes was noted by the Council.

Agenda Item 12 : Relations with International Organisations

26. The information given in the Agenda Notes was noted by the Council.

Agenda Item 13 : Venue and Dates of the next meeting

27. The member for Thailand invited the Council to hold its next meeting, 20th in the series, in Thailand in the beginning of December 1978. The venue will be intimated later. The Council was of the opinion that the venue should be Bangkok. The Council thanked the member for the kind invitation.

Agenda Item 14 : Any other matter with the permission of Chair

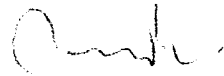
28. The Council approved the formation of separate Committee on Consumer Cooperation for South-East Asia and noted that Mr. S. Nakabayashi was appointed Chairman of this Committee and that Mr. M.K. Puri, Joint Director (TAT) & Specialist in Consumer Cooperation would be the Secretary of the Committee.

The Council decided that the publication of ICA Trade News should be discontinued as it serves no useful purpose to the member movements.

29. The Regional Director, Mr. Rajaguru, expressed his thanks to the host, the Dewan Koperasi Indonesia, for hosting the meeting and to its staff and the staff of the ICA for the excellent support received and also to the distinguished Councillors for their deliberations and advice.

Agenda Item 15 : Vote of thanks

30. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair which was passed unanimously.



New Delhi
January 10, 1978

R.B. Rajaguru
Secretary, ICA Council for S.E. Asia

pk/

Mr. J. M. RANA

MINUTES

**ICA Council
for South-East Asia**

TWENTIETH MEETING

Venue BANGKOK, THAILAND

Dates 6 DECEMBER, 1978

Minutes



*International Cooperative Alliance, Regional Office
and Education Centre for South-East Asia, "Bonow
House", 43 Friends' Colony, New Delhi-110004, India*

International Cooperative Alliance
"Bonow House"
43, Friends Colony, New Delhi-65

January 25, 1979

TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE ICA COUNCIL FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA
HELD AT BANGKOK, THAILAND, ON 6TH DECEMBER, 1978

Inauguration Ceremony of the 20th Meeting
of the ICA Council for South-East Asia

1. The inauguration ceremony of the 20th Meeting of the ICA Council for South-East Asia and its various Sub-Committees was held in the Auditorium of the Cooperative League of Thailand on 4th December, 1978, presided over by Mr. Eddiwan, Chairman of the Regional Council. The meeting was attended by a large and representative gathering of cooperators, government officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps and distinguished representatives from the Royal Thai Government consisting of His Excellency the Prime Minister, His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives and His Excellency the Deputy Minister of Agriculture. His Excellency Gen. Kriangsak Chomanan, the Prime Minister of Thailand, was the Chief Guest and delivered the Inaugural Address.

2. Mr. R.B. Rajaguru, Regional Director, in his address welcomed all Regional Councillors, Members of the Committees and all others who had graced the occasion by their presence. He expressed his gratitude to His Excellency the Prime Minister for the encouragement and inspiration given to all cooperators by his presence notwithstanding the innumerable and urgent matters of state which would be making pressing demands on his valuable time. He went on to say that by consenting to inaugurate the meeting His Excellency showed quite clearly the emphasis placed by him and the Royal Thai Government on cooperatives and on the role cooperatives can play in the long and arduous task of economic development based on justice, equity and popular support. He expressed the hope that the deliberations which were to commence with so much of goodwill and encouragement from the highest of the land would lead to evolving meaningful ways of accelerating the pace of development in the developing countries of the Region.

3. Dr. Banjerd Khatikarn, Chairman, Cooperative League of Thailand, in his address welcomed all Councillors and Sub-Committee members and others and thanked His Excellency the Prime Minister for the encouragement and support given by his presence at the meeting. He went on to say that the Royal Thai Government under the leadership of His Excellency the Prime Minister was placing greater emphasis on the cooperative form of organisation to ensure rapid social and economic development. To emphasize this intention His Majesty the King had in

recent times donated more than 24,000 acres of his private land for the settlement of tenants and landless farmers who would then be able to improve their farming capability and thus improve their standard of living through cooperative action.

4. His Excellency Gen Kriangsak Chomanan, Prime Minister, in his Inaugural Address while welcoming all Regional Councillors confirmed the support of his government to the cooperatives and made an impassioned plea for the evolving of plans and programmes which would directly benefit the mass of the people and which would lead to a better economic and social order based on a more equitable distribution of wealth, opportunity and the good things in life. He wished the deliberations all success.

5. Mr. Eddiwan, Chairman of the Regional Council in his address thanked His Excellency for his gracious presence and went on to say that his presence and his encouraging words bore ample testimony of the Royal Thai Government's active support to the cooperative movement not only of Thailand but also of the whole region. He also thanked the host movement, the Cooperative League of Thailand, and all those present for their kind presence and support.

Minutes of the Twentieth Meeting of the ICA Council for South-East Asia held at Bangkok (Thailand) on 6th December 1978

6. The Twentieth Meeting of the ICA Council for South-East Asia was held at the premises of the Cooperative League of Thailand, Bangkok, on 6th December, 1978.

7. The following were present:-

Members of the Council

1. Dr. Banjerd Khatikarn, Chairman & Member for Thailand
2. Mr. I.H. Hunter, Member for Australia
3. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, Member for India
4. Mr. R.G. Tiwari, Member for India
5. Mr. Eddiwan, Member for Indonesia
6. Mr. Djoko Basuki, Member for Indonesia
7. Mr. Takeshi Kai, Alternate Member for Japan
8. Mr. Y.K. Lee, Member for Republic of Korea
9. Mr. B.J. Suh, Alternate Member for Republic of Korea
10. Dato N.A. Kularajah, Member for Malaysia
11. Mr. Supah Noh, Member for Malaysia
12. Mohd Nawaz Ghuman, Alternate Member for Pakistan
13. Mr. B.P. Faustino, Member for the Philippines
14. Mr. Mak Kam Heng, Member for Singapore
15. Mr. H.P.S. Samsudin, Member for Singapore
16. Mr. M.R.B. Daswatte, Member for Sri Lanka

Secretary : Mr. R.B. Rajaguru, ICA Regional Director for South-East Asia

Observers

1. Mr. H. Togawa, Managing Director, IDACA, Tokyo
2. Haji Aziz Ibrahim, Malaysia

ICA Staff

1. Mr. Branko Zlataric, Secretary for Agriculture, ICA London.
2. Mr. J.M. Rana, Director (Education), ICA ROEC.
3. Mr. Lionel Gunawardana, Joint Director (PPR), ICA ROEC
4. Mr. M.K. Puri, Joint Director (TAT), ICA ROEC
5. Mr. Per-Eric Lannhagen, Specialist in Agricultural Coop. Marketing,
ICA ROEC.

In attendance

Mr. Prem Kumar, Personal Assistant to Regional Director, ICA ROEC.

Agenda Item No. 1 : Welcome

8. The meeting commenced with Mr. Eddiwan, Chairman in the Chair. He invited Dr. Banjerd Khatikarn, Chairman, Cooperative League of Thailand, to deliver his welcome address.

9. Dr. Khatikarn extended a sincere welcome to all the members of the Council on behalf of the Cooperative League of Thailand. He hoped that the members would have a chance to discuss and exchange views and experiences regarding future plans for cooperative development in the Region. He said that the meeting would bring about better understanding and close cooperation among member countries for the sake of prosperity and better living of the cooperative members of the whole Region.

10. He apologised to all members from the various countries for any problems, difficulties or inconvenience that they have had to face in regard to their accommodation, etc. However, he hoped that their stay in Thailand would be pleasant and comfortable.

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

11. Mr. R.B. Rajaguru, ICA Regional Director for South-East Asia, extended a very warm welcome to all Councillors to the 20th Meeting of the Regional Council. He said that he was very thankful to each and every single Councillor for taking time out from their busy schedules to be present and to make available the benefit of their experience to the meeting. He also took the opportunity to thank the host organisation, the Cooperative League of Thailand, and the very large number of officials involved in making arrangements for the Council meeting and for the interest they were taking in seeing that all requirements were met.

12. He said : "I would like at this stage to inform the Councillors that over the last three days we have had in depth deliberations in the various Sub-Committee meetings and the reports of these discussions will be placed before you and judging from what has been discussed and expressed, it would show that there is an increasing interest among the participants in trying to strengthen the cooperative movements in the countries of the Region and also to find ways and means of closer collaboration to develop greater strength in this sphere. I sincerely hope that you distinguished Councillors in your deliberations over the next two days will be able to give necessary guidance to us in the secretariat so that we could evolve meaningful programmes which will solve at least partially some of the more pressing problems of the Region".

13. He also congratulated Dr. Khatikarn on his election as Chairman of the Cooperative League of Thailand and assured him of continued collaboration from the ICA ROEC. He also thanked Mr. Eddiwan who had been the Chairman of the Council for the assistance and help extended to ROEC by him. Finally, he requested all the Councillors to give to the ICA ROEC necessary guidance and to lay necessary emphasis on the various factors that are involved in the development of cooperatives and show the path which will eventually leads to a stronger cooperative movement in the Region.

Agenda Item No. 3 : Election of Chairman

14. Dr. Banjerd Khatikarn, Member for Thailand, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Council till the holding of the next Council meeting.

Agenda Item No. 4 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 19th Meeting

15. The minutes of the 19th meeting of the ICA Council for South-East Asia held at Bali, Indonesia, on 9th December 1977 which had been circulated earlier were confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 5 : Background Papers on "Recent Changes, Trends and Developments of the Cooperative Movement in the Region"

16. Background papers on the subject received from Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia (ANGKASA), Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand were circulated in bound mimeographed form. The Secretary said that before this document was published, the member countries concerned were requested to have a second look at what was now available in the bound form. Perhaps the members may have additions or deletions that they may like to make. He requested that the final approved document be sent to ICA ROEC by April 1979 the latest. The Secretary said that if the final version was received from each country in time, then the ROEC would be able to bring out the publication in time for the next Regional Council meeting.

Agenda Item No. 6 : AdministrationContributions to the funds of the ROEC

17. The Secretary placed before the meeting the details of the contributions made by member organisations to the funds of the ROEC for the financial year 1977-78 amounting to Indian Rs.95,121.69.

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

18. The Secretary reported that contributions of £50/- each for the financial year 1977-78 were received from Australia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Singapore (£5 only), Sri Lanka, Thailand and Malaysia amounting to £455/-.

Concessions by Government of India

19. The information given in the Agenda was noted by the Council with appreciation. The Secretary once again reiterated the thanks of the ICA to the Government of India for the assistance and support extended to the Regional Office.

Staff Changes

20. The staff changes reported in the agenda relating to Mr. Sten Johnsson, Dr. G. Ojha, Mr. Daman Prakash, Mr. Per-Eric Lannhagen and Mr. M.V. Madane were noted by the Council.

Obituary

21. The Secretary informed the Council about the sudden deaths of Mr. Shyam Singh and Mr. Jai Prakash in the ROEC.

Agenda Item No. 7 : Education Centre

22. Action taken on the minutes of the last meeting relating to educational activities was noted.

23. The Director (Education) mentioned the following two activities to the Council for their information and decision:

Regional Seminar for Managerial Personnel of Fishery Cooperatives in the Region preceded by study visits in the Republic of Korea

24. This seminar was proposed to be held in Japan in collaboration with the National Federation of Fishery Cooperative Associations of Japan. The information on this subject was reported in the Fisheries Sub-Committee meeting. As the seminar was held by the NFFC of Japan with the financial assistance of the Government of Japan, certain procedural problems developed and therefore study visits in the Republic of Korea could not be carried out. Most of the personnel who actually attended

the seminar were from government fisheries departments. It was pointed out by the representatives of the Fishery movement at the meeting of the ICA Sub-Committee for Agriculture that if such an activity was held again by the Fishery Federation of Japan, then necessary steps would be taken to ensure that personnel from fishery cooperatives would take part. This point was also noted by the National Federation of Fishery Cooperatives of Korea who were considering holding a seminar on Fishery Cooperatives in 1980.

Experts' Consultation on Member Education

25. The Director (Education) said that the last Council Meeting had approved an Experts' Consultation on the subject. We had scheduled the Consultation for October 1978, but the assessment reports on member education from various countries which were expected to form the basis of this Consultation were not received from a number of cooperative movements and in view of this the date of the Consultation had been shifted and it was now proposed to hold the Consultation in the second half of April 1979 in Sri Lanka. The National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka had very kindly agreed to host the Experts' Consultation and to make necessary arrangements.

26. It was agreed that where national movements were desirous of sending additional delegates to this Consultation at their own cost, such requests would be considered favourably provided the number of such participants was not very large.

27. The Regional Director requested the movements to select only those people who were really functional in this area and who have had a lot of experience in member education as this was the background on which it was hoped to build up a future course of action.

Review of Education Activities (November 1977-September 1978)

28. The Council noted the activities carried out by the Education Centre for the period November 1977 to September 1978.

Programme of Activities (July 1979-June 1980)

29. The Director (Education) presented the programme of activities the ICA ROEC proposed to carry out during the year. The Council approved the following activities scheduled for the year 1979-80:

(1) Sixth Open Asian Conference on Cooperative Management

Venue : Open
Duration : 1 week
Timing : Nov.-Dec. 1979

30. The Director (Education) said that in view of the fact that Top Level Cooperative Leaders' Conference cannot be held for reasons explained by the Member for Australia, in November, 1979, we could hold the

6th Open Asian Conference according to the usual practice of holding it following the meeting of the Regional Council Meeting.

31. The Council decided that the title of the 6th Open Asian Conference be either "Savings and Financial Investment through Cooperatives" or "Financial Management for Cooperatives in the 80s" and agreed that thrift and credit cooperation be included in the Agenda.

(2) ICA/CUAC/IDACA Regional Seminar in Japan

Venue : Tokyo, Japan
 Duration : 21 days
 Study visits : 1 week in Korea
 Participants : 25

32. It was decided that the subject of the seminar be "Better Living Activities through Cooperatives".

(3) Technical Meeting on Cooperative Agricultural Marketing

Venue : India
 Duration : 10 days including 4 days study visits

33. The Director (Education) said that with regard to this subject there was considerable discussion in the Sub-Committee on Agriculture and the Sub-Committee felt that this subject was of great importance and that a high level discussion was needed.

34. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India had very kindly agreed to host the Seminar.

(4) Regional Seminar on Role and Functions of the National Cooperative Unions

Venue : India
 Duration : 12 days including 4 days study visits
 Timing : October 1979

35. The Director (Education) said that this seminar had been proposed at the initiative of the National Cooperative Union of India who had already indicated their willingness to host the seminar. Dato N.A. Kularajah, Member for Malaysia, suggested that the following topics be covered in the Seminar programme.

1. Question of representations to the government
2. Lobbying of Member of Parliaments
3. Negotiating with the Registrar of Cooperative Societies
4. Legal action where autocracy becomes a problem
5. Relations with authorities, public relations, social relations etc.

(5) Regional Workshop on Case Writing and its Use in cooperative management training

Venue : India
 Duration : 2 months including one week study visits
 Timing : February/March 1980

36. The Director (Education) said that this was an activity in the field of training teachers of cooperative training colleges. The ROEC had held two courses in training methodology and it was found that **the use of management cases was a very important tool for training managerial personnel.** It was felt essential that the teachers of the cooperative colleges need to be trained in how to prepare cases, write cases and use them and from that point of view, this Workshop had been proposed to be held. This would also enable the ROEC in compiling a larger number of cases which could then be exchanged among different cooperative training colleges in the Region.

(6) Cooperative Education Materials Advisory Service (CEMAS)

37. The Director (Education) said that under this service the ROEC proposed to institute three scholarships so that three senior cooperative teachers could be selected and they could work with the assistance of the ICA personnel in producing training material which was relevant for teaching of cooperative management. This was felt to be a very critical area in the field of training.

38. Dato N.A. Kularajah, Member for Malaysia, said that this should not be restricted only to cooperative colleges as far as Malaysia was concerned because there were business organisations who would like some of their staff to be trained even at their own expense to write case studies. The Director (Education) informed the meeting that this training workshop was proposed for trainers. However, he agreed that large organisations like MCIS of Malaysia who had training managers, would find this type of workshop very useful for them.

(7) National Seminars

39. The Director (Education) requested the member movements to send their requests to the ICA ROEC for holding national seminars on topics of interest to them.

40. The Member for Singapore, Mr. Mak Kam Heng, indicated that the Singapore National Cooperative Union would like to get assistance from the ROEC for holding a national seminar on Cooperative Member Education with special reference to Thrift and Loan Societies.

(8) Project for Training of Cooperative Teachers in Sri Lanka

41. The project will be continued during the year.

(9) Project for Consumer Education and Information through Cooperatives in Sri Lanka

42. The project will be continued during the year.

(10) Cooperative Education Field Project in Indonesia

43. The Director (Education) expected that certain work with regard to the project in Indonesia would have already been initiated during the year.

Agenda Item No. 8 : Technical Assistance & Trade Section

Technical Assistance

44. The Council reviewed the activities of Technical Assistance & Trade during the period under discussion and noted the follow-up action on the recommendations made at the last meeting. The Joint Director (TAT) informed the meeting that no fresh requests for technical assistance had been received by the ROEC from the Region.

45. The Regional Director drew the attention of the Councillors to the various types and sources of technical assistance available. He said that the impression he had gathered from consultations with various donor agencies was that if there were very clearly thought out and well written projects which constituted a genuine need in the country then the chances of getting funding for such projects were not bad. He requested all the Councillors to give thought to this matter as possibility of getting technical assistance, whether in small quantity or in large quantity, was very encouraging.

46. Dato N.A. Kularajah, Member for Malaysia, said that the history of technical assistance had not been encouraging as numerous project proposals did not evoke any response. However, as the climate appears to be changing, this aspect should be looked into.

Promotion of Cooperative Trade

Trade Information Bulletin

47. The Joint Director (TAT) reported that as per the decision of the Council at its last meeting, the Trade Information Bulletin was discontinued. After much discussion it was decided that the discontinuance should stand but that the proposal made by the Chairman of ICTO in regard to the possibility of providing an up-to-date Market Intelligence Service provided the members were willing to fund the setting up of such a unit in ICTO, be given further consideration.

ICA Trade Directory

48. The Joint Director (TAT) said that a suggestion had been received by the ROEC that the ICA Trade Directory be revised. He said that the Trade Promotion Group had also recommended that this should be revised after the holding of the ILO/SIDA Workshop in Singapore since the ILO was conducting some surveys. It was suggested that the pattern of the Directory should be changed. The Joint Director (TAT) requested the members to inform the ROEC as to what kind of information they would like to be included in the revised directory.

CLUSA/ICA Trade Conference in New York

49. The information given in the Agenda was noted by the Council.

Collaboration with ICTO

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

ILO/SIDA Workshop on Strengthening of Inter-Cooperative Trade Relations

51. The information given in the Agenda was noted by the Council. The Joint Director (TAT) said that the success of this workshop would depend on the type of participants who were nominated to attend the workshop. He requested all the Councillors to take a personal interest to see that suitable participants were sponsored for the workshop. The members from Japan and Australia were requested to send their representatives to the workshop at their own cost.

52. Some Councillors were of the view that as the channels of ILO communication were directly with the government and very often with the Ministry of Labour, their chances of influencing the selection of suitable participants was somewhat remote - yet they would look into this as best they could.

5th Meeting of the ICA Trade Promotion Group

53. The Joint Director (TAT) said that the last Council Meeting decided that the Trade Promotion Group should be reactivated. Accordingly, the Group was reactivated and the 5th meeting of the Group was held in Singapore. The various recommendations made by the Group at this meeting had been listed in the agenda. The 6th meeting of the Trade Promotion Group had also endorsed all the recommendations after due consideration.

ICA Collaboration with the United Nations Organisations:

Collaboration between ICA & the FAO

54. Two projects were sent to the FAO - one from Sri Lanka and one from the Philippines - for assistance under the Money and Medal Programme. The Joint Director (TAT) requested the members from these countries to send copies of the projects to the ROEC.

55. The Member for the Philippines, Mr. B.P. Faustino, said that the Philippine Project had been approved and was now going on.

Promotion of Industrial Cooperatives -
Collection of Information

56. The Joint Director (TAT) informed the meeting that information in respect of Industrial Cooperatives was still awaited from a number of countries in the Region. All the members were requested to furnish the information to the ROEC as soon as possible.

57. The Regional Director informed the meeting that at the moment there was some discussion going on between SCC/SIDA and the Polish Cooperative Movement to see whether some kind of collaboration in the field of industrial cooperatives for the developing countries could be arrived at. SCC had asked the ROEC for details with regard to the present position of industrial cooperatives and handicraft cooperatives, cottage industries etc. The ROEC was in correspondence with the SCC on this matter. He said that if the member organisations could give the details to the ROEC, it would then be possible for the ROEC to work out a suitable programme.

Agenda Item No. 9 : Publications, Public Relations and Library Section

58. The Joint Director (PPR) informed the Council that publications brought out by the ROEC during the previous year had been listed in the agenda.

59. He requested the Councillors to get their movements to send in success stories from time to time for publication, in the Regional Bulletin.

Publication Programme for 1978-79

60. The Council noted that the following publications would be brought out during the year 1978-79 :-

1. Indian Cooperative Rules vis-a-vis Cooperative Principles
2. Readings in Cooperative Marketing
3. Cooperative Movements in the countries of the Region
4. Amalgamation of Primary Agricultural Cooperatives - The Japanese Experience (a revised edition will be brought out)

5. Cooperative Series : Two or Three publications in this series
6. Speeches on Cooperation . Speeches made by eminent Cooperators will be published under this series
7. Publicity : Four issues of the ICA Regional Bulletin

Establishment of a Regional Working Party
on Cooperative Press

61. The Joint Director (PPR) said that the Regional Workshop on Press & Publicity which was held in Tokyo had recommended the need for setting up a Regional Working Party on Cooperative Press. A Working Party of journalists was already existing in ICA London. It was suggested that such a body be set up for Asia also. The proposal was that Working Party should be set up on a self-financing basis and that it should meet once in two-three years, in which the working journalists may meet and exchange their experience and views. The draft rules of the ICA Regional Working Party was circulated to the members for their consideration.

62. Dato N.A. Kularajah, Member for Malaysia, suggested that the Membership should be re-worded as follows :

"Membership : Membership of the Regional Working Party shall be open to all affiliated organisations of the ICA in the Region who may be represented by those involved in a professional capacity on cooperative papers, magazines and information media within the cooperative movements. Guests can be invited with the consent of the Working Party."

63. With the above change, the Council approved the draft rules of the Regional Working Party. Dato Kularajah offered to host the first meeting of the Working Party in Malaysia.

Agenda Item No. 10 : Decisions and Recommendations of the ICA Trade Promotion Group, Sub-Committees on Consumer, Fishery & Agriculture for South-East Asia

64. The Secretary of the Trade Promotion Group and of the Committee on Consumer Cooperation reported to the Council the decisions and recommendations of the Group and of the Committee.

65. ICA Trade Promotion Group

- A. In view of the increasing importance of cooperative international trade, the Trade Promotion Group recommended that it should be elevated to the position of an independent Sub-Committee to be named as "The ICA Sub-Committee for Trade Development for South-East Asia" and that this Sub-Committee should report directly to the ICA Regional Council for South-East Asia.

- B. The recommendations of the fifth meeting of the Trade Promotion Group in Singapore were endorsed by the meeting of the Group held in Bangkok.

66. Committee on Consumer Cooperation for South-East Asia

- A. The Committee was informed by the Regional Director of the discussions that took place at the meeting of the OECP the main auxiliary on Consumer Cooperation of the ICA, in Copenhagen and the assurance of support by the OECP to the Committee formed for South-East Asia.
- B. The Committee felt that in some of the countries in the Region, conditions had matured to promote consumer cooperation, as a separate activity; and there was need to make systematic efforts to promote and develop consumer cooperation in these countries.
- C. The Committee was of the view that in developing consumer cooperatives, the attempt should be to establish economically viable primary level societies strongly backed by wholesale societies, with competent management at all levels. Further every attempt should be made to involve the housewives in the effort and to evolve meaningful consumer information and member relations programmes.
- D. It was felt that the organisation of consumer cooperatives in schools and universities would help in developing necessary leadership to support a programme of this nature.
- E. The Committee was of the view that national seminars should be held in the member countries to help generate necessary interest and support. In this connection they were very thankful to the SCC for the support given for the holding of national seminars in the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and for the International Seminar scheduled for 1979 in Sweden.

67. The Council endorsed the decisions and recommendations of the Trade Promotion Group and of the Committee on Consumer Cooperation.

68. The Secretary of the ICA Sub-Committee for Agriculture and the Sub-Committee for Fisheries for South-East Asia made a brief oral report of the discussions of the two sub-committees.

69. Agriculture Sub-Committee

- A. Studies on "How Cooperatives can Increase Food Production" in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka were carried out and the reports were ready. Two national seminars were planned in the two countries where, among other things, the report of the studies would be discussed.

- B. ICA ROEC also arranged through its members-organisations (In case of Nepal through Department of Cooperative Development) similar studies in India (State of Maharashtra), Nepal and the Republic of Korea for FAO and the reports of these studies (together with the study reports of Thailand, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) were used in the FAO Expert Consultation on Increasing Agricultural Production through Cooperatives held in Indonesia.
- C. The Sub-Committee recommended that the annual regional seminar in Japan held by ICA in collaboration with CUAC and IDACA should devote part of its time to discuss management of multipurpose (agricultural) societies. The Council approved the above recommendation.
- D. The Sub-Committee felt that the International Seminar held in Sweden on Agricultural Cooperative Marketing for cooperators from Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines was very useful to these countries. The Sub-Committee members from Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines expressed their thanks to SCC, Swedish Government and ICA for holding this seminar and informed the Sub-Committee that according to the participants the seminar had been conducted in an excellent way and was very useful to them. **The Sub-Committee recommended that the practice of holding such seminar in Sweden for Cooperators from the Region should be continued.**

70.

Fisheries Sub-Committee

- A. A training seminar for fishery cooperators which was held in Japan by National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations and Government of Japan was the outcome of a proposal made by the Fishery Group. However, the participants were all from government fishery ministries and departments. No participants attended from cooperative societies. The Sub-Committee felt, ways should be found for giving opportunities for personnel working in fishery cooperatives to participate in such seminars.
- B. A proposal for holding a Regional Seminar for Fishery Cooperatives in the Republic of Korea was discussed by the Sub-Committee. The Korean Fishery Federation representative at the meeting informed the Sub-Committee that they agreed in principle to host the seminar and a final decision will be taken in May 1979 after considering details. The Sub-Committee recommended pursuing of this proposal.
- C. The proposal to bring out a book on Fishery Cooperatives in the Republic of Korea was discussed and recommended

that the preparation of this book be combined with the holding of the Regional Seminar.

71. The Council agreed with the above recommendations of the Fishery Sub-Committee.

Agenda Item No. 11 : Relations with Member-Organizations in the Region

72. The Regional Director focussed the attention of all the Councillors to the ROEC itself and requested them to tell the ROEC whether there was anything wanting from the secretariat angle, as it was necessary to have adequate feed back from the member organisations for the secretariat to get a proper orientation. He stressed that it was necessary to know what the member movements think of the ROEC and its role in the Region and would be thankful for any reactions in this regard.

73. He informed the Councillors also of the new budgetary procedure that was being adopted by SCC by introducing the concept of a three year rolling budget commencing 79-80 on to 81-82. This would necessarily involve a change in the presentation of programmes of work to the Regional Council. At the next Regional Council Meeting, the programmes will broadly indicate the course of action not only for the next year but also for the subsequent two years. They would be flexible but at least in money terms and activity terms, it would have to indicate roughly to SCC what our proposed activities would be for the three year period.

74. He requested all the distinguished Councillors to think on this matter so that at the next meeting, they would be thinking not only of the immediate year following but also of two subsequent years.

75. He said that the ROEC would be sending budget proposals to London and SCC by the middle of January and if any Councillors had any proposals for inclusion in the three year budget, they were requested to write to the ROEC before the middle of January 1979.

Agenda Item No. 12 : Relations with international organisations

76. The Council noted the information given in the Agenda.

Agenda Item No. 13 : Venue and Dates of the next meeting

77. The Secretary said that this was an item which would be placed before the Councillors for consideration as a final decision had not been reached. At the meeting in Bali, the member for Australia had extended an invitation to host the Regional Council Meeting in Sydney and also a Top Level Conference. However, the Australian Federation had informed the ROEC that they were not in a position to host the meetings in 1979 in Australia. The position as it stood today

was that he was not sure of the venue of the next meeting. Perhaps the Regional Councillors could indicate whether a hosting would be possible or possibly ROEC could enter into correspondence with various organisations and see if it could locate a venue in course of time. A complete statement of Regional Council Meetings held so far and the member organisations hosting them were placed before the Councillors (copy attached).

Agenda Item No. 14 : Any other matter with the permission of the Chair

78. Mr. R.G. Tiwari, Member for India, suggested that the services of an Expert on Industrial Cooperatives be obtained for the ROEC. In case it was necessary, the Indian Cooperative Movement would come forward for supplementing the costs to some extent. The Secretary said that ROEC had also considered that this sector of specialisation was one of urgent need for the Region and that the ROEC would make a decision after definite word was received from Mr. Madane. If he was not coming back to the ICA ROEC, the money provision on that account could profitably be used for this purpose. He welcomed the offer made by the Indian Movement and agreed that this was an area very vital for the economies of the Region.

79. On a suggestion made by Mr. Supah Noh, Member for Malaysia, that the Registrars/Secretaries for Cooperatives in each country should also be invited for the Regional Council Meetings to attend at their own cost, it was decided that such invitation should be extended only in respect of Registrars/Secretaries of those countries where the movements concerned wrote in to the ROEC requesting their invitations. The Regional Director requested the Councillors to make such requests at least by the first week of September each year to enable him to extend the invitations in time.

Agenda Item No. 15 : Vote of thanks to the Chair

80. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



R.B. Rajaguru
Secretary, ICA Council for
South-East Asia

ANNEXE

DATES AND VENUE OF ICA REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD SO FAR

<u>Meeting No.</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Dates</u>
First	New Delhi, India	October 20-22, 1961
Second	Tokyo, Japan	April 13-14, 1962
Third	New Delhi, India	May 1-2, 1963
Fourth	Tokyo, Japan	April 17-18, 1964
Fifth	Newra Eliya, Sri Lanka	November 18-19, 1964
Sixth	New Delhi, India	November 25-26, 1965
Seventh	Manila, Philippines	October 24-25, 1966
Eighth	Tokyo, Japan	November 2-3, 1967
Nineth	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	November 13-14, 1968
Tenth	Tehran, Iran	March 1-2, 1969
Eleventh	Seoul, Rep. of Korea	May 8-9, 1970
Twelveth	New Delhi, India	February 17-18, 1971
Thirteenth	Melbourne, Australia	November 8-9, 1971
Fourtheenth	Chiengmai, Thailand	November 19-20, 1972
Fifteenth	Tokyo, Japan	October 30, 1973
Sixteenth	Colombo, Sri Lanka	November 1-2, 1974
Seventeenth	Manila, Philippines	December 7, 1975
Eighteenth	Tehran, Iran	November 7-8, 1976
Nineteenth	Bali, Indonesia	December 9-10, 1977
Twentieth	Bangkok, Thailand	December 6-7, 1978

ICA Sub-Committee for Agriculture : 13th Meet

ICA Sub-Committee for Fisheries : 8th Meet
for South-East Asia

Venue BANGKOK, THAILAND

Dates 5-6 DECEMBER 1978

***International Cooperative Alliance, Regional Office
& Education Centre for South-East Asia, 'Bonow
House', 43 Friends' Colony, New Delhi-110-065, India***

THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE ICA SUB-COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE
FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA, BANGKOK, THAILAND : 5-6 DECEMBER 1978.

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AGENDA ITEM NO.1 : WELCOME BY THE HOST MOVEMENT

1.1 A council member for Thailand will welcome the members of the Sub-committee on behalf of the Cooperative Movement of Thailand.

AGENDA ITEM NO.2 : REMARKS BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

AGENDA ITEM NO.3 : REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

AGENDA ITEM NO.4 : CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE TWELVETH MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the last meeting held in Bali, Indonesia, on 8th December 1977 have been circulated to all members. A copy of the minutes is annexed hereto for ready reference.

4.2 Action taken on the minutes is given in the relevant agenda items of these notes.

AGENDA ITEM NO.5 : TALK ON "AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN THAILAND - PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS".

5.1 In continuation of the practice adopted in the Bali meeting of the Sub-committee to arrange a brief talk on a subject pertaining to agricultural cooperation, arrangements have been made to give a talk on the following subject.

"Agricultural Cooperative Movement in Thailand - Problems and Prospects".

The talk will be followed by discussion.

AGENDA ITEM NO.6 : HOW COOPERATIVES CAN INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION

6.1 Two studies on the above subject were carried out in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka (conclusions and recommendations of these studies are attached as appendix I and II). These studies were financed from the Cooperative Development Fund of the ICA. Earlier a similar study was conducted in Thailand using funds provided from the Development Fund and the report was submitted to the Cooperative League of Thailand. The summary of recommendations were circulated among the members of the Sub-committee.

6.2 The reports of the Bangladesh and Sri Lanka studies will be similarly submitted to the Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union and the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka respectively for further action.

6.3 The reports of these two studies as well as the Thai study report were also submitted to FAO for use in the FAO Expert Consultation on Increasing Agricultural Production Through Cooperatives held in Bali, Indonesia, 9-14 October 1978 together with the three other studies ICA arranged for the FAO (as reported in Agenda Item No.7).

AGENDA ITEM NO.7 : FAO STUDIES ON INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION THROUGH COOPERATIVE ACTION

7.1 The ICA arranged through its member-organisations (through Government Cooperative Department in case of Nepal) studies on this subject in India (State of Maharashtra), Nepal, and Rep. of Korea (together with the studies in Thailand, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) for use in the FAO Expert Consultation on Increasing Agricultural Production Through Cooperatives.

The outline of these studies :-

- i. Government policy on agricultural production with particular reference to the role of cooperatives.
- ii. Objectives and role of various types of cooperative organisations in agricultural production.

- iii. Activities and results achieved related to :
(a) members, (b) cooperatives, (c) community and national economy.
- iv. Organisational structure with special reference to :
(a) integration of institutions and organisations,
(b) integration of services (cooperatives and government) at different levels.
- v. Process of planning and organisation of agricultural production through cooperative action.
- vi. Participation of farmers and incentives for cooperative action.
- vii. Problems encountered and efforts made to solve them.
- viii. Conclusions and Recommendations.

7.2 The study reports and a regional paper prepared by the FAO based on the studies were the basis for discussion at the Consultation.

AGENDA ITEM NO.8 : REPORT ON THE FAO EXPERT CONSULTATION
ON INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
THROUGH COOPERATIVES

8.1 A brief report on the discussion of the consultation and the national level meetings on successful small farmer organisations conducted earlier to the consultation by the FAO will be made.

AGENDA ITEM NO.9 : STUDIES IN THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE MEMBERS
OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN THE REGION

9.1 The National Cooperative Union of India has initiated action to carry out studies in three States of India. The member for India will make a brief report.

AGENDA ITEM NO.10 : RESEARCH STUDIES ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

10.1 Many cooperative organisations and training institutes in the Region carry out studies on various aspects of agricultural cooperation. However, the result of most of these studies are not widely distributed among the organisations which can make use of the results of these studies. The Sub-committee may discuss methods for effective dissemination of the result of such studies.

AGENDA ITEM NO.11 : SEMINAR IN SWEDEN ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING

11.1 On the recommendation made by the ICA Sub-Committee for Agriculture the Swedish Cooperative Centre held a seminar on Agricultural Marketing from 10th April to 10th June 1978. The seminar was held in three parts. The first part for one week in Thailand, 2nd part for two weeks in the Federal Republic of Germany and the 3rd part in Sweden.

11.2 The arrangement was for the participants of the three participating countries - Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines to first meet in Thailand and travel together to Germany. The opportunity was used to give the participants a chance to learn the functioning of the Agricultural Cooperatives of Thailand.

11.3 In Germany the seminar studied the marketing system of Raiffeisen cooperatives. In Sweden the seminar was divided into four groups and extensive visits to agricultural cooperative marketing organisations for detailed studies were arranged for the groups. In the other two countries also arrangements were made for study visits to agricultural cooperatives and study their marketing operations.

11.4 The participants for the seminar were selected in pre-seminars held in three countries. Each pre-seminar was for a duration of two weeks and on the average 25 participants attended each of the pre-seminar. The Swedish Cooperative Centre made available a specialist in Agricultural Cooperative Marketing to conduct these pre-seminars together with the ICA officer. It was also intended to hold a pre-seminar in Indonesia but it had to be cancelled at the last moment due to difficulties faced by the Indonesian movement in arranging the seminar.

11.5 Evaluation of the seminar was done at the end of the seminar. According to the opinion of the participants the studies they made in the seminars were very useful to them.

11.6 It is suggested that the Sub-committee requests the SCC to hold a seminar on Agricultural Cooperation for the cooperators from the Region once in two years.

AGENDA ITEM NO.12 : SEMINAR ON MULTIPURPOSE COOPERATIVES

12.1 As is well known the Multipurpose Agricultural Cooperatives are well developed in Japan. Most of the countries in the Region are increasingly adopting the multipurpose cooperative system. The success the Japanese Cooperative Movement has achieved in the development of the multipurpose system has inspired the cooperators in the Region and the experience gained by the Japanese Cooperatives has helped the cooperatives in other countries in their developmental work. Therefore, it is suggested that the Japanese Movement be requested to hold the annual seminar in Japan on the subject of "Multipurpose Cooperatives". Each year part of the time of the seminar can be devoted to discuss the management aspects of multipurpose cooperatives and part of the time to particular fields such as marketing, credit, insurance, farming guidance, better living guidance, etc.

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AGENDA ITEM NO.13 : EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES PLANNED BY THE
REGIONAL OFFICE AND EDUCATION CENTRE IN
THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

- (a) National Seminar on "Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Sri Lanka".

At the request of the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka arrangements are being made to hold a National Seminar on Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Sri Lanka.

- (b) National Seminar on "Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Bangladesh".

The member of the Sub-committee from Bangladesh suggested at the last meeting of the Sub-committee that a National Seminar on the above subject be held in Bangladesh. The Regional Office informed the Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union that it is possible to assist them in conducting a seminar in Bangladesh. The arrangement to hold the seminar is being discussed.

AGENDA ITEM NO.14 : PUBLICATIONS BROUGHT OUT/PLANNED BY THE
REGIONAL OFFICE AND EDUCATION CENTRE IN
THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

- (a) Statistical information on Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives in South-East Asia.

On the recommendation of the Sub-committee the ICA Regional Office brought out a book (mimeographed) in 1970 giving statistical information on agriculture and agricultural cooperatives in the Region. Fresh information were collected and a revised edition of this book was published by the Regional Office in 1978.

- (b) Report of the Regional Seminar on "Management of Agricultural Cooperatives with special reference to Multipurpose Cooperatives".

This is the report of the Regional Seminar on "Management of Agricultural Cooperatives with special reference to Multipurpose Cooperatives" held in September 1977 in Tokyo, Japan, in collaboration with the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives.

(c) Readings in Cooperative Marketing.

A publication comprising of papers on various aspects of cooperative marketing presented in seminars conducted by the ICA and some papers specially written for the publication is being prepared.

AGENDA ITEM NO.15 : AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING SPECIALIST

15.1 Mr. Per-Eric Lannhagen, Specialist in Agricultural Cooperative Marketing, joined the ICA ROEC on the 4th of August 1978 preceded by a short orientation at SCC, Stockholm, Sweden. During the first period a familiarising and orientation programme has been worked out to cover primary state level and apex level organisations in India. The main purpose of the programme is to establish contacts and to collect information about the agricultural cooperative marketing and processing organisations in India. Visits to primary marketing societies on district and state level are also planned. Contacts with World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP, the Developing Cooperation Office at the Swedish Embassy have been established.

15.2 A talk on Agricultural Cooperative Marketing in Sweden was given by the Specialist to participants in an Orientation Programme for marketing personnel conducted by the National Institute of Cooperative Management.

15.3 There has been a preliminary discussion with NAFED on a proposed Regional Seminar on Cooperative Marketing of Agricultural Produce and further details regarding the suggestion is being worked out.

AGENDA ITEM NO.16 : PAKISTAN'S REQUEST FOR A FERTILISER PLANT, FRUIT GRADING AND CANNING PLANT AND PLANT FOR AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

16.1 The member of the Sub-committee for Pakistan has requested to include a discussion on the above mentioned item in the agenda.

AGENDA ITEM NO.17 : TRADE PROMOTION GROUP

17.1 The group has decided to convert itself into a Sub-committee.

AGENDA ITEM NO.18 : ANY OTHER MATTER WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

AGENDA ITEM NO.19 : VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM NO.20 : VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIR

Sd/-

Lionel Gunawardana
Secretary, ICA Sub-committee
for Agriculture

New Delhi
4.11.1978

sm.

MINUTES OF THE TWELVETH MEETING OF THE ICA SUB-COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE AND TRADE FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA HELD AT BALI,
INDONESIA, ON EIGHTH DECEMBER 1977.

1. The 12th Meeting of the ICA Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Trade for South-East Asia was held at the Bali Beach Hotel, Bali, Indonesia, on 8th December 1977.

The following members were present at the meeting :-

Members

1. Mr. B.P. Faustino, Chairman and Member for the Philippines
2. Mr. I.H. Hunter, Member for Australia
3. Mr. Ali Hossain, Member for Bangladesh
4. Mr. Eddiwan, Member for Indonesia
5. Mr. Tapeswar Singh, Alternate Member for India
6. Mr. S. Miyagawa, Alternate Member for Japan
7. Mr. Poo Yung Lee, Alternate Member for Korea
8. Mr. Supah Noh, Member for Malaysia
9. Mr. Mak Kam Heng, Member for Singapore
10. Mr. Vichien Inthachat, Member for Thailand.

Secretary

Mr. Lionel Gunawardana, Joint Director (P&PR) and Specialist in Agricultural Cooperation, ICA RO&EC.

Observers

1. Mr. M.A. Haque, ICA Councillor for Bangladesh
2. Mr. Djoko Basuki, ICA Councillor for Indonesia
3. Mr. B.G. Tiwari, ICA Councillor for India
4. Mr. S. Nakabayashi, Alternate ICA Councillor for Japan
5. Dato N.A. Kularajah, ICA Councillor for Malaysia
6. Mr. Monico G. Yadao, ICA Councillor for the Philippines
7. Mr. Kulasegaram, ICA Councillor for Singapore
8. Mr. M.R.B. Daswatte, ICA Councillor for Sri Lanka
9. Mr. Wichien Sobhon, Alternate ICA Councillor for Thailand
10. Mr. Haji Aziz Ibrahim, Member, Fisheries Group, Malaysia
11. Mr. C. Rosier, France (Representative of Mr. J.B. Doumeng of the Economic Sub-Committee of the ICA Agril. Committee.

ICA Regional Office Staff

1. Mr. R.B. Rajaguru, ICA Regional Director for S-E Asia
2. Mr. J.M. Rana, Director (Education)
3. Dr. Dharm Vir, Joint Director (Education)
4. Mr. M.K. Puri, Joint Director (TA&T)

Special Invitee

Dr. Orlando Sacay, Philippines.

In attendance

Mr. Prem Kumar, Personal Assistant to Regional Director.

AGENDA ITEM NO.1 : WELCOME BY HOST MOVEMENT

2. Mr. Eddiwan welcomed the members on behalf of the Cooperative Movement of Indonesia. He said that he hoped that the deliberations would be fruitful and successful and that the Indonesian Cooperative Movement would benefit from the experience of the Sub-Committee. He said that he hoped the members would find their stay in Bali, the Island of Gods, enjoyable.

AGENDA ITEM NO.2 : REMARKS BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

3. The Regional Director said that he would be very brief in his remarks. He wished that the deliberations of the Sub-Committee would help the ICA to work out useful strategies for the improvement of agricultural cooperatives which were of vital importance to most of the South-East Asian countries. In the field of Agricultural Cooperation a fair amount of work had been done in the past few years. The ICA had always kept in mind the Sub-Committee's direction as regards the work the ICA RO&EC was doing. He said he would like to focus the attention of the Sub-Committee members on the problems facing the agricultural cooperatives in the Region. He thought that the Minutes would show that various studies have been undertaken by the ICA as directed by the Sub-Committee. He added that there was a lot more to be done and concluded his remarks by saying that the ICA RO&EC looked forward to the present meeting for its deliberations and guidance with regard to future work.

AGENDA ITEM NO.3 : REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

4. Mr. B.P. Faustino, the Chairman, said that he would be very brief like the Regional Director. He would like to thank everybody for coming all the way to attend the meeting. There was almost full attendance at the 12th meeting. This is the first meeting with the new Regional Director of the ICA RO&EC. He expressed his thanks on behalf of the ICA Sub-Committee for all the arrangements made by the host movement, the Dewan Koperasi Indonesia.

AGENDA ITEM NO.4 : CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 11TH MEETING

5. The minutes of the 11th meeting, which was circulated in advance among the members, were confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM NO.5 : TALK ON "INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES"

6. The Chairman requested Dr. Orlando Sacay, who was present on invitation to talk on the subject of "Integrated Development of Agricultural Cooperatives". Dr. Sacay thanked the meeting for giving him this assignment of presenting his experience in integrated rural development. He dealt at length with the subject with special reference to Samahang Nayan - pre-cooperative association of Barangay (village) residents and stressed the need for the involvement of the mass of the membership at every stage and also the need, in a programme of this nature to be responsive to the problems, hopes and aspirations of the people.

AGENDA ITEM NO.6 : HOW COOPERATIVES CAN INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION

7. The Secretary informed the Sub-Committee that the study had already been completed in Thailand. The report and a summary of recommendations had been submitted to the Cooperative League of Thailand and their reaction was still awaited.

8. The Secretary said that there was a proposal to undertake a similar study in Pakistan but it had to be delayed due to the political situation in that country. He indicated that the ICA RO&EC was taking steps to get the consent of other interested member-countries to undertake such studies in their countries. The member for Bangladesh said that Bangladesh was one country which could be considered. He made it clear that he was not committing himself on behalf of Bangladesh. He felt that his government would welcome this proposal.

9. It was decided to make copies of the report on the study of Thailand Agricultural Cooperatives available to the members of the Sub-Committee while a summary of recommendations of the study would be published as an "Appendix" to these minutes.

AGENDA ITEM NO.7 : STUDIES IN THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN THE REGION

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10. In regard to the study of living conditions of the members of Agricultural Cooperatives in India, a suggestion made by Mr. R.G. Tiwari at the Tehran Meeting, the Secretary informed the Sub-Committee that discussions have been held with NCUI and a study would soon be undertaken in four States. The study would be carried out by the NCUI in consultation with the ICA RO&EC. The costs of the study will be met by NCUI.

11. Though it was intended to carry out similar studies in the Philippines and Indonesia, there has been no response so far. The Secretary had discussions with the Philippine Member, Mr. B.P. Faustino in regard to the study in the Philippines. A study similar to this has been carried out by Agricultural Credit and Cooperatives Institute of the University of Agriculture at Los Banos. This would be examined and a decision would be taken whether it is necessary to carry out another study in the Philippines.

12. Mr. R.G. Tiwari suggested that the ICA should collate and make available to member countries, any material available on the improvement of living conditions of the members of cooperatives. It was also suggested that the very valuable information on the subject in Japan be translated into English and be made available to member countries. The member for Japan said that he would explain the activities carried out by the Agricultural Cooperatives in this field when he present the Japan's country paper in the meeting of the Council.

AGENDA ITEM NO.8 : STUDY OF ORGANISATIONS SIMILAR TO COOPERATIVES AT VILLAGE LEVEL FORMED IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

13. The Secretary informed the Committee that it had not been possible to undertake this study due to pressure of work. The subject was still open and the ICA hoped to take necessary steps when possible.

AGENDA ITEM NO.9 : STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

14. The Secretary informed the Committee that this publication will be out in a month or so. The publication has now been in the final stage of preparation.

AGENDA ITEM NO.10 : TRAINING SEMINAR IN SWEDEN ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING FOR AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN THE REGION

15. The Secretary informed the Committee that Sweden had agreed to conduct a training seminar for two months duration for cooperators from four countries in the Region. The countries were Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. The pre-seminars had been scheduled to be held in January-February 1978. From these pre-seminars, participants to be sent to Sweden would be selected. When this programme was completed, the three countries not covered would be Republic of Korea, Iran and Pakistan. It was suggested that this programme should be continued to cover these countries also.

AGENDA ITEM NO.11 : EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE RO&EC IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

16. The Secretary reported that the following educational activities have been carried out by the RO&EC in the field of Agricultural Cooperation.

1. Open Asian Conference on Cooperative Credit and Financial Management, Madras, India.
2. Regional Seminar on Management of Agricultural Cooperatives with special reference to Multipurpose Cooperatives, Tokyo, Japan.
3. National Seminar on Integrated Approach to Agricultural Cooperative Development in Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal.

AGENDA ITEM NO.12 : PUBLICATIONS BROUGHT OUT/PLANNED BY THE RO&EC IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

17. The Secretary reported that the following publications are being brought out by the RO&EC in the field of Agricultural Cooperation.

1. Open Asian Conference on Cooperative Credit and Financial Management - Report and Papers.
2. Integrated Approach to Agricultural Cooperative Development in Nepal. (The Report of the National Seminar held in Nepal.
3. Farming Guidance in the Cooperative Movement in Japan.

P L A N N E D

Readings in Cooperative Marketing.

AGENDA ITEM NO.13 : COLLABORATION BETWEEN ICA AND THE FAO

18. The Secretary informed the Committee that two projects have been approved under the Money and Medals Programme of the FAO. The Chairman informed the members that Philippines had not yet started the Project which had been approved under MMP. Something like US\$48,000 had been sanctioned to help in building a village in the central Luzon in the Philippines.

AGENDA ITEM NO.14 : TRADE PROMOTION GROUP

19. The Member for Malaysia suggested that the Trade Promotion Group in the Agriculture Sub-Committee should be reactivated as a separate body to constantly examine the trends in international cooperative trade. The need for reactivating the Trade Group was discussed. It was felt that countries in the Region were facing lot of problems in international cooperative trade and that these problems need to be studied in depth.

20. After lengthy discussion, the Sub-Committee decided that the Trade Promotion Group should be reactivated. A Chairman and Secretary for the Group should be elected. Then Dato N.A. Kularajah proposed the name of Mr. I.H. Hunter, member from Australia, to be the Chairman of the Trade Promotion Group. His name was seconded by Mr. Mak Kam Heng. Mr. Hunter was unanimously elected Chairman of the Trade Promotion Group. It was decided that Mr. M.K. Puri, Joint Director (TA&T) will be the Secretary of the Group.

21. Dato N.A. Kularajah referred to para 14.2 - International Cooperative Trading Organisation - in the Agenda. He pointed out that the Chairman of ICTO had made a statement by which it would appear that the shareholders were being blamed for all the failures of ICTO. The statement as it stood did not portray the real position. He suggested that this section be deleted completely or reworded.

22. Mr. Mak Kam Heng, Chairman of ICTO, said in reply that not a single business transaction had transpired between cooperatives of shareholding countries. Trade is possible in quite a number of products which are not under government control and that could be carried out in the eight countries concerned only through the assistance of the shareholders. But except for Australia, none had referred their needs to ICTO. ICTO was formed with the full support of the cooperatives in the eight countries for the purpose of international trade. However, it had not been able to carry out one single trade transaction with the shareholding organisations. These were facts which the management had experienced during the period of operation of ICTO. No decision was made on the matter raised by Dato N.A. Kularajah.

ILO/SIDA Workshop on Strengthening of Inter-Cooperative Trade Relations.

23. The Regional Director said that the programme for the workshop has been finalised in the ILO. The ILO would have country programmes which will be followed by a Regional Workshop. This Workshop would be based in Singapore and will be held in collaboration with ICTO. The programme envisages the granting of fellowships to selected countries. It is likely that the workshop would be held in the second half of 1978 and the fellowship programme will be in 1979.

The ICTO could profitably collaborate in this programme and eventually set up a consultancy unit within ICTO.

Trade Information Bulletin

24. The Sub-Committee felt that the publication of the Trade Information Bulletin should be discontinued as it served no purpose. It was therefore decided to discontinue publication of the Trade Bulletin.

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

25. The Secretary requested the Sub-Committee members to supply the ICA RO&EC information on collaboration between cooperatives. The ICA RO&EC has been requested by its Head Office in London to keep the various committees informed about the activities where cooperatives cooperate among themselves.

26. Mr. Haji Aziz Ibrahim (Malaysia) suggested that the Fisheries Group be upgraded to ICA Sub-Committee on Fisheries for South-East Asia. The Sub-Committee could function under the ICA Regional Council. This Sub-Committee should have its own Chairman and Secretary. The present Chairman and Secretary of the Fishery Group can function as Chairman and Secretary of the Sub-Committee. The Regional Director said that the elevation of Fisheries Group to a Sub-Committee status was a matter for the Regional Council to decide and hence it would be taken up at the Regional Council Meeting. However, there was one problem to be mentioned and that was that by and large the member countries in the Region were finding it difficult to meet the travel and other costs of personnel nominated for the Sub-Committees and generally the tendency was that one person come to represent the movement in all the committees. As a result, though different sub-committees were available, the varied experience and expertise necessary for a specialised committee to function was often lacking, thus defeating the purpose of setting up a separate Sub-Committee. Therefore, a method of getting expertise in the

respective fields to participate in the various technical committee meetings should be found. It was decided that the proposal would be submitted to the Regional Council Meeting for a decision. The Sub-Committee decided to recommend to the Council the constitution of a separate Sub-Committee on Fisheries.

AGENDA ITEM NO.16 : VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE


27. The Regional Director informed the Sub-Committee that at the last meeting of the Regional Council in Tehran, there was an invitation to the Regional Councillors and the members of the Sub-Committee to hold their meetings in Thailand. The member for Thailand had informed him that the Cooperative League of Thailand had agreed to host the next Regional Council and Sub-Committee meetings in Thailand. The dates and venue will be decided later in consultation with the Cooperative League of Thailand. The period tentatively thought of was December 1978.

28. The Sub-Committee thanked the Thai Movement for inviting to hold the next meeting of the Sub-Committee in Thailand.

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

29. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair which was carried with acclamation.

New Delhi
27.1.78


Lionel Gunawardana
Secretary, ICA Sub-Committee
on Agriculture and Trade.

sm.

14/2/78

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (BANGLADESH)

Conclusions

Dr. Akter Hamid Khan in his "Tour of 20 Thanas" after study of the Cooperative in Comilla District remarked - But what did I see in actual practice? What I saw was discouraging and dismal in many respects. But here and there it was also encouraging and bright. Whatever might have been the results of our findings on the basis of field study which have not been generally satisfactory, we came across a few cooperatives which are solely self-financed and self-managed without any outside assistance. The element of thrift, the soul of cooperation was lacking in cooperatives for over half of a century. It is only after 1960 great importance is being attached on thrift and a sizeable amount of thrift deposits have accumulated in agriculture, fishery and sugar cane sectors. This needs further intensification to make the society self-financed.

Patronage rebate which has the greater incentive for membership and differentiates cooperatives from other institutions was not attached the importance it desired. The Milk Cooperatives introduced this under the guidance of the Milk Union.

In all the sectors excepting milk, credit was the main feature in the working of all cooperatives. Cooperative credit to be purposeful has to be productive and educative. Though the IBRD/IDA agricultural credit review and report of Robert R. Nathan Associates and as also the panel of economists have been bitterly critical of the working and expansion of IRDP's programme, there is a bright side of the experiment. In fact coordinated efforts in rural development at Thana level was a prerequisite for progress and these were lacking. IRDP intended to rectify these mistakes for the first time but it was done in an isolated manner leaving other concerned departments to go their own way. The performance in the marketing sector has been the poorest inspite of immense facilities provided by way of providing godowns, managerial staff and finance. The combination of consumer business with marketing has been a blunder. The National Fishermen's Cooperatives has good performance in some respects but it has yet to take steps for launching a massive educational programme.

The Milk Cooperatives are not production-oriented and are commercial in approach though the Milk Union has established its reputation in the markets for its products. Its working needs improvement and expenditure curtailed. The Milk Cooperatives should now give greater importance in increasing production at the village level.

Recommendations

In the light of our findings and conclusions the following suggestions are offered :-

- i. The state policy on cooperative should be declared.

- .ii. The cooperative law needs complete change. The act is a laissez-faire act designed for credit cooperations. In the context of today's economy cooperatives are to be "Welfare Cooperatives" and not 'economic cooperatives' of the western model.
- iii. Apex and the secondary level cooperatives should be state partnered. The required law needs to be enacted.
- iv. Instead of one unified organisation, the different groups should form their own organisations and plan their own programmes.
- v. A National Council with ministers of various nation building departments should be formed to formulate national policy on cooperatives. This council shall formulate the national policies.
- vi. The development and statutory functions of cooperative department should be separated. The development aspects should be looked after by the Director General (IRDP) and the statutory functions by the Registrar of the Cooperative Societies. The combination of these two offices in one hand is not conducive to the healthy growth of cooperative movement. The registrar should be drawn from the cooperative department.
- vii. Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union should play its proper role. It should administer Registrar's Development Fund for promotional activities. Its membership should be confined to national societies only. The Palli Unnayan Federation should be merged with the Union.
- viii. The Jatiya Samabaya Bank shall meet all the credit requirements of the cooperative movement. The Central Cooperative Bank should be converted into its branches. An officer of the rank of Deputy Governor should be its Chairman. The Government should nominate the Registrar, Director General (IRDP) and one representative from the Ministry of Finance in its Managing Committee.
- ix. A tribunal should be constituted to try all cooperative cases.
- x. Present system of imparting training to the cooperative is of little use. High priority should be given to motivation and training.
- xi. All attempts will be concentrated to generate own resources so that self financing is possible within the shortest possible time.
- xii. A thorough study should be undertaken to evaluate the performance of each type of cooperatives.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (SRI LANKA)

The primary aim of this report is to assess the role of the cooperative movement in Sri Lanka in the field of agricultural production. The principle that the small farmer is best assisted through cooperative action and that the cooperatives are expected to play a major role in the national development are well accepted. All the attempts by the Government since independence in Sri Lanka, to achieve national development on the basis of these concepts have been foiled by major drawbacks inherent in the agricultural as well as cooperative sectors.

1. The Government and the Cooperative Movement

The cooperative movement is an effective democratic organisation that could be used for the socio-economic development of Sri Lanka. Any Government embarking on a strategy of planned development by enlisting the support of the general public should bear in mind the positive role the cooperative movement could play in making such an approach a successful one.

The dilemma of cooperative movement in a developing country is clearly evident in Sri Lanka. Without government aid it cannot grow fast enough to be of much use to either the members or the economy; with too much of official control they tend to lose their spirit and dynamism as a popular movement. In a developing economy, the members forming themselves into a cooperative would be far too weak economically to harness financial resources on their own, necessary to undertake the development projects envisaged. Unless there is some element of Government support, the banking institutions too would be hesitant in investing on financially unsound ventures. It has to be admitted that in the case of state sponsorship of a cooperative development a certain degree of governmental control and use of governmental power and personnel should be made with a full awareness of the likely impact of Government measures.

In Sri Lanka, however, too much of Government interference in the cooperative movement has been experienced and as a result the movement has become another aim of the Government, and completely lost its spirit and value as a popular movement.

Recommendation

An overall rethinking of the relationship between the government and the cooperative movement should be made so as to make the cooperative movement independent, democratic and self-reliant, while at the same time recognizing its due role in the task of national development. In this attempt the dilemma of cooperative movement in developing countries, the I.L.O. statement which attempts to resolve this knotty problem wherein it says that "the government of developing countries should formulate and carry out a policy under which cooperatives receive aid and encouragement without losing their independence", and the findings of the Royal Commission on the cooperative movement in Sri Lanka have to be taken into consideration.

2. The Organisational Structure

With the change of every Government drastic changes have been effected in the institutional framework. This has led not only to unstable and uncontinued programmes but also to an unstable organisational structure itself. If this situation continues it will result not in the development but in the destruction.

Recommendation

A permanent organisational structure for domestic agricultural development with well defined powers and functions and proper means of inter-relation and coordination which may not change with the change of Government, should be created. The base of this structure should be an organisation of the people which is free of sectarianism and agreeable to everyone alike. The only village level organisation which meets these pre-requisite is the cooperative society.

It has been shown very clearly that the inherent defects in the traditional agricultural structure have retarded the increase of agricultural production. As a solution to some of these problems the novel experiment of the application of the principle of cooperative production through various types of collective farms was undertaken. Although it has considered to have failed initially due to various socio-economic and administrative defects, rather than a rejection of the cooperative principle involved it can be considered a valuable experience in the cooperative movement of Sri Lanka. It can also be identified as a significant breakaway from the usual Government policy and practice.

Recommendation

Reintroduction of the principles of collective ownership and cooperative production can be strongly, recommended. But as a pre-requisite for this, a proper study of the problems involved must be carried out as a basis of a well thoughtout plan, with a genuine interest towards the implementation of the above principles.

Shortcomings in the planning and plan implementation, lack of coordination between the institutions and among the officers, and the lethargy and frustrations of the officers who implemented them can be held responsible for not achieving the objectives of most of the governmental programmes.

Recommendation

The active participation of the affected people at village level, fulfilment of whose aspirations should be the sole aim of planning has to be guaranteed. The plans and programmes therefore should originate from below and not imposed from above by outsiders whose concepts and thinking pattern have always been alien and unacceptable to the people. The officers have to be better looked after specially in respect of remunerations and better service conditions.

As a large scale organisation in a rapidly changing society the cooperative movement has come up against severe criticism and some of them quite deservedly too. However, they all spotlight the weaknesses and the failures never highlighting the strength and successes of the movement. The destructive nature of the criticism made without proper understanding can be judged by the tendency to reject hastily the movement and to set up new or complementary alternative organisations. But the cooperative system with a long tradition and close association with aspirations of the people can be justifiably considered as the best and the most suitable village level base to perform all services related to domestic agriculture.

Recommendation

To save the movement from criticism the elected representatives of the members and the employees must be vested with the responsibility of running the society with of course, clearly defined area of power and responsibility. All forms of political interference must be eliminated. To wipe out the most severe criticism against the cooperatives namely the misappropriation of funds and misuse of society property, employees must be assured of better salaries and service conditions to be followed by making these offences punishable under the cooperative law. Further a central cooperative audit service with competent auditors for routing and surprise checking must be established.

With regard to the structure of the cooperative movement the composition of the membership bears great relevance. In the Multipurpose Cooperative Societies membership consists mostly of middleaged cultivators while the participation of other vocational groups and the younger age groups which could play a more effective role in the development is insignificant. This is an index to insufficiency at present of the inducements for persons of various vocational and age groups, for cooperative action. It appears that most of the people have obtained the membership for the sake of consumer privileges than for production services. With the loss of opportunities for member participation in the face of political interference the enthusiasm of the members of the Multipurpose Cooperative Societies has also been waned. It is only in the special agricultural cooperative societies where the democratic principle has been preserved that the member participation seem to be very satisfactory.

Recommendation

A comprehensive and constructive programme of action with proper inducements for people of various groups and specially the younger generation is strongly recommended. However, the principle of voluntary and open membership in cooperatives must be respected at all levels.

The mode of appointing Director Boards to the Multipurpose Cooperative Societies has not only hindered the democratic principle of the cooperative administration, but also has given rise to many problems in the management of the societies. But on the other hand the special agricultural cooperative societies with elected Board of Directors manage the societies without much difficulties.

Recommendation

This amply proves that the Director Boards should contain only persons elected by the members leaving room if necessary for an ex-officio minority who would act as advisors and guides.

The absence of a healthy apex cooperative organisation in the peasant agricultural sector and the lack of coordination between the primary societies and the only available organisation at the top of the apex namely the Markfed can be cited as another major drawback in the structural organisation of the movement. Aggravating this problem is the glaring need for horizontal relationship between the cooperative societies at all levels.

Recommendation

The best solution for this situation is the proper application of the apex structural organisation with efficient coordination and cordial inter-relations both horizontally and vertically. In policy making at national level the agricultural cooperative movement should be represented by an agricultural cooperative apex organisation, instead of a government department. The agricultural cooperative system should be designed to enable the peasant farmer to build self-reliance and honesty. Multipurpose Cooperative Societies stand out as the best primary organisation in such a structure. But where they are over burdened, special Agricultural Multipurpose Cooperative Societies must be allowed instead. Alternatively separate divisions for agriculture in the Multipurpose Cooperative Societies must be organised.

3. Cooperative Societies and Supply of Agricultural Inputs

The main purpose of forming the Multipurpose Cooperative Societies was the provision of a package programme in agriculture and the majority of farmers in the country have benefitted by this package programme of the Multipurpose Cooperative Societies. However, credit defaults and scarcity of agricultural inputs act as a slur on the cooperative societies. Still cooperative societies cannot be held responsible for these shortcomings. A major share of the responsibility lies with the government. The agricultural credit system as at present does not give the lending institutions the right of assessing the credit worthiness of the borrower, while the poor programming of import of essential items and domestic distributions create the extreme scarcity situations.

Recommendations

Therefore the lending institutions must be given the responsibility of assessing the creditworthiness of the borrower and some discretionary powers in granting loans. At the same time cooperative societies must formulate ways and means by utilising traditional moral values as well of minimising the defaults. An element of compulsion should not be ruled out. The crop insurance scheme justifies any element of compulsion in respect of this.

The guarantee of the 75% of the losses must be done away with. Also the political gimmicks of writing off the defaults and the granting of loans over and above the outstanding repayments must be stopped forthwith.

As regards the scarcity of inputs the Government must take the full responsibilities of designing an efficient programme of importing and distributing the essential agricultural inputs without leaving the cooperative societies at the receiving end for no fault of their own. At the same time the cooperative movement must make arrangements by coordinating the apex structure of the movement for the efficient distribution of inputs locally available.

Lack of facilities for cooperative marketing of all farm products except paddy is a grave shortcoming. Even in the case of paddy marketing, arrangements available are insufficient, inefficient, and inconvenient. Hence the private dealers carry on a profitable business at the expense of the cooperatives as well as the producers.

Recommendation

Cooperative Societies must be well equipped with easy weighing equipments, sufficient storage and transport facilities, ready cash, additional staff and more properly making arrangements to purchase paddy at the threshing floor itself. As for the other produces in addition to the same facilities, apex organisations like the Marketing Department, Cooperative Wholesale Establishment, Markfed, etc. should come to the aid of the Multipurpose Cooperative Societies. There must be a concerted plan based on a scheme akin to barter system, where by primary societies throughout the island working in close cooperation in the exchange of local products. A net-work of provincial central storehouses with facilities for the preservation of perishable products must be undertaken by the Government.

4. Cooperative Education and Agricultural Extension

The importance of education in the cooperative movement is universally recognised. But in Sri Lanka this recognition often does not seem to go beyond lip-service and both the cooperative movement and the government treat cooperative education only as a matter of secondary importance. Hence the lack of sufficient facilities to educate and train the personnel in the movement has resulted in the growth of a set of officers, employees and members who possess neither the knowledge of principles and concepts of the movement nor the discipline a real cooperative should invariably possess. The situation is a serious handicap in the development of the movement.

In the same manner the farmer cannot be expected to increase agricultural production so long as they are ignorant of methods and means, skills and manipulations of the efficient and economic utilisation of the resources. The extension services and farmer training schemes in Sri Lanka are most inadequate and almost unknown. In the eyes of the farmer extension centres are more outlets for various agricultural inputs than disseminating centres.

Recommendations

A decisive emphasis should be given by the Government as well as the cooperative movement for the cooperative education, agricultural extension and farmer training. A well planned broad programme intended for this must be undertaken jointly by the relevant departments and the cooperative movement with the cooperative societies as its centre at the village level. In this training programmes emphasis must be on the application of the cooperative principle in the increase of agricultural production. The successful implementation of such a programme will be facilitated if the officers, such as Farm Advisors go to the farmers and learn from them as well. Without relying much on leaflets as a convenient method of dissemination - this has definitely failed - the emphasis should be on practical training programmes.

5. Cooperative Employees

The successful management of the Cooperative Societies depend much on the calibre of the employees. The very poor salary scales, humiliating service conditions, ignominious status and prospects, keep the talented and correct type of persons away from the cooperative service leaving the doors open for the undesirables. Hence the deterioration and decadance of the movement deprivation of the services and degradation of a worthwhile course.

Recommendation

Measures intended to take the employees out of this inglorious muck must be resorted to without delay, if the cooperative movement as a whole is to be salvaged. What the cooperatives lack today is the educated lot. Hence to attract them decent salaries etc. have to be offered even though societies may have to incur losses initially, but sure to be a profitable investment in the long run.

The cooperative movement has been an asset in our country until about two decades after independence. Various reasons enumerated above have been responsible for the deterioration during the last few years. But the principles of cooperatives specially in relation to agricultural production cannot be eliminated in toto, since culturally it is inherent in the peasantry. Hence if it is put in the correct path on the basis of the recommendations made above, there is without doubt every possibility of a blossoming era for the peasantry through cooperative action.

ICA SUB-COMMITTEE

FOR

FISHERIES

FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

AGENDA ITEM NO.1 : REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

AGENDA ITEM NO.2 : CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING

2.1 The minutes of the last meeting held in Bali, Indonesia, on 8th December 1977 have been circulated to all members. A copy of the minutes is annexed hereto for ready reference.

AGENDA ITEM NO.3 : TRAINING SEMINAR FOR PERSONNEL WORKING IN FISHERY COOPERATIVES

3.1 On the recommendation of the Fisheries Sub-Committee (Fisheries Group at that time) the ICA Regional Office requested the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Association of Japan to hold a seminar for personnel working in Fishery Cooperatives in the Region. The National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives in the Republic of Korea was requested to arrange study visits for the participants of the seminar in Korea prior to the seminar in Japan.

3.2 The Fisheries Federation of Japan approached the Government of Japan for funds for the conduct of the seminar. The Government of Japan agreed to give funds but the arrangement agreed upon was for the Government of Japan to invite the governments in the Region to send participants for the seminar. The Fisheries Federation informed the arrangements to the ICA Regional Office and requested to advise the ICA member-organisations to approach their respective governments to get cooperators nominated to the seminar. ICA sent a circular letter to member-organisations accordingly. The seminar was held in Tokyo, Japan, from 17th September to 7th October 1978. The participants were nominated by the government of Bangladesh, Burma, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The seminar programme also included five day study visits to fishery cooperatives in Japan. Out of the 13 participants who attended the seminar 6 were from Government

Cooperative Departments and 7 from the Ministries or Department of Fisheries. There were none from the cooperatives.

3.3 Due to certain reasons beyond the control of the ICA the study visits arranged in the Republic of Korea had to be cancelled.

AGENDA ITEM NO.4 : PROPOSAL FOR HOLDING A REGIONAL SEMINAR IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA FOR THE PERSONNEL WORKING IN FISHERY COOPERATIVES IN THE REGION

4.1 When the Fisheries Sub-Committee recommended that the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives in the Republic of Korea be requested to arrange study visits in that country for the cooperators it did so because of the noteworthy development in the fishery industry in Korea. Though the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives was willing to organise study visits in Korea it was not possible to do so due to certain problems.

4.2 The secretary of the ICA Sub-committee for Fisheries for South-East Asia discussed with the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives in the Republic of Korea the possibility of their holding a Regional Seminar in Korea for Fishery Cooperators in the Region. They agreed to consider this request favourably and inform their reaction in due course.

AGENDA ITEM NO.5 : PREPARATION OF A BOOK ON FISHERY COOPERATIVES OF THE REP. OF KOREA OUTLINING THE PROBLEMS FACED & THEIR GROWTH & HOW THESE WERE SOLVED

5.1 As it was reported in the last meeting of the Sub-committee the information collected were not sufficient for the preparation of a book. It was hoped to collect further material during the preparation of the study visits that were planned to be organised for the participants of the seminar in Japan. However, study visits

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could not be held and hence no further information was collected.
If the proposal to hold a seminar in Korea materialise the preparation
of a book may be combined with the organisation of the seminar.

AGENDA ITEM NO.6 : ANY OTHER MATTER WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE
CHAIR

AGENDA ITEM NO.7 : VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE
SUB-COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM NO.8 : VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIR

New Delhi
2.11.1978

SD/-
Lionel Gunawardana
Secretary, ICA Sub-Committee
for Fisheries for S-E Asia

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MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON COOPERATIVE FISHERIES HELD IN BALI, INDONESIA, ON 8TH DECEMBER 1977.

1. The Seventh Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperative Fisheries was held at the Bali Beach Hotel, Bali, Indonesia, on 8th December 1977. The Chairman of the Group, Mr. Eddiwan, presided.

The following were present :-

Members

1. Mr. Eddiwan, Chairman and Member for Indonesia.
2. Mr. Ali Hossain, Member for Bangladesh
3. Mr. Haji Aziz Ibrahim, Member for Malaysia
4. Mr. Vichien Inthachat, Member for Thailand.

Secretary

Mr. Lionel Gunawardana, Joint Director (P&PR) and Specialist in Agricultural Cooperation, ICA RO&EC.

Observers

1. Mr. Katsumi Sakamoto, Japan
2. Mr. Yasumatsu Miyake, Japan
3. Mr. Choi Ik Hoan, Rep. of Korea
4. Mr. Ha Yang Hak, Rep. of Korea
5. Mr. M.R.B. Daswatte, Sri Lanka
6. Mr. Wichien Sobhon, Thailand.

ICA Staff

Mr. J.M. Kana, Director (Education)

In attendance

Mr. Prem Kumar, Personal Assistant to Regional Director, ICA RO&EC.

AGENDA ITEM NO.1 : REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

2. Mr. Eddiwan, the Chairman, welcomed the new members to the Fisheries Group.

AGENDA ITEM NO.2 : CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

3. The minutes of the last meeting, the sixth in the series, were confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM NO.3 : Follow-up Action on Recommendations made by the Open World Conference on Cooperative Fisheries in Japan

4. The Secretary reported that a publication entitled "Theory and Practice of Accounting in Fishery Cooperative Society" prepared by an expert from Sri Lanka has been brought out and it is proposed to send a copy of this publication to all members of the Fisheries Group by the end of this month.

Preparation of a book on Fishery Cooperative of the Rep.of Korea

5. The Secretary informed that the information supplied by the National Federation of Fishery Cooperatives of the Republic of Korea was not sufficient to bring out this booklet and hence further information has been requested. The NFFC has given some information and the ICA is trying to see how best they could prepare this booklet. The Secretary said that during the course of study visits in Korea by the participants in the proposed Seminar in Japan for fishery cooperatives more information may be collected. The representative from Korea said that the annual report of the NFFC has been sent to the ICA RO&EC. This report which gives information on the activities of the NFFC was distributed among the members of the Group.

AGENDA ITEM NO.4 : TRAINING SEMINAR FOR PERSONNEL WORKING IN FISHERY COOPERATIVES

6. The Secretary informed that the ICA RO&EC has been able to discuss this proposal of holding a training seminar for personnel working in fishery cooperatives with the National Federations of Fishery Cooperatives of Japan and Korea. The Fisheries Federation of Japan has agreed in principle to hold the seminar in Japan. They are now discussing with the government of Japan this proposal. The Fisheries Federation of Korea has agreed to organise study visits in their country.

7. The Secretary informed that the Fisheries Federation of Korea has already prepared a tentative programme for study visits. He said that the programme will be examined and if there is any suggestion to be made, ICA Regional Office would do that in due course.

8. The representative from the NFFC of Japan said that they agree in principle to hold such a seminar. His federation is negotiating with the government to obtain the necessary funds but as the negotiations have not been finalised yet, they are not in a position to finally commit themselves. However, he was happy to say that it is very probable that they can organise this seminar in Japan. The reason for not being able to finally commit at this stage was that their financial year starts at the the end of March and the next year's budget has not been the

finalised and is still under discussion. They have approached the Ministries of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs. These two ministries have agreed but they still have to negotiate with the Finance Ministry. This will take place very soon probably by the end of this month or early next month. They very much hope that the government will approve the proposal of hosting the proposed seminar.

9. As regards the details re number of participants, content of the programme etc., it should be discussed later on. He added that the participants would be invited both from the government and the cooperative movement. Once the proposal is finalised, the government of Japan will contact, through the diplomatic channels, the respective governments of South-East Asian countries and invite to send participants from the cooperative movement. Since this approach is being made through the government channel, he thought that it will be important to ensure that the government sends cooperative personnel and not government officers. For this purpose, the ICA should also contact the cooperative movement of the respective countries in the Region to ensure that the right type of people are selected and nominated for the seminar.

10. The Group expressed its sincere thanks to the Fisheries Cooperative Movement of Japan for its generous agreement to hold the seminar and the Fisheries Cooperative Movement in the Republic of Korea for organising study visits.

AGENDA ITEM NO.5 : FISHERY ASSISTANCE PROJECT IN SRI LANKA

11. The information given in the Agenda Note was noted. The Secretary informed that this project has been a very long standing subject in the Agenda and finally it is nearing fruition. The Councillor for Sri Lanka said that they have already received the vehicle. They are awaiting for the import licence from the government for the import of audio-visual equipment from Singapore. As soon as they receive the necessary permit, the ICA will be informed accordingly.

AGENDA ITEM NO.6 : FISHERIES PROJECT IN ZAMBALES PROVINCE
(PHILIPPINES)

12. The information given in the Agenda Note was noted.

AGENDA ITEM NO.7 : ANY OTHER MATTER WITH THE PERMISSION OF
THE CHAIR

13. The member for Malaysia gave information re his participation in the Fisheries Committee meeting held in Hamburg this year. He felt the necessity of having a separate Sub-Committee on Cooperative Fisheries with secretariat in


ICA New Delhi. The representative from Japan welcomed the suggestion of the member from Malaysia as reasonable, but he said there is one practical difficulty in having an independent Sub-Committee and that is many countries may not be able to send separate delegates to the Sub-Committee meetings. He felt that the Group should recommend to the Regional Council for the formation of an independent Fisheries Sub-Committee. The Group decided to recommend to the Council the formation of a separate Sub-Committee for Fisheries.

14. Mr. Aziz said he has information that the Hungarian Fishery Cooperatives are willing to give assistance for development of Fisheries Cooperatives in the Region. The Chairman requested the secretariat to contact the Hungarian Cooperatives to find out what kind of assistance they could give.

AGENDA ITEM NO.8 : VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIR

15. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

New Delhi
27.1.1978



Lionel Gunawardana,
Secretary, Working Group
on Cooperative Fisheries

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MINUTES

ICA Sub-Committee for Agriculture : 13th Meet
ICA Sub-Committee for Fisheries : 8th Meet
for South-East Asia

Venue BANGKOK, THAILAND

Dates 5-6 DECEMBER 1978

***International Cooperative Alliance, Regional Office
& Education Centre for South-East Asia, 'Bonow
House', 43 Friends' Colony, New Delhi-110-065, India***

MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE ICA SUB-COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE
FOR S-E ASIA HELD AT BANGKOK (THAILAND) ON 5TH & 6TH DECEMBER 1978.

1. The 13th Meeting of the ICA Sub-committee for Agriculture was held at the premises of the Cooperative League of Thailand, Bangkok, on 5th and 6th December 1978.

The following members were present at the meeting :

Members

1. Mr. B.P. Faustino, Chairman and Member for the Philippines
2. Mr. I.H. Hunter, Member for Australia
3. Mr. Eddiwan, Member for Indonesia
4. Mr. B.D. Dwivedi, Member for India
5. Mr. Takeshi Kai, Alternate Member for Japan
6. Mr. Y.K. Lee, Alternate Member for Korea
7. Mr. Supah Noh, Member for Malaysia
8. Mr. Mak Kam Heng, Member for Singapore
9. Mr. M.R.B. Daswatte, Alternate Member for Sri Lanka
10. Mr. Wichien Sobhon, Alternate Member for Thailand.

Secretary

Mr. Lionel Gunawardana, Joint Director (P&PR) and Specialist in Agricultural Cooperation, ICA RO&EC.

Observers

1. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, ICA Councillor for India
2. Mr. R.G. Tiwari, ICA Councillor for India
3. Mr. Djoko Basuki, ICA Councillor for Indonesia
4. Mr. H. Togawa, Managing Director, IDACA, Japan
5. Mr. B.J. Suh, Alternate ICA Councillor for Korea
6. Dato N.A. Kularajah, ICA Councillor for Malaysia
7. Ch.Mohd Nawaz Ghuman, Alternate Councillor for Pakistan
8. Mr. C.Y. Lee, FAO, Bangkok
9. Mr. Branko Zlataric, Secretary for Agriculture, ICA London
10. Mr. Haji Ibrahim, Malaysia
11. Mr. B.D. Mishra, India.

ICA Regional Office Staff

1. Mr. R.B. Rajaguru, ICA Regional Director for South-East Asia.
2. Mr. J.M. Rana, Director (Education)
3. Mr. M.K. Puri, Joint Director (TA&T)
4. Mr. Per-Erik Lannhagen, Specialist in Agricultural Coop Marketing

Special Invitee

Dr. Adul Niyomvipat, Director General Cooperatives, Thailand.

In attendance

1. Mr. Yoji Hashimoto, ZEN_NOH, Japan.
2. Mr. Prem Kumar, Personal Assistant to Regional Director, ICA ROEC.

AGENDA ITEM NO.1 : WELCOME BY THE HOST MOVEMENT

2. Mr. Wichien Sobhon, Director, Cooperative League of Thailand, welcomed the members on behalf of the Cooperative Movement of Thailand. He expressed the hope that the views and ideas exchanged at this Sub-committee meeting would be beneficial to the movements in the Region.

AGENDA ITEM NO.2 : REMARKS BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

3. The Regional Director extended a very warm welcome to the members of the Sub-committee and went on to say that agriculture still remained the most dominant sector in most of the countries of the Region and hence the responsibilities devolving on the Sub-committee were large. To meet this challenge more effectively the ROEC was strengthened with the addition of an **Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Specialist** - Mr. Per-Eric Lannhagen of Sweden and it was hoped a more effective contribution to the Region would be possible in the future. He also welcomed and introduced Mr. Branko Zlataric, Secretary for Agriculture, ICA London, who he said was a man with vast experience in this field and would be able to assist the deliberations.

4. He conveyed his sincerest thanks to Dr. Adul Niyomviphat, Director General, Cooperative Promotion Department, Ministry of Agricultural and Cooperatives of Thailand, who was present in the meeting to deliver a talk on "Agricultural Cooperative Situation in Thailand".

AGENDA ITEM NO.3 : REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

5. Mr. B.P. Faustino, the Chairman, said that the members certainly felt very privileged and pleased to have the benefit of meeting in Bangkok through the kind hospitality of the cooperative movement of Thailand. On behalf of the members of the Sub-committee he wanted to mention that all arrangements and facilities were very pleasant, thanks to the cooperation and assistance and all the help given by the cooperative movement of Thailand.

6. He acknowledged the presence of a number of guests and said that the Sub-committee was very honoured to have them in today's discussion. He welcomed Mr. Branko Zlataric of ICA London, Mr. Per-Eric Lannhagen from ICA ROEC and Mr. C.Y. Lee of FAO, Bangkok. Last but not the least, he said, he was honoured by the presence of the Director General of Cooperative Promotion Department, Dr. Abul Niyomvipat.

AGENDA ITEM NO.4 : CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 12TH MEETING

7. The minutes of the 12th meeting, which was circulated in advance among the members, were confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM NO.5 : TALK ON "AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN THAILAND - PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS"

8. The Chairman requested Dr. Adul Niyomvipat, Director General of Cooperative Promotion Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Bangkok, who was present on invitation to talk on the subject of "Agricultural Cooperative Movement in Thailand - Problems and Prospects".

9. Dr. Niyomvipat thanked the Sub-committee and the ICA for giving him an opportunity to present the Thai experience in cooperative development to the meeting. He outlined the development of the agricultural movement in Thailand and explained various problems faced by the movement and the steps that were being taken to solve them. Copies of his address were made available to all members and other participants.

AGENDA ITEM NO.6 : HOW COOPERATIVES CAN INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION

10. The Secretary reported that two studies in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka were undertaken on the subject and the report were now available with the ROEC. Summary of these reports had been annexed to the Agenda Notes. He said that two national level seminars, one in Bangladesh and one in Sri Lanka had been arranged, where these two studies would be discussed.

11. A discussion on the reports ensued and it was decided to await the reaction, if any, from the movements concerned in regard to the study and their conclusions and recommendations.

AGENDA ITEM NO.7 : FAO STUDIES ON INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION THROUGH COOPERATIVE ACTION

12. The Secretary reported that the FAO held a Consultation on this subject in Bali (Indonesia). The ICA was requested by the FAO to arrange for some studies on the subject in six countries in the Region. The ICA, through its member-organisations (in case of Nepal through Department of Cooperative Development), arranged to do these studies in India (Maharashtra State), Nepal and the Republic of Korea. In addition, the two studies undertaken in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka earlier were also used for this purpose. These studies were used for preparing a Discussion Paper for the Consultation held in Bali. The basis of discussion of the Consultation was on this paper and the recommendations of technical meetings held before the Consultation in several countries on small farmer/group farming marketing promotion.

AGENDA ITEM NO.8 : REPORT ON THE FAO EXPERT CONSULTATION ON
INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
THROUGH COOPERATIVES

13. The Secretary informed the meeting of some of the major recommendations of the Consultation :

i. There is a need for the exchange of experiences between developing countries on agricultural production. Instead of only depending on the developed countries experience, the Consultation thought that much can be learnt from the experience of the developing countries and to promote this learning process exchange of information should be facilitated. In this context the Consultation emphasised the need to identify problems and the areas of success in developing countries so that others can gain by them.

ii. The need for having a constant and consistent policy from the highest authority in each country in favour of cooperative systems. The Consultation advised the governments that they should not bypass cooperatives by creating parallel government organisations when the activities can be performed by cooperatives. This was discussed at great length in various committees and it was observed that in many countries in the Region several organisations had been formed overlapping the activities of cooperatives and this should be discouraged.

iii. Another area that was very much emphasised was the need for associating cooperatives in agricultural development planning, programming and plan implementation. The plans for cooperative development for agricultural development involving cooperatives, the Consultation felt, were normally drawn by governments without the involvement of cooperatives.

iv. The Consultation also emphasised the importance of action-oriented research on cooperative problems and activities in order not only to provide appropriate orientation for current operations but also for possible guidance for future development.

v. Emphasis was laid on the need for management development. In this regard the Consultation recommended that the government must provide cooperatives with management development and training assistance especially in the initial stages of their development. It also recommended that the FAO/ICA and other international and national agencies should collaborate and play a very active role in management development activities and training activities for managers.

14. Mr. C.Y. Lee of the FAO said one of the major recommendations of the Consultation which it emphasised greatly was that the need for technical cooperation among cooperators and cooperative institutes

on matter of increasing agricultural production through agricultural cooperatives. He said one of the interesting methods adopted in the technical meeting that preceded the Bali Consultation was the discussion of case studies of successful cooperatives instead of discussing only problems.

15. The Chairman said that in the light of the discussions it would certainly be interesting for each member of the Sub-committee to receive a copy of the Consultation Report once it was ready and requested Mr. Lee of the FAO to make available the proceedings to each member of the Sub-committee. Mr. Lee agreed to do so.

AGENDA ITEM NO.9 : STUDIES IN THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN THE REGION

16. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, President, National Cooperative Union of India, informed the meeting that the following studies which had bearing on the subject had been completed by the NCUI and its constituent units :

i. Cooperatives and Social Objectives : This study was conducted by the V.M. National Institute of Cooperative Management. The study covered the working of multipurpose credit cooperatives; agricultural cooperative marketing societies; cooperative sugar factories; cooperative and collective farming societies; lift irrigation societies; dairy cooperatives; labour cooperatives etc. which had influenced the living conditions of weaker sections of the community. The objective of the study was that how far the cooperative institutions have made impact on the socio-economic conditions of the weaker sections and what may be the steps to make cooperative institutions more efficient and active in improving the socio-economic conditions of weaker sections of the community.

ii. Possibilities of Involvement of Cooperatives in Social Welfare Activities : The study was undertaken by the NCUI itself with the following objectives :

- (a) to survey selected cooperative institutions in different sectors which had visibly taken up social welfare activities,
- (b) to find out difficulties which come in the way of cooperatives in taking up social welfare activities,
- (c) to indicate areas of social welfare activities which could be taken up by cooperatives. The idea was to ascertain how far cooperatives could go to improve the lot of the poorest of the poor.

17. The above studies present a macro view of the situation. Action had now been initiated to conduct micro level studies on the functioning of village agricultural cooperatives so as to ascertain the extent to which they had made impact on the living conditions of their members and limitations thereon.

AGENDA ITEM NO.10 : RESEARCH STUDIES ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

18. The Secretary said that the Sub-committee had been discussing number of research studies that had been done under the sponsorship of the ICA and there were number of research studies done and being done by various cooperative organisations, business organisations as well as teaching institutions. These reports were not freely available to other institutions. Ways and means had to be found to exchange and disseminate the result of these studies so that the full use of such studies could be made.

19. The meeting came to the following conclusions after the discussion that followed :

- (i) That the ROEC should work out the costs that would have to be incurred if it was to bring out twice a year, a comprehensive annotated bibliography.
- (ii) Once the costs were known, the Committee would examine the possibility of raising special contribution to fund this.
- (iii) That the Secretary would take up with the London Head Office the possibility of making available on a wider basis, the Research Register now being brought out in collaboration with the Polish Research Institute and the Hungarian Research Institute.

AGENDA ITEM NO.11 : SEMINAR IN SWEDEN ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING

20. The information given in the agenda was noted by the Sub-committee.

21. The Sub-committee felt that the International Seminar held in Sweden on Agricultural Cooperative Marketing for cooperators from Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines was very useful to those countries. The Sub-committee members from Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines expressed their thanks to SCC, Swedish Government and ICA for holding this seminar and informed the Sub-committee that according to the participants the seminar had been conducted in an excellent way and was very useful to them. The Sub-committee recommended that the practice of holding such seminars in Sweden for cooperators from the Region should be continued.

22. Mr. R.G. Tiwari requested the ICA to make a special study on Indian problems of cooperative agricultural marketing so that the producers and consumers could be helped and some satisfactory solutions by the help of experts could be evolved. He said that a high level meeting on Agricultural Cooperative Marketing may be organised in India.

23. The Director (Education), ICA ROEC, welcomed the suggestion of Mr. Tiwari and said that this had been listed in the next year's programme which will be considered by the Council.

AGENDA ITEM NO.12 : SEMINAR ON MULTIPURPOSE COOPERATIVES

24. With the concurrence of CUAC and IDACA the Secretary proposed that in all future seminars in Japan the subjects for discussion would include the subject of management of multipurpose (agricultural) cooperatives to enable participants from the Region to have an overall idea about the management aspect of multipurpose societies and how various activities of multipurpose societies were integrated. The Sub-committee agreed to the proposal.

25. It was also agreed that in future invitations to seminars with emphasis on agriculture, this emphasis would be clearly spelt out to enable the selection of the most suitable candidates.

AGENDA ITEM NO.13 : EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES PLANNED BY THE ROEC
IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

26. The Secretary reported that the following educational activities had been planned to be carried out by the ROEC in the field of agricultural cooperation :

- i. National Seminar on "Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Sri Lanka"
- ii. National Seminar on "Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Bangladesh".

27. Mr. Tiwari requested the ICA to evolve a scheme to undertake education of membership. Non-education of members is creating a problem. He emphasised the necessity of membership education for proper growth and development of cooperative movement in the Region.

28. Mr. Rana said that since this is a specific request, it would be most appropriate for the ICA ROEC to sit together with Mr. Tiwari and then work out a formula or programme as to how we could assist in this particular regard.

AGENDA ITEM NO.14 : PUBLICATIONS BROUGHT OUT/PLANNED BY THE ROEC
IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

29. The Secretary reported that the following publications (a) and (b) had been brought out and (c) was being prepared.

- (a) Statistical information on Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives in South-East Asia - The statistical information was updated and a revised edition was issued

- (b) Report of the Regional Seminar on "Management of Agricultural Cooperatives with special reference to Multipurpose Cooperatives" - This was the report of the seminar on the subject held in Tokyo in September 1977.
- (c) Readings in Cooperative Marketing - A publication comprising papers on various aspects of cooperative marketing presented in seminars conducted by the ICA and some additional papers specially written for the publication was being prepared.

30. The periodicity of the publication of the statistical bulletin was discussed by the Committee and it was agreed that the ROEC would examine the statistical collation situation in the member countries and see whether a periodical publication, say at 2 year intervals, could be brought out with up to date information.

AGENDA ITEM NO.15 : AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING SPECIALIST

31. The Secretary introduced to the Committee Mr. Per-Erik Lannhagen, Specialist in Agricultural Cooperative Marketing, at the ROEC, and informed the members about the availability of his services.

AGENDA ITEM NO.16 : PAKISTAN'S REQUEST FOR A FERTILISER PLANT, FRUIT GRADING AND CANNING PLANT AND PLANT FOR AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

32. The Secretary said that the Member for Pakistan had made a request for assistance for the above project. The member was informed that this matter would be placed on the agenda and that he should explain the details in the meeting. The concerned member however had cabled his inability to attend.

33. Mr. Ghuman, Alternate ICA Councillor for Pakistan, informed the meeting that that scheme had been referred to the government and no reply had been received from the government so far.

34. It was decided to inform the Member for Pakistan to submit to the ROEC a detailed request and that the ICA would then see the possibility of obtaining assistance.

35. The meeting was adjourned at this stage. The meeting resumed its session at 9 a.m. on 6th December 1978.

AGENDA ITEM NO.17 : TRADE PROMOTION GROUP

36. The Secretary of the Trade Promotion Group reported that in view of the increasing importance of international trade and also keeping in view the fact that international trade in the South-East Asian Region had undergone a significant change in the matter of structure, composition of the items of import and export, it was recommended at the last meeting of the Group that the membership of that Group should be broad based so that persons connected or associated even with the non-agricultural sector could be associated with that Group and therefore it was suggested that a recommendation be made to the Regional Council that the Trade Promotion Group be upgraded into an independent Sub-committee to be called the "ICA Sub-committee for Trade Development for South-East Asia" and consequently the Agricultural Sub-committee may be named the "ICA Sub-committee for Agriculture for South-East Asia". He further said that that recommendation was considered in the meeting of the recent meeting of the Trade Promotion Group and that they had also endorsed that suggestion.

37. The proposal was accepted by the Sub-committee.

AGENDA ITEM NO.18 : ANY OTHER MATTER WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

38. Mr. Branko Zlataric, Secretary for Agriculture, ICA, on being requested by the Secretary made the following observations :-

39. One of the most important developments within the Agricultural Committee was the establishment of the Economic Sub-committee of the Agricultural Committee. It was concerned mainly with international trade. It had created an Economic Bureau which was entrusted to initiate trade all over the world.

The objectives of the Economic Sub-committee were more specifically mentioned in the statute :

i. Promotion of International Trade.

- (a) The ESC should examine the potential of and initiate inter-cooperative trade,
- (b) Explore ways and means of improving the economic potential of cooperatives especially bearing in mind developing country.

ii. Try to ensure that more funds from multilateral and bilateral agencies were channelled through cooperatives in developing countries to meet the objectives defined in (a) and (b) above.

iii. It was intended to extend membership on the principle of associated basis to banks, insurance companies, etc. so that they were more intimately involved in the Sub-committee's work. ESC was involved in Africa from the last year and contemplates extending activities to Asia and Latin America.

40. Assistance and advice of the ROEC was needed for the preparation of a manual on Management of Small Farmer Cooperatives by the FAO. A prototype manual had been in a draft form and it was done by the Indian Institute of Management which visited cooperatives in 5-6 countries in South-East Asia to get practical examples for this manual. The manual was not to deal much with book-keeping, administration and accountancy, but mainly how to manage the service activities in cooperatives to increase the production activities of small farmers. He said that the manual would be tested next year probably in India.

41. Mr. R.G. Tiwari said that the Economic Sub-committee need to outline their relationship with ICTO and the assistance it was expected to extend to it. Mr. Zlataric hoped that ESC would be able to establish contact with ICTO on the occasion of the ILO/SIDA workshop in Singapore.

42. Another matter that was taken up was that of the supply of Trade Information. It was suggested that ICTO should provide upto date trade information to the members. The Chairman of ICTO explained that the collection, collation and dissemination of information was an expensive undertaking and that such an activity needed additional funding and personnel. ICTO in its present financial situation could not fund such an activity - but if members channelled at least some of their trade through ICTO then perhaps ICTO could supply this service. Else it would be necessary for ICA to fund such activity. The rough estimates for the supply of such a service would be about US\$2000/- per month and if the members required the service they should be prepared to provide the necessary finance.

43. It was also pointed out that the usefulness of such information would depend on the quality of the information supplied by the members and the speed at which these were made available to ICTO.

AGENDA ITEM NO.19 : VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

44. It was decided to have the next meeting in the same venue where the ICA Council meeting would be held.

AGENDA ITEM NO.20 : VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIR

45. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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Sd/-

Lionel Gunawardana
Secretary, ICA Sub-committee
for Agriculture for S-E Asia

New Delhi
16.1.1979

ICA SUB-COMMITTEE

FOR

FISHERIES

FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE ICA SUB-COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES
FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA HELD IN BANGKOK (THAILAND) ON 5TH DECEMBER 1978.

1. The Eighth Meeting of the ICA Sub-committee for Fisheries for South-East Asia held at the premises of the Cooperative League of Thailand, Bangkok, on 5th December 1978. The Chairman of the Sub-committee, Mr. Eddiwan, presided.

The following were present :

Members

1. Mr. Eddiwan, Chairman and Member for Indonesia
2. Mr. Haji Aziz Ibrahim, Member for Malaysia
3. Mr. B.P. Faustino, Member for the Philippines
4. Mr. M.R.B. Daswatte, Alternate Member for Sri Lanka
5. Mr. Wichien Sobhon, Alternate Member for Thailand

Secretary

Mr. Lionel Gunawardana, Joint Director (P&PR) and Specialist in Agricultural Cooperation, ICA RO&EC.

Observers

1. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, India
2. Mr. Jirozaemon Saito, Japan
3. Mr. Yasumatsu Miyake, Japan
4. Mr. Rikichi Suzuki, Japan
5. Mr. Soo Moon, Rep. of Korea
6. Mr. Ik Hoan Choi, Rep. of Korea
7. Mr. Supah Noh, Malaysia
8. Mr. Pathom Thongravy, Thailand.

ICA London

Mr. Branko Zlataric, Secretary for Agriculture & Fisheries.

In attendance

Mr. Prem Kumar, Personal Assistant to Regional Director, ICA RO&EC.

AGENDA ITEM NO.1 : REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

2. Mr. Eddiwan, the Chairman, welcomed the members of the Sub-committee.

AGENDA ITEM NO.2 : CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

3. The minutes of the last meeting, seventh in the series, were confirmed.

4. Mr. J. Saito, Chairman of the ICA Fisheries Committee on being requested by the Chairman made the following observations :

i. The fisheries cooperatives in the Region were very weak and were in the process of development. The setting up of a separate Sub-committee for Fisheries would assist in the pace of development.

ii. It would be of further use to get the ICA Committee on Fisheries to support the Sub-committee. He for one would lend his fullest support to get this Sub-committee recognised as a Sub-committee of the ICA Fisheries Committee.

iii. Attempts should be made to increase the strength of the Sub-committee by getting representatives from some more movements.

iv. That the Japanese Movement being an advance one would render whatever assistance it could both to the Sub-committee and to the fishery cooperatives in the Region.

5. Mr. Branko Zlataric, Secretary for Agriculture & Fisheries, ICA London, briefed the meeting about the proceedings of the ICA Committee on Fisheries at Copenhagen. He made the following observations :

i. The committee felt that there was a need to increase its strength and also to strengthen the secretariat in Tokyo or to make London the permanent secretariat.

ii. That it should increase its contact and collaboration with FAO as this may help, besides other things, in making available better training facilities for fishery cooperative members and functionaries.

iii. That they too had the problem of increasing their membership and the Chairman had found that by his travelling around and making general contacts he was able to achieve much in this direction.

iv. That it would assist in the formation of regional Sub-committees.

v. That it should publish a Fisheries Information Bulletin and for a start they had now planned to circulate an information letter from London.

Mr. Zlataric also mentioned another matter of some concern which the Japanese Movement was experiencing and that was that when training facilities are provided to developing countries in this field, all too often, the nominees were government officers and not personnel from cooperative societies. This is a matter which members of the Sub-committee would like to take action.

6. At the request of the Chairman, each member informed the Sub-committee about the latest developments in the field of fishery cooperatives in their respective countries.

AGENDA ITEM NO.3 : TRAINING SEMINAR FOR PERSONNEL WORKING IN FISHERY COOPERATIVES

7. The Secretary reported on the training seminar which was held in Japan. The suggestion for holding this seminar came at a meeting of the Fisheries Group held in the Philippines. The Fisheries Group requested the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations to hold a training seminar for personnel from fishery cooperatives. At the same time a request was made to the Fishery Federation of the Republic of Korea to organise study visits in that country for the participants of this seminar. The Japanese Federation negotiated with the Government of Japan and secured funds for the seminar. Finally, the seminar was held in Tokyo. One of the problems was that as the seminar was financed by the Government of Japan, the invitations to the seminar had to be sent to governments of the respective countries. The ICA ROEC requested the member-organisations to influence the selection of the participants so that persons from cooperative fishery societies could participate. Unfortunately, however, this effort did not meet with success. All the persons who attended the seminar were officials from the Ministries or Department of Fisheries or Cooperative Departments. The study visits in the Republic of Korea could not be held.

8. The Secretary informed the Committee that he had another proposal to hold a seminar in the Republic of Korea and that it would be possible to get advantage of the Korean experience in the forthcoming seminar.

9. Mr. Saito said that they would endeavour to hold a seminar in future in Japan when personnel from fishery cooperatives could be given opportunities to attend.

AGENDA ITEM NO.4 : PROPOSAL FOR HOLDING A REGIONAL SEMINAR IN THE REP. OF KOREA FOR THE PERSONNEL WORKING IN FISHERY COOPERATIVES IN THE REGION

10. The Secretary informed the Committee that during a recent visit to Korea he discussed with the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives the possibility of holding a seminar in that country for personnel working in fishery cooperatives. The Korean Fishery Federation was very receptive to the suggestion. They promised to consider the suggestion favourably and take a decision in due course.

11. The representatives of the NFFC present at the meeting said that they were not in a position to give a firm commitment. However, they agreed in principle to holding such a seminar in 1980. They requested that further details regarding expected number and type of participants and subject area to be covered may be sent to them by the ICA. They said that they would be able to give a firm reply by May next year.

AGENDA ITEM NO.5 : PREPARATION OF A BOOK ON FISHERY COOPERATIVES OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA OUTLINING THE PROBLEMS FACED AND THEIR GROWTH AND HOW THESE WERE SOLVED

12. The Secretary reported that this proposal for preparation of a book was made some time back. Some material had been collected from the Fishery Federation of Korea. However, on examination it was found that the material was not sufficient for such a book. It was now felt that the preparation of a book may be combined with the Regional Seminar which was being planned for 1980 in Korea. This was agreed to.

AGENDA ITEM NO.6 : ANY OTHER MATTER WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

13. Mr. Branko Zlataric said that the Sub-committee should collaborate closely with the FAO and attempts should be made to influence the FAO to carry out programmes beneficial to cooperatives in the Region.

14. Mr. Saito informed the Committee that the National Federation of Fishery Cooperatives of Japan was considering secondment of a person to ICA Headquarters in London in order to strengthen the activities of the ICA. However, this was still at the planning stage and funds had to be found and the agreement of the Board of Directors of the Federation and others concerned had to be obtained. He said their wish was to contribute as much as was possible to the activities of the ICA and to the growth of the national cooperative movements.

15. Mr. Rana said that the numbers of the delegation in the ICA Congress from the developing countries were rather small. The representatives of the developing movements do not raise their voice sufficiently and strongly in the ICA congresses and result of that was that quite often the requirements of the developing movements were not known and were not sufficiently recorded into the work programmes. That was something that Mr. Zlataric referred to - something very relevant for our work and that we from the developing movements must raise our voice when our representatives were attending the ICA congresses or ICA committee meetings. Otherwise our interest would be adversely affected.

16. Mr. Haji Ibrahim felt that in formulating and implementing developmental programmes going through government was a difficult process because government had got their own programmes. He strongly felt that we should go through the ICA channel only.

AGENDA ITEM NO.7 : VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

17. It was agreed that the venue and date of the next meeting of the Sub-committee should be the same as that of the ICA Regional Council Meeting and the date would be fixed by the ICA Regional Director when fixing the dates of the Council Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO.8 : VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIR

18. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-

Lionel Gunawardana
Secretary, ICA Sub-committee
for Fisheries for S-E Asia

New Delhi
13.1.1979

sm.

International Cooperative Alliance
Regional Office & Education Centre for
South-East Asia, "Bonow House",
43, Friends Colony (East), New Delhi-110-065,
India.

5th October 1978

SIXTH MEETING OF THE ICA TRADE PROMOTION
GROUP FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA, BANGKOK, THAILAND

Date : 4th December 1978
Time : 11.30 A.M.
Venue : Mandarin Hotel, 622 Rama IV Road,
Bangkok (Thailand)

A G E N D A

1. WELCOME BY THE HOST MOVEMENT.
2. REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN.
3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD IN SINGAPORE ON 17TH JULY 1978.
4. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.
5. RECONFIRMATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAST MEETING HELD IN SINGAPORE.
6. ILO-SIDA PROJECT FOR STRENGTHENING OF INTER-COOPERATIVE TRADE RELATIONS.
7. ICA-CLUSA INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK.
8. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE TRADING ORGANISATION PRIVATE LIMITED, SINGAPORE (ICTO) AND FUTURE STRATEGY FOR EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ITS TRADING ACTIVITIES.
9. PRESENTATION OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF COOPERATIVE INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN EACH COUNTRY.
10. PROPOSAL TO REVISE ICA TRADE DIRECTORY FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA.
11. ANY OTHER SUBJECT WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR.
12. REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN.
13. VENUE AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

1. Welcome by the Host Movement

The Council Member for Thailand will welcome the members of the ICA Trade Promotion Group on behalf of the Cooperative Movement of Thailand.

2. Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman of the ICA Trade Promotion Group for South-East Asia will welcome the members to the 6th Meeting of the Group and make some opening remarks.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting on the ICA Trade Promotion Group held on 17th July 1978 in Singapore

Minutes of the last meeting on the ICA Trade Promotion Group held on 17th July 1978 in Singapore have been circulated to all members. A copy of the minutes is annexed hereto.

4. Matters arising out of minutes of the last meeting

A brief report on the follow-up action on the decisions of the last meeting is given below :

(a) ADDRESSES OF COOPERATIVE TRADING ORGANISATION :-

It was decided in the last meeting that national cooperative unions in countries of the region be requested to intimate to the Secretariat of the ICA Trade Promotion Group, the names and addresses of all such cooperative trading organisations in the Region which are presently engaged or have the potential to get involved in near future in international trade.

Accordingly, all national cooperative unions and other member organisations in the region were requested to furnish the above information in a prescribed form. They were also requested to furnish the names and designations of the key personnel who are directly concerned with the development of international trade in these organisations.

So far information has been received from only one country namely Pakistan. Members from other countries are requested to ensure that the requisite information is furnished to the Secretary of the Trade Promotion Group as early as possible.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE :-

The recommendations made by the ICA Trade Promotion Group for promotion and development of cooperative international trade were communicated to all member organisations for their information and necessary action.

(c) SELECTION OF SUITABLE PARTICIPANTS FOR ILO-SIDA WORKSHOP :-

The last meeting emphasised on the member organisations the importance of selecting right type of persons for participating in the forthcoming ILO-SIDA Workshop on Strengthening of Inter-cooperative Trade Relations. The matter was taken up by the Regional Office with the concerned authorities in ILO Regional Office at Bangkok and they have assured us that even though formal invitations from ILO will, as usual, be sent through government channels, they will copy all such invitations to the ICA Regional Office, New Delhi, in order to enable the ICA Regional Office to notify its member organisations and thereby assist in obtaining nominations of suitable persons in due time.

(d) TRAINING FACILITIES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE :-

In one of its recommendations, the Trade Promotion Group had recommended that the ICA Regional Office should be requested to provide training facilities in international trade for the key personnel of cooperative trading organisations in the Region.

On learning that there was a provision for providing training fellowship in the ILO-SIDA Project for strengthening cooperative trade relations, the Regional Office took up the matter with the concerned authorities in Bangkok. The ILO Regional Office in Bangkok, who are the executing agency for the ILO-SIDA Project, has informed that there exists a provision for 10 fellowships of four months each in the Project and they have assured that they would seek assistance of the ICA Regional Office in finding suitable personnel for award of these fellowships.

(e) TRADE INFORMATION FROM ICTO :-

It was recommended by the ICA Trade Promotion Group in the last meeting that ICTO should be requested to intimate to the cooperative movements in the Region, from time to time, about the kind and nature of goods and products from each country which are figuring in international trade in Singapore market. The group thought that this information would prove very useful to the cooperative trading organisations in the Region in organising and planning their production and marketing strategy.

Accordingly, the Regional Office wrote to the Chairman of the International Cooperative Trading Organisation Ltd, Singapore on 7th August 1978, to supply, from time to time, information on the above lines to cooperative trading organisations in the Region.

5. Reconfirmation of the recommendations of the last meeting held in Singapore

The last meeting of the ICA Trade Promotion Group held on 17th July 1978 at Singapore was attended by representatives from only four countries viz. Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines. The members from other countries could not attend the meeting for one reason or the other.

In view of the fact that the above meeting had made some very important and significant recommendations, it is considered desirable that the recommendations made in the last meeting should be reconsidered and endorsed by this meeting. Some of the important recommendations made by the Trade Promotion Group in its last meeting are mentioned below :

(A) It was suggested that in view of the changing pattern of structure of imports and exports in the developing countries of the Region, the membership of the ICA Trade Promotion Group should not be confined to only members of the ICA Sub-Committee for Agriculture and Trade and that persons from non-agricultural sector of the cooperative movements, who are interested in international trade, should also be associated with the Trade Promotion Group. Accordingly, it was further suggested

- (a) that the ICA Trade Promotion Group be reconstituted as an independent Sub-Committee to be called as, ICA Sub-Committee for Trade Development for South-East Asia".

- (b) that the above Sub-Committee should report directly to the ICA Council for South-East Asia rather than through the SCAT.
- (c) that the ICA Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Trade (SCAT) be re-named as "The ICA Sub-Committee on Agriculture".
- (d) that each member country in the Region should be invited to nominate upto two delegates on the ICA Sub-Committee for Trade Development, one each from the agricultural and non-agricultural sector.
- (e) that delegates to the above Committee should be such persons who are associated with trading organisations and are in a position to contribute effectively towards trade development at the regional and interntional levels.
- (f) that the Sub-Committee on Trade Development should, as far as possible, meet at a time other than the ICA Council Meeting.
- (g) that the Sub-Committee should have the right to constitute, whenever necessary, specialised task force to consider in greater details the problems of different trades and commodity groups.
- (h) that an annual contribution at the rate of £25/- per delegate be assessed on and collected from the sponsoring trading organisations.

(B) The meeting also made the following recommendations for the promotion of cooperative international trade in the region :-

1. The Group should, once again, impress upon the Cooperative Movements in the region the urgent need for their entering into international trade seriously so as to be able to meet effectively the growing threat of competition from the big trans-national and multi-national business houses.
2. As far as possible, the cooperative trading organisations at the apex levels in each country should set up separate departments for international trade and take upon themselves the responsibility of collecting, compiling and disseminating to the concerned cooperative institutions the following information :-
 - a) The various measures that have been taken by the Government to encourage export trade.
 - b) The various facilities and incentives that are available for handling exports of different commodities and products.
 - c) Government export and import policies and regulations from time to time.
 - d) Facilities available for the financing of exports and the main features of the Export Credit Guarantee Scheme operating in their country.

- e) Regulations and procedures regarding quality control in respect of export goods.
- f) Policies and procedure to seek export entitlements out of fixed export quotas for various commodities.
- g) Market intelligence and other useful information regarding packaging and transportation and shipping, etc.

3. The National Cooperative Movements should consider the possibilities of sending trade missions to visit cooperative organisations in such other countries in the region where they see potential for developing inter-cooperative trade.

4. To explore the possibilities of entering into bilateral trade agreements with cooperative trading organisations in the region and to encourage the establishment of joint committees for the promotion of trade on bilateral basis.

5. A workshop on "Strengthening of Inter-Cooperative Trade Relations" is expected to be organised by the ILO in November/December, 1978 at Singapore, under an ILO-SIDA project. The National Cooperative Movements should ensure that right type of persons are selected from their countries to participate in this workshop. This will be a good opportunity for the cooperative trading organisations in the region to establish personal contacts with the representatives of trading organisations from the developed countries.

6. The management of the International Cooperative Trading Organisation (Pte.) Ltd. should also make use of the above opportunity and try to establish personal contacts with the representatives of cooperative trading organisations from both the developing and developed countries.

7. The cooperative organisations should explore the possibilities of setting up trade creating joint ventures with cooperative organisations in other countries in the region.

8. The cooperative trading organisations in the region should pay more attention to public relations and try to develop good rapport with the government departments and statutory organisations like the State Trading Corporations and Government Marketing Boards who are connected with the handling of international trade in their respective countries. They should also develop close liaison with the Export Promotion Councils and such other bodies which are connected with the promotion of international trade.

9. The Cooperative Trading Organisation (Pte.) Ltd. (ICTO) in Singapore should be requested to intimate to the cooperative movements in the region, from time to time, about the kind and nature of goods and products, from each country, which are being transacted or are figuring in the international trade in Singapore market. This information can prove very useful to the cooperative trading organisations in the region in organising their marketing strategy.

10. The ICA Regional Office should be requested to provide training facilities in international trade for the key personnel of the cooperative trading organisations in the region by arranging their placement in such of the trading organisations in the developed countries which have long experience of handling import and export trade.

6. ILO-SIDA Project for Strengthening of Inter-Cooperative Trade Relations

The Regional Office for Asia of the ILO has informed the Regional Office that they propose to hold the above Workshop in Singapore from 24 January to 6 February 1979. It is learnt that the ILO has already recruited the following staff in connection with the above project.

- i) Specialist in Coop Trade (Team Leader)
- ii) Marketing Specialist
- iii) Management Consultant
- iv) Adviser on Supply Surveys and Marketing Specialist
- v) Associate Expert

The first phase of the project has already commenced. The expert on Supply Surveys joined his assignment in June 1978 and has since then started undertaking surveys for selected export products of cooperative trading organisations in the Region. The names and addresses of important cooperative trading organisations in the Region have been supplied to the Expert who visited the ICA Regional Office in July 1978.

The Workshop which is proposed to be held in Singapore from 24 January to 6 February 1979 will be conducted in two parts.

During the first part of 5 working days, 25 representatives of cooperatives from Asian countries will meet. The Team Leader, the consultants and the specialists on cooperatives and international trade from various national organisations and international bodies will present their points of view and findings on the different aspects of cooperative trade (marketing and quality of products, organisational questions, national agreements, legal aspects, etc.) In addition, some measures to meet the requirements for the promotion of foreign trade will be discussed, such as providing consultancy services and organising training seminars.

For the second part (5 days), representatives from cooperatives in industrialised countries engaged and interested in foreign trade and representatives of international agencies, will join the workshop. During this phase, the present trade situation of cooperatives will be analysed and the possibilities of regular trade relations between the cooperatives will be discussed. The needs and ways of special trade promotion measures will be identified and mutual understanding of the respective needs and problems will be reached among the participants. It is expected that, based on proposals and recommendations elaborated during this Workshop, trade relations will be initiated which later would lead to proper trade agreements.

Singapore is proposed as the venue of the Workshop in order to ensure close association with the ICTO. It is learnt that the Singapore National Cooperative Union and ICTO have offered their services to assist the ILO in making practical arrangements for the Workshop.

The ILO has requested the ICA Regional Office to assist them in giving good publicity about the above Workshop and to bring to their notice the names of suitable participants. The ILO will, as an executing agency, have the final say on the selection of the participant to the Workshop. As usual, the ILO will issue invitations through Government channels. It has, however, been agreed to that all invitations to various governments will be copied to ICA Regional Office in order to enable the Regional Office to its member organisations and to assist in obtaining suitable nominations in due time.

It is suggested that member organisations of the ICA extend their fullest cooperation to the Workshop and help to establish inter-cooperative and international trade on a sound footing.

7. ICA-CLUSA International Trade Conference in New York

The International Cooperative Alliance in collaboration with the Cooperative League of USA (CLUSA) convened an International Cooperative Trade Conference in New York from 13th to 17th November 1978. The purpose of the Conference was to promote economic collaboration between and among cooperatives. The conference was attended to help cooperative trading organisations to find suitable trade partners and to pave the way for future trade and economic cooperation between themselves. The Regional Office had supplied the names and addresses to all member organisations and important cooperative trading organisations in the Region to its London Office and requested them to extend invitations

to all of them. It is hoped that representatives from some of the member organisations from the Region would have attended the International Cooperative Trade Conference in New York. The ICA Trade Promotion Group will be interested to know about their impressions regarding the usefulness and success of the Conference.

8. Report on the activities of International Cooperative Trading Organisation Private Ltd. (ICTO) and future strategy for expansion and development of its trading activities

The Chairman of the ICTO who is also member of the ICA Trade Promotion Group may like to inform the members of the Group about the activities of ICTO and its future strategy for the expansion and development of its trading activities.

9. Presentation of significant developments in the field of cooperative international trade in each country

Members of the Committee will be requested to give brief account of the significant developments in the field of cooperative international trade in their respective countries.

10. Proposal to revise ICA Trade Directory for South-East Asia

In January 1967 the ICA Regional Office, New Delhi, published a cooperative trade directory for South-East Asia. Two supplements to this directory were subsequently brought out in 1968 and 1970. Since the publication of the last supplement, a number of other cooperative organisations in the region have entered in the field of international trade and some of those already listed in the directory have extended the scope of their business. A suggestion has been received that the ICA ROEC should update this trade directory. The Regional Office has written to the International Cooperative Trading Organisation, Singapore, to find out whether they have any plans to prepare a trade directory of cooperative organisations in South-East Asian countries. A decision will be made on receipt of a reply from ICTO.

11. Any other subject with permission of the Chair

In case any other subject is proposed by any member for discussion in the meeting, the same will be taken up with the permission of the chair.

12. Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman of the Committee will make concluding remarks.

13. Venue and date of the next meeting
of the ICA Trade Promotion Group

The venue and date for the next meeting will be fixed in consultation with members of the Group.

Encl: Minutes of last meeting.

M.K. Puri
Secretary,
ICA Trade Promotion Group for
South-East Asia

A/

S.NO. 81/x/78

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

January 15, 1979

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE ICA TRADE PROMOTION GROUP
FOR S-E ASIA HELD AT BANGKOK (Thailand) ON 4TH DECEMBER, 1978

The Sixth meeting of the ICA Trade Promotion Group for South-East Asia was held at the premises of the Cooperative League of Thailand, Bangkok, on 4th December, 1978. The Chairman of the Group, Mr. I. H. Hunter, presided.

The following were present :-

Members

1. Mr. I. H. Hunter, Member for Australia
2. Mr. B. D. Dwivedi, Member for India
3. Mr. Eddiwan, Member for Indonesia
4. Mr. Supah Noh, Member for Malaysia
5. Ch. Mohamad Nawaz Ghuman, Alternate Member for Pakistan
6. Mr. B. P. Faustino, Member for the Philippines
7. Mr. Mak Kam Heng, Member for Singapore
8. Mr. M. R. B. Daswatte, Alternate Member for Sri Lanka
9. Mr. Anan Chamnankit, Alternate Member for Thailand

Observers

1. Mr. R. G. Tiwari, India
2. Mr. Djoko Basuki, Indonesia
3. Mr. S. Nakabayashi, Japan
4. Mr. Takeshi Kai, Japan
5. Mr. H. Togawa, Japan
6. Haji Aziz Ibrahim, Malaysia
7. Mr. Prapas, Thailand

Secretary : Mr. M. K. Puri, Joint Director (TA&T), ICA ROEC

Other ICA Staff

1. Mr. R. B. Rajaguru, Regional Director
2. Mr. Branko Zlataric, Secretary for Agriculture, ICA London
3. Mr. J. M. Rana, Director (Education)
4. Mr. Lionel Gunawardana, Jt. Director & Specialist in Agrl. Coopn.
5. Mr. Per Eric Lannhagen, Specialist in Agrl. Cooperative Marketing

In attendance

1. Mr. A. Kurimoto, JCCU, Japan
2. Mr. Prem Kumar, Personal Assistant to Regional Director, ICA ROEC

Agenda Item No.1 : Welcome by the host movement

Mr. Wichien Sobhon, Director, Cooperative League of Thailand, welcomed members of the Trade Promotion Group on behalf of the Cooperative Movement of Thailand and expressed hope that the Group would give valuable ideas for development of cooperative international trade in the Region.

Agenda Item No.2 : Remarks by the Chairman

Mr. I.H. Hunter, the Chairman, briefly welcomed the members of the Group and requested the members to make available their valuable advice to improve the effectiveness of the Group.

Agenda Item No.3 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the fifth meeting of the Group held in Singapore on 17 July 1978 were confirmed.

Agenda Item No.4 : Matters arising out of the minutes of the last meeting

(a) ADDRESSES OF COOPERATIVE TRADING ORGANISATION :

The Secretary informed the meeting that the ICA ROEC had received information from Thailand, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, UNICOOP of Japan, Pakistan and NAFED of India. Information from other countries was still awaited. He hoped that those countries which had not yet sent their replies to ROEC will do so as early as possible.

(b) RECOMMENDATION FOR PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The Secretary informed the members that the recommendations made at the last meeting had already been intimated to all member organisations in the Region. He requested the members for their comments and for their experiences in implementing those recommendations.

(c) SELECTION OF SUITABLE PARTICIPANTS FOR ILO-SIDA WORKSHOP

The Secretary informed the meeting about the discussions he had with the ILO Office in Bangkok regarding selection of participants for that Workshop. It had been agreed that as soon as invitation letters were issued by the ILO to the concerned governments, they would also endorse copies to the ICA Regional Office. Accordingly, copies of the invitation letters issued by ILO had already been received in the ICA Regional Office in New Delhi, who had in turn informed the concerned member organisations and requested them to ensure proper selection of participants by their respective Governments. He informed the meeting that the Workshop would be held from 15-26 January 1979 in Singapore.

(d) TRAINING FACILITIES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The Secretary informed the meeting that after the conclusion of the ILO-SIDA Workshop in Singapore, the Project Leader and the other experts in his team were going to help the national movements in the region

in arranging seminars and workshops at national level so as to impart further training to their key personnel. The ILO-SIDA Project on Strengthening of Inter-Cooperative Trade Relations would last for two years and there was separate provision for awards of ten fellowships, with duration of four months each, to enable practical training of the key personnel, through their placement with advanced cooperatives in developed countries.

(e) TRADE INFORMATION FROM ICTO

The Secretary informed the members that the ICTO was requested as per decision of the last meeting to intimate to the cooperative movements in the Region, from time to time, about the products and commodities from countries of this Region, which figure in international trade in Singapore market.

The Secretary hoped that the management of ICTO would be able to supply this information to at least apex cooperative organisations in the Region. He felt that it would not be possible for ICTO to supply this information on a regular basis but hoped that it should be possible to furnish this at some intervals. Mr. Mak Kam Heng, Chairman of ICTO said that ICTO would very much like to assist in that matter, as far as it could do, but members should appreciate the constraints of financial and manpower resources of ICTO. He said that arranging of that service involved lot of cost and therefore urged that cooperative organisations in the Region be prepared to contribute towards its cost. He pointed out that currently many cooperatives had been using ICTO for various trade enquiries but none of them had transacted any business through ICTO.

Mr. R. G. Tiwari of India said that since efficient market intelligence service was very essential for developing foreign trade the cooperative movements in the Region should be prepared to contribute toward its cost. He requested the Chairman of ICTO to give an estimate of the cost for setting up a Market Unit in ICTO. Mr. Mak Kam Heng indicated that it would roughly cost 5,000 Singapore Dollars per month. He, however, added that he would prepare a detailed proposal in this regard and place it before the Board of Directors of ICTO for their consideration.

Agenda Item No.5 : Reconfirmation of the recommendations of the last meeting held in Singapore

All the recommendations which were made at the Fifth meeting of the Trade Promotion Group, both in respect of reconstitution of the ICA Trade Promotion Group into a "Sub-Committee for Trade Development for South-East Asia" and for the promotion of international cooperative trade, were re-endorsed by the meeting.

Agenda Item No.6 : ILO-SIDA Project for Strengthening of Inter-Cooperative Trade Relations

The information given under the agenda item was noted by the Group. Mr. Rolf Akeby, the Team Leader of ILO-SIDA Project, who had been invited to the meeting as an Observer gave a brief account of the work that was proposed to be carried out under the ILO-SIDA Project.

Mr. Akeby further informed the meeting that the ILO was organising a Workshop at Singapore from 15th to 26th January 1979 on Strengthening of inter-cooperative trade relations between cooperatives of the Asian Region and developed countries. He said that invitations for this Workshop, which was being organised jointly with the Singapore National Cooperative Union and with the support of the Government of Singapore and the ICA Regional Office, had been sent to Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Korea and Indonesia. Invitations had also been issued to representatives of important cooperative business organisations from some of the developed countries e.g. Australia, Japan, New Zealand, North America and Europe for participating in the second week of the Workshop.

Mr. Akeby assured the meeting that they would try to make that Workshop as practical as possible. The Workshop would try to find out what commodities could be traded by the cooperative business organisations in the Region. Mr. Akeby informed the committee that commodity studies on the following items would be discussed at the Workshop:-

- i) Cut flowers
- ii) Fish
- iii) Tea
- iv) Spices
- v) Rubber
- vi) Fruits & Vegetables - both fresh and processed
- vii) Handicrafts

He said that the above reports would be discussed by the participants in small groups and this would help in increasing inter-cooperative and international cooperative trade in the Region.

He requested all present at the meeting to do their best to persuade their governments to nominate the right type of participants, as actual practical problems of international trade were intended to be discussed at that Workshop. He was keen that business executive from cooperative trading organisations were selected and their nominations sent in time.

The Chairman of the meeting thanked Mr. Rolf Akeby for giving a detailed account of the project and assured him of the fullest cooperation of the ICA Trade Promotion Group in implementing the project.

Agenda Item No.7 : ICA-CLUSA International Trade Conference
in New York

Mr. R. B. Rajaguru, ICA Regional Director, who had attended the above conference in New York gave his impressions about this conference.

He informed the Committee that besides 42 participants from 23 US organisations the Conference was attended by 73 participants from 21 other countries, including participants from four countries of the Region namely, Japan, India, Philippines and Korea. The General Manager

of ICTO had also attended. He said that the cooperatives from developing countries had a very large potential to get into foreign trade provided they were organised. There was a need for better internal and regional organisation to meet the demands in the magnitude that exists in the developed countries. He mentioned a few items from their shopping list, such as : soyabean and soya products, vegetable oil, sorghum, pulses, fish meat and fish products, cotton seed oil, groundnut, tapioca, fertilizers of various kinds, pesticides, rice mills, processing plants, fresh vegetables, tomatoes, tropical fruits, pineapples, deep frozen fish etc. most of those commodities were required in quantities which were very large. It was brought out by most of the cooperatives in the U.S. and European countries that they preferred to buy in ship loads as this would reduce the transport cost per unit.

Another significant factor that came out at the New York Conference was that if cooperatives in developing countries had to sell their products they would have to establish personal contacts and make aggressive efforts for selling rather than depending on communication by exchange of letters.

Mr.Branko Zlataric, Secretary of the ICA Committee on Agriculture who also had attended the Trade Conference said that the Conference had brought out quite already the need to coordinate much more in this direction.

He said that based on the results of the Conference in New York, they were contemplating to organise a similar conference, on a much broader basis, in 1980, during the ICA Congress. The Agricultural Committee had also been given the task to explore ways and means of coordinating supplies of energy and other inputs including equipment and machinery for the benefit of the cooperatives, with a particular view to safeguarding the interests of the developing countries. He said that the Economic Sub-Committee (of the Agricultural Committee) needed the support of the movements in building up its strategy. It also needed certain support from international agencies. The need was mostly in respect of reports and practical analysis of the potential for trade in the various countries. He hoped that the UN could allocate funds and give the ICA some assistance in this field.

The Chairman of the Group requested Mr.Branko Zlataric to provide the full text of the New York Trade Conference to all members of the Group.

Agenda Item No.8 : Report on the activities of ICTO and future strategy for expansion and development of its trading activities

Mr.Mak Kam Heng, Chairman, ICTO, said that ICTO began its operations on the assumption that it would automatically get business from cooperative business organisation in the Region but this did not happen. The company did not have any specific trading programme hence it could not develop business in any line. None of the share holder organisations transacted any business through ICTO. With its meagre financial and man-power resources, it was not possible for ICTO to penetrate in the local Singapore market.

Since last year the ICTO had embarked on a new line of business - educational material and supplies of books and stationery. It had already been possible to penetrate to 400 schools in Singapore, by arranging book exhibitions, and by supplying books to their libraries. ICTO was servicing libraries of practically all the professional bodies, universities, colleges, the Institute of Banking and Finance, the Singapore Insurance Training Centre and the Institute of Management, etc. Currently, ICTO was negotiating with the University of Malaya, book shop for the supply of books. The book business was giving ICTO some cash inflow, but it was bringing revenue in a very slow way.

ICTO was now contemplating entering into another line, namely providing the service of key punching. It was negotiating with some firms in the USA and Australia. It was hoped that this would bring ICTO a good line of business.

ICTO had not been able to do any business with its share holding organisations. However, it had done some business with the CWS of Israel. It had supplied them rubber. It had now sent them a test consignment of 25,000 cu.ft. of timber. ICTO was also trying hard to develop business with cooperatives in Australia and in this connection it was negotiating for the supply of polythene bags and jute cloth to cooperative organisations in Australia. ICTO was also trying to enter into the local market as a distributor of certain vegetable products from Australia.

However, the problem of ICTO still remained to be solved i.e. lack of financial resources and manpower. The fact was that ICTO had not been able to develop any regular line of business or build up good business connections. He looked forward to at least some patronage from the share holding organisations.

Mr.B.D. Dwivedi, India, suggested that ICTO should initiate delegations from one country to another and bring them closer. Mr.R.G.Tiwari, India, said that it was highly desirable that cooperative business organisations should channelise their trade through ICTO. If ICTO had to exist, then every member of ICTO and other cooperatives in the Region must make it a point to trade through ICTO. Mr.Mak Kam Heng said that ICTO was always willing to assist cooperatives in trading business.

The Chairman thanked Mr.Mak Kam Heng for apprising the members of the Group about the operations of ICTO and its future line of action.

Agenda Item No.9 : Presentation of significant developments in the field of coop international trade in each country

The members gave a brief account of the significant developments in the field of international cooperative trade in their respective countries.

Agenda Item No.10 : Proposal to revise ICA Trade Directory
for South-East Asia

The Secretary reported that in January 1967 an enlarged and revised edition of the ICA Trade Directory for South-East Asia was published. Subsequently, two supplements were brought out in 1968 and 1970. The Regional Office had received suggestions that this Directory should be updated.

After discussions it was decided that the revision of the directory should be deferred for some time till more information becomes available during the execution of the ILO-SIDA project on strengthening of inter-cooperative trade relations between cooperatives in the developing and developed countries.

Agenda Item No.11 : Any other subject with permission of the Chair

No other topic was suggested for discussion by the meeting.

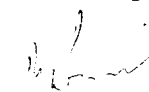
Agenda Item No.12 : Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman stressed once again that in the years ahead there was an urgent need for collaboration amongst the cooperatives if they were to make any positive contribution and also to withstand the onslaught of the multi-nationals.

Agenda Item No.13 : Venue and date of the next meeting

The Chairman suggested that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee take place about the time of the ICTO Annual General Meeting which might be held towards the end of June or early July 1979. The venue may be Kuala Lumpur.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair, the meeting came to a close.



M.K. Puri
Secretary,
ICA Trade Promotion Group
for South-East Asia

cc: Chairman, ICA Trade Promotion Group
Members, ICA Trade Promotion Group
Members, ICA Council for S-E Asia
Regional Director, ICA, New Delhi
Secretary, ICA Sub-Committee for Agri.& Trade

A/

International Cooperative Alliance
Regional Office & Education Centre for S-E Asia,
"Bonow House", 43, Friends Colony, New Delhi.

4 October 1978

SECOND MEETING OF THE ICA COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER
COOPERATION FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA, BANGKOK, THAILAND

Date : 4th December, 1978
Time : 2.00 P.M.
Venue : Mandarin Hotel, 622 Rama IV Road,
Bangkok (Thailand)

A G E N D A

1. WELCOME BY THE HOST MOVEMENT.
2. REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN.
3. REMARKS BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR.
4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER, 1977 AT BALI (INDONESIA).
5. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.
6. PRESENTATION OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF CONSUMER COOPERATIVES IN COUNTRIES OF THE REGION BY DELEGATES OF THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.
7. TO CONSIDER STRATEGY FOR THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE CONSUMER COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN THE REGION.
8. TO CONSIDER SUGGESTIONS FROM DELEGATES REGARDING WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.
9. REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT.
10. ANY OTHER ITEMS WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR.

1. Welcome by the Host Movement

The Council Member for Thailand will welcome the members of the Committee on behalf of the Cooperative Movement of Thailand.

2. Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman of the Consumer Committee for South-East Asia will welcome the members to the second meeting of the Committee and give a brief account of the discussions which took place at the meeting of the OCCP in Copenhagen.

3. Remarks by the ICA Regional Director

The Regional Director will make some brief observations.

4. Confirmation of minutes of the First Meeting held on 8th December 1977 at Bali (Indonesia)

Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 8 December, 1977 at Bali (Indonesia) have been circulated to all members. A copy of the minutes of the meeting is annexed hereto for ready reference.

5. Matters arising out of minutes of the last meeting

At the last meeting which was an inaugural meeting of the Committee the main business transacted was the adoption of the Constitution and election of office bearers. The other business transacted at the meeting was of preliminary nature only.

Brief account of the follow-up action is given below :-

i) Constitution of the Committee

The constitution of the Committee as adopted and approved at the meeting was supplied to all member organisations along with a list of members of the Committee.

ii) The Present situation of consumer cooperative movement in each country

In the last meeting, members were requested to prepare and supply to the Secretary of the Committee brief notes on the present position, trends, problems and future programmes of consumer cooperative movement in their respective countries. Members were requested to

supply this information in the prescribed format. So far information has been received from only eight countries namely Australia, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The delegates from other countries are requested to arrange to furnish information about their countries at an early date.

6. Presentation of significant development in the field of consumer cooperatives in countries of the Region by delegates of the respective countries

As per decision at the last meeting the Secretary of the Committee inviting their suggestions about the subjects that may be considered in the next meeting of the Committee and they were also requested to give their suggestions about the manner in which they would like the Consumer Committee to function. The Australian Federation has proposed the following points for consideration and study of the Committee :-

- (i) Research and report on ways and means to increase collaboration between consumer retail cooperatives to develop integrated consumer services at primary and secondary levels.
- (ii) Research and promote advice on ways and means of increasing collaboration between producer and consumer cooperatives.
- (iii) Collate and distribute information on resources and experiences, both common and unique, in financing consumer cooperatives in today's economic climate.
- (iv) Compare cooperative retailing techniques in countries with similar type and standards of economic structure.
- (v) Research and advise on relationships between consumer credit cooperatives, cooperative banks and other cooperative financial institutions with retailing consumer cooperatives.

Suggestions from other members of the Committee are awaited.

The delegates from member countries are requested to inform the Committee in the meeting about significant development in the field of consumer cooperative movement in their countries and also give an idea about the future programme of the Movement in this field.

7. To consider strategy for the promotion and development of effective consumer cooperative movement in the Region

Discussions on the subject will be initiated by Mr.M.K. Puri, Secretary of the Committee on Consumer Cooperation for South-East Asia.

8. To consider suggestions from delegates regarding work programme for the ensuing year

At the last meeting, some members of the Committee had suggested that training in consumer cooperation for their personnel be arranged in advanced cooperative movements such as Sweden and Japan. The Regional Office conveyed the wishes of the Committee to the Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC) and we are pleased to inform that the SCC has agreed to conduct a training course in consumer cooperation for about 20 participants from South-East Asian region at their 21st International Seminar to be held in Sweden in autumn 1979. In consultation with the SCC, it has been decided to hold pre-seminars at national level in consumer cooperation in Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia to select suitable participants for attending the training course in Sweden. The Pre-Seminars will be held in five countries on dates shown below :-

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. February 12-23, 1979 | : | Pre-Seminar in Philippines |
| 2. March 5-16, 1979 | : | Pre-Seminar in Thailand |
| 3. March 26-April 6, 1979 | : | Pre-Seminar in Malaysia |
| 4. April 16-27, 1979 | : | Pre-Seminar in Indonesia. |

It is not proposed to hold separate pre-seminars at National level in Korea or Singapore. It has been decided, in consultation with member-organisations in Korea and Singapore that 2-4 participants from Korea will attend the pre-seminar in Malaysia.

It is suggested that the SCC may be requested to hold a similar training course in Sweden for the personnel of consumer cooperation in other countries of the Region during April-May 1981.

It is suggested that the SCC may be requested to hold a similar training course in Sweden for the personnel of consumer cooperation in other countries of the Region during April-May 1981.

Members of the Committee are requested to suggest other measures or programmes which in **their** opinion can prove helpful for the promotion and development of consumer cooperative activity in the Region.

9. Any other items with the permission of the Chair

In case any other subject or issue is proposed for discussion by any member, it will be taken up at the meeting with the permission of the Chair.

10. Remarks by the President

The President of the Committee will make his concluding remarks.

11. Venue and date of the next meeting of the Sub-Committee

The venue and date for the next meeting will be fixed in consultation with members of the committee. It may also be discussed whether it is desirable and feasible to hold a mid-term meeting of the Committee.

Encl: Minutes of last meeting.

M.K. Puri
Secretary,
ICA Committee on Consumer
Cooperation for S-E Asia

A/

S.M. 82.x.78.

ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for South-East Asia

SECOND MEETING

Venue Bangkok (Thailand)

Dates 4 December 1978



*International Cooperative Alliance, Regional Office
and Education Centre for South-East Asia, "Bonow
House", 43 Friends' Colony, New Delhi-110024, India*

International Cooperative Alliance,
Regional Office & Education Centre
for South-East Asia,
"Bonow House", 43 Friends Colony (East),
New Delhi-110-065 (India)

28 November 1978

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE ICA COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER COOPERATION FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Chairman : Mr.S.Nakabayashi,
President,
Japanese Consumers Cooperation Union,
1-13, 4-chome, Sendagaya, Shibuya-ku,
Tokyo (Japan)

Vice Chairman : Mr.Tapeshwar Singh,
Vice President,
National Cooperative Consumers' Federation Ltd,
92, Nehru Place,
New Delhi-110-024 (India)

Secretary : Mr.M.K. Puri,
Specialist in Consumers Cooperation,
ICA Regional Office & Education Centre for
South-East Asia,"Bonow House",
43, Friends Colony (East), New Delhi-110-065

M E M B E R S

1. AUSTRALIA Mr.Irwin Hunter,
President,
Cooperative Federation of Australia,
Security Management Services (Pty) Ltd.,
49 A Beckett Street,
Melbourne Vic 3000 (
2. BANGLADESH Mr.Mohammad Abdul Haque,
Director.
Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union, and
Chairman,
Bangladesh Samabaya Marketing Society,
9/D Motijheel Commercial Area,
Dacca-2
3. INDIA Mr.B.D. Mishra,
President,
National Cooperative Consumers' Federation Ltd,
92, Nehru Place,
New Delhi-110-024

4. IRAN
Mr.J.Sassani,
Managing Director,
Sepah Consumers Cooperative,
Avenue Amir-abad Shomali,
Iran Novin Corner,
Teheran
5. INDONESIA
Mr.Eddiwan,
Vice Chairman II,
Dewan Koperasi Indonesia,
Komplek Pusdikkop,
Jalan Jenderal Gatot Subroto,
Jakarta
6. JAPAN
Mr.S.Tsuboi,
Executive Director,
Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union,
1-13, 4-chome, Sendagaya, Shibuya-ku,
Tokyo
7. REPUBLIC OF KOREA
Mr.Poo Yung Lee,
Executive Vice President,
National Agricultural Cooperative Federation,
75, 1-ka Choongjung-Ro, Joong-ku,
Seoul
8. MALASYIA (C.U.M.)
Dato Ahmad bin Yunus,
Chairman,
Malaysian Cooperative Supermarkets Society
Limited,
Petaling Jaya
9. PAKISTAN
Ch.Muhammad Nawaz Khan,
Village & Post Office Sambrial,
Tehsil Daska,
District Sialkot
10. PHILIPPINES
Prof.Monico G. Yadao,
President,
Filipino Cooperative Wholesale Society Limited,
Dona Petra Building, 880(304) Quezon Blvd.Ext.
Quezon City
11. SINGAPORE
Mr.H.P.Sheikh Samsudin,
General Secretary,
Singapore National Cooperative Union Ltd,
P.O. Box 366, Singapore-1.
12. SRI LANKA
Mr.Palitha Ratnayake,
President,
Sri Lanka Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd,
127, Grandpass Road, Colombo 14.
13. THAILAND
Mr.Anan Chamnankit,
Secretary of the Consumer Coop Federation of
Thailand, Bangkok 2.

17 January 1979

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE ICA COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER
COOPERATION FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA, BANGKOK (THAILAND)

The Second Meeting of the Committee on Consumer Cooperation for South-East Asia was held on 4th December 1978, in the premises of the Cooperative League of Thailand, Bangkok. The meeting began at 2 p.m. with Mr.S.Nakabayashi in the Chair.

The following persons were present :

1. Mr.S.Nakabayashi, Member for Japan (Chairman)
2. Mr.Eddiwan, Member for Indonesia
3. Mr.Supah Noh, Alternate Member for Malaysia
4. Ch.Mohammad Nawaz Khuman, Alternate Member for Pakistan
5. Mr.B.P. Faustino, Alternate Member for the Philippines
6. Mr.Mak Kam Heng, Alternate Member for Singapore
7. Mr.M.R.B. Daswatte, Alternate Member for Sri Lanka
8. Mr.Anan Chamnankit, Member for Thailand

Secretary : Mr.M.K. Puri, Specialist in Consumer Cooperation, ICA ROEC

Other ICA Regional Office staff

1. Mr.R.B. Rajaquru, Regional Director
2. Mr.J.M. Rana, Director (Education)
3. Mr.Per Erik Lannhagen, Specialist in Agrl.Coop Marketing

In attendance

1. Mr.A. Kurimoto, JCCU, Tokyo
2. Mr.Prem Kumar, P.A. to Regional Director, ICA ROEC.

Agenda Item No.1 : Welcome by the Host Movement

Mr.Wichien Sobhon, Director, Cooperative League of Thailand, welcomed the members of the Committee on behalf of the Cooperative Movement of Thailand.

Agenda Item No.2 : Remarks by the Chairman, Mr.S.Nakabayashi

Mr.Nakabayashi said : "I would like to express my sincere thanks for the kind welcome extended to us by the Cooperative Movement of Thailand. I also hope that this meeting would be successful and fruitful. As Chairman of this meeting, I welcome you to this meeting and seek for your kind cooperation and request for free and frank expression of your opinion.

At the outset, I would like to inform you very briefly about the discussions which took place at the last meeting of the Consumer Committee (OCCP); held at Copenhagen in September 1978.

Mr. Eric Hansen, Director of FDB, and the Chairman of the OCCP received the committee members and informed them about the FDB's consumer activities. The officers of the FDB made a number of reports concerning consumer programmes of FDB, including the functions of the test kitchen. These lectures were followed by visits to some of the facilities which made great impression on the participants.

On the second day, 9th September, the annual meeting was convened with an attendance of 44 members, representing 18 countries, including India, Japan, Philippines and Sri Lanka from the South-East Asian Region.

The Chairman of the Annual General Meeting welcomed the participants and observers. The work of the Committee (OCCP) was introduced by the Chairman, the secretary and, other executives of the OCCP. It was followed by discussions on the activities of the OCCP.

In the afternoon session, discussions were held on the question of the International Year of the Child and consumer cooperatives. The Secretary of, the Danish UNICEF Committee for the International Year of the Child, presented his report. Discussions concerning the International Year of the Child threw up a number of ideas, some of which we may be able to make use in our movements."

Agenda Item No.3 : Remarks by the ICA Regional Director

Mr. R.B. Rajaguru, ICA Regional Director, said that one of the things that I happened to mention in the Consumer Committee meeting in Copenhagen was that the problems in respect of consumer cooperation in the Western countries - the developed countries - were far different from the problems faced by the developing countries. The question for them was what not to eat, whereas in the case of developing countries the vital question was how much you can find to eat and whether you can get all that you need. The approach to the development of consumer cooperation, in our Region, therefore, had to be different from that being pursued in advanced countries.

Another matter that was explained to the Consumer Committee the setting up of the Committee on Consumer Cooperation in South-East Asia. The reason for the setting up of this Committee as a Committee for South-East Asia was explained and it was accepted that some time in the future this Committee would apply to become a Sub-Committee of the main Consumer Committee (OCCP). However, Mr. Eric Hansen, Chairman of this Consumer Committee had promised to make available whatever assistance that was possible to this Committee.

As regards the need for the development of consumer cooperation in the Region, he mentioned briefly the programmes of the Government of India in the field of rural consumer cooperative activity and said that consumer cooperatives in the South-East Asian context would certainly have to differ in their approaches to the problems from the more developed countries as the problems were different and the need was for the servicing generally of 80% of the population in each country which was essentially rural. The experience gained in India and also through the Consumer Education Project recently started in Sri Lanka would be of considerable help to other movements. He also expressed a hope that with the gaining emphasis that was laid on the development of consumer cooperation in the Region, there would be a corresponding attention paid to aspects of nutrition, health, family welfare and the role of women in this field.

Agenda Item No.4 : Confirmation of the minutes of the first meeting held on 8th December 1977 at Bali (Indonesia)

The minutes of the first meeting held on 8th December 1977 at Bali (Indonesia) were confirmed.

Agenda Item No.5 : Matters arising out of minutes of the last meeting

i. Constitution of the Committee :

The Secretary reported that the Constitution of the Committee along with the list of members of the Committee had already been supplied to all members.

ii. The Present situation of consumer coop movement in each country

The Secretary said that at the last meeting it was decided that all member organisations should supply to the ICA Regional Office a brief note about the present situation of consumer cooperation in their respective countries. So far, this information had been supplied by eight countries only. Reports from Malaysia, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Bangladesh and Pakistan were still awaited. The Secretary requested the delegates from these countries to ensure that their reports were supplied to the ROEC as early as possible.

Agenda Item No.6 : Presentation of significant development in the field of consumer cooperatives in countries of the Region by delegates of the respective countries

At the request of the Chairman, each delegate made a brief statement about the significant developments which had taken place during the course of the year in the field of consumer cooperation in his country.

Agenda Item No.7 : To consider strategy for the promotion and development of effective consumer coop movement in the Region

Mr.Puri, Specialist in Consumer Cooperation and Secretary of the Committee, in initiating the discussion on this subject gave a brief outline of the development of consumer cooperation in the western countries and in South-East Asia and highlighted the following issues :-

In the context of the socio-economic conditions obtaining in most of the developing countries in the Region, the following appeared as the three important reasons why there was a need to establish strong consumer cooperative movements :-

- a) To ensure equitable distribution of essential and scarce consumer goods at fair prices.
- b) To have some kind of countervailing power against the private trade so as to keep a check against its malpractices.
- c) To protect consumer rights and to promote their interests.

Mr. Puri said that keeping in view the above three main objectives, each country would have to work out its own strategy for the promotion and development of strong consumer cooperative movement, but the following considerations need to be kept in view :-

- i) The retail units at the local level and primary retail societies should be strong and economically viable.
- ii) Wherever consumer cooperative movement had succeeded, whether in European or Scandinavian countries, the basic reason for its success had been the vigour and strength of its wholesale society. It was very important that consumer cooperatives have a very strong wholesale society to guide and serve them. There should be very close collaboration and integration of activities between the wholesale and the retail sectors of the movement, otherwise no primary society, however strong could meet competition from private trade, beyond a certain point.
- iii) Consumer cooperative societies should have professional and competent management to run their affairs.
- iv) In order to face the increasing competition from the trade, a lesson should be taken from the Japanese movement where they had adopted various measures so as to win genuine support of the housewives. It was very important to have effective involvement and participation of the members on a continuous basis in the day-to-day operations of consumer cooperative societies.
- v) In order to assume the status of a mass movement, the consumer cooperative movement should develop a very close link with the general consumers movement in each country. Through enhancing the general consumer movement in their country, consumer cooperatives would be able to get popular support of the community.
- vi) Retailing has today become a very capital intensive enterprise and hence arose the need for harnessing adequate capital resources, and this perhaps could be done by cooperative organisations, eg. supporting the consumer cooperatives.

vii) In Japan, the university students and teachers cooperatives have played a very vital role in the promotion and development of regional consumer cooperative societies. Many university students after graduating from the university have helped the organisation of consumer cooperative societies in areas where they settled and provided the desired leadership. There were many instances where regional consumer cooperative societies in Japan had been initiated by the university cooperatives. They provided leadership and managerial support. In the urban areas, the desired leadership for promoting consumer cooperative activity could be provided by university students and teachers. Hence, learning from the Japanese experience, efforts should be made to involve schools, colleges and universities in this activity.

A very lively discussion ensued and the following additional matters were placed before the Committee.

1. The need to get government support to ensure regular supply of goods from the producers. It was noted, however, that the Japanese Consumer Movement had built up its connections with private industry on its own without government support and was now entering into the field of production of consumer goods on a selective basis. They had also developed "coop brand" goods through arrangements with manufacturers.
2. The need for consumer cooperative movements to collaborate closely with consumer associations in their countries and to launch programmes for the education of members in consumer affairs.

The position in Singapore was related by Mr. Mak Kam Heng, the alternate member for Singapore. He said that the Consumer Association of Singapore (CASE) was working closely with the NTUC. CASE had a complaint bureau where the public could lodge complaints on a variety of matters, malpractices and that there was also an Advertising Standards Authority of Singapore from 1974 functioning as an advisory council to CASE. This Council liaises effectively with the consumer cooperatives.

The Chairman concluded the discussions by saying that the meeting was in agreement with all the points made by Mr. Puri, Secretary of the Committee, and suggested that seminars and workshops at national levels be arranged to consider further in detail all these points and to work out individual strategy for the promotion and development of consumer cooperative movements in a few selected countries in the region.

Agenda Item No. 2 : To consider suggestions from delegates regarding work programme for the ensuing year

The Secretary informed that the Australian Federation had proposed that depending upon its resources, the Committee may consider to take up studies and research on the following subjects :

- i) Research and report on ways and means to increase collaboration between consumer retail cooperatives to develop integrated consumer services at primary and secondary levels,
- ii) Research and promote advice on ways and means of increasing collaboration between producer and consumer cooperatives,
- iii) Collate and distribute information on resources and experiences, both common and unique, in financing consumer cooperatives in today's economic climate,
- iv) Compare cooperative retailing techniques in countries with similar type and standards of economic structure,
- v) Research and advice on relationships between consumer credit cooperatives, cooperative banks and other cooperative financial institutions with retailing consumer cooperatives.

The Committee was informed that the Australian Federation had been requested to supply a brief note on each of the above subjects and the reply was awaited.

Mr. Ben Faustino, from Philippines, proposed a further subject for study viz. "Devising a systematic scheme of manpower build up for management of cooperative consumer societies". He further informed the members that on the basis of their limited experience he would say that it was really difficult to bring about collaboration between the producer cooperatives on the one side and the consumer cooperatives on the other. They had been experimenting on this in the Superplangka in Manila for last two years.

He also informed the Committee that their experiment in opening a branch of the Cooperative Saving Bank within the premises of the supermarket had shown encouraging results in mobilising funds in the form of small savings of shoppers who visit the supermarket.

The Committee took note of the various suggestions received regarding the subjects of studies but because of constraints of financial and manpower resources with the committee, it was decided to defer the matter for the time being.

International Seminar on Consumer Cooperation in Sweden in Autumn 1979

The Secretary informed that in deference to wishes expressed by members at the last meeting the ROEC approached both the JCCU and the Swedish Cooperative Movement to arrange some seminar for training of personnel of consumer cooperatives in this Region. The Japanese Movement expressed their regrets because of previous commitments. The Swedish Movement had agreed to organise an international seminar in Sweden in autumn 1979. The ROEC with the help of an expert from Sweden, would be conducting a series of pre-seminars at national level in order to select suitable participants from five countries namely, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.

As regards training of personnel from other countries of the Region namely, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Iran, ROEC would request the Swedish Cooperative Centre to arrange another seminar in the near future.

Agenda Item No.9 : Any other items with the permission of the Chair

Mr.R.B. Rajaguru, ICA Regional Director, said : "This is in regard to the suggestion as to what we can do to improve the functioning of this Committee. This is something which concerns all of us. The question is how effective can the committee be in trying to influence action in the Region. In fact, if we take a quick analysis of the persons present in the meeting today, we find that of the persons who actually should have attended the meeting, there are only three countries represented and, all the others are standby representatives. The question arises as to the effectiveness of this form of meeting and trying to formulate policies. I would like to draw the attention of the member countries and members represented here as to the need for some rethinking on the whole matter. We really have a forum, we discussed very meaningful and constructive programmes but the presence of a larger number of those actually involved in consumer activities will certainly enrich the discussions. By saying so I do not, in any way, mean to belittle the contributions made by the alternate representatives of many countries, but we have to see if we could try to improve the situation."

Agenda Item No.10 : Remarks by the President

The Chairman, Mr.S.Nakabayashi, spoke in the following words : "First of all I would like to mention that we have today made some progress as compared to the last meeting held in Bali. I highly appreciate the Secretary's report before this meeting. Today, we have had a comprehensive report from the Secretary showing several guidelines and pointing to growing problems. We should work out our own plan and our own policy in each country. These general guidelines should be kept in view. However, I think that these points should be considered in greater detail in each country. We should work out by ourselves our basic plan of action and strategy for the development of consumer cooperative movement.

Finally, as Mr.Rajaguru has pointed out we have eight countries represented here and among them only three delegates are representing the three consumer cooperative movements. I hope at the next meeting we shall have more countries represented and the participants should be representatives of the consumer cooperative movement of their country. I would like to ask your favour in recruiting and in persuading such technical persons, such specialists to come to this meeting. Today, we could get some information which we did not have and this information will be of great use for the exchange of views and for working out common targets and a general plan of action.


I suggest that the next meeting should have more time for discussion. We hope that at the next meeting we will be able to meet for the whole day to ensure detailed discussions among more specialised persons.

Anyhow, I am very thankful for your attendance and patience. Thank you for hearing me so patiently".

Agenda Item No.11 : Venue and date of the next meeting

It was decided that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on the occasion of the Regional Council Meeting. A further communication on this would be made once a decision in regard to the venue of the Regional Council was made.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.


N.K. Puri
Secretary,
ICA Committee on Consumer
Cooperation for S-E Asia

cc: Chairman & Members of the
ICA Committee on Cons.Cooperation.

cc: Council Members

cc: Chairman, OCCP, FDB, Roskildevej 65, DK-2620 Albertslund (Denmark)

cc: Director, ICA, London (U.K.)

cc: Director, SCC, Stockholm (Sweden)