

ICA 01053

334:502.58
ICA

ANTHONY
22546
16-4-2013

ICA Library

01053



**Continuum
of
Post Tsunami
Interventions
by
International Cooperative Alliance**



India

Two most affected districts in Tamil Nadu namely Cuddalore and Nagapattinam were studied and surveyed. In Cuddalore, out of 738 cooperatives in different sectors, 9 absolutely perished with the Tsunami and others suffered losses estimated around 23.36 million Rupees on account of bad crop loan, loss of nets, cattle, consumer goods. Similarly in Nagapattinam out of 266 cooperatives in different sectors 16 cooperatives were badly affected with estimated loss of more than 36 million Rupees.

In Andaman & Nicobar Islands all six tribes (Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas, Sentilese, Shompens and Nicobaris were reported safe except Nicobaris (1151 dead and 5580 reported missing). Out of 13 islands of Nicobar district maximum damaged occurred in Car Nicobar, Katchal and Great Nicobar.

Hence, the interventions remained focused in Nicobar Island.



500 MT capacity warehouse and two transport vehicles.

The total cost of reconstruction turned out to be 168,516 USD and National Co-operative Union of India released the shortfall of 15,292 USD for the 12 months duration project from August 5 to July 6 completed a month before the due date.

CoopUK has further contributed USD 101,670 under phase 2 in Nicobar for a period of one year for the reconstruction of 7 warehouses and 6 consumer outlets in the island.



4. Cuddalore Cooperative Marketing Society;
5. Chidambaram Marketing Society;
6. Marakkanam Salt Workers' Cooperative Society; and one Central Tribal.

Coop UK sanctioned 153,224 USD and agreed to support reconstruction and repair of office buildings and consumer outlets of following six cooperatives in Cuddalore district in Tamil Nadu:

1. Vasanthayarpalayam PACB;
2. Vilvarayanatham PACB;
3. Kayalapattu PACB;

Besides, Central Tribal Cooperative Society in Nicobar Island was identified for the reconstruction of a



Indonesia

To make Co-op Reconstruction more concrete and doable, an **Action Survey** was conducted in July and August 2005 under the facilitation and coordination of the ICA, and executed by the Institute of Co-operative Development Studies of Indonesia (LSP2I) and the Centre of Agriculture and Rural Development Studies (CORDS). Financial assistance for the Action Survey was obtained from COOP-UK and NTUC Income (Singapore). There was tremendous progress already made in the initial

implementation of the Program Proposal following a relatively small bridge fund made available by ICA members through the ICA Secretariat in the amount of CHF 45,000.00 (USD 36,000). The amount was utilized for the initial re-registration of co-operatives by DEKOPINWIL, a necessary step to take stock of co-operatives which lost members and documents following the Tsunami.

This bridge fund was further enhanced by a significant contribution from COOP UK in the amount of GBP 100,000 (USD 140,000) for the activation of two Fishery Co-operatives, namely Bahari Karya and Lhok Suedu by construction of houseboats (Palung), construction of storage and drying equipment, vehicle (Truck), consumers goods and fishing material for fisherman members and working capital for women members to procure and process fish.



Coop UK support was further matched by CHF 100,000 (USD 80,000) from ICA members – through the ICA Secretariat – in order to continue intensive training



and education for the sustenance of all six model co-operatives.

Additional funds USD 93,000 made available from ICA secretariat in December 2006 would be utilized for the rehabilitation of distribution coop network.



Srilanka

Soon after the Tsunami, the Government of Israel had launched a pilot relief project in Southern Sri Lanka through Isra Aid and hence, the NISPED proposed to work with Southern Sri Lankan affected co-operatives to capitalize on the support extended by Isra Aid.



Hambantota districts in Southern Sri Lanka covering almost 16,635 Tsunami affected members were identified as the target beneficiaries. Besides, 10 primary cooperatives were identified for the reconstruct-

tion of physical infrastructure.

Module for the capacity building training programmes was finalized and adopted by NICD and is being implemented by SANASA in collaboration with NCC and COOPFED. Master Trainers

identified to carry forward the capacity building process have also been identified. Forty-five members of 3 primaries have already been trained on project writing skills and the schedule for 12 months has been finally adopted.

The objective of 300,000 USD project supported by NISPED, B'nai Brit World Centre and IsraAid is to empower co-operatives at the primary level to fetch desired institutional financial support through capacity building intervention. Nineteen MPCs for their 226 branches, 63 SANASA Coops, 24 Fisheries Coops and 20 other Coops in Galle, Matara and



For further information, please contact:
Rajiv I.D. Mehta, Director - Development, ICA-AP
Phone : 26888250 Ext. 111 Fax : 26888067
E-mail : rajivmehta@icarop.coop



ICA Asia Pacific Coop News

A NEWS BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE - ASIA & PACIFIC
(For Private Circulation only) ISSN : 0971-7013 Vol. 12, No. 2, April-June, 2005

19th ICA/Japan Training Course on Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives concludes

The concluding session of the Nineteenth Training Course was held at IDACA on April 22, 2005. The session was attended by Mr. Kazuo Tanaka, Senior Officer, International Co-operation Division, International Affairs Department, MAFF, Mr Shigeri Fukamachi, Managing Director of the IDACA, including all his senior staff, and Mr. Prem Kumar, Programme Adviser of the ICA-Asia & Pacific, New Delhi.

Mr Prem Kumar, Programme Adviser, ICA-Asia & Pacific, presented a summary of the End-of-the-Course Evaluation and congratulated the participants on their successful completion of the training course.

Addressing the session, Mr. Tanaka of MAFF mentioned that Japan's agricultural co-operatives have played an important role as a conduit to link farmers and government policy, thereby helping contribute to the development of regional agriculture. He exhorted the participants to use the knowledge



Participants of the course at the closing ceremony at IDACA, Japan.

and experience gained from this training, in their respective countries.

In a message sent, Mr. Miyata Isami, President of JA-ZENCHU, congratulated all the participants for the successful completion of about one and half month-long training without any trouble. He expected that the participants will make use of the results obtained from the training for the development of agricultural co-operatives in their respective countries in some way or another.

Mr. Shigeri Fukamachi, Managing Director of the IDACA, expressed sincere gratitude to Mr. Tanaka of MAFF for the support of MAFF extended over 19 years. He thanked Mr. Tanaka for sparing his valuable time to attend the closing session. He

also appreciated Mr. Prem Kumar, Programme Adviser, ICA, for his wonderful management, hard work in making this programme a great success. He extended congratulations



Participants in a Green House in Shimane prefecture

CONTENTS

19th ICA-Japan Course concludes	1
Governor inaugurates common facility centre for women artisans	2
APHCO Board meets at Tellichery	3
ICA-AP holds workshop on sensitisation on HIV/AIDS	3
ICA-MAF Workshop in Laos	4
Barberini visits Israel & Palestine	4
ICA President, Dir. General & Regl. Director visit Sri Lanka/Indonesia	5
NACF hosts Symposium on WTO	6
Asia-Pacific Standing Committee meets in New Lanark	6
July - the month for the Community	7



Participants at a Farmers' Direct Sale Shop in Iwate prefecture

to the participants on successful completion of the training course. He has noted the various comments and suggestions made by the participants in the evaluation report and said that these comments encouraged the staff of IDACA and himself personally and will enable the IDACA to improve this course in the future.

Ms Chitra Thamsuhang, a participant from Nepal, and Mr. Setiana, a participant from Indonesia, extended vote of thanks on behalf of the participants.

Ms. Chitra (Nepal) recounted the experiences and feelings of the participants during the Training

Course. The participants felt that the programme was highly relevant for the present-day managers of agricultural co-operatives in Asia and hence should be continued.

She also thanked the ICA Regional Director for Asia-Pacific for giving them an opportunity of participating in the training course.

Mr. Setiana (Indonesia) said that this training course has assumed a status of respectability among the co-operative organisations in the Region. It is regarded as a very prestigious and sound training programme offered by the ICA to its member organisations. Besides

enhancing the capability and capacity of managers of agricultural co-ops, the programme has created enormous goodwill for the Japanese experiences of management of agricultural co-operatives as well as for the ICA.

Visits to various JAs had enabled the participants to better appreciate and understand the progress of the agricultural co-operatives, especially in fields of amalgamation, farm guidance, day care centre for aged, grading and packaging of fruits and vegetables etc. With simple guidance and extension services, co-operatives have been able to generate additional income and services for their members. He thanked Mr. Prem Kumar, ICA Advisor, Mr. Abe and Ms. Oshita for successfully completing Part-II of the training course.

He extended gratefulness of the participants to Mr. Fukamachi, MD, IDACA, for his kindness and hospitality during their stay at IDACA.

The Certificates of Participation from the ICA as well as from the IDACA were awarded to the participants at the end of the concluding session. Mr Shil-Kwan Lee, the Regional Director, signed the ICA Certificate of Participation and Mr S. Fukamachi, Managing Director of the IDACA, signed the IDACA Certificate.

– Prem Kumar

Governor inaugurates Common Facility Centre for Women Artisans in Kutch

His Excellency Mr. Nawal Kishore Sharma, the Governor of Gujarat State in India inaugurated the Common Facility Centre (CFC) for the women tie and dye artisans of Abdasa block in Kutch district of Gujarat on 4th June 2005.

The function was attended by more than 400 women artisans from 11 villages around Naliya and more than 50 representatives of artisans' self help groups from the project area. Among others the prominent invitees were Mr. Gadhavi, the Member of Parliament from Bhuj, Mr.



Jadeja and Mr. Dua, local Members of Legislative Assembly.

The CFC has been constructed under the EU-ICA Domus Trust Project on Post Earthquake Rehabilitation of Artisans in Kutch. CFC will be

controlled and managed by elected leaders of the 27 SHGs now federated into a co-operative society of women tie and dye artisans. The co-operative has a membership of 461 artisans. Mr. Sanjay Joshi, Project Manager of EU-ICA Domus Trust Project, has been nominated as the Manager of the co-operative society. The CFC will provide critical inputs on designing, processing and value addition of the products to fetch wider and diverse market segments in various parts of India.

– Rajiv Mehta

APHCO board meets at Tellicherry, Kerala, India

The 11th Board Meeting and 5th General Meeting of Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organization (APHCO) was held on 30th April 2005 at Tellicherry, Kerala, India. The meetings were hosted jointly by Tellicherry Co-operative Hospital and Kerala Co-operative Hospitals Federation. 31 persons from India, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal and Sri Lanka attended the meetings.

Among routine agenda, Work Plan for the year 2005-2006 was discussed and approved. A Special Report on "Implementation of Micro Insurance and Expectation to Health Co-operatives" was presented by Mr. Nobumasa Kitajima, former ILO Technical Officer for South Asia, who was invited by the Committee.

Election of the office bearers of the Board of APHCO took place in the General Meeting. Following persons were elected:

1. Dr. Yasuvuki Takahashi, Japan
- *Chairperson*
2. Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe, Sri Lanka - *Vice-Chairperson*
3. Mr. E. Narayanan, India
- *Vice-Chairperson*



Delegates with the board members posed for a photograph after the meetings

4. Dr. S. Horiuchi, Japan
- *Member*
5. Dr. Vijay Deshmukh, India
- *Member*
6. Dr. Bala Raja, Malaysia
- *Member*
7. Dr. Bharat Pradhan, Nepal
- *Member*

Approval was granted by the General Body to admit two new members from Sri Lanka. They are (1)

Colombo Co-operative Hospital, and (2) Nuwara-Eliya Multi-purpose Co-operative Society Ltd.

It was decided in the meeting that next meeting of APHCO may be held in Vietnam. The Secretary of APHCO will discuss the matter with Vietnam Co-operative Alliance. After that announcement of the date and venue will be made.

- A.K. Taneja

ICA-AP holds workshop for Sensitisation of Co-op Leaders to Generate Awareness on Prevention of the Spread of HIV/AIDS

The ICA-A&P has taken initiative to address the HIV/AIDS crisis in the region and a strategic project focusing on prevention and intervention activities and held a workshop, 1-2 July 2005, in Bangkok, in collaboration with the Co-operative League of Thailand. Last year a similar workshop was held in India with the support of UNAIDS and NCUI.

The participants were co-operative leaders, directors and managers from various sectors of Thai co-op movement.

The workshop has been inaugurated by Dr. Suthiporn Chirapada, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of

Agriculture and Co-operatives, Govt. of Thailand. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA-AP, Mr. Wisoot Sutthinoon, Chairman of CLT, and Dr. Wiwut Daengsubha, Executive Director of CLT addressed the participants and expressed solidarity in the fight against the pandemic.

Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief executive of NCUI, India, shared his experience about ongoing HIV/AIDS awareness activities in co-ops in India. Mrs. Savitri Singh, Gender Programme Advisor co-ordinated the workshop. During the Technical sessions, experts from UNAIDS, ILO and APHCO deliberated upon the various issues. The sessions followed by Interaction



and discussions by the participants. A group discussion has also been held and group leaders presented their action plan on how to implement HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes in their co-operatives.

-Mrs. Savitri Singh

ICA-MAF Workshop on Sharing Experiences on 'Regulation of Co-operatives' held in Laos

In pursuance of its Key Result Area of Co-operative Policy Development and Legislation, ICA-AP collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Government of Lao PDR to organize a workshop on Sharing Experiences on "Regulation of Co-operatives" from 5th to 7th July 2005. The workshop was organized as a part of ICA Project on Strengthening and Promoting Agricultural Co-operatives initiated recently in partnership with MAF and with support of AGRITERRA of Netherlands.

Nearly 30 senior officials at policymaking level of MAF and representatives of Water User Associations and Farmers' Groups participated in the workshop.

The main objective of the workshop was to share the experiences of neighboring countries, namely, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam on regulation for co-operatives with participants from Laos to enable the latter to workout a practical framework of Co-operative Law/Regulation based on field situation.

His Excellency Dr. Siene Saphanthong, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Government of Laos, formally opened the workshop in the presence of senior officials of MAF; Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director and officers of ICA-AP, resource persons from Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, ILO and AGRITERRA.



The workshop in progress

In his opening address H.E. Dr. Siene Saphanthong appreciated ICA-AP interventions in Lao PDR to revive co-operatives and observed "since the development of the new economic mechanism of our country since 1986, the development of agricultural co-operatives in Laos is still at its early stage. At present there exist some forms of co-operatives, namely, the water user group on irrigated land.

However, there is a need to strengthen and develop them further more so that they could move to a higher form of production system.

We do hope that from this workshop, all of us will be able to exchange views and experiences on agricultural co-operative development of the region and in particular in Lao PDR and finally to come up with the recommendation, suggestion and action plan for future strengthening and development of the co-operatives in Laos."

Ivano Barberini visits Israel and Palestine

Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President, met with Israeli and Palestinian co-operators in the course of a visit on April 3rd to 5th. In addition to the exchange of information and to the strengthening of the ties between the ICA and the co-operative organizations, the visit focused on the future development of the co-operatives and particularly on the contribution which they could make to the furtherance of peace in the region.

President Barberini had the opportunity of meeting with both Israeli and Palestinian co-operators. He visited a kibbutz, an Israeli agro-industrial co-operative village; he



Shil Kwan Lee with Dr. Siene Saphanthong, Minister of Agriculture & Forestry, Govt. of Laos

Outputs of the Workshop

After intensive discussions and group work, the following outputs emerged from the deliberations: (a) Broad Framework for Co-operative Policy; and (b) Strategy for Formulation of Co-operative Law for Laos.

In the sidelines of the workshop an MOU with Govt. of Lao PDR was signed by Mr. Shil Kwan Lee on behalf of ICA-AP for implementing a Project on "Strengthening and Promoting Agricultural Co-operatives in Laos".

- K. Sethumadhavan

met with the leadership of the Agricultural Co-operative Union of Palestine in the Palestinian city of Ramallah; he met in Tel Aviv with central figures in the Israeli co-operative movement. His two-day stay in Israel was coordinated by Ms. Elana Lapidot, executive director of the Co-operative Center at Efal.

One of the high points of his visit was the luncheon-meeting held in Jerusalem and attended by both Israeli and Palestinian co-operative leaders. Both Daoud Istanbuli, chairman of the Agricultural Co-operative Union of Palestine, and Yehudah Paz, member of the ICA Board and ICA-ROAP standing



ICA President with Dr. Yehudah Paz, Mr. Mully Dor and other Israeli co-operators during his visit

committee and international relations chairman of the Central Union of Co-operative Societies in Israel welcomed Mr. Barberini to this Palestinian-Israeli meeting and reiterated their belief that co-operatives could indeed help further peace and development through joint endeavor and activities. They also expressed the hope that it would now indeed be possible to further such co-operation significantly. Among those attending the luncheon-meeting were Micah

Brenner, chairman of the Central Union of Co-operative Societies in Israel; Jabber Kudieh, chairman of the Palestine Peasants Union; Rami Mandel, director general of the Jerusalem Consumers Co-operative and other Israeli and Palestinian co-operative leaders. Mr. Barberini also met with Gavri Bargil, secretary-general of the Kibbutz Movement. Another important aspect of this visit was the report made to Mr. Barberini of the initiatives being undertaken by the Israeli co-operative movement in

regard to support for co-operative reconstruction in Sri Lanka, following the tsunami disaster. Mully Dor, who had just recently travelled to Sri Lanka on behalf of the Israeli co-operative movement for a needs-assessment mission which he carried out together with Robby Tulus who is coordinating the ICA post-tsunami effort and P. Nair, representing the ICA-ROAP office, reported on his experience.

Together with other Israeli co-operators, he set out the project which the Israeli co-operative movement has developed in coordination with the Sri Lankan co-operative movement and the ICA-ROAP, which is designed to further co-operative reconstruction in the devastated areas.

As an expression of co-operative solidarity, the Israeli co-operative movement, together with the Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development (NISPED) would be prepared to initiate this project, to work on it in partnership with Sri Lankan co-operatives and to help find the resources needed to carry it out. Ivano Barberini welcomed the initiative and the concrete proposal.

– Dr. Yehudah Paz

ICA President, Director General and Regional Director visit Tsunami affected Sri Lanka and Indonesia

The ICA President, Ivano Barberini, Director General, Iain Macdonald, and Regional Director, Shil Kwan Lee, visited Tsunami affected areas of Sri Lanka and Indonesia.



A scene from Nias

The team visited Sri Lanka, 22-24 April and had discussions with the Sri Lankan co-operative leaders, government representatives, the Minister for Co-operatives and also the Prime Minister.

The team then proceeded to Indonesia, Nias and Aceh, which were completely destroyed by the Tsunami, 25-29 April, 2005. Mr. Robby Tulus, Special Envoy and Field Coordinator also accompanied the President, DG and RD during their visits in Indonesia.

The President has requested all collaborating donor agencies for their urgent support and instructed



A ship washed away on the road several kilometers from sea in Aceh

the ICA officials in Geneva and in the Asia-Pacific Region to do all that is possible for the hapless tsunami victims in the region, in this hour of need.

– P. Nair

ICA-AP/NACF hold Symposium on WTO Framework Agreement and Impact on Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific

The ICA-Asia Pacific and the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation hosted a symposium on 'WTO Framework Agreement and the Impact on Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia and the Pacific'. The meeting/symposium was attended by representatives of agricultural co-operatives from Korea, Japan, Nepal, India, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, China and France.

The 36th meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture for Asia-Pacific was also held in conjunction with this seminar. Rajiv Mehta coordinated the Committee meeting, which was attended by Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA Asia-Pacific.

The meeting deliberated on three pillars of WTO negotiations, viz. market access, domestic support and export competitiveness.

Dr. Chan Ho Choi presented his paper on Agricultural Co-operatives in the Era of Trade Liberation. An overview of the DOHA round of negotiations in the WTO and the implications on co-operatives was presented by Raul Montemayor, FFCI, Philippines.

The seminar deliberated on:

- i. Quantitative restrictions through tariffication and tariff rate quota for most favoured nations,
- ii. Special Products (SP) and linking of tariff with value and quantity through tariff bands and tariff caps,
- iii. Special and Differential Treatment (SND) and Special Safeguard Mechanisms (SSM),
- iv. Trade and distortive non-distortive support through various boxes (Green, Blue and Amber boxes), and
- (v) Poor awareness on WTO at the level of farmers.

Both positive and negative implications for co-operatives were



Delegates at the symposium

discussed, like increased export market, improved access to cheaper inputs, trade remedies and SND provisions, trend towards market concentration, threat of cheaper subsidized imports, trend towards privatization and deregulation, etc.

The seminar identified the following strategic actions for co-operatives were recommended:

- Optimise value addition chain
- Enhance business efficiency

- Increase vertical alliances
- Introduce structural reforms
- Encourage joint ventures, and
- Create subsidiary companies.

It was concluded that the co-operatives needed more specific policy provisions to attain comparative advantage in national and international context. It was also felt that greater understanding of SP and SSM was required to compete with developed countries

- Rajiv Mehta

ICA-AP Standing Committee meets at New Lanark, Scotland

The ICA Asia-Pacific Standing Committee met at New Lanark, Scotland, UK on 19th May 2005. Apart from members of the Committee, Ivano Barberini, ICA President and Jan-Eirik Imbsen, Director (Development), also participated at the meeting.

Mr. Mu Li welcomed all the members and extended special welcome to ICA President. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, presented the financial report for the year 2004. Dr. Yehudah Paz and Ms. Rahaiah

Baheran actively participated at the meeting and raised several relevant points. Dr. Paz advised the ICA-A&P to build a regional reserve.

The meeting discussed on all aspects of working of the ICA in Asia-Pacific, the activities of ICA Domus Trust, the subscription formula of the ICA, etc.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held in Cartagena, Columbia, in conjunction with the General Assembly of ICA.

- Rajiv Mehta

July - the month for the Community

Ms. Truong Ngoc Oanh,
Communication Officer, Saigon Co-op

Since 1975, HCMC Consumers Trading Co-operative – the predecessor of Saigon Co-op now – was able to organize activities to cater meals to the workers. In 1981, it was granted by the City Leadership a banner with the phrase “The Thoughtful Housewife of the People”. For the past 30 years, upholding that tradition, Saigon Co-op always takes the people and the community as its ultimate objective of service.

Passionate yet Realistic

On the occasion of the International Day of Co-operatives (Saturday, July 2, 2005), Saigon Co-op organized many passionate yet realistic activities under the campaign of “The Month for the Community”.

At 4.30 a.m. in front of the Saigon Co-op Headquarters, the impressive launch started with a fleet of 11 mobile vending vehicles for the poor (each vehicle represents a supermarket in the Saigon Co-op 11-supermarket chains). The purpose was to send the vehicles spreading to 11 communes in four districts, those in remote areas of the City where most people were poor so as to make goods available to them at cost price. In addition, Co-opMart representatives would also hand over the “Small Roses” scholarships to 200 poor but studious students residing

at 16 communes of these four districts. This is the scholarship organized by HCMC Communist Youth Union and in which Saigon Co-op has actively participated for the past five years. Each scholarship is worth VND 500,000 (a total of VND 100 million).

By 6.30 a.m., three mobile blood donating vehicles from the HCMC Red Cross came so as to receive blood donations from 200 staff members of the chain.

After the blood donation, a solemn meeting was held with the participation of more than 300 representatives from other co-operatives in other fields in HCMC and representatives of Saigon Co-op management and staff. At the meeting, the message from the Union of International Co-operatives was read. Also at the meeting, other



Representative of Saigon Co-op offers school bags and books for the pupils in orange-agent victim families

humanity activities were carried out, such as Mrs. Nguyen Thi Nghia, Chairman of the Board, on behalf of Saigon Co-op donated VND100 million to HCMC Poor Patient Assistance Association. Thanks to such donations, 200 blind and poor patients gained their eyesight at no cost. Then 10 manufacturers and suppliers who were Saigon Co-op clients responded the appeal and took part in making contributions to social charity work worth more than VND36 million by purchasing 10 award-winning paintings by children participating in the Painting Contest “We children have fun with Saigon Co-op” at the supermarkets.

Especially, this year, Saigon Co-op donated 600 school bags and 6,000 notebooks to 600 students whose families were affected by Agent Orange in 12 provinces and cities. This was part of the major program “To Alleviate the Orange Pain” organized by Tuoi Tre newspaper and the Vietnam Red Cross. Other community-based activities will continue throughout this July.

In supermarkets, the care given to daily meals is reflected through the



Mr Nguyen Ngoc Hoa, CEO of Saigon Co-op donating blood. 230 staff and 19 members donated blood on the same day



Mobile selling to remote areas is frequently organised by Saigon Co-op

Careful development of fresh and processed, ready-to-eat foods which are more and more diversified and are guaranteed of strict hygienic and absolute food safety standards for the consumer. In addition, in order to create a close bond with customers, a special program was launched for membership customers with incentives like birthday gifts, bonuses on annual total invoices, and discounts and gifts every month. Moreover, we have many customer care services such as telephone sales, and home delivery without additional costs. The Saigon Co-op chain also often organizes mobile sales units to bring essential commodities at cheap prices to drug rehabilitation centers (these centers are operated by the city at different provinces), and hospitals.

Achievements of a Labor Hero Entity in the Renovation Period

Nowadays, Saigon Co-op is known as a new co-operative model in Vietnam. HCMC Trading Co-operative Union has become a convincing symbol and has had a positive impact to the development of co-operatives in HCMC and throughout the country. We were chosen Vietnam Leading Retailer by the Asia Pacific Retailer magazine and were ranked 330 among 500 Leading Retailers in Asia Pacific region in October 2004.

HCMC Trading Co-operative Union engages in multi-sectoral activities with many affiliates: a supermarket chain consisting of 13 Co-opMarts, Nam Duong Sauce Enterprise, a general distribution agent, a retail shop at Ben Thanh market, a central storage facility, a high-tech trading

center. We have more than 300 staff. Among those achievements, the human factor has always been a strong point. Thanks to a long-term vision, the Union leadership has made early preparations for the human resources. By making use of training offered by the Government and learning trips abroad, the Union staff has been capable of doing their job, equipped with knowledge and hands-on experience to cope with any contingency of the market.

In many consecutive years, the Union has actively established the "Co-opMart Concept" which concretizes the business ideas and operational modes and the application of quality control system in trading. Early 2004, the Union received the ISO 9001:2000 certificate which the Union has benefited a lot from the process of application.

The new thinking about the development objective in the backdrop of fierce global integration and competition requires us to realize that the life-and-death question now is how to survive and develop in this



Mme Nguyen Thi Nghia, President of Board of Directors, handing over the cheque for VNĐ 100.000.000 for eye operation of 200 poor blind

struggle, especially while most of our competitors are stronger.

The management should not pursue quantitative objectives alone (turnovers, profits) at the expense of quality. Therefore, we made the decision of investing in a US\$1.5 million ERP system in order to improve our centralized management capacity, which is being implemented.

Consistency for the Community Ideal

Saigon Co-op, as a responsible corporate citizen, has promoted the spirit of "mutual benefits" through its social activities funded by donations from its own management and staff. A lot of resourceful methods have been effectively used such as keeping piggy banks, organizing auctions for memorabilia given by leaders, holding charity walks for poor and unfortunate children, keeping charity boxes at supermarkets, persuading Japanese co-operative members and consumer co-operatives to build primary schools for poor students in remote areas, etc.

Despite numerous difficulties, unfair competition and the fact that foreign retailers are rushing into the country, Saigon Co-op staff members are doing their best to learn and be worthy of a valuable brand, from "The Thoughtful Housewife of the People", the noble reward for the trading co-operative movement in the 1980s, to the title of Labor Hero in the renovation period since 1990s until now.

The young staff of Saigon Co-op will take up the will, the desire of their predecessors so that they can do their best to improve their professionalism, promote their corporate responsibility towards the community, have strong determination and confidence in the process of integration, maintain the position of the Leading Retailer in Vietnam so that Saigon Co-op will always be the leader in the system of trading and service co-operatives in Vietnam and be worthy of the title Labor Hero in the renovation period granted by the State of Vietnam.

Edited by P. Nair, Communication Officer, ICA-Asia & Pacific, 9 Aradhana Enclave, Sector 13, R. K. Puram, New Delhi-110066. <nair@icaroap.coop> Tel.: 26888250 (Ext.110). Designed and printed at Diamond Offset, HS-14, Kailash Colony Market, New Delhi-110048. Phone : +91-98111-72786 E-mail : amin_zaidi@yahoo.com



ICA Asia Pacific Coop News

A NEWS BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE - ASIA & PACIFIC
(For Private Circulation only) ISSN : 0971-7013 Vol. 12, No. 3, July-Sept., 2005

ICA General Assembly held in Cartagena, Colombia



Young boys and girls performing at the welcome reception in Cartagena



The ICA President carrying a fruit basket at the Reception

The ICA has held its General Assembly at the Hilton Hotel in Cartagena, Colombia. In its 110 year history, this is the first time that ICA held a General Assembly in Latin America.

More than 1400 delegates participated at the General Assembly and related meetings. The main theme of this year's General Assembly was 'Co-operating Out of Poverty', which show-cased how co-operatives could be the most effective vehicle to eliminate poverty, which is one of the UN Millennium goals.

Several sectoral organizations and thematic committees also met during this period. Elections were also held to the ICA Board and a list of new ICA board members are given below.

-P. Nair

New ICA Board Members

Board Members

Mr. Ivano Barberini - President, Italy
Mr. Mu Li -Vice President, China
Dame Paline Green-Vice President, UK
Mr. Stanley Muchiri-Vice President, Kenya
Mr. Carlos Palacino-Vice President, Colombia
Ms. Gun-Britt Martensson-Sweden
Mdm. Rahaiah Baharen - Malaysia
Mr. Alban d'Amours - Canada
Mr. Paul Hazen - USA
Mr. Felice Scalvini - Italy
Mr. Seah Kian Peng - Singapore
Mr. Steinar Dvergsdal - Norway
Ms. Elizabeth Aba Smith - Ghana
Ms. Lourdes S. Ortellado - Paraguay
Mr. Americo Utumi - Brazil
Mr. Jean-Claude Detilleux
Mr. Isami Miyata - Japan
Mr. Ramon Zuniga Imperial - Mexico
Mr. Janusz Paszkowski - Poland
Mr. Dae-Kun Chung - Korea

Audit & Control Committee

Ms. Esther Gicheru, Kenya
Mr. Philip Holmes, UK
Mr. Shugo Ogura, Japan
Mr. Roy Berg Pedersen, Norway
Mr. Rene Sittner, Germany

CONTENTS

ICA General Assembly, Colombia	1
New ICA Board Members	1
5th Regional Workshop for Managers of Consumer Co-ops	2
ICA Youth Steering Committee meets	2
Colombia Conference adopts International Youth Plan	3
Fifth Women leaders conference	4
Iran celebrates Co-op Day	5
Deep Chand Sharma re-elected	5
ICA/CLT workshop on HIV/AIDS	5
ICA-NACF Study Visits Programme	6
National Trainers' Trg. Workshop	6
ICA Appeal for Quake victims	7
Pictures of October 8th Earthquake	8

Fifth ICA Regional Workshop for Managers of Consumer Co-operatives held in Singapore

The 5th ICA Regional Workshop for Managers on 'Managing Consumer Co-operatives' was held 11-13 July in Singapore, with the support and collaboration of NTUC Fairprice Co-operative. There were 19 participants from 7 countries (India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines and Korea) in the Asia Pacific region.

The workshop was divided into three types of sessions, class room lectures, study visits and presentations. In the classroom session, participants learned the knowledge and skill of managing consumer co-operatives. Next day, they visited NTUC Fairprice stores and its competitors and they were exposed to the severe



The participants of the workshop at the NTUC Fair Price

competition in the retail market. On the final day, they drew-up action plans for their stores to overcome

weaknesses and made presentations on 'What are you going to implement in your organization?'

-Tsubasa Nakamura

ICA Asia-Pacific holds Youth Steering Committee



The youth delegates with the 'not-so-youth' at the Singapore meeting

The ICA Asia-Pacific held a meeting of the Youth Steering Committee in Singapore, 15-16 July, 2005. The meeting, hosted by SNAFC, was attended by youth representatives from India, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Zulkifli Mohammad, Chief Executive of Singapore National Co-operative Federation welcomed the delegates. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA, Jan Eirik Imbsen, Director

(Development), ICA Geneva, Jiro Ito, former Director (Special Programs) of ICA in the Region, Tsubasa Nakamura, Special Advisor, P. Nair, Program Officer and Boku Nakano of JCCU, also attended the meeting. Teo Say Hong of Singapore chaired the meeting. The meeting discussed the modalities and strategies for setting up a thematic committee under the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific. The Committee

is expected to be formalized during the next Regional Assembly to be held in Sri Lanka during the last quarter of 2006.

The meeting discussed and finalized the draft constitution of the Committee and also action plans for the period until 2007. The meeting also discussed the holding of the next Youth Seminar in Sri Lanka in conjunction with the Regional Assembly.

Another topic discussed was the participation of youth from this Region at the International Youth Seminar in Cartagena, Colombia.

The meeting also decided to nominate Mr. Teo Say Hong of Singapore as the Youth Representative on the ICA Board. They felt that the Regional Standing Committee should also have youth representatives on it. It was proposed that the Steering Committee should meet again in the first quarter of 2006, for more concrete discussions on the topics.

-P.Nair

Colombia Conference adopts International Youth Action Plan

The representation of Youth on the ICA Board, more than just a space for participation, it is a space for young people to act inside the cooperative movement. Being here implies organizing our work, defining the motives that lead us to be here and draw the course of action to make our dreams come true.

Coherence is required to be in this position; that means acting according to our beliefs. It means forming and consolidating interdisciplinary, inter-generational and international working groups that allow a more precise interpretation of the needs and aspirations of the people represented.

The collective design and action is the only possible way to make a solidary - co-operative scenario a feasible reality.



The old and the new. Ms. Jo Biby Scullion, the retiring youth member on the ICA Board with Juan Carlos Mejia, the new representative.



Youth forming a network

Colombia assumes the challenge of this representation, led by Juan Carlos Mejia, who besides having the support of Colombia ICA members, counts on the young people

organized in the youth network in Colombia. We have constituted a support group, to struggle to make the following proposals a possible reality.

The Conference adopted an International Youth Action Plan, which has major strategies like a web-page, a youth digest, participate in various events, joint ventures, representation, structure and constitution, funding, employment, entrepreneurship and agreements, with action plans to match these.

Mr. Juan Carlos Mejia, the youth representative on the ICA board, could be contacted at : jmejia@eafit.edu.co for more information on Youth co-operative activities.

-P. Nair

Edited by P. Nair, Communication Officer, ICA-Asia & Pacific, 9 Aradhana Enclave, Sector 13, R. K. Puram, New Delhi-110066. <nair@icaroap.coop> Tel.: 26888250 (Ext.110). Designed and printed at Diamond Offset, HS-14, Kailash Colony Market, New Delhi-110048. Phone : +91-98111-72786 E-mail : amin_zaidi@yahoo.com

5th ICA-Japan Women Leaders Training Course held

The International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), in association with its member organisation in Japan, the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives of Japan (JA-Zenchu) and the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA) organised the 5th ICA-Japan Training Course for "Strengthening Women's Agricultural Co-operatives in Rural Areas and Improvement of Farm Management and Rural Life" in Malaysia and Japan. Eight participants - two each from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Sri Lanka, attended the Training



The women delegates pose for a group photo



Participants of the 5th ICA/Japan Women Leaders Training Course

Course. The Course was organised and held by the ICA at the IDACA premises from 4th to 28th September 2005. The 10-day component of Comparative Field Study Visits was held in Malaysia from 25th August to 3rd September in collaboration with the National Co-operative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA). The program is funded by the Government of Japan in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

The main objective of the Training Course was "to train women leaders in rural areas in developing countries by means of strengthening women's agricultural co-operatives, farm

management, and improvement of rural life". The Training Course also provided training for the capacity building of the participants with a view to organise women's associations and study co-operative activities.

The field study visits were arranged to agricultural co-operatives and women's associations in Yamagata Prefecture of Japan. Lecture-cum-practical field study visits assignments were combined to impart necessary knowledge to the participants on the working of women's associations and the general activities of agricultural co-operatives in Japan. The participants also held group

discussions and prepared brief reports on the experiences gained by them. An end-of-the-Course Evaluation session was also held.

In view of the experience gained by the participants through class room lectures, field study visits in Malaysia and Japan, interaction among themselves, and based upon their own work environment, the participants were able to develop brief outlines of their Action Plans which they would recommend to their organisations after their return to their home countries. These plans were developed through holding group discussions and on the basis of their discussions with their seniors before joining the Training Course.

The concluding session of the Training Course was held on Wednesday, 28th September 2005 with Mr. Hideo Ishida, Assistant Director, International Co-operation Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) as Chief Guest.

Mr. Shigeri Fukamachi, Managing Director of IDACA and Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Planning Officer of ICA-AP also addressed the closing session. 'Certificate of Participation' was awarded to the participants by the IDACA.

-Sethumadhavan

International Co-operative Day celebrated in Iran

The International Co-operative Day was celebrated in Iran.

Mr. Abdol Rahman Cheraghali, Chairman of the Board & Managing Director, General Director of Central Union of Rural & Agricultural Co-operatives of Iran, Board members, Deputies and general managers attended the celebration, which was also attended by a large number of co-operative members.

The ICA's Co-operative message on "Microfinance is our business -Co-operating out of Poverty" was read

out on the occasion and Mr. Cheraghali emphasized the important role of Microfinance in co-operatives and the necessity of re-engineering co-operatives in the era of economic globalization.

He further mentioned that the Central organization of Rural Co-operatives (CORC) network in Iran has provided wide range of training facilities to 501413 co-operative members on comprehensive solutions in commercial and cultural services.

Considerable efforts of our members

led to the establishment of micro-finance divisions including a total of 263769 members throughout the country so that local production meets the optimum quality which creates higher income. Global technologies in WSIS & WGIG digital communication bridges currently are considered as our major means to provide standard technology and seamless service locally and worldwide backed with comprehensive global coverage and strong local market expertise.

-Abdol Rahman Cheraghali

Deep Chand Sharma re-elected Chairman of National Co-op Housing Federation

Shri Deep Chand Sharma, a very Senior and veteran leader of the Co-operative Movement has been unanimously re-elected the Chairman of the National Co-operative Housing Federation of India (NCHF) by the newly constituted Board of Directors in their meeting held on 27 July for a term of 5 years.

Mr. Sharma, a veteran Congress Leader, has been prominent in the

Indian Co-operative Movement for the last six decades. He is also the Chairman of Delhi Co-operative Housing Finance Corporation Limited.

S.T. Somashekar, President, Karnataka State Co-operative Housing Federation Ltd. and B.S. Manhas, Chairman, J&K Co-operative Housing Corporation Ltd., Jammu, were also re-elected Vice-

Chairmen of the Federation. The National Co-operative Housing Federation of India is a national level organization of the entire co-operative housing movement in the country and functions under the Government of India in the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation and responsible for the organized development of housing co-operatives.

- M.L. Khurana

ICA-CLT Workshop for Sensitisation of Co-operative Leaders to Generate Awareness for Prevention of Spread of HIV/AIDS

The ICA-AP has taken initiative to address the HIV/AIDS crisis in the region and a strategic project focusing on prevention and intervention activities has been put in place to cover all the member co-operatives in the region.

According to the plan to cover the countries with high HIV prevalence first, a workshop for sensitisation of co-operative leaders to generate awareness for Prevention of Spread of HIV/AIDS has been held on 1-2 July 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand in collaboration with Co-operative League of Thailand. The participants



Participants at the workshop

were co-operative leaders, directors and managers from various sectors of Thai co-op movement.

The workshop has been inaugurated by Dr. Suthiporn Chirapada, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Govt. of Thailand. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA-A&P, Wisoot Sutthinoon, Chairman of the CLT, and Dr. Wiwut Daengsubha, Executive Director of CLT addressed the participants.

Bhagwati Prasad, Chief executive of NCU, India shared his experience about ongoing HIV/AIDS awareness activities in co-ops in India with the participants.

-Mrs.Savitri Singh

ICA-NACF study visits programme to Agricultural Co-operatives in Korea

The ICA-AP, in collaboration with the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation (NACF) organized an exposure and networking programme for women co-operative leaders of our region in Seoul, Korea, 5-10 September, 2005. Twenty persons, 10 men and 10 women attended the programme.

Women are the most sufferers from the rapid changes societies are undergoing due to globalization and free trade. In the context of these challenges, ICA Regional Women's Committee has been making attempts to share information with women co-operative leaders in the region and expecting to find ways and means to promote women's economic security and empowerment through the co-operatives.

The participants visited to Hanoramart Chain Store Division, Agriculture Co-ops including meeting with Women Association in the co-op and Kyoyang Agricultural Marketing Complex and Agricultural Co-operative College.



The delegates at a photo opportunity

The information sharing during the exposure visits to successful co-operatives, focused upon co-operative endeavour to promote women's interests. The participants got an opportunity to understand the challenges of globalization and free trade, affecting the lives of people unevenly across the world, and the threats of free market.

The participants prepared success stories of co-operatives helping

women's economic empowerments in their country/co-operative and good practices for advancement of women in their respective countries.

During the interaction session the participants discussed with their Korean counterparts role of the farm credit business and spoke about activities of their own country and co-operatives.

-Mrs.Savitri Singh

National Workshop for TOT held in Sri Lanka

The ILO-Co-op Net and ICA ROAP has developed a training manual for leadership development of women in co-operatives in the Asia Pacific region. The manual is being used for training of trainers of co-operatives who in turn will train the women co-operative leaders.

The ICA ROAP has decided to conduct the training for women and men trainers of primary, secondary and tertiary co-operatives whose role and task is to conduct training activities on gender sensitivity and accountability and on leadership capacity building of women in co-operatives.

A national seminar was held at the National Institute of Co-operative

Development, Polgolla, Sri Lanka, 1-6 August, 2005. The NICD invited 29 women and men trainers of primary, secondary, and tertiary co-operatives with basic knowledge of co-operatives and substantial grasp of gender issues and concern in the society, committed to the advocacy for gender equity and equality in society in general and in co-operatives in particular.

The objective of the training was to raise the awareness of women and men leaders and members of co-operatives on gender issues, on the manifestations of gender bias (against women) in co-operatives, and on the effects of gender discrimination on the personal and



Mrs. Savitri Singh speaking at the seminar. Also seen are Mr. Paul Sinnappan, Mr. Udaya Seneviratne and Mr. Tsubasa Nakamura

interpersonal growth of its leaders and members as well as on the organizational development of co-operatives and to build up the capacity of current and potential women leaders of co-operatives by equipping them with knowledge and skills.

-Mrs.Savitri Singh



An Appeal to all the Member Organisations of ICA

Dear Members,

You all know that the recent devastating earthquake on 08 October 2005 shook and shriveled hilly terrain of Kashmir in India & Pakistan by killing more than 13,000 on Indian side and 79,000 on Pakistan side of Kashmir. Several thousands of dead and affected had belonged to the primary co-operatives in these areas.

Main areas affected on Indian side fall in Uri division and on Pakistan side fall in Abbotabad, Mansehra, Koshistan, Batagram, Haripur, Bunair, Swat and Shangla. There are just rough estimates available on the scale of the disaster due to extremely difficult terrain and slow rescue operations. However, the authorities in Pakistan have reported the number of affected co-operatives close to 1440 with a membership base of approximately 70,000 families. The estimates are changing every day with the recovery of more and more dead bodies from the wreckage.

We at the ICA Asia Pacific appeal to the fraternal co-operative community through our Member Organisations (MOs) to please come forward generously in helping the most severely damaged co-operatives and the unfortunate victims of the co-operative community in these areas.

Please send your contribution either directly to **National Co-operative Union of Pakistan**, addressed to :

Mr Nasser Anwar, Secretary, NCUP

Tel : 0092-51-921 7523, Fax : 0092-51-2822635,

E-mail: ncup@isb.paknet.com.pk or to **International Co-operative Alliance, New Delhi**;

E-mail: info@icaroap.coop

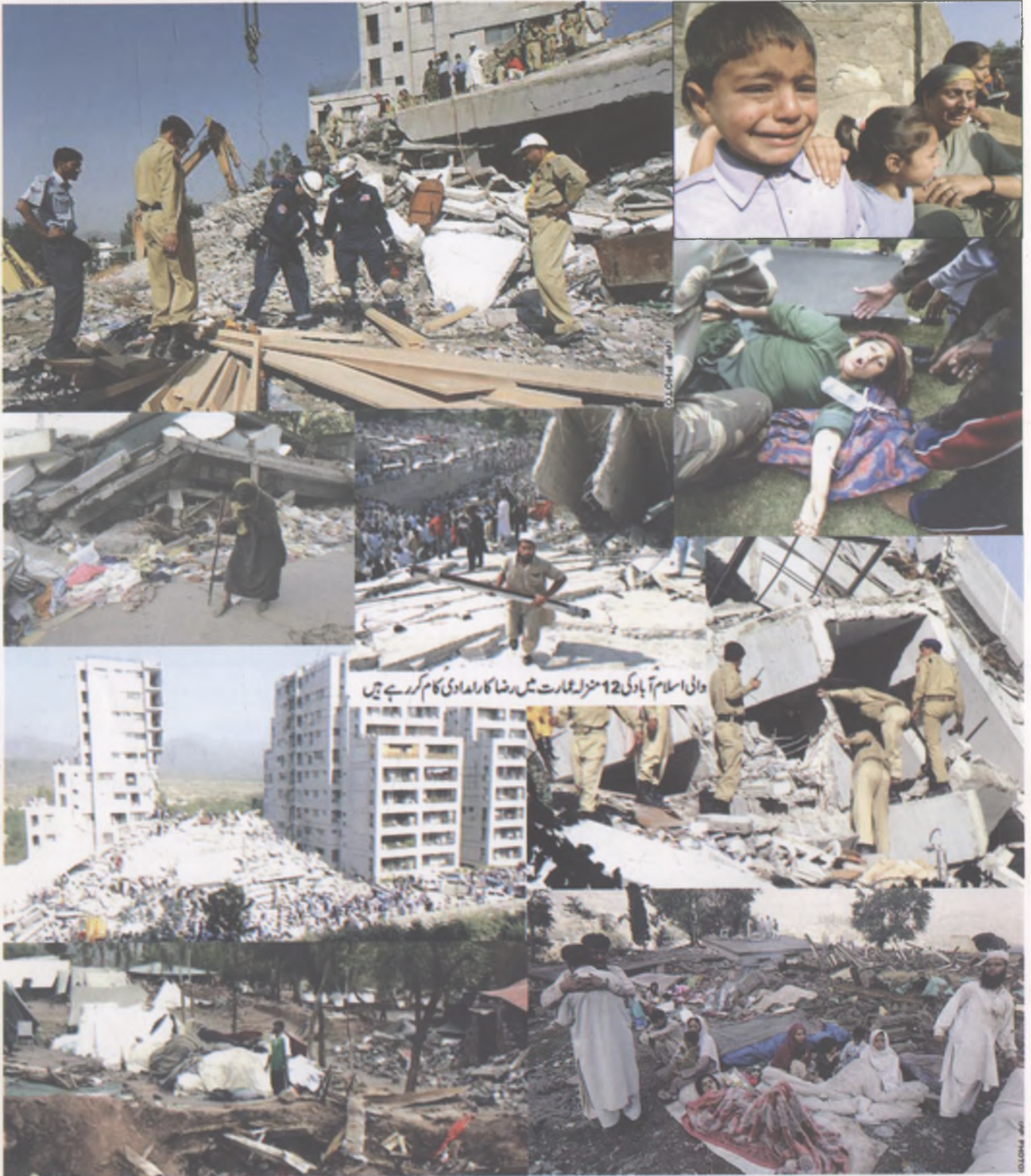
We shall share all the details of the list of members and the quantum of funding. In case you want to specify the usage of your contribution, you could do so. ICA Asia Pacific, on its own, would also ensure best value to the contribution for the relief of affected communities.

Shil Kwan Lee

Regional Director, ICA Asia Pacific.

The Force that shook the Earth

The recent earthquake which devastated several parts of Kashmir in India and Pakistan has wreaked havoc among vast populations in both the countries. Several thousand co-operators in these countries suffered loss of life and damage to property and homes. We, the ICA in Asia-Pacific appeal to the co-operative community globally to come to the aid of the poor co-operative breatheren in these countries.





ICA Asia Pacific Coop News

A NEWS BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE - ASIA & PACIFIC
(For Private Circulation only) ISSN : 0971-7013 Vol. 12, No. 1, Jan-March, 2005

19th ICA/Japan Training Course on Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives

The 19th Training Course was inaugurated by Mr. D.K. Bhatt, Marketing Director of Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Co-operative Limited (IFFCO) at IFFCO's Fertiliser Marketing Development Institute, Gurgaon, near Delhi, on 17th January, 2005.

12 middle level managers from 10 countries (China, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) are participating in this year's training course.

The participants were welcomed by Dr. D.P. Bhattacharya, Senior Manager, HRD, IFFCO. Mr. Prem Kumar, Programme Advisor briefed the participants.



Participants of the course at a photo session



Dignitaries on the dias (Prem Kumar, Advisor-ICA, Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director ICAS, Mr. T. Inoue, First Secretary, Japanese Embassy, Mr. D.K. Bhat, Marketing Director, IFFCO and Mr. Fukamachi, Managing Director, IDACA)

CONTENTS

19th ICA-Japan Training Course	1
VCA holds National Congress	2
ICA organises Agri-Coop Dev. Projects in Laos and Cambodia	3
Tsunami devastation in Sri Lanka	3
Tsunami devastation in India	5
Bangladesh celebrates Centenary of Cooperative Movement	7
ICA/NACF organises Study Visits	7
Dr. Sisodia re-elected	8
Asia-Pacific Youth Steering Committee	8
Status of women as decision makers in Co-operatives (2002-04)	9
Post Tagaytay Review Meeting	10
Post Tagaytay Conference	11
New officials at the ICA Asia-Pacific	11



Mr. D.K. Bhatt delivering the inaugural address

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, Mr. S. Fukamachi, Managing Director of IDACA, Tokyo, and Mr. T. Inoue, First Secretary at the Japanese Embassy in India also addressed the participants. Dr. R.N. Kundu, course coordinator for the IFFCO segment of the course, delivered the vote of thanks.

The IFFCO segment of the course ended on 31 January, 2005, and thereafter the participants proceeded to Institute of Rural Management (IRMA) in Anand, Gujarat where they under-went an extensive module until 2nd March.

The participants travelled to Indonesia for comparative field study visits till 12th March, 2005.

The Second Part of the Training course at IDACA started on 13th March, which will cover extensive field visits and class room sessions.

The course will conclude on 22 April, 2005, which will cover extensive field visits in Japan.

- P. Nair

on Co-operatives. However, the number of new co-operative has increased with thousands of co-operatives and collective groups now working effectively in different fields.

Mr. Manh praised the contributions of the VCA to the renewal process and to the development of collective economic bases and co-operatives in accordance with Party and State guidelines and policies. This is not simply a demand of the Party or Government, Mr. Manh commented, but also a basis for the collective economy to continue to develop. In the coming years, the collective economy must be strengthened and renewed to create sustainable development in both social and economic spheres and in order to increase the incomes of co-operative members and enterprises.

Mr. Manh exhorted VCA to pay greater attention to training co-operative managers and vocational training for co-operative members, increasing their knowledge and management skills in accordance with new standards and technologies... As the nation continues to implement a

Vietnam Co-operative Alliance organises National Congress

More than 478 delegates representing over 300,000 co-operators and nearly 17,000 co-operatives and unions in Vietnam attended the National Representative Congress of VCA. High ranking officials of the Party, the Government, the Ministries and branches, the mass organizations and 8 member organizations of ICA, 18 delegates coming from the Embassies, diplomatic missions in Hanoi also participated.

Party General Secretary Mr. Nong Duc Manh asked the Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA) to focus on strengthening and renewing the collective economy and to forge a new direction in socio-economic development. The collective economy, through the system of co-operatives, has made significant contributions to the nation's economic development and social stabilization, he said, and



The dignitaries at the Congress

became an important factor in the democratization of society and in building a stronger Party and Government. He acknowledged that some co-operatives have been fundamentally altered or altogether dissolved in accordance with the Law

market system and integrate into the international economy, co-operatives must coordinate with each other to develop and compete globally. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, represented the ICA at the Congress.

- P. Nair

ICA organizes Agricultural Co-operative Development Projects in Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia

The ICA-Asia & Pacific in collaboration with AGRI-TERRA, Netherlands, is organizing agricultural co-operative development projects in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

The ICA had initiated discussions with governments of Laos and Cambodia and the Vietnam Co-operative Alliance in this regard.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed already with Cambodia and Vietnam, who are in the initial stages of operations of pilot projects.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA, recently visited Vientianne and met Dr. Ty Phommasock, Vice Minister for Agriculture and Forestry in the Government of Laos and held discussions in this regard.



A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed soon to initiate project activities, in Laos.

Shil Kwan Lee with Dr. Ty Phommasock, Vice Minister for Agriculture and Forestry

Tsunami Devastation in Sri Lanka – Israeli Co-operative Movement comes with help

The devastation caused by the Tsunami in Sri Lanka is massive, only second to Indonesia, and the outpouring of generosity from various governments and the international community has been outstanding.

The humanitarian and relief efforts that ensued, however, have been slow where the government is concerned, with the NGOs and the Co-operative movement (mainly SANASA) responding far more swiftly to this humanitarian disaster as they struck. As this report would testify below, there was no discrimination where assistance must go to at the outset, because the human damage and suffering must be given immediate attention to avoid further casualties. Hence NGOs and SANASA went straight to the base communities to aid the suffering.



This is what is left of the Hambantota MPCs. Mr. Mully Dor representing the Israeli co-op movement and NGOs discussing with the General Manager.



Dr. Kiriwandeniya laying the foundation stone for a new office building for a SANASA primary co-op.

At this stage, however, the emergency situation has subsided, and relief efforts are geared more towards rebuilding the life of survivors by post-trauma counseling, health rehabilitation, and community redevelopment. More detailed data and information are being collected by the Government and other agencies, including co-operatives, to size up the damage for future reconstruction.

Mully Dor, Board member of the Central Co-operative Society and NISPED, with 5 other delegates representing Israeli NGOs (like ISRAID) and P. Nair started work from 26 February to March 2. Robby Tulus was briefed by the delegation on his arrival on March 01, and continued work with co-ops the next three days.

The Israeli cooperative movement and the International Center for Cooperative Studies of NISPED, Israel are prepared to work closely with the Sri Lankan cooperative coordinating committee and the ICA-ROAP in developing programs relevant to the post-tsunami reconstruction phase.

This activity could focus on an integrative and multi-faceted program designed to help rebuild and strengthen the cooperative frameworks in a particular region and

to increase their ability to contribute to its economic and social reconstruction.

The activity would also include programs designed to further community development, programs emphasizing the rebuilding of women's livelihoods and their empowerment and programs in the fields of education and youth. These programs could focus on leadership training and "training of trainers", but could also be concerned with organizational and administrative rebuilding, with the expansion of



cooperative activity to new areas of concern, and with such practical areas as agriculture (dairy, fishery, etc. as well as marketing and storage).

A further area of concern might be that of the introduction of non-agricultural economic activities into rural areas, parallel to the furtherance of agriculture. The Israeli delegate also indicated that the Israeli group could help in seeking for financial and administrative support for these programs.

The visit of the Israeli Team from NISPED was organized and coordinated by Mr. Pathirana, General Manager of COOPFED and Mr. Udaya Seneviratne of NICD, Kandy, coordinated our visit.

A meeting was held at the Hilton Residence (apartment) in Colombo with Mr. G.S.L. Fonseka Commissioner of Co-operative Development & Registrar of Co-operative Society in Sri Lanka. Mr. Pathirana, General Manager of COOPFED and Mr. Udaya Seneviratne of NICD, Mr. A.M. Madduma Banda General Manager of National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka, and the Israeli delegation which are already active in relief projects since January, 2005.

Mr. Fonseka reported that more than 31000 people died and 880,000 misplaced in Sri Lanka after the Tsunami. Today there are 5.6 million members of Primary Co-operative Societies. In the Tsunami regions: Southern Province 750,000 members, North/East Province 797,000 members, West Province 1.3 million members were badly affected.

The Types of Societies are: MPCS, Consumer, Thrif & Credit, SANASA Banks, Coop. Rural Banking Soc., Agricultural & Livestock (Tea, Rubber, Coconut, Palmyra, Livestock-milk, other livestock, Fisheries-Fresh water and Fisheries-Marine), Industries (Textile, Carpentry, Pottery, Coir), Hospitals, Transport, Labor, School, Youth services, Welfare, and self employed.

- Robby Tulus, Mully Dor and P. Nair

Tsunami Devastation in India and its effect on Co-operatives

More than 270,000 people have been feared dead in the tsunami disaster of 26 December 2004 in 8 countries. Hundreds of thousands more people are still suffering from psychological trauma, injuries, loss of housing and livelihoods.

The cost of reconstruction in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry is estimated around 1.56 billion USD. The detailed damage assessment for Andaman & Nicobar Islands is being made where the Nicobar group of Islands will require more or less rebuilding.

In India, maximum devastation took place in Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Emergency and relief operations are still continuing in Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Food and medicine sufficiency has arrested outbreak of infectious diseases.

Temporary shelters, drinking water, safe defecation and sanitation and road reconstruction were the top priorities of the Tamil Nadu State Government and it has really done



Damaged houses in Tamil Nadu, India

wonders in terms of commutation and connectivity.

In Tamil Nadu, 376 villages in 13 districts with more than 127,500 households and 11,570 ha of fertile land were affected by tsunami. 7986 human lives, 16519 cattle were lost in Tamil Nadu alone and more than 499,960 persons were evacuated to 71 relief camps at safer places.

The maximum devastation occurred in Nagapattinam and Cuddalore districts of Tamil Nadu. The situation analysis has revealed that out of 524 villages in Nagapattinam district 73 were affected by tsunami and in Cuddalore out of 901 villages 51 were affected by tsunami.

Destruction in Nicobar Islands has washed away almost 90% of the households and civil infrastructure thereby rendering thousands of tribal families homeless and jobless.

Co-operatives are widely patronised in the affected areas. In the worst affected districts in Tamil Nadu, almost 50% co-operatives fall in the agriculture, credit and dairy sectors and 10% in the fisheries sector. The agricultural co-operatives at the village level were multipurpose in nature and known as Primary Agriculture Co-operative Banks and cater to short term and medium term credit needs and consumer needs of the agriculture, dairy and fish farmers. There has been a strong linkage between agricultural credit and fishermen's co-operatives.

In all 40 tsunami affected primary co-



This what is left of a railway track

operatives in Tamil Nadu (25 Fishermen's and 15 Agricultural & Consumer) and a tribal co-operative in Nicobar island have been badly affected by tsunami and remained marginalised in the relief operations due to geographical and administrative constraints. The giant waves have damaged the civil construction and destroyed the stocks held at the consumer outlets of the agricultural co-operatives. The leaders and managers of the co-operatives are busy in distribution of relief materials at the temporary shelters. Co-operatives have been used by the Government as the vehicles for distribution of relief material in the state but for the magnitude of the problem a few remained marginalised.

The fishermen community has been worst affected along with the farming community. The giant waves swept through the houses and buildings destroying crops and killing thousands of people and livestock. It may take years for the land to become fertile. The fishermen who were suffering from the problem of over-fishing and heavy debts on account of poor fish catch have lost their assets and started looking for alternative viable livelihood occupation.

The data show that more than 75%



Fishing boats piled up under a bridge in Nagapattinam



Damaged stock of a consumer co-operative in Tamil Nadu



The ravaged coast in Tamil Nadu

of the affected communities in Tamil Nadu were patronising local co-operatives for the livelihood. In Andaman Nicobar Island, Central Tribal Co-operative patronised by more than 8000 tribal families lost civil infrastructure, liquid assets and records. It may take years to bring back lives of thousands to normalcy.

The Government of India and International donors have launched a large scale relief operation but the focus is on individual affected families and public infrastructure.

Co-operative infrastructure is low in the priority of Government of India and local co-operative leaders too are unable to voice their grievances on account of traumatic conditions caused due to death of their family members, relatives and loss of houses and livelihood.

In Andaman and Nicobar Island the biggest Tribal Co-operative head-quartered in Nicobar has suffered huge permanent damages to the buildings and infrastructure. The members are still scared of coming back to the main island.

Time is matured to set the co-operative infrastructure in order. The members will soon require services of



Temporary shelters provided to the victims

co-operatives in doing their daily transactions and businesses. Government has announced the concessions to be given on purchase of boats, nets, equipments at the individual level but there is no immediate plan to reconstruct the infrastructure of co-operatives.

ICA President and Director General to visit Sri Lanka and Indonesia

Ivano Barberini, President, Mr. Iain Macdonald, Director General, Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director and Mr. Robby Tulus, Special Envoy on Tsunami disaster are to visit Sri Lanka and Indonesia to discuss rehabilitation efforts in these countries.

They will arrive in Sri Lanka on 21 April, 2005 and will have discussions with the ICA member organisations and the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and also will visit some Tsunami hit areas and co-operatives in these areas.

They will arrive in Indonesia on the 26 April and will have discussions with the Minister for Co-operatives and also the President of Indonesia. While in Indonesia, they will also visit Aceh and Nias and return on 29 April, 2005.

Bangladesh celebrates Centenary of Co-operative Movement



Seen in the picture are ICA President, Regional Director, Mr. Dinesh Rai, Dr. Kiriwandeniya with BJSU officials, and representatives of the Ministry of Co-operative Development of Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh Co-operative Movement, the Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union, and the Ministry of Co-operatives of Bangladesh have organised the Centenary Celebration of Co-operative movement in Bangladesh.

ICA President, Ivano Barberini, Regional Director, Shil Kwan Lee,

Dinesh Rai, Managing Director of NCDC, India and Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, Chairman of the SANASA Development Bank, attended these functions. The ICA President and others spoke at the function.

Bangladesh and many other Asian countries are celebrating Centenary Celebrations of their co-operatives.

ICA/NACF organises study visits to Korean Agricultural Co-operatives

The International Co-operative Alliance - Asia & Pacific in collaboration with the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation of Korea has scheduled a study visit programme for selected Agricultural Co-operative Leaders from the Region. The selected leaders will be visiting agricultural co-operatives and their facilities in Korea. The study visits are for a period of 5 days from 5-9 September, 2005. The ICA-A & P will be inviting nominations from its member organisations for this in the very near future. This year, the study visit will also include women/men leaders who would be holding a Networking and Exposure Programme for gender activities in Korea during that period. Information on this activity will also follow in due course.

-Sung Chul KIM

ICA Asia-Pacific Youth Steering Committee

As you are aware, the ICA in Asia-Pacific has been following a policy of promoting marginalized groups like Youth and Women in Co-operative Development activities right from 1994.

We had organized several youth seminars in various countries of the Region. The major regional seminars were in Tokyo, Japan during 2002 and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, during September, 2004.

During the Kuala Lumpur Seminar, the youth delegates formed themselves into a Youth Steering Committee, as a Pro-tem Committee for an ICA Youth Committee for Asia and Pacific.

Many of the country representatives have been nominated in KL and they have conducted the first meeting of the Steering Committee there. The Committee also conducted the rest of the proceedings of the Youth Seminar in KL.

A representative of the Youth Steering Committee also presented a report on the Youth Seminar at the Regional Assembly held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, during December, 2004.

It is hoped that the Youth Steering Committee will be made into statutory committee at the next Regional Assembly during 2006. In the meantime, the Youth Steering Committee will function as a Pro-tem Youth Committee for Asia and the Pacific.

Since it is in the interest of co-operative movements in the Region to have youth participation in co-operative development activities in every country, to maintain continuity and give representation to all sections of the society, you are requested to kindly nominate a youth representative, preferably in the age group 25-35 to the Steering Committee, out of which we will select 5-6 nominees to be in the Pro-tem Committee.

The Pro-tem Committee will have a couple of meetings to discuss the plan of action, constitution, etc, at appropriate venues before finally converting the Pro-tem Committee into a statutory Youth Committee for the Region in 2006.

A number of member organisations have already sent in their nominations. If your organisation has so far not sent the names, please intimate the same on or before 25 April, 2005 to:

Mr. Jiro Ito, Director (Special Programs)
<jiroito@icaroap.org.sg>

or

Mr. P Nair, Program Officer
<nair@icaroap.coop>

Dr. Sisodia re-elected as President of National Co-operative Union of India

Dr. Sawai Singh Sisodia has once again been elected President of the National Co-operative Union of India for the second consecutive term. The NCUI is the national apex organization of the co-operative movement in the country. The term of President, according to the new Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002, is five years. Dr. Sisodia was first elected President in 2000.

Dr. Sisodia's political career started in 1945 when he joined the freedom movement. He was Minister of State for Finance in the Union Government headed by the late Smt. Indira Gandhi. He has over 45 years association with the co-operative movement and functioned in various capacities.

He worked on the Board of prestigious co-operative institutions like IFFCO, KRICHCO, etc. He is presently the Chairman of Asian Farmers Group on Co-operation, Japan. He is also a member of the Board of the International Co-operative Alliance, Raiffisen Union, etc. He is also on the Asia-Pacific Standing Committee of the ICA.

- Mohan Mishra



APHCO to hold its Board and General Meeting in India

The Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organisation (APHCO) Meeting which was postponed earlier due to unavoidable reasons, now will hold its 11th Board Meeting and 5th General Meeting at the Tellicherry Co-operative Hospital, Kerala, India from 30th April - 01 May, 2005.

Status of women as Decision makers in Mixed Co-operatives in Asia & the Pacific

Report for the Year 2002-2004

The Regional Women's Committee for Asia-Pacific of the ICA has conducted a survey and collected information from member organisations in the regional countries through circulation of format. Following have responded:

Sl.No.	Country	Co-operative
1.	India	- National Federation of co-op sugar factories - Gova Rajya Sahakari Sangh Maryadit (State co-op union). - National Co-op Union of India - The Haryana State Co-operative Development Federation Ltd.
2.	Iran	- Shabahang Rural Co-op Company
3.	Malaysia	- ANGKASA
4.	Japan	- JA-ZENCHU - JCCU
5.	Thailand	- Credit Union League of Thailand
6.	Singapore	- Singapore National Co-operative Federation
7.	Sri Lanka	- National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka

The information has been collected from 3 levels of co-operative set-up i.e. Apex, State and Primary levels. Out of the total number of participation, percentage of women's participation has been calculated and placed below.

	National Apex	State Apex	Primary co-op
Leader	11.49%	4.0%	14.46%
Manager	23 %	50 %	7 %
Staff	37%	51.62 %	46.53%

Highlights of the findings:

The figures are not very encouraging and a lot has to be done to reach to a target of even 20-30% of women participation. The presence of women at various levels of cooperatives is yet to be seen.

Leadership position is better at grassroots level but as far as skilled/specialised work as managers or employees are concerned, women lag behind at secondary and primary levels.

Among all the Apex co-ops which has sent data, 3 members have lowest participation of women namely NCUI, India 9%, ANGKASA, Malaysia has only 4.5% and JA-ZENCHU, Japan 0% i.e. none at all.

Statistics from SNCF, Singapore could not be included due to different set up of co-operatives in the country. However, data received has been analysed and placed below:

	% of women participation	
Total number of employees	9192	32.59%
Total number of managers	546	28.38%

As we are aware, the Women committee has also conducted the similar survey in 1992 and in 2001 and findings have been published in the activity report of 2002.

A comparison of the statistics of women's participation is given below:

	National Apex	State Apex+Primary co-op Leaders
1992	2%	30%
2002	7%	32%
2004	11.49%	14.35%*
<i>Managers</i>		
1992	2%	2%
2000	2%	11%
2004	23%	7%*
<i>Staff</i>		
1992	23%	20%
2000	25%	26%
2004	37%	46.55%

* Showing down trend in growth. Percentage of women participation at State level is higher but the figures shown in the table are combined with Primary level.

- Mrs. Savitri Singh

ICA Asia-Pacific holds Post Tagaytay Review Meeting

In 1997, the ICA ROAP and AWCF had jointly organized a Regional Conference on "Women in Decision-making in Co-operatives" which was held on May 7-9, 1997 in Tagaytay City, Philippines.

In order to enhance the number and participation of women in leadership and decision-making structures and processes in co-operatives, the conference proposed six important strategies and actions to be implemented within a period of 8 years, from 1997 up to year 2005.

The ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia & the Pacific (ICA RWC) and representatives of AWCF and ACCU had held a two-days meeting to review the post "Tagaytay Declaration 1997- achievements or lack thereof".

The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Rahaiah Baheran, Chairperson of the ICA RWC. The group has reviewed all the six strategies of the declaration. The participants presented progress report from their organizations about the progress achieved or lack thereof.

Based on the reports from members,



Members of the team after the meeting

it was found that all the six strategies have been dealt with but performance could not be maximized due to various reasons.

Therefore, it has been decided that it is necessary to collect sex-disaggregated data in order to review the achievements and lack thereof.

The data will cover number of women and men at all levels of co-operatives

such as general membership, managers and board of directors, breakdown by age group and also number and kind of educational/training activities have been implemented and policies put in place for capacity building of co-ops on women leadership development and building capability of women for leadership and decision making in co-ops.

The data will be collected from all the ICA, AWCF and ACCU member organizations in the region.

Based on the data so collected the achievements will be evaluated and will be presented before the "Post Tagaytay Review Conference" to be held in May 2006.

The ICA Regional Women's Committee will collaborate with UNIFEM to get the benefit of expertise of the agency in the field of sex-disaggregated data collection and the services of an expert consultant recommended by the UNIFEM to expedite and complete the task.

-Mrs. Savitri Singh



The team members working on strategies

Calendar of Activities of ICA-Asia & Pacific during 2005

1. 5th General Meeting & 11th Board Meeting of Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organisation (APHCO), Tellicherry, Kerala, India, 30th April-01 May, 2005.
2. Training of Board members of Consumers Co-operatives in Tokyo, Japan 14-22 May 2005.
3. Training of Consumers Co-operative Managers in Singapore, June-July, 2005.
4. Meeting of the Youth pro-tem Committee in LAMAC, Philippines, 11-13 June 2005
5. Workshop for Sensitization of Co-operative Leaders to Create Awareness for Prevention of the Spread of HIV/AIDS in Co-operatives, 1-2 July 2005, Bangkok, Thailand.
6. National Workshop on Training of Trainers on Co-operative Women Leadership Development in Sri Lanka, 1-6 August, 2005.
7. Networking and Exposure Programme to successful co-operatives for women co-operative leaders and people responsible for gender integration in co-operatives, September 2005.
8. 5th ICA/Japan Training Course for Rural Women Leaders, August / September 2005.

The Post Tagaytay Review Conference to be held in May 2006

The ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and Pacific is pleased to announce that the post Tagaytay Conference will be held in May, 2006 in Tagaytay City of Philippines to mark the decade of Tagaytay Declaration-1997 and to evaluate our achievements or lack thereof. We are expecting a large number of women and men delegates from the region and from co-operative fraternity of other countries in the world. For further information please contact:

Mrs. Savitri Singh,
Advisor, Gender Programmes
savitrisingh@icaroap.coop

Edited by P. Nair, Communication Officer, ICA-Asia & Pacific, 9 Aradhana Enclave, Sector 13, R. K. Puram, New Delhi-110066. <nair@icaroap.coop>
Designed & printed at Diamond Offset, HS-14, Kailash Colony Market, New Delhi-110048. Tel : +91-98111-72786
Email : amin_zaidi@yahoo.com

New officials at the ICA - Asia and Pacific



MR. RAJIV MEHTA has joined the ICA as Director, effective November, 2004.

Mr. Mehta has vast experience in the co-operative field. Prior to joining the ICA, he was working as Advisor (Development) at the office of the Delegation of European Commission in India, New Delhi.

Mr. Mehta also had worked with the ICA previously as Technical Officer (Cooptrade) and Advisor - CICOPA Programme in India.

Prior to joining ICA, Mr. Mehta was working in the senior management cadre of the Rajasthan State Co-operative Land Development Bank Limited.



MR. TSUBASA NAKAMURA has been seconded from the Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union (JCCU) to succeed Mr. Ito since March 2005. He has worked for the Insurance division and dealt with the maintenance of policies and the claim payment for six years.

Mr. Tsubasa will work as a Special Advisor, looking after Consumer, Gender, Youth and Health co-operative activities. He is also the Secretary to ICA Regional Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific, ICA Regional Consumer Sub-Committee on University/College Co-operative, Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organization (APHCO) and supports ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and the Pacific.

ICA-Asia & Pacific Revamped Web-site

Welcome To
ICA – Asia & Pacific

Register your .coop domain now!

ABOUT US STRUCTURE PUBLICATION FAQs FEED BACK CONTACT US

What is New ?

News

Tagaytay Conference in '06

The ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and Pacific is pleased to announce that the post Tagayta.....Click to know the whole story

19th ICA/Japan Training Course on Strengthening Management

Asian Disaster Fund

3rd ICA Regional Research Conference in Chiangmai, Thailand

More News >>

Events

Upcoming Events

19th ICA/Japan Training Course on Management of Agricultural Co-ops

More Events

Recent Events

ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University / College Co-operatives

More Events

New Articles

Co-operatives - An Answer to the Problem of Slums

More Articles

Trade Directory Search

Use this Advanced Search interface to Search our Co-operative directories

Select Country

Select Sector

Select Products / Services

Register here for Co-operative Trade

- >> Get listed in the Trade Directory
- >> Do you have product to sell?
- >> Do you have products to buy?

FAQ's on Co-operatives

Co-operative Links

Disclaimer : Please be advised that the material contained on this website is for information only. ICA - Asia & Pacific endeavors to update the information on this site on a regular basis but cannot guarantee its accuracy at all times.

We have redesigned and re-vamped our web-site www.icaroap.coop incorporating the earlier trade web-site www.directories.coop, so that all information is available for our members and visitors at one place.

The site has been redesigned to give a new and fresh look. The directory section is interactive and the members can post information on their co-operative organisations, the products and services they want to buy or sell to other co-operative organisations, etc.

The news and events section provide up-to-date information on the activities of the ICA in the Region.

Links have been provided to the web-sites of major co-operative organisations within and outside the region. Those co-operative organisations who wish to be linked to our site may send their URLs for us to incorporate.

Please visit our site and post information about your co-operative.



NEWSLETTER

International Co-operative Alliance
Asia and Pacific

SELF-HELP • SOLIDARITY • CO-OPERATION

ISSN : 0971-7013 (For Private Circulation only)

Vol. 2 Issue 1

January-February, 2011

NATURAL CRISES

Japan

By the time this issue is going into press, massive earthquake followed by Tsunami hit Japan resulting into huge loss of life and property.

New Zealand: Earthquake in Christchurch



Relief Work

A report by Mr Ramsey Margolis, Executive Director, New Zealand Co-operatives Association: On Tuesday 22 February at 12:51pm, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake rocked the Canterbury region of New Zealand's South Island, practically destroying the CBD in the city of Christchurch.

Thankfully, no-one from our co-operatives were killed, but a few suffered light injuries. Interflora Pacific Unit's

headquarters in Christchurch was shut down, as was the Christchurch World Travellers Store. Produce flew off the shelves in a number of the Foodstuffs co-op's supermarkets, and two supermarkets remain closed.

Farm supply co-operative CRT's head office had a good shake, according to General Manager, Marketing, Nigel Riley, who reported that "ceiling panels fell down, everything was all over the place... it looked like someone had thrown a hand grenade and shut the door."

Bill McLeod, chairman of fertiliser co-operative Ravensdown, was in the co-op's Christchurch CBD office when the earthquake hit. "I can assure you it's not something I would want to experience again. However, having got all our people out safely is something I will be eternally grateful for. We need to be aware though that the trauma will take a lot longer to fix than the building."

The building housing worker-owned Piko Wholefoods Co-operative was badly damaged in the quake. Co-op founder Tineke Witteman said that she believed no lives were lost because the 106-year-old building had been earthquake strengthened five years previously. "It took 29 years to build up, and 25 seconds to knock down," she said. "It's just not fair."

The blog can be found at <http://s.coop/nzquake>. Using a s.coop shortcut makes it easier to let people know about the page, and this is a tool I'd advise all co-operatives to make good use of. Google analytics reports that the page has been visited around a thousand times.

RESPONSE

The response from co-ops to the disaster has been tremendous. A number not only offered large donations but also set up funds to enable members and staff to make personal donations which the co-op would

IN THIS ISSUE...

Natural Crises

Japan

New Zealand

Pakistan

From the Editor

Update on IYC 2012

From the region

India: NCUI, FISHCOFED

Pakistan: KCHSU

Indonesia: Indonesian Co-operative Day- 2011

New Zealand: Leading the Leaders

Member Services

Training for Enhancement of Farmers' Income and Poverty Reduction

Highlights

Remembrance

Upcoming Events

Reaching Out

Korean Co-op Support to IYC- 2012

Thailand to Host the 9th Co-operative Ministers' Conference-2012

International Day of Cooperatives 2011



From the Editor



Happy New Year !!! Wish you all the best for 2011 as this is the first issue of the year,

even though by the time the issue reaches you it will be well past first quarter. But the beginning of the year was not so good as we lost a promising cooperator and ICA Board member from the region, Mr. Surinder Kumar Jakhar who was the Chairman of IFFCO from India. The ICA family pays it's homage to Mr. Jakhar.

The last year was quite eventful and this is also going to be very busy. However, the coop business won't be as usual with more and more natural calamity hitting hard. The shock of Pakistan flood was hardly over yet an earthquake hit New Zealand putting coop solidarity to test. ICA-AP has initiated the relief work in Pakistan in small way with support from members with more activities to follow and is equally concerned with situation in New Zealand. As always, this year too, International Women Day and Co-operative Day will provide ample opportunity for spreading co-operative influence. Members have planned a variety of activities to commemorate. An update of preparations for UN International Year of Co-operatives-2011 is posted regularly for members advantage. We try to reach out with more information, news and reports and will expect you to reciprocate.

Thank you-Savitri Singh

match \$1 for \$1. Water was shipped into the city in Fonterra's milk tankers and distributed in school grounds. The farmers' organisation Federated Farmers set up camp at Christchurch Show Grounds from where they sent out the "Farmy Army" to help clear up the vast amount of silt which had come up through the ground by liquefaction.

Pakistan: Distribution of blankets to flood affected people



Blankets for distribution

Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, ICA- AP visited the flood affected areas of Pakistan during 1-6 December 2010. He had provided funds for purchase of blankets on behalf of ICA in collaboration with Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union Ltd which were distributed among the flood affected people on 25th January 2011 by Managing Director along with other Directors of Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union Ltd.

Update on IYC 2012: Excerpts from DG's report



ICA is raising funds now to ensure that we can seize this opportunity together. We are developing the materials you will need to take advantage of the Year - key messages to promote the Year; templates to incorporate the Year into your communications and packaging; posters to advertise the Year; media kits to help tell the story. We are developing the web site for www.2012.coop, where we will direct those individuals who see the slogan in your communications and who want to learn more. We are preparing the stories that will ensure that the general public is exposed to the international, multi-sectoral dimension of co-operatives. And we are developing the social media strategy that will allow us to attract especially that next generation that is so critical to the future of co-operation.

The UN is within days of finalizing the logo that will accompany the already-announced slogan: Co-operative enterprises build a better world. When the logo is available, work on the templates can proceed to the next stage.

FROM THE REGION

India: NCUI: Participation in ICA Expo 2010

The NCUI arranged a pavilion for display and sale of products of the women members of Self-Help Groups of three selected NCUI Co-operative Education Projects viz. East Imphal (Manipur), Ganjam (Orissa) & Shimoga (Karnataka) in the ICA Co-op Expo 2010 in Bengaluru. Dame Pauline Green, President ICA visited the stall & bought several items. She also interacted with the women co-operators & encouraged them. The products displayed were silk sarees, handicraft, food items & herbal products etc.



Dame Pauline Green, President ICA at the NCUI pavilion

NCUI got the opportunity to have business meeting with Escola Profissional De Economia Social (EDES) and Co-operativa Dos Pedreiros, Portugal regarding collaborative programmes in the field of education and training and promotion of business of the co-operative products of India. Six documentary films prepared by NCUI were also shown during the Expo.

FISHCOFED: Blue Revolution

Co-operative can usher in blue revolution. After green and white revolution, we hear talk of blue revolution. Blue is the colour of ocean and revolution to increase the production of fish is called blue revolution. Fortunately, both the revolution-green and white were ignited by co-operative sector only. Now it has to plunge headlong to bring about blue revolution.

Speaking on the occasion of workshop organized by FISHCOFED at NCUI in Delhi on Thursday, Chief Guest Prof. K.V. Thomas,

Minister of State for Agriculture said that co-operatives offer huge scope for recognizing this Sector.

The National Workshop was organized on "Networking of Fish Marketing & achievement on Insurance of Fishers" by National Federation of Fishery Co-operatives in collaboration with national Co-operatives Union of India and Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.

Shri Naeem Ahmed Ansari, Chairman, FISHCOPFED, the national apex level Fishery Co-operative said that FISHCOPFED has kept the target of covering the accidental Insurance Policy for 33 lakhs fishermen for the year 2010-2011.

Pakistan: New Township

Taiser Town Scheme No. 45 would be developed as Co-operative Housing Societies township by Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union Ltd which would later be sold at low cost to the members.

Indonesia: Co-operative Day- 2011

The DEKOPIN (The Indonesian Co-operative Council) is celebrating the 64th Indonesian Co-operative Day in July 2011. A series of activities have been planned to celebrate the co-operative day like seminar, workshop, social service, race and tournament, pilgrimage and holy meditations, cultural night show, youth jamboree, international expo, talk show and speech, co-operative leaders meeting etc. The DEKOPIN would like to invite international co-operative participations for International Expo as a part of their effort to support the International Year of Co-operatives in 2012.

For further details, check their website ie. www.dewen-koperasi.com or contact Mr. Ilham Nasai (ilham_nasai@yahoo.com) and Mrs. Wiwin Winarti (winarti67@yahoo.com).

New Zealand: Leading the Leaders

The New Zealand Co-operatives Association is running a two-day governance seminar for current and potential directors of co-operative and mutual businesses:

"THE LEADING BOARD : Governing a successful co-operative business" On Thursday 24 & Friday 25 March at The Brentwood Hotel, Wellington, New Zealand ICA members are most welcome to send participants.

For further details, phone the Association office on +644 384 4595 or email nzca@nz.coop and ramsey@nz.coop

MEMBER SERVICES

Enhancement of Farmers' Income and Poverty Reduction

The 5th Training Course on Enhancement of Farmers' Income and Poverty Reduction through Co-operatives was inaugurated on 10 January 2011 at FMDI, India in collaboration with IFFCO in India, ANGKASA in Malaysia and JA ZENCHU/ IDACA in Japan. Twelve participants from ten countries are attending the Training Course. The focus of the Course is on strengthening of farm guidance method, joint collection, shipment, safety and improvement in quality of farm products aimed at increasing farmers' income.

REACHING OUT

Korean Co-op Support to IYC- 2012



Mr. Won Byung Choi, Chairman of NACF & Dr. Choi

In January, ICA appealed to members to engage in and financially support ICA's activities for the International Year of Co-operatives (IYC). Dr. Chan Ho Choi visited Korean ICA-members during 7th-11th February, and heard their general supports to ICA's appeal. The idea was generally adopted to include their additional 25% of contributions when ICA issue their membership subscription invoices for the years of 2011 and 2012. By organizations, National Agricultural Co-operative Federation (NACF) was planning to hold a pre-IYC celebration in the week of its 50th Years Anniversary in July, together with the Korean Co-operative Council. Mr. Won Byung Choi was concerned about the delayed progress in reforming the Agricultural Co-operative Law. NACF and

Highlights

New Zealand co-ops get new chair

At the 2010 AGM, Chris Knowles became chairperson of the New Zealand Co-operatives Association. Recently retired as chief financial officer and company secretary of Foodstuffs South Island where had served for 20 years.

New Deputy Foreign Affairs in ICC

Mr. Davood Salehi is the new Deputy of Foreign Affairs in Iran Central Chamber of Co-operative (ICC). His responsibilities are: Expansion of co-operation and regular interaction with Iran-based foreign embassies, raising the level of communication with ambassadors and commercial attaché of Iran in target nations etc.

New Chairman of IFFCO

After sudden demise of Mr. Surinder Kumar Jhakar, IFFCO Board elected NP Patel as the new Chairman. Mr. Patel is an eminent co-operator of India. He has been serving the movement for a long time in various co-operatives. At present, he is also the Chairman of Gujarat State Co-operative Marketing Federation Limited.

New ICA Member

Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited (CBH), Australia has joined the ICA family from the region. The contact details are as follows:

Address: 30 Delhi Street, West Perth, WA 6005

Tel: +61 8 9237 6900

Fax: +61 8 9322 2652

E-mail: info@cbh.com.au

Website: www.cbh.com.au

Contact: Dr Andrew Crane, Chief Executive Officer -

Mr Terry Cunningham, Company Secretarial

Services Manager

Remembrance



With grief, we inform sad demise of Shri. Surinder Kumar Jakhar, ICA Board member. Shri Surinder Kumar Jakhar, the Chairman of IFFCO, India and a committed co-operater, known for his simplicity and concern for the farmers and rural community passed away at his home in Punjab Province of India on January 17th, 2011.

Mr. Jakhar was elected to the Global Board of ICA at the ICA General Assembly in Singapore in 2007, and also served as Chair of ICA Audit & Risk Committee and more recently to Governance Committee. He was a very active member from ICA Asia-Pacific Region. The ICA extends its sincere condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

Upcoming Events

- ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting, China, 2 March 2011
- International Women's Day, 8 March, 2011
- 2nd ICA/China Training Course on Operation and Management of Circular Economy, China, 1-10 March, 2011
- 1st International Conference on Co-operative Social, Economic and Cultural Capabilities, Kish Island, Iran, 16-17 April, 2011



Mr. Jong-Gu Lee, Chairman of NFCF & Dr. Choi

Government had shared objectives of the reform in a way to strengthening the NACF services for member farmers, both pillars in agricultural marketing and banking functions.

The National Fishery Co-operative Federation (NFCF) as the chair of the International Fishery Co-operative Organization (IFCO) will launch the '1st World Fishery Co-operative Day' on 16th June 2011. Mr. Jong-Gu Lee emphasized the need of international studies on the impacts of global climate change to sea waters, fishing industry and fishermen's livelihoods. IFCO had been active since last year to organize international forum for fishery co-operatives.

Regional Director also met the new President of the iCoop-Korea

(www.icoop.or.kr), Mrs. Mi yea Oh at her office, Singgil-dong, Seoul. Mrs. Oh was the Chairperson of the iCoop Goyang, and elected as the top leader of iCoop in December last year. In the conversation, principles, policy and good practices of the iCoop Korea in promoting 'Ethical Consumption' and 'Fair Trade' were shared with. With a strong membership commitment and together with organic producers, iCoop has grown steadily not only in



Mrs. Miyea Oh, President of the iCoop Korea

membership but also in volumes. Dr. Choi hoped that iCoop could share their experiences and activities with other ICA members in the region.

Thailand to Host the 9th Co-operative Ministers' Conference-2012



Mr. Somchai Charnnarongkul, Director General of CPD, Government of Thailand

Regional Director visited the Co-operative Promotion Department (CPD) in Bangkok on 16th February to discuss the preparation for 9th Ministers' Conference. It was suggested by CPD to hold the conference in Chiangmai in November 2011. However the date and venue has moved after having the ICA-AP Board discussions in Guangzhou of 2nd March. The new proposal from CPD was

to host the Ministers' Conference in the last week of February in Bangkok in co-celebrating the 'Thai Co-operative Day' (26th Feb.) 2012 and coinciding with the UN International Year of Co-operatives in Thailand. The theme was tentatively suggested as "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy Support the Better Plays of Co-operatives and the Betterment of the Asia and the Pacific".

The United Nations has released the logo for the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives. Please follow the Link: <http://social.un.org/coopsyear/ivclogo.shtml>



ICA-Asia and Pacific

newsletter



SELF-HELP • SOLIDARITY • CO-OPERATION

ISSN : 0971-7013 (For Private Circulation only)

Vol. 2 Issue 2

March-April, 2011

Earthquake & Tsunami in Japan



A powerful tsunami has swept across a large area of northern Japan causing major damage, flooding towns and sweeping away buildings. It was triggered by a 8.9-magnitude earthquake on 11 March 2011. As reported by the media about 10,000 persons have died, thousands are reported to be missing and a large numbers are seriously injured. ICA and many ICA members have sent letters of condolences and support to ICA members in Japan. In addition, on 16 March the ICA launched an appeal to collect donations for its Japan Disaster Recovery Fund. A number of Japanese members have already established special funds for those that wish to support both the immediate relief efforts and longer term reconstruction.

News from Japan about coop damages

We regularly received news updates from our coop members in Japan about the damage caused and relief work started by them. Following are some reports:-

Fisheries Co-operative Associations:

Fishing sector was one of the most severely damaged sectors: by the earthquake, tsunami and radiation leak.

Almost all the fishing vessels along the northeast prefectures of Iwate and Miyagi etc were either destroyed or made impossible for reuse.

Many thousands of fishers lost their lives, became missing,

IYC 2012

The United Nations has released the logo for the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives. The logo and guidelines for its use can be seen at <http://social.un.org/coopsyear/ivclogo.shtml>

In order to download and use the logo, it will be necessary to request permission from the UN by submitting the "liability waiver" which is accessed through that site. A detailed communication in this regard has been sent by Charles Goud, Director General, ICA to all the members on 02 April, 2011 which can be accessed at following link http://www.icaroop.coop/News/News_Detail.aspx?News=156

Each organisation seeking to use the logo must follow the process identified on the UN site, but the ICA is ready to assist should you encounter any difficulties or have any questions. You may check the website www.ica.coop

The ICA has secured permission to use the Logo from UN. However, the members have to apply separately for permission to use the logo.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Earthquake & Tsunami in Japan
- IYC 2012-Update
- Reaching Out
- Highlights
- From the Editor
- From the region
- New Member
- Governance
- Member Services
- Upcoming Events

“ IYC-2012 is our opportunity ”

A

From the Editor



Havoc caused by natural crises continued to trouble people in Asia and as we reported in the last issue, Japan was heavily damaged in

March. There are reports of huge damage to co-operatives and co-operative members in the country. We have been in contact with our members and received regular updates about the damage and recovery measures. ICA made an appeal to the world to extend helping hand. Due to their admirable grit and courage, Japanese people are on the fast track of recovery as Cherry Blossom in April filled the country with new hope. Dr. CHOI visited members in Japan on a solidarity mission post Tsunami devastation.

However, the co-operatives in the region have been very busy with number of activities as seen from this issue-the ICA issued message on the eve of International Women's Day-2011, the Logo and slogan for the International Day of Co-operatives-2011 is announced and the UN has issued the Logo of the IYC-2012. We are interacting with members for preparations of the event.

We have also conducted several activities to serve our members better, focusing on capacity building and have received news about their events as well. The COOPFED, Sri Lanka is making a mark by adding value to consumer co-operative services. We also cover news of interest from the region through other sources for the benefit of the readers such as decisions by the Governments which impacts co-operative institutions and the co-operative members as citizens of the country. We are happy to note that the members have started sharing their news gradually but their views about the news letter is awaited. Hope to hear from you.

Savitri Singh

injured, and their houses washed away. Fishing ports were completely damaged in many places. fish processing plants, ice-making plants/facilities, cold storages, fishing gear storehouses etc were washed away.

It is unthinkable that even under such unprecedented damages, fishers in some places in severely damaged areas started to do necessary recovery work.

However, the problem now is that they lack in means of production (fishing vessels, fishing gears etc) and most importantly, the fact that a considerable number of fishers lost their lives. Their houses were completely smashed, and washed away. The only thing left is a mountain of debris, and yet not found bodies. In addition, as a final blow, the nuclear incident.

This reminds us of something like the once famous novel entitled "NION CHINBOTSU (Japan Sinking)" written by Komatsu Sakyō, a writer.

Plutonium was detected from the soil near the crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

JA-ZENCHU:

According to the ministry of agriculture, forestry and fisheries of Japan, the area of farmland damaged by tsunami in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima provinces is more than 20,000 ha which is 5% of the total farmland area. It does not include farmland damaged by jishin such as cracks and swells.

In Iwate prefecture, as of March 16, 3 staff are dead and 17 staff are missing in 8 primary societies (JAs). No report on members.

In the case of JA-Ofunato, the first floor of HQs became flooded, 6 branches suffered severe damage, 2 branches catastrophic damage and 2 branches

have no information.

From March 14, JAs in Iwate province including damaged JAs have been supporting affected members and community residents by providing hot meals, rice, blankets, water, etc.. Some JAs have requested member farmers to contribute rice for support. Damaged JAs have implemented repayment of deposits without passbook.

Support by major provinces

JAs in Hokkaido province sent 35 tons of potato, 175 tons of onion and 35 tons of rice to Miyagi province on March 16.

JAs in Akita province sent 9,000 bottles (2L) of water and 10,000 cans of porridge to Iwate prefecture on March 15. JAs in Yamagata province sent 20,000 of rice

balls and 7 tons of rice to Miyagi prefecture from March 15 to 20. JAs in Nagano province sent 30,000 bottles of fruit juice, 20,000 bottles of tea to Miyagi, Iwate and Fukushima provinces on March 15.

JAs in Niigata province sent food and living necessities such as blankets, portable stove burner, home drugs, etc.

Three provinces, Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima, in the north-eastern part of Japan were seriously affected. According to the TV news, the dead and missing are more than 3,000. Miyagi provincial police said the dead will over 10,000 in the province.

The situation of agricultural co-operative (JA) group is as follows;

1. In Miyagi province, the building of Miyagi provincial union received serious damages. The union's function becomes temporarily paralyzed so that the present situation of primary societies (JAs) has not been informed.
2. In Iwate province, 3 JAs, Ohfunato, Shin-Iwate and Iwate-Hanamaki, received serious damages.



Once prosperous fishing town : when will it be when fishermen can resume normal life as before ?

“ Co-operative enterprises build a better world ”



The chairman of JF Taro FCA directing recovery work

Ohfunato's damage is catastrophic.

3. In Fukushima province, some people in the JA federation hospital were influenced by radiation leaks from Fukushima nuclear power stations.

Japan Workers' Co-operative Union

- While the head office continues to check the safety of our members, the efforts are starting to shift to the relief work (e.g. sending supplies and human resources).
- The head office has been receiving supplies from members nationwide.
- Our members in several regions are also collecting supplies and will head to Tohoku separately.
- The head office is collecting the information from the affected areas and regional offices which are collecting the supplies. Those supplies mentioned above will be distributed to the affected areas based



The ice-making facility of JF Taro FCA destroyed by the Tsunami

on the information on what is needed in which area.

- The building of Ishinomaki Jigyodan (JWCU member co-op) is completely gone due to Tsunami.
- A nursery in Urayasu City (Chiba Prefecture): The building is too damaged to use.

NFUCA

NFUCA has set up a task force immediately following the disaster and began many of the support related activities for the universities and university co-ops. In addition, many of the other co-operatives as well as Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) have been assisting in the rescue and recovery efforts in the devastated regions.

NFUCA is determined and committed to carrying support activities for the disaster victims and many of the necessary reconstruction activities in joint effort with related association, when the rebuilding begins.

NFUCA will also set up a local task force to coordinate joint tasks located in the disaster struck area. Many of the university co-operatives have already initiated the set up of a donation fund to help support some other financial needs.

JCCU

Consumer Co-ops got substantial damages at their business facilities.

JCCU has already supplied 29,000 pet bottles (500ml) of tea, 29,000-cup noodles, 27,000 bags of cookie, bread with longer expiry date, some quantities of banana, fruit juice, towels and some blankets and 25,000 pieces of pocket heater.

On the 13th March, Co-op Kobe and the JCCU dispatched 5 volunteer staffs 3 and 2 respectively to Miyagi Co-op to serve as secretariats to the task force to assist in the restoration effort.

GOVERNANCE

Regional Board Meeting

The meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held in Guangzhou on 2nd March 2011. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Li Chunsheng, ICA-AP President and Chairman of the Regional Board. 22 persons including members, observers and ICA Officers attended the meeting. The meeting was hosted by the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives

(ACFSMC).

In his opening remarks, Mr. Li Chunsheng extend a warm welcome to participants of the ICA-AP Regional Board for coming to Guangzhou to attend the meeting. He began the meeting with the information of the sad and untimely demise of Mr. S.K. Jakhar, ICA Board Member from IFFCO, India on 17th



Mr. Li Chungsheng along with the Board Members

January 2011 and further said that Mr. Jakhar had made substantial contributions to the co-operative movements all over the world.

Dr. Choi, Regional Director, ICA-AP gave a brief account of the activities carried out by ICA-AP during 2010 and also presented the financial report of ICA-AP for the year 2010. The members noted that there was a surplus of CHF 8,440 in Delhi office for the year 2010. All members expressed happiness with regard to the outstanding performance and positive financial results of ICA-AP.

Dr. Choi also reported to meeting about the membership position, workplan-2011 and other current issues.

Since last Regional Board Meeting following 4 members joined ICA from the region: (a) National Association of Labour Banks, Japan; (b) Supervision and Central Co-ordination Union of Rural Agricultural Co-operatives of Iran (SCURA); (c) Co-operative House Building and Finance Corporation Limited, India; and (d) Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited (CBH Group), Australia. Thus total membership of ICA-AP is 71 member organizations from 25 countries.

Informing that there are 45 countries in Asia-Pacific region, but only 25 countries are members of ICA, Dr. Choi requested the board members to help him to increase the membership of ICA.

While presenting the work plan-2011, he said that in addition to routine activities the following four studies were included in the Work Plan - (a) Study on Consumer Cooperatives in Asia; (b) Study on Co-operative Trade among Co-operatives; (c)

Study on Technical Co-operation among Co-operatives; and (d) Study on Communication Strategy for Co-operatives. He informed the members that the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - MAFF (Government of Japan) supported training courses ended in 2010 and three new training courses would be starting from 2011 for three years.

Other matters such as proposal of ICA-Americas to amend the 7th Cooperative Principle,



Board Members on a trip

organising of 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference and time & venue of the next meeting were also discussed. Meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

Reaching Out

International Women's Day 2011

The theme of International Women's Day is "Equal access to education, training and science and technology: Pathway to decent work for women"

On the occasion of International Women's Day, every year the President of ICA, Dame Pauline Green and Chairperson of ICA Gender Equality Committee Ms. Stefania Marcone issue a message to co-operative members. The full message can be seen at http://www.icaroap.coop/News/News_Detail.aspx?News=155

The gist of the message is given below:-

On the International Women's Day, the United Nations calls on

local, national and international communities to focus on the importance of equal access to education, training and science and technology as crucial pathway to provide women with decent work opportunities.

Investing in women's education has well recognised benefits not only for women's own well-being but also for society as whole. The link between better education for women and the reduction of poverty and improved human development is well documented.

The co-operative movement's principle on co-operative education, training and information is recognition of the

important role the movement can play in this area.

Many co-operatives have provided women with opportunities to become entrepreneurs and access decent work. They have enabled them to move out of informal and precarious job markets. They have improved access to credit, product and market information, technology and training in management skills and enterprise development.

ICT not only improves economic efficiency, it has also provided an extraordinary way for co-operators, both women and men, to participate in technology development and create networks for sharing knowledge worldwide thus reducing isolation.

Therefore, 8 March 2011, International Women's Day, we call

on ICA member organisations and co-operators, to not forego the contribution of the large talent pool that women co-operators represent and to strengthen their commitment for fostering equal access to education, training and science and technology by providing women co-operators with targeted training programmes, particularly on new technologies, and promoting exchanges which can crucially work to build bridges and foster collaborations among co-operators worldwide.

Let us lead with good practice. Let us show what can be achieved when co-operatives enable women all over the world to reap the benefits of equal access to education, training and science and technology!

Dr. Choi visited Japan

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director of ICA-AP visited to members in Japan on a solidarity mission post Tsunami devastation.

He visited the leaders of Japan Consumer Co-operative Union (JCCU), The JA-Zenchu and Japan Joint Committee on Co-operatives (JJC), officials of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF) and IDACA.

During his visit with the member, he paid his sincere condolence for the damage caused by Tsunami and exchanged information about recovery work being done. He also discussed about preparation of IYC-2012 and other issues such as preparations for the Regional Assembly-2012 which is scheduled to be held in Japan next year.

Dr. Choi met with officials of MAFF in connection with the new



Dr. Choi at a meeting in Japan

partnership ventures. The MAFF has sanctioned 3 new projects to be jointly implemented by ICA-AP and IDACA for 3 years commencing from 2011. The total annual contribution from MAFF would be US\$ 991,057. The projects are for the capacity building of leaders and staff of agricultural co-operatives in

the region.

He also visited IDACA and have had meeting with the Managing Director and staff of the IDACA to discuss about the implementation of the new projects.

Dr. Choi also attended the closing ceremony of the 5th ICA-Japan Course on 18th April, 2011 and addressed the participants.

From the region



The Asian Women in Co-operative Development Forum (AWCF) is continuing to implement the activities of the "Promoting Gender Equality Among Co-operatives in the Philippines Project" that is supported from 2010-2012 by the Swedish Co-operative Centre (SCC), with fund support from the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA). AWCF is a regional

AWCF



Women and men learn more about GE advocacy in AWCF project

resource center and advocacy body on gender and co-ops in Asia, with a Secretariat based in the Philippines. It is member of the Regional Women's Committee of the International Co-operative Alliance-Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP).

The Project is under SCC's Philippine country programme "Advancing Civic Capacities for Effective and Sustainable Services to the Poor" (ACCESS to the Poor Programme). In this Programme, AWCF joins four Philippine national organizations in the implementation. In addition, 15 co-ops located nationwide in the Philippines are also the partners in AWCF's gender equality (GE) Project for the SCC Programme.

Sri Lanka: COOPFED



Mr. Pathirana, General Manager at the Super Market

A Co-op Store

As the pilot project, Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation Ltd (Coopfed) of Sri Lanka had opened the largest Super Market at National Institute of Co-operative Development, Polgolla in the Central Province in Sri Lanka.

The COPFED has already opened 10 Super Markets and have planned to develop around 25 super markets throughout the island.

Through the year of 2010, The COPFED have done training programmes for the co-op stores managers and employees of member co-op societies in order to develop their management skills for store keeping and the technical knowledge. Through these training programs, the COPFED intends to popularize co-operatives business model and in turn increasing the business of the consumer stores.

Bangladesh: Cabinet okays co-operative law changes

The Cabinet approved the draft Co-operatives (Amendment) Bill, 2011, aiming to expedite the 'Vision 2021' as the present law is not capable enough to achieve the target.

The cabinet took the decision at its regular weekly meeting held at the Cabinet Division with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.



Meeting with the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

the original Act was amended slightly in 2002. But the cabinet found the present Act not enough for them to achieve the Vision 2021 of the government.

In the draft the provision to enlistment was made easier, there is a provision to cancel the registration.

It also turned 'registrar' post to 'Director General'.

Prime minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters after the meeting at PID conference room. He said

Source: http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=29003

Nepal: Tax exemption to women's co-operative in coming budget

KATHMANDU: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Bharat Mohan Adhikari has said the provision of entire exemption of tax would be made in the upcoming budget for women's co-operatives across the country.

At a special programme organised here on Tuesday by the National Co-operatives' Association Limited Nepal on the occasion of 101st International Women Day, Deputy Prime Minister Adhikari said the arrangement of tax exemption

would be made to enhance self-dependency and standards of co-operative organisations related to women.

The government will prepare the upcoming budget by incorporating the spirit and suggestions of people involved in the co-operative movement, he added.

Source: <http://www.thehimalavantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Tax+exemption+to+women's+cooperative+in+coming+budget%3A+DPM&NewsID=279218>

Member Services

Operation and Management of Circular Economy

The 2nd Training Course on Circular economy was conducted jointly by ICA and All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC) from March 2-10, 2011 in Guangzhou, Beijing and Qingyuan. 17 Participants from nine countries along with organisers from ACFSMC and ICA were the part of the course that was conducted through lectures and group discussions along with country reports presentation

from participants. The Training Course was divided in two field visits in Huaqing RECYCLING INDUSTRIAL PARK and Beijing HuaJing Yuan RENEWABLE RESOURCE RECYCLING MARKET Ltd where the process of collection and recycling of wastes was demonstrated. There was Audio/Visual information shared as well. The first Course on this topic was held in November 2010.



The participants

SAARC Regional Workshop for Youth

The SAARC Regional Workshop on "Campus Co-operatives and Youth Integration in Co-operatives" was organised under the auspices of ICA-AP Committee on University /Campus Co-operatives in collaboration with National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI), National Federation of University Co-operative Association (NFUCA) of Japan and Karnataka State Co-operative Federation and hosted by Mangalore University Employees Credit Co-operative Society (MUECCS) & Department of Business Administration at Mangalore University, Mangalore, India during March 23-25, 2011.

The representatives of SAARC countries viz. co-operative functionaries, teachers and government officials from Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka as well as student representatives from Afghanistan, Iran, Uganda & India participated in the workshop. Dr Chandra Pal Singh, President of NCUI inaugurated the Workshop and the Vice Chancellor, Mangalore University presided over the Opening ceremony. The Chairman, Karnataka State Co-operative Federation was the also present as Guest of Honour.

The workshop was divided into 3 sessions, information sharing by way of country paper presentation, Group discussions and Study visits. The Chief Executive, NCUI made a presentation on Status and need of Co-operative Education in School in India and Secretary of NCCT of India made a presentation on Campus Co-operatives - an instrument of youth integration. In addition, the resource persons from Indonesia, Japan and Malaysia gave an overview of the Campus Co-ops in their respective countries.

Prof. Kuriki and Ms. Matsuka from NAFUCA, Japan gave an introduction of University Co-operative in Japan, Prof. Ali Hassan of Malaysia gave an overview of campus cooperatives

in Malaysia and discussed the issues/challenges. Mr. Ilham Nasai, Indonesian Youth Co-operative (COPINDO), provided a detail strategy for a strong membership based university/campus co-operatives to increase business and economically vibrant socio-economic enterprises.

The participants visited to Mangalore University Employees



Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President NCUI inaugurated the Workshop

Credit Co-operative Society (MUECCS), Gobind Dass College Campus Co-ops and National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK) campus cooperative.

Countrywise group discussions held to discuss about the ways and means for promoting campus co-operatives in their respective countries.

The workshop concluded by award of certificate to the participants.



A group photo of the participants

Enhancement of Farmers' Income and Poverty Reduction Through Co-operatives

5th Training course on "Enhancement of Farmers' Income and Poverty Reduction Through Co-operatives" was organized by ICA-AP, at India, Malaysia and Japan between 08 December 2010 and 19 April 2011, with a focus on the strengthening of farm guidance method, joint collection, marketing, safety and improvement of quality of farm products. The training programme was implemented by the ICA-AP in collaboration with IFFCO/FMDI, Gurgaon, Institute of Rural Management (IRMA), Anand (Gujarat), India, National Co-operative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA), Institute for the Development of Agriculture Co-operation in Asia (IDACA), Tokyo, Japan and other ICA

(Trg), FMDI, welcomed the participants, while Dr. D. Bhattacharya, Executive Director (PA&HRD), IFFCO, proposed a vote of thanks.

There were 12 participants from 11 countries- Cambodia, China, India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The IFFCO-FMDI Module on Review of Management of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia was conducted at FMDI Gurgaon then the participants moved to IRMA on 23rd January and attended the IRMA segment of the course on Project Management until 23 February 2011.

The comparative field study visits of Agriculture Co-operatives in Malaysia took place during 27 February - 05 March



The Participants

members in India, Malaysia and Japan.

The Training course was formally inaugurated by Mr. A. Roy, Marketing Director, IFFCO, on 10 January 2011 at the IFFCO's Fertiliser Marketing Development Institute [FMDI], Gurgaon. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, ICA-AP, Mr. Manabu Suzuki, First Secretary in the Embassy of Japan, Mr. Ashikari Ikuo, Managing Director, IDACA, Mr. Nakashima Toru, Dy. Manager, IDACA, Tokyo, the Chief Executive of National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI), and Mr. A.K. Taneja, Project Co-ordinator, ICA-AP, addressed the participants.

Mr. S.P. Singh, Deputy General Manager

2011, and then the Part-III of the programme was held at IDACA, Tokyo (Japan) from 6 March-19 April 2011.

At the concluding session at IDACA in April, Mr. Kazuhiro SHIMANE, Deputy Director of International Co-operation Division, MAFF, Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, ICA-AP, Mr. Akihiro Fujii, Manager, JA-ZENCHU, Mr. Ashikari Ikuo, M.D. IDACA and Mr. A.K. Taneja, Project Co-ordinator, ICA-AP, addressed the participants. Mr. Xu Mingfeng, participant from China, gave a vote of thanks on behalf of all the participants. The participants also received ICA-IDACA "Certificate of participation" in the course.

Highlights

India: New CEO of NCUI



Dr. Dinesh has joined as Chief Executive of National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) on 18th April 2011. He has 28 years of vast experience in

Administration,

Human Resource Management, Academic Administration/Training in Corporate Sector, University System, Educational Regulatory Bodies & US-Indo Educational Body.

NEW ICA MEMBER:

Tose'e Ta'avon Bank (T.T. Bank) of Iran has joined ICA as an Associate Member

T.T. Bank is an association created and inspected by the Government of Iran to administer co-operative development funds along with other activities.

In 2010, T.T. Bank had 2,497 employees of which 319 are women. In 2010, their turnover was IRR 900 million (CHF 84,613).

Contact:

Ms Faiiaz Qaed Head of International Division

Tose'e Ta'avon Bank (T.T. Bank) No. 271, Next to LG Company, Before Alboriz St. Mirdamad Blv. Tehran, Iran E-mail: faiiazqaed@yahoo.com; Qaed@TTbank.ir
Phone: +98 21 2292 5406

Fax: +98 21 2292 5368

Website: www.TTbank.ir

Upcoming Events

- ICA Board Meeting, Malaysia, May 2011
- Office Bearers' Meeting of University/Campus Committee, Malaysia, May 2011
- RWC-Office Bearers' Meeting, June 2011

“9th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference, 27th February - 1st March 2012, Thailand”



Coop Stories

Women on move in Nepal



Dr. Choi with Co-operative Members

Nari Jagaran Bachat Tatha Rin Sahakari Sanstha Ltd. (Women Awakening Saving and Credit Co-operative Ltd.), Nepal is one such Co-operative which reinforces the faith in the cooperative philosophy.

This co-operative was established in a remote area of Nepal 12 years ago by a group of illiterate women led by Ms. Nirmala Shrestha.

Today this co-operative has 900 members and 300 child members. In order to increase its income and serve the members in a better way, this co-operative operates a vegetable collection centre. It also takes up challenging activities such as family welfare and health clinic programme for the health of women.



Co-operative Members

The current annual report of the co-operative gives complete information about the operations and financial health of the cooperative.

The co-operative is holding regular meetings of management committee, accounts and monitoring committee, loan sub-committee, education committee and agriculture sub-

ICA President in Japan



The ICA President with Co-operators

The ICA President Dame Pauline Green visited Tsunami affected areas of Japan during her visit to the country from 11 to 14 July-2011. The visit was to extend solidarity with the co-operative members who suffered loss due to the calamity.

She visited Miyagi Agricultural Co-operative and Strawberry Farm, Araham Port and a shop of Miyagi Consumer Co-operatives and met with the co-operators to share their grief.

She also met with representatives of agricultural, consumer and fishery co-operative in Miyagi prefecture and had meeting with the Japanese National Co-operative Organizations affiliated with ICA at JA-Zenchu.

The glimpses of press release are at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pomccyfv-bU&feature=share>

IN THIS ISSUE

- Coop Stories
- From the Editor
- Committee Meetings
- From the Region
- Upcoming Events
- Influence
- Reaching Out
- Member Services
- Highlights
- Feedback

“Co-operative enterprises build a better world”

From the Editor



The response coming in from members in the form of news and feedback is encouraging.

Thank you!

The Monsoon is good and the International Coop Day was commemorated widely by members. A variety of development activities took place revitalizing the movement.

Presence of National Presidents of Indonesia and Sri Lanka in their respective celebrations is an indication of the success of the coop movement.

IYC-2012 countdown has begun. Two exclusive coop stories are included in this issue like the last one and will continue with showcasing more such examples.

The ICA president, Dame Pauline Green visited Japan to express solidarity with devastated members in the aftermath of Tsunami.

Dr. Choi participated in the coop seminars and other events of the members, the regular activities and meetings of ICA regional committees took place along with other capacity building programmes for the members.

We welcome a new member from Nepal and changes in leadership are also reported from some quarters. Some "news to be used" are also included.

Hope this keeps you interested.

Savitri Singh

Upcoming Events

1. 1st ICA-Japan Training Course on Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Cooperatives, India and Japan, September-November 2011.
2. 1st Training Course on "Revitalization of Local Community by Rural Women, Thailand and Japan, September - October 2011.
3. 3rd ICA/SNCF Business Seminar for Cooperative Leaders on "Innovating Co-operative Business with Internet Technology", Singapore, October 2011.
4. Enhancing the role of women in Co-operative business, Indonesia, October 2011.

committee.

The coop also receives visitors from other institutions who come to study the operations of this coop.

They have various financial products for the members and their children. It follows the rules and regulations of the land and upholds the coop values and principles.

A Co-operative for displaced



Glimpses of Co-op

The strength of the co-operatives are immense. It can not only provide the members of a co-operative security, but also makes them self-reliant. So when the members of a co-operative taste the fruits of success, the result is indeed electrifying. Not surprisingly, Tibetan Handicraft Production-cum-sale Industrial Co-operative Society is one such society which has surged ahead in the recent times imbibing the true ethos of co-operative. Located in Macleodganj in Dharamshala district of Himachal Pradesh State in India, this society has not looked back ever since it was formed in 1961. After the Indian Government provided asylum to the Tibetan refugees in the hill town of Dharamshala in early 1960s, a sustainable and responsible rehabilitation process became an imperative need of the newly formed and still settling Tibetan community. An ethical business practice was most desired by them, and it was felt that a co-operative form of an enterprise was most suited to serve the needs of the refugee population. In 1969, after eight years of working relentlessly as an informal enterprise, the handicrafts society was registered under the Co-operative Societies Provision Act of the Indian State of Himachal Pradesh. The

main objective of the society was to help the economically poor refugees to earn a livelihood and help them become self-reliant.

Working under the aegis of 'Federation of Tibetan Co-operatives in India Ltd [FTCI]', the society has its office, mill, workers' residence, a tailoring shop and two stores.

The members are provided housing in

the same complex and are given many other benefits such as child care, education allowance, yearly and festival bonus, medi-care, etc. The society provides workers with competitive wages and a 25% bonus from the net profit. There is a provision even for the workers' provident funds. Today, the society directly benefits 350 working families and is now contributing 15% of the net profit to the Central Tibetan Administration. However, it is aware of future challenges. Enhancing its reach, stepping-up its business potential, and diversification in new activities are high on its agenda. All the co-operative members of the Tibetan refugee committee met at Dharamshala in early August to discuss their future plan of action giving the members a sense of belongingness and to be a part of a responsible business enterprise.

This story is collected by ICA-AP staff Ms. Archana Gupta and Mr. P. Santosh Kumar. They visited the Federation of Tibetan co-operatives in India in the small town of Macleodganj in the Indian State of Himachal Pradesh in early August. Please check the video at : <http://www.ica-ap.coop/>

Influence

International Co-operative Day-2011

The International Co-operative Day-2011 was celebrated widely by the co-operatives in the region. Following are some reports from members-

India: NCUI

National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) organised a National Symposium on the occasion of International Co-operative Day on 2nd July, 2011 at New Delhi. The Symposium addressed the theme of this year's celebration "Youth, the Future of Co-operative Enterprise". The speakers and guests were Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, International Co-operative Alliance (ICA-AP), Shri R. K. Tiwari, Joint Secretary and Central Registrar, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, Shri Rakesh Mohan, Joint Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. G.N. Ghosh, Assistant FAO Representative and Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Joint Commissioner, Kendriya Vidhyalaya Sangathan. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President, NCUI presided over the Symposium and Dr. Dinesh, Chief Executive, NCUI, gave his presentation on "Youth, the Future of Co-operative Enterprise".



Dr. C P S Yadav, President NCUI speaking at the event

Chairman and Managing Directors of National Co-operative Federations, officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, Govt. of India, ICA, FAO, NCDC, ILO etc. were also presents besides the student of different educational institutions in Delhi.

Dr. Yadav called on the youth to join the co-operative sector for mutual benefits, he said that - it will give them employment and sharpen them on leadership as well as on entrepreneurship.

Dr. Choi shared the international experiences i.e. working of youth and campus co-operative in Japan & Singapore and said that there is enough possibilities & scope for youth to participate in the co-operative movement.

Indonesia- DEKOPIN

In the presence of the President of Indonesia, Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and his Co-operative Minister, Dr. Syarifuddin Hasan MM. MBA, the 64th National Co-operative Day Celebrations in Indonesia was held on 12 July at the



The President of Indonesia awarding excellent co-operators

Jakarta Convention Center. In his inaugural speech, His Excellency, the President Yudhoyono called for a strong government support for co-operative enterprises, especially in the occasions of coming International Year of Co-operatives 2012. He also expressed his thanks to Dr. Choi for his presence on the occasion.

Sri Lanka: NCC

The Sri Lanka Cooperative Movement celebrated the 89th International Co-operative Day and completion of 100 years of legal registration of the co-operative movement at Welagedera stadium in Kurunegala, the capital of North Western Province from 28th June to 02 July, 2011. The president of Sri Lanka Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa graced the function as the chief Guest on the final day of the ceremony.

Ministry of Co-operatives and Internal Trade, Department of Co-operative Development along with the National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka made arrangements to implement several programmes to celebrate both occasions. Some of the events were:-

- Holding exhibitions and a trade fair under the name of 'Isuru Saviya', - "Prosperity of Co-operatives"



Hon'ble President with President and General Manager of NCC

- Building of 100 houses for the needy and vulnerable active members in the Co-operative Movement ,
- Preparation of a national policy
- Amendments to co-operative act by launching regulatory systems
- Registration of co-operative societies in the fields of Media, Tourism, Housing and Property Development etc
- Sports competitions
- School Children Competitions
- Selection of best "Co-op City" and "Mini Co-op City" super markets.

Japan: JCCU

This year the commemoration of 89th International Day of Co-operative-2011 was uniquely held on July 14, 2011 in Tokyo, Japan by JCCU. In light of the earthquake and the tsunami followed by the Fukushima Nuclear crisis this year's theme was settled on "What co-operative society can do for the earthquake disaster reconstruction".

Representatives from 63 co-operative societies in Japan totaling 550 attended the occasion.

Opening greetings was given by Mr. Katsuto Uchihashi, the steering committee chairman of IYC, followed by a report from each of the three panelists regarding updates from the quake-hit area. Based on these reports the future work by co-operatives towards the reconstruction to overcome the challenge were discussed.

Next was a panel discussion in relation to the theme by six panelists, two each from the fishery, agricultural and the consumer co-operatives with Professor Kobayashi Masaya (Chiba University Graduate School) as the coordinator.

Mr. Kumagai, the chairperson of the Fukushima Prefecture Co-operative Union reported about the collaborated effort being taken by co-op and various local organizations in tackling the problems brought by the radioactive contamination in Fukushima.

Mr. Haga, the managing director of JCCU reported about the wide range of support being given by JCCU and its member co-ops towards the rehabilitation work at the stricken area. He also mentioned that within the year JCCU would present its viewpoint about the energy policy of Japan.

Professor Kobayashi concluded that the challenge confronting Japan must be regarded as personal and requires greater effort from the government, co-operatives, the private sector and individuals.

It was a very successful gathering and all the speakers gave the attendees lots of food for thought.

Reaching Out

Indonesia: Co-operative Expo in Jakarta

In conjunction with the 64th National Cooperative Day Celebrations in Indonesia, the Indonesian Cooperative Expo was held on 12-15 July at the Jakarta Convention Center,



Dr. Choi and Mr. Shiombing at the Expo

organized by the Co-operative Council of Indonesia (DEKOPIN). There, various kinds of co-operative products and services from 190 domestic enterprises from all over the country were exhibited in a way to showcase the evident potentials of co-operative enterprises, and to invite their market and trade opportunities.

Nepal: Co-operative Sector as One of the Pillars of Economic Development

The National Co-operative Federation of Nepal invited Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director to attend the seminar on Role of Co-operatives in Socio-Economic Development at Kathmandu, Nepal on August 17, 2011.

The Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives of Nepal Mr. Hari Narayan Yadav formally inaugurated the seminar and said "The Interim Constitution of Nepal -2006 has made a provision recognizing the co-operative economic sector for the national economic development as equal to the private and public sectors". Minister Yadav also highlighted that the Government of Nepal had given high priority to the co-operative economic sector as one of the pillars of the national economic development in the plan, programme and budget.

Expressing his confidence he also assured that the co-operative economic sector would join hands together with the Nepal Government for achieving the set objectives of the national economic development programmes for the socio-economic upliftment of the people of Nepal.

Minister Yadav informed that the government of Nepal is going to constitute a national celebration committee for the



Dr. Choi greeting the Minister Mr. Yadav



Dr. Choi, Mr. K P Badal and Mr. Yadav at the opening ceremony

He expressed his happiness that the government of Nepal had recognized that the co-operatives are one of the pillars of National economy when it is still facing many challenges.

This was his first visit to Nepal and Dr. Choi took this opportunity to know more about the coop movement of Nepal. After conclusion of the seminar he visited office of the NCF, NCDF, Coop Bank Federation of Nepal and Cooperative Department of Ministry of Agriculture and Coops, Government of Nepal.

Besides meeting with leaders and officials of the movement Dr. Choi also visited cooperatives inside the rural area of the country. He visited the following coops-

1. Nari Jagaran Saving & Credit Coop Society Ltd., Nala Shera
2. Greenary Agro-Integrated Group Pvt Ltd, Bhaktapur
3. Samudayik Saving & Credit Coop Society Ltd.

observance of the International Year of Co-operatives- 2012 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of Nepal soon as announced by UN for full year of 2012.

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director, ICA-AP expressed immense pleasure to convey his greetings and congratulations to the delegates.

Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, Chairman chaired the opening ceremony while Mr. Ganesh Bahadur Thapa, Former Governor presided over the working session.

In the seminar 68 participants including Ms. Savitri Singh, Gender Advisor, ICA-AP, Registrar of DoC Mr. Sudharsan Prasad Dhakal and Co-chairman of NCDB Mr. Saroj Kumar Sharma were present.

IMPORTANT

9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Minister's Conference -
Feb. 27th - March 01 2012 at Bangkok, Thailand

Committee Meetings

HRD Committee

The 23rd meeting of the ICA Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) for Asia and Pacific was held on 4th July in Selangor, Malaysia. The meeting was hosted by the National Co-operative

Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA). 28 participants from seven countries, namely, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia and Sri Lanka attended the meeting.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chairman of the HRD Committee. He welcomed the presence of the members and thanked them for coming to the meeting. He also gave a brief account of presentations scheduled to be made by various speakers during the seminar after the meeting on 4th and 5th July.

The opening session was attended and addressed by Hajah Armi Haji Zainudin, Vice President of the National Co-operative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA); ICA Board Member and Vice Chair of HRD Committee. She extended a warm welcome to the members on behalf of ANGKASA. She said that Malaysia is pioneered in "school co-operatives" which is a unique experience. Another unique thing was compulsory training for board of directors. She appreciated



Meeting in progress

the work being done by the HRD Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Bhagwati Prasad. She also thanked ICA-AP for giving an opportunity to host the meeting and seminar in Malaysia.

Mr. Bhagwati

Prasad made the presentation on Global HRD Networking Portal and explained in detail the various features of the portal. He said that the project was running successfully and about 66 HRD institutions and 4 experts have registered so far. However, for the last two years not much work has been done on this portal due to various reasons. Even registered members were not uploading their information on the portal. He requested all registered organizations to upload all the information relating to them.

The presentation followed by discussions focused on the following issues: (a) Strengthening of portal by uploading all information required by registered members of the portal; (b) Making it more useful by updating the information from time to time; (c) Mobilization of advertisements from cooperatives to be posted on the portal on payment basis and (d) Motivating HRD institutions and individual experts to register themselves with the portal to make it more broad based and useful.

Highlights

New Chairman of CLT



The existing boards of directors of (CLT) the Co-operative League of Thailand have voted for Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit as the next Chairman of CLT since 21 June 2011. Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit, a 55-year old former taxi driver to a top co-operative leader in Thailand, established a taxi co-operative specifically designed and targeted to improve the livelihood of the drivers migrated from the rural farmers community to a city like Bangkok.

He upgraded to graduate MINI MBA of Chulalongkorn University. He is the founder and General Secretary of political party namely, Machimadhibhatai Party. He has been a candidate for Member of Parliament of Bangkok, area 7. He is also a member of the Advisory Team to Minister of Commerce for the tenure of 2009 - 2011.

New President of Ja-Zenchu



Mr. BANZAI Akira is elected as 13th President of Ja-Zenchu on 10th August, 2011.

Earlier he worked with Niigata Prefectural Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (2008-11), Niigata-"Mirai" (means "future") Primary Agricultural Cooperative (2007-2008) and Gosen-Yotsuba Primary Agricultural Co-operative (1998 - 2007) as a President.

Committee for Youth

The ICA-AP Committee for Youth conducted its preparatory meeting through Skype to discuss the arrangements of the forthcoming plenary meeting at Cancun in November, 2011. The Skype meeting was attended by members from Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan. Members from India, Vietnam and Japan could not join the meeting but extended their support to the meeting. The agendas of the discussion were:

1. Future course of action for the committee in view of the ongoing preparations on International Year of Co-operatives 2012 and the participation of youth at the ICA General Assembly in November

this year.

2. During the discussion, the plenary meeting for youth to be held at Cancun was referred to with regards the issues that need to be addressed by the Youth of the Asia Pacific region.
3. As future activities of the committee, a workshop on co-operative entrepreneurship was planned and was proposed to be held in India later this year. The Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the committee read out their messages and expressed their best wishes for the commencement of the activities for the year.

Member Services

Regional Seminar on HRD



The participants

A Regional Seminar on "Need and Importance of HRD in Co-operatives with special reference to Training of Board of Directors" was organized by the International Co-operative Alliance-Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) in collaboration with the National Co-operative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA) on 4th and 5th July 2011 in Subang, Selangor, Malaysia.

The objective of the seminar was to provide a platform to discuss various issues relating to human resource development of board of directors in co-operatives with main focus on good governance, role perception, desirability of training and identification of areas of relevance for training of board of directors. The seminar also discussed in detail the

policy of mandatory training of board of directors adopted by Malaysian Co-operative Movement and also explored the possibility of its adoption by other countries.

The seminar was inaugurated by Professor Dato Dr. Mohd Ali Hj. Baharum, President of ANGKASA and Board Member of ICA-AP. Dato' HJ. Abdul Fattah HJ. Abdullah, Deputy President of ANGKASA was also present during the ceremony.

28 participants from seven countries, namely, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia and Sri Lanka attended the seminar.

A number of presentation made by the delegates at the seminar which are placed at <http://www.icaroap.coop/Publications/Default.aspx>

Ensuring quality and safety of food



Participants at a farm

Perhaps due to poverty and large number of population, most of Asian countries focus more on increasing food production and generally less attention is paid to safety and quality of the food resulting into health and environmental problems. Uninformed/misinformed use of chemicals, pesticides and fertilizers and other farm inputs impact the quality of food and also affect the soil etc. Therefore, it has become necessary to ensure quality and safety management of farm products including meats, dairy and poultry etc. for better health of people, better value to farm products and conservation of soil and natural resources as well.

In order to address these concerns, the ICA-Japan Training Course on "Quality and Safety Management of Farm Products" was designed as a new

training course commencing from the current year 2011. The course was held from July 11 to August 4, 2011 in Japan which was implemented by ICA, based on an agreement among ICA, JA ZENCHU, IDACA and MAFF.

16 female and male middle level government officials and cooperative managers and leaders from 9 countries (South Asia and CLMV countries of Mekong River) attended the programme. During the 25 days schedule, the participants learned about GAP (Good Agricultural Practices), research and development of agricultural inputs, processing and marketing and also vital role played by cooperatives in promoting Safety and Quality of food products.

The Program was coordinated jointly by Ms. Savitri Singh of ICA-AP and Mr. Yukio Abe of IDACA.

From the Region

India

₹ 9846 Crore for Credit Co-operatives

An amount of Rs. 9846.70 crore (Rs. 8992.36 crore Government of India share and Rs. 854.34 crore State Government share) has been released as on 30.6.2011 under package for revival of credit cooperatives.

The package for revival and strengthening of Short-Term Cooperative Credit Structure (STCCS) in the country is presently under implementation with an estimated

total financial outlay of Rs. 13596 crore. The package has been formulated on the basis of recommendations of Vaidyanathan Committee. Implementation of the package has facilitated the STCCS entities to function in a democratic and self-reliant manner.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=74462>

Highlights

New Member:

Nepal:

National Co-operative Development Board (NCDB) from Nepal has joined the ICA network as an Associate Member.

The National Co-operative Development Board (NCDB) was founded in 1992 and is a semi governmental organization which advises government on co-operative development policy and its implementation. It carries out development and research work. The Government appoints the Executives, Member Secretary and Members of the Board of Directors. The Board of the NCDB is a combination of representatives from the Government Ministries and co-operative researchers and leaders.

Change in the contact:

Thailand:

Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions ACCU

8th Floor, U Tower Building, No. 411, Srinakarin Rd., Suanluang, Bangkok 10250, Thailand Email ranjith@aaccu.coop Tel: (66)-2-7044253-54 Fax: (66)-2-7044255

Website: www.aaccu.asia; www.aaccu.coop

Ranjith Hettiarachchi Chief Executive Officer

Korea:

Korean Association of Social Economy Enterprises (KASEE)

Address :23-4, Jungja-dong, Jangangu, 463-847 Suwon, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea

Tel: +82 31 244 5130

Fax: +82 31 244 7130

E-mail : kasee2008@hotmail.com

Mr Chuljong LEE, President (angksth@hanmail.net)

Mr. Changhwan LEE, Communication coordinator (lch@wtco.kr)

Philippines

CDA accredits NATCCO Training Group

QUEZON CITY - NATCCO's Education, certified by the Co-operative "Accredited Training Provider".

For accreditation, co-operatives and Certificate of Good Standing issued by basic information like name, address, services, historical profile of affiliations, list of officers and the Co-operative Annual Performance statements of the immediate

Source: <http://www.natcco.coop>



Meeting in progress

Training, Consultancy Group has been Development Authority (CDA) as an

federations are required to submit the the CDA, an organizational profile, contact details, a list of programs and co-operative training conducted, trainers with individual profiles, and Report and audited financial preceding year.

New Zealand

1. New Zealand co-op education seminar



The seminar in progress

With attendees arriving from as far away as Bangkok, over 50 people from more than 20 co-ops descended on Wellington, New Zealand at the end of August for a two day seminar. Speakers came from Canada and Western Australia as well as New Zealand to talk on "The Evolving Nature of Governance and Capital in Co-operative and Mutual Business".

"The seminar was excellent," said CBH director Wally Newman who came from Newdegate, Western Australia. He further said that he will recommend his board for sending two persons every year."

2. Announcement: Conference

The UN has declared 2012 to be International Year of Co-operatives. As part of the New Zealand celebrations of this International Year, the NZASCM will be organising an international conference on co-operative research on June 21, 22 and 23, 2012 at Victoria University of Wellington entitled "Building A Better World: The Role of Co-operatives and Mutuals in Society".

The NZASCM will be formally launched at this conference,

which is being organised together with the School of Economics and Finance, Victoria University of Wellington and the New Zealand Co-operatives Association.

The conference website can be found at: <http://nzascsm.coop>

**NEW ZEALAND
ASSOCIATION
FOR THE STUDY OF
COOPERATIVES
AND MUTUALS**

Feedback

A Letter from China



Dear Mr. Taneja (ICA-AP),

More than pleasant to hear from you!

The training program is one of the most important experience of mine that changes my perspective and my way of thinking. Though I can tell its value when it is in progress, I appreciate more when I came

back and resume my work.

I shared many ideas I learnt with my colleagues, especially when I make a plan for a similar workshop for cooperative managers. The most important part I got during the ICA Training Course, if I can say so, is that I know more as to how to gain competitive advantage by using co-operative principles in a competitive environment. I learnt how to use time and more efficiently in Prof. Bhatt's Project Management, a better understanding of value addition from

Prof. Raju, and many more in IRMA. ANGKASA showed me a truly Malaysia and truly Asia. The only sorry thing in IDACA is that so many victims in the earth quake, but Japanese people impressed me much with their resilience and persistence facing an overwhelming disaster. The textbook practices in co-op management from JA and the state-of-the-art board and lodging in IDACA deserves many thanks.

I am lucky that I met with so many great speakers and nice men (and women of course). I appreciate this training course and hope more participants from ACFSMC can be as lucky as me.

My best wishes to you, ICA-ROAP, IDACA as well as ANGKASA.

Mr. Xu Mingfeng

All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives
Beijing China



From Chiang Mai To Colombo

Milestones of ICA - Asia Pacific

January 2005 - June 2006

19th ICA/Japan Training Course on Strengthening Management of Agricultural Co-operatives

The 19th Training Course was inaugurated by Mr. D.K. Bhatt, Marketing Director of Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Co-operative Limited (IFFCO) at IFFCO's Fertiliser Marketing Development Institute, Gurgaon, near Delhi, on 17th January, 2005.

Twelve middle level managers from 10 countries (China, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) are participating in this year's training course.

The participants were welcomed by Dr. D.P. Bhattacharya, Senior Manager, HRD, IFFCO. Mr. Prem Kumar, Programme Advisor briefed the participants.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, Mr. S. Fukamachi, Managing Director of IDACA, Tokyo, and Mr. T. Inoue, First Secretary at the Japanese Embassy in India also addressed the participants. Dr. R.N. Kundu, course coordinator for the IFFCO segment of the course, delivered the vote of thanks.

The IFFCO segment of the course ended on 31 January, 2005, and thereafter the participants proceeded to the Institute of Rural Management (IRMA) in Anand, Gujarat where they under-went an extensive module until 2nd March. The participants travelled to Indonesia for comparative field study visits till 12th March, 2005.

The Second Part of the Training course at IDACA started on 13th March and concluded on 22 April, 2005.

The concluding session was attended by Mr. Kazuo Tanaka, Senior Officer, International Co-operation Division, International Affairs Department, MAFF, Mr Shigeri Fukamachi, Managing Director of the IDACA, including all his senior staff, and Mr. Prem Kumar, Programme Adviser of the ICA-Asia Pacific, New Delhi.

Mr Prem Kumar presented a summary of the End-of-the-Course Evaluation and



Dignitaries at a photo session at the inauguration of the course at IFFCO's Fertiliser Marketing Development Institute, Gurgaon, India

congratulated the participants on their successful completion of the training course.

Addressing the session, Mr. Tanaka of MAFF mentioned that Japan's agricultural co-operatives have played an important role as a conduit to link farmers and government policy, thereby helping contribute to the development of regional agriculture. He exhorted the participants to use the knowledge and experience gained from this training, in their respective countries.

In a message sent, Mr. Miyata Isami, President of JA-Zenchu, congratulated all the participants for the successful completion of about one and half month-long training. He expected that the participants will make use of the results obtained from the training for the development of agricultural co-

operatives in their respective countries.

Mr. Shigeri Fukamachi, Managing Director of the IDACA, expressed sincere gratitude to Mr. Tanaka of MAFF for the support of MAFF extended over 19 years. He thanked Mr. Tanaka for sparing his valuable time to attend the closing session. He noted the various comments and suggestions made by the participants in the evaluation report and said that these comments encouraged the staff of IDACA and himself personally and will enable the IDACA to improve this course in the future.

Ms Chitra Thamsuhang, a participant from Nepal, and Mr. Setiana, a participant from Indonesia, extended vote of thanks on behalf of the participants.

Ms. Chitra recounted the experiences and feelings of the participants during the Training Course. The participants felt that the programme was highly relevant for the present-day managers of agricultural co-operatives in Asia and hence should be continued. She also thanked the ICA Regional Director for Asia-Pacific for giving them an opportunity of participating in the training course.

Mr. Setiana said that this training course has assumed a status of respectability among the co-operative organisations in the Region. It is regarded as a very prestigious and sound training programme offered by the ICA to its member organisations. Besides enhancing the capability and capacity of

managers of agricultural co-ops, the programme has created enormous goodwill for the Japanese experiences of management of agricultural co-operatives as well as for the ICA.

Visits to various JAs had enabled the participants to better appreciate and understand the progress of the



Mr. D.K. Bhatt, Marketing Director, IFFCO, delivering the inaugural address

agricultural co-operatives, especially in fields of amalgamation, farm guidance, day care centre for aged, grading and packaging of fruits and vegetables etc. With simple guidance and extension services, co-operatives have been able to generate additional income and services for their members.

He extended gratefulness of the participants to Mr. Fukamachi, MD, IDACA, for his kindness and hospitality during their stay at IDACA.

The Certificates of Participation from the ICA as well as from the IDACA were awarded to the participants at the end of the concluding session.



Participants in a Green House in Shimane prefecture

Tsunami Devastation in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka and its effect on Co-ops in the Region

More than 270,000 people have been feared dead in the tsunami disaster of 26 December 2004 in 8 countries. Hundreds of thousands more people are still suffering from psychological trauma, injuries, loss of housing and livelihoods.

The cost of reconstruction in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry is estimated around 1.56 billion USD. The detailed damage assessment for Andaman & Nicobar Islands is being made where the Nicobar group of Islands will require more or less rebuilding.

In India, maximum devastation took place in Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Emergency and relief operations are still continuing in Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Food and medicine sufficiency has arrested outbreak of infectious diseases.

Temporary shelters, drinking water, safe defecation and sanitation and road reconstruction were the top priorities of the Tamil Nadu State Government and it has really done wonders in terms of commutation and connectivity.



The ravaged coast in Tamil Nadu

In Tamil Nadu, 376 villages in 13 districts with more than 127,500 households and 11,570 ha of fertile land were affected by tsunami. 7986 human lives, 16519 cattle were lost in Tamil Nadu alone and more than 499,960 persons were evacuated to 71 relief camps at safer places.

The maximum devastation occurred in Nagapattinam and Cuddalore districts of Tamil Nadu. The situation analysis has revealed that out of 524 villages in Nagapattinam district 73 were affected by tsunami and in Cuddalore out of 901 villages 51 were affected by tsunami.

Destruction in Nicobar Islands has washed away almost 90% of the households and civil infrastructure thereby rendering thousands of tribal families homeless and jobless.

Co-operatives are widely patronised in the affected areas. In the worst affected districts in Tamil Nadu, almost 50% co-operatives fall in the agriculture, credit and dairy sectors and 10% in the fisheries sector. The agricultural co-operatives at the village level were multipurpose in nature and known as Primary Agriculture Co-operative Banks and cater to short term and medium term credit needs and consumer needs of the agriculture, dairy and fish farmers. There has been a strong linkage between agricultural credit and fishermen's co-operatives.

In all 40 tsunami affected primary co-operatives in Tamil Nadu (25 Fishermen's and 15 Agricultural & Consumer) and a

tribal co-operative in Nicobar island have been badly affected by tsunami and remained marginalised in the relief operations due to geographical and administrative constraints. The giant waves have damaged the civil construction and destroyed the stocks held at the consumer outlets of the agricultural co-operatives. The leaders and managers of the co-operatives are busy in distribution of relief materials at the temporary shelters. Co-operatives have been used by the Government as the vehicles for distribution of relief material in the state but for the magnitude of the problem a few remained marginalised.

The fishermen community has been worst affected along with the farming community. The giant waves swept through the houses and buildings destroying crops and killing thousands of people and livestock. It may take years for the land to become fertile. The fishermen who were suffering from the problem of over-fishing and heavy debts on account of poor fish catch have lost their assets and started looking for alternative viable livelihood occupation.

The data show that more than 75% of the affected communities in Tamil Nadu were patronising local co-operatives for the livelihood. In Andaman Nicobar Island, Central Tribal Co-operative patronised by more than 8000 tribal families lost civil infrastructure, liquid



A railway track completely washed away



Rescue workers and people assessing the damage

ICA-AP organizes Agricultural Co-operative Development Projects in Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia

The ICA-Asia & Pacific in collaboration with AGRITERRA, Netherlands, is organizing agricultural co-operative development projects in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

The ICA had initiated discussions with governments of Laos and Cambodia and the Vietnam Co-operative Alliance in this regard. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed already with Cambodia and Vietnam, which is in the initial stages of operations of pilot projects.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA-AP, recently visited Vietnam and met Dr. Ty Phommasock, Vice Minister for Agriculture and Forestry in the Government of Laos and held discussions in this regard. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed soon to initiate project activities, in Laos.



Shil Kwan Lee with Dr. Ty Phommasock, Vice Minister for Agriculture and Forestry

assets and records. It may take years to bring back lives of thousands to normalcy. The Government of India and International donors have launched a large scale relief operation but the focus is on individual affected families and public infrastructure.

Co-operative infrastructure is low in the priority of Government of India and local co-operative leaders too are unable to voice their grievances on account of traumatic conditions caused due to death of their family members, relatives and loss of houses and livelihood.

In Andaman and Nicobar Island the biggest Tribal Co-operative headquartered in Nicobar has suffered huge permanent damages to the buildings and infrastructure. The members are still scared of coming back to the main island.

Time is matured to set the co-operative infrastructure in order. The members will soon require services of co-operatives in doing their daily transactions and businesses.

Government has announced the concessions to be given on purchase of boats, nets, equipments at the individual level but there is no immediate plan to reconstruct the infrastructure of co-operatives.

Post Tsunami intervention in India completed in record time

One of the greatest challenges before the ICA-Asia Pacific in 2005 was to face the destruction caused by Tsunami in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka and ameliorate the condition of affected co-operatives by establishing a network with ICA Geneva and generous ICA member organizations desirous of extending interim financial support to the affected co-operatives.

ICA-AP in collaboration with the national apex co-operative organizations in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka carried out in-depth study of the damages caused by tsunami and provided technical support in designing co-operative reconstruction and empowerment projects in India (co-operatives in Cuddalore and Vellupuram districts in Tamil Nadu and Nicobar in Andaman Nicobar Islands with the financial support of Co-operatives UK and National Co-operative Union of India), Indonesia (co-operatives in NAD Province with the financial assistance of ICA Geneva funds raised by ICA Member Organisations and the Co-operatives UK) and Sri Lanka (co-operatives in Southern Province with the financial support of B'nai Brit World Centre & the American Jewish Committee through NISPED, Israel).

The one year project in India finally started in July 2005 after ascertaining the needs of the target co-operatives in Tamil Nadu (need assessment jointly carried out by Mr Anil Singh, ICA Domus Trust, Dr Puyalvannan, Principal, ICM, Chennai in the leadership of Dr Kannan, Registrar of Co-operatives, Government of Tamil Nadu) and Nicobar Island (as advised by NCDC). The focus was on reconstruction of co-operative physical infrastructure so as to bring back the delivery of normal services of the identified seven co-operatives for their more than 15,000 affected members.

Detail of the interventions as mentioned have been jointly monitored by Mr Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director ICA-AP and Mr Rajiv I.D. Mehta, Director, ICA-AP:



Ader

TAMIL NADU :

6 co-ops in Cuddalore and Vellupuram Districts, Tamil Nadu:

1. Vasanthayarpalayam Primary Agriculture Co-operative Bank (PACB)
Repair of compound wall and main office building of the PACB
Status : Completed
Three Fair Price Shops (FPS) at Singarathoppu, Akkaraikhoru and Sonankuppam colonies in Vasanthayarpalayam village near Cuddalore
Status : Completed
2. Vilvarayanatham PACB
Compound wall of Thazhankuda FPS
Status : Completed
3. Kayalapattu PACB
Compound wall of PACB building
Status : Completed
4. Cuddalore Co-operative Marketing Society
Two FPSs at Devanampattinam colony
Status : Completed
Additional Storage Godown
Status : Likely to be completed by 31 May 2006 (more than 80% work over)
5. Chidambaram Marketing Society
Three FPSs at Modasal, T.S.Pettai &

Killai Meenavar Angadi

Status : Completed

6. Marakkanam Salt Workers' Co-operative Society (Vellupuram)
Motor Shed repair and Iodine Mixing Unit cum Office
Status : Likely to be completed by 31

May 2006 (only roof sheets to be fixed)
Funds Utilised: Rs. 3,030,000 – \$ 69,655
Remaining costs : Rs. 187,659 – \$314
Total Expected cost : \$73,969
Co-op UK Support : \$67,977 NCUI Support : \$5992

NICOBAR :

Reconstruction of 500 MT capacity Godown

Status : Completed

Purchase of three trucks : Rs. 2,691,000

Status : Delivery to be had by 15 June 2006

Funds Required : Rs. 3,941,000 - \$90,598

Funds Received :

Co-op UK : \$62,222 (\$29,012 for warehouse and \$33210 for trucks)

NCUI : \$ 10,988

EHL : \$17,388 (from Insurance cover)

The ICA-AP shall ever remain indebted to the international co-operative fraternity for their act of exemplary solidarity.



Newly built facilities in Cuddalore, India

ICA President, Director General and Regional Director visit Tsunami affected Sri Lanka and Indonesia

The ICA President, Ivano Barberini, Director General, Iain Macdonald, and Regional Director, Shil Kwan Lee, visited Tsunami affected areas of Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

The team visited Sri Lanka, 22-24 April and had discussions with the Sri Lankan co-operative leaders, government representatives, the Minister for Co-operatives and also the Prime Minister.

The team then proceeded to Indonesia, Nias and Aceh, which were completely destroyed by the Tsunami, 25-29 April, 2005.

Mr. Robby Tulus, Special Envoy and Field Coordinator also accompanied the President, DG and RD during their visits in Indonesia.

The President has requested all collaborating donor agencies for their



A scene from Nias

urgent support and instructed the ICA officials in Geneva and in the Asia-Pacific Region to do all that is possible for the hapless tsunami victims in the region, in this hour of need.



A ship washed away on the road several kilometers from sea in Aceh

APHCO Board meets at Tellichery, Kerala, India



Delegates with the board members after the meeting

The 11th Board Meeting and 5th General Meeting of Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organization (APHCO) was held on 30th April 2005 at Tellicherry, Kerala, India. The meetings were hosted jointly by Tellicherry Co-operative Hospital and Kerala Co-operative Hospitals Federation. 31 persons from India, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal and Sri Lanka attended the meetings.

Among routine agenda, Work Plan for the year 2005-2006 was discussed and approved. A Special Report on "Implementation of Micro Insurance and Expectation to Health Co-operatives"

was presented by Mr. Nobumasa Kitajima, former ILO Technical Officer for South Asia, who was invited by the Committee.

The election of the office bearers of the Board of APHCO took place at the General Meeting. The following persons were elected:

1. Dr. Yasuvuki Takahashi, Japan
- Chairperson
2. Mr. Lionel Samarasinghe, Sri Lanka
- Vice-Chairperson
3. Mr. E. Narayanan, India
- Vice-Chairperson
4. Dr. S. Horiuchi, Japan
- Member

5. Dr. Vijay Deshmukh, India
- Member
6. Dr. Bala Raja, Malaysia
- Member
7. Dr. Bharat Pradhan, Nepal
- Member

Approval was granted by the General Body to admit two new members from Sri Lanka. They are (1) Colombo Co-

operative Hospital, and (2) Nuwara-Eliya Multi-purpose Co-operative Society Ltd.

It was decided in the meeting that next meeting of APHCO may be held in Vietnam. The Secretary of APHCO will discuss the matter with Vietnam Co-operative Alliance. After that announcement of the date and venue will be decided.

ICA-AP Standing Committee meetings

The ICA Asia-Pacific Standing Committee met at New Lanark, Scotland, UK on 19th May 2005. Apart from members of the Committee, Ivano Barberini, ICA President and Jan-Eirik Imbsen, Director (Development), also participated at the meeting.

Mr. Mu Li welcomed all the members and extended special welcome to ICA President. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, presented the financial report for the year 2004. Dr. Yehudah Paz and Ms. Rahaiah Baهران actively participated at the meeting and raised several relevant points. Dr. Paz advised the ICA-AP to build a regional reserve.

The meeting discussed on all aspects of working of the ICA in Asia-Pacific, the activities of ICA Domus Trust, the subscription formula of the ICA, etc.

The next meeting of the Standing Committee was held in Cartagena,

Columbia, in conjunction with the General Assembly of ICA.

Another meeting of ICA-AP Standing Committee was held in Ramada Park Hotel, Geneva, on 5 December 2005 from 14:00 to 19:00 hours.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President and Chairman of Standing Committee. Sixteen members/observers attended the meeting. The meeting approved the ICA-AP Work Plan and Budget for 2006.

The meeting also discussed the following:

- (a) ICA's Governance Working Group Report and Regionalization Issues;
- (b) Membership Formula;
- (c) Association of Youth Representative with Standing Committee; and
- (d) Dates of Next Regional Assembly and other events to be held in Sri Lanka from 14-19 August 2006.

The next meeting of the Standing Committee was held in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province (China) on 16th May 2006.

ICA-MAF Workshop on Sharing Experiences on 'Regulation of Co-operatives held' in Laos

In pursuance of its Key Result Area of Co-operative Policy Development and Legislation, ICA-AP collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Government of Lao PDR to organize a workshop on Sharing Experiences on "Regulation of Co-operatives" from 5th to 7th July 2005. The workshop was organized as a part of ICA Project on Strengthening and Promoting Agricultural Co-operatives initiated recently in partnership with MAF and with support of AGRITERRA of Netherlands.

Nearly 30 senior officials at policymaking level of MAF and representatives of Water User Associations and Farmers' Groups participated in the workshop.

The main objective of the workshop was to share the experiences of neighboring countries, namely, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam on regulation for co-operatives with participants from Laos to enable the latter to workout a practical framework of Co-operative Law/Regulation based on field situation.

His Excellency Dr. Siene Saphanthong, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Government of Laos, formally opened the workshop in the presence of senior officials of MAF; Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director and officers of ICA-AP, resource persons from Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, ILO and AGRITERRA.

In his opening address H.E. Dr. Siene Saphanthong appreciated ICA-AP interventions in Lao PDR to revive co-operatives and observed "since the development of the new economic mechanism of our country since 1986,



Mr. Shil Kwan Lee with Dr. Siene Saphanthong, Minister of Agriculture & Forestry, Government of Laos

the development of agricultural co-operatives in Laos is still at its early stage. At present there exist some forms of co-operatives, namely, the water user group on irrigated land.

However, there is a need to strengthen and develop them further more so that they could move to a higher form of production system.

Outputs of the Workshop

After intensive discussions and group work, the following outputs emerged from the deliberations : (a) Broad Framework for Co-operative Policy; and (b) Strategy for Formulation of Co-operative Law for Laos.

A MOU with Government of Lao PDR was signed by Mr. Shil Kwan Lee on behalf of ICA-AP for implementing a Project on 'Strengthening and Promoting Agricultural Co-operatives in Laos'.

New chair for ICA-AP and its Standing Committee

At a meeting of ICA-AP Standing Committee held in Taihu Hotel, Wuxi on 16th May 2006, chaired by Mr. Mu Li, ICA Vice President for Asia-Pacific, the committee has nominated Mr. Li Chunsheng as the Chair of the ICA Asia-Pacific. He will also be the ICA Vice-President for Asia-Pacific, as Mr. Mu Li has retired from All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives.

Mr. Li Chunsheng has served the ACFSMC in various capacities. He has been the Vice President of ACFSMC since 2000 and carries a wealth of experiences in international affairs. Dr. S.S. Sisodia proposed the name of Mr. Li Chunsheng as Vice President of ICA and all members present seconded his name.



The workshop in progress

ICA-AP/NACF hold Symposium on WTO Framework Agreement and Impact on Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific

The ICA-Asia Pacific and the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation hosted a symposium on 'WTO Framework Agreement and the Impact on Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia and the Pacific'. The meeting/symposium was attended by representatives of agricultural co-operatives from Korea, Japan, Nepal, India, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, China and France.

The 36th meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture for Asia-Pacific was also held in conjunction with this seminar. Rajiv Mehta coordinated the Committee meeting, which was attended by Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA Asia-Pacific.

The meeting deliberated on three pillars of WTO negotiations, viz. market access, domestic support and export competitiveness.

Dr. Chan Ho Choi presented his paper on Agricultural Co-operatives in the Era of Trade Liberation. An overview of the DOHA round of negotiations in the



Delegates at the symposium

WTO and the implications on co-operatives was presented by Raul Montemayor, FFCI, Philippines.

The seminar deliberated on:

i. Quantitative restrictions through

tariffication and tariff rate quota for most favoured nations,

ii. Special Products (SP) and linking of tariff with value and quantity through tariff bands and tariff caps,

iii. Special and Differential Treatment (SND) and Special Safeguard Mechanisms (SSM),

iv. Trade and distortive non-distortive support through various boxes (Green, Blue and Amber boxes), and

(v) Poor awareness on WTO at the level of farmers.

Both positive and negative Implications for co-operatives were discussed, like increased export market, improved access to cheaper inputs, trade remedies and SND provisions, trend towards market concentration, threat of cheaper subsidized imports, trend towards privatization and deregulation, etc.

The seminar identified the following strategic actions for co-operatives were recommended:

- Optimise value addition chain
- Enhance business efficiency
- Increase vertical alliances
- Introduce structural reforms
- Encourage joint ventures, and
- Create subsidiary companies.

It was concluded that the co-operatives needed more specific policy provisions to attain comparative advantage in national and international context. It was also felt that greater understanding of SP and SSM was required to compete with developed countries.

ICA-AP Workshop for Awareness on Prevention of the Spread of HIV/AIDS

The ICA-A&P has taken initiative to address the HIV/AIDS crisis in the region and a strategic project focusing on prevention and intervention activities and held a workshop, 1-2 July 2005, in Bangkok, in collaboration with the Co-operative League of Thailand.

Last year a similar workshop was held in India with the support of UNAIDS and NCUI.

The participants were co-operative leaders, directors and managers from various sectors of Thai co-op movement.

The workshop has been inaugurated by Dr. Suthiporn Chirapada, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Govt. of Thailand. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA-AP, Mr. Wisoot Sutthinoon, Chairman of CLT, and Dr. Wiwut Daengsubha, Executive Director of CLT addressed the participants and expressed solidarity in the fight against the pandemic.

Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive of



Participants at the Workshop in Thailand

NCUI, India, shared his experience about ongoing HIV/AIDS awareness activities in co-ops in India. Mrs. Savitri Singh, Gender Programme Advisor coordinated the workshop. During the Technical sessions, experts from UNAIDS, ILO and APHCO deliberated

upon the various issues. The sessions were followed by Interaction and discussions by the participants. A group discussion has also been held and group leaders presented their action plan on how to implement HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes in their co-operatives.

Welcome to New Member for ICA from Israel

The ICA-AP welcomed the new member from Israel:

THE KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT.

The mailing address of The Kibbutz Movement is given below:

Mr. Bargil Gavir
Secretary General,
The Kibbutz Movement
13 Leonardo Da Vinci Street
Tel Aviv 61400, Israel.
E-mail: maz@kba.org.il

We are looking forward to working with our new member in co-operative development initiatives, in Israel and in the Region.

– Shil Kwan Lee,
Regional Director
Asia & Pacific

National Workshop for TOT held in Sri Lanka

The ILO-Co-op Net and ICA ROAP has developed a training manual for leadership development of women in co-operatives in the Asia Pacific region. The manual is being used for training of trainers of co-operatives who in turn will train the women co-operative leaders.

The ICA ROAP has decided to conduct the training for women and men trainers of primary, secondary and tertiary co-operatives whose role and task is to conduct training activities on gender sensitivity and accountability and on leadership capacity building of women in co-operatives.

A national seminar was held at the National Institute of Co-operative Development, Polgolla, Sri Lanka, 1-6 August, 2005. The NICD invited 29 women and men trainers of primary,



Mrs. Savitri Singh speaking at the seminar. Also seen are Mr. Paul Sinnappan, Mr. Udaya Seneviratne and Mr. Tsubasa Nakamura

secondary, and tertiary co-operatives with basic knowledge of co-operatives and substantial grasp of gender issues and concern in the society, committed to the advocacy for gender equity and equality in society in general and in co-operatives in particular.

The objective of the training was to raise the awareness of women and men leaders and members of co-operatives on gender issues, on the manifestations of gender bias (against women) in co-operatives, and on the effects of gender discrimination on the personal and interpersonal growth of its leaders and members as well as on the organizational development of co-operatives and to build up the capacity of current and potential women leaders of co-operatives by equipping them with knowledge and skills.

ICA General Assembly held in Cartagena, Colombia

The ICA has held its General Assembly at the Hilton Hotel in Cartagena, Colombia. In its 110 year history, this is the first time that ICA held a General Assembly in Latin America.

More than 1400 delegates participated at the General Assembly and related meetings. The main theme of this year's General Assembly was 'Co-operating Out of Poverty', which show-cased how co-operatives could be the most effective vehicle to eliminate poverty, which is one of the UN Millennium goals.

Several sectoral organizations and thematic committees also met during this period. Elections were also held to the ICA Board and a list of new ICA board members are given as follows:



The ICA President carrying a fruit basket at the Reception

New ICA Board Members

Mr. Ivano Barberini - President, Italy
 Mr. Mu Li - Vice President, China
 Dame Paline Green - Vice President, UK
 Mr. Stanley Muchiri - Vice President, Kenya
 Mr. Carlos Palacino - Vice President, Colombia
 Ms. Gun-Britt Martensson - Sweden
 Mdm. Rahaiah Baharen - Malaysia
 Mr. Alban d'Amours - Canada
 Mr. Paul Hazen - USA
 Mr. Felice Scalvini - Italy
 Mr. Seah Kian Peng - Singapore
 Mr. Steinar Dvergsdal - Norway
 Ms. Elizabeth Aba Smith - Ghana
 Ms. Lourdes S. Ortellado - Paraguay
 Mr. Americo Utumi - Brazil
 Mr. Jean-Claude Dettleux
 Mr. Isami Miyata - Japan
 Mr. Ramon Zuniga Imperial - Mexico



Young boys and girls performing at the welcome reception in Cartagena

Mr. Janusz Paszkowski - Poland
 Mr. Dae-Kun Chung - Korea

Audit & Control Committee

Ms. Esther Gicheru, Kenya
 Mr. Philip Holmes, UK
 Mr. Shugo Ogura, Japan
 Mr. Roy Berg Pedersen, Norway
 Mr. Rene Sittner, Germany

ICA Asia-Pacific Youth Steering Committee held

The ICA Asia-Pacific has been following a policy of promoting marginalized groups like Youth and Women in Co-operative Development activities right from 1994.

Several organized youth seminars in various countries of the Region. The major regional seminars were in Tokyo, Japan during 2002 and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, during September, 2004.

During the Kuala Lumpur Seminar, the youth delegates formed themselves into a Youth Steering Committee, as a Protem Committee for an ICA Youth Committee for Asia and Pacific.

Many of the country representatives have been nominated in KL and they have conducted the first meeting of the Steering Committee there. The Committee also conducted the rest of the proceedings of the Youth Seminar in KL.

A representative of the Youth Steering Committee also presented a report on the Youth Seminar at the Regional Assembly held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, during December, 2004.

The ICA Asia-Pacific held a meeting of the Youth Steering Committee in Singapore, 15-16 July, 2005. The



The youth delegates with the 'not-so-youth' at the Singapore meeting

meeting, hosted by SNCF, was attended by youth representatives from India, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Zulkifli Mohammad, Chief Executive of Singapore National Co-operative Federation welcomed the delegates. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA, Jan

Eirik Imbsen, Director (Development), ICA Geneva, Jiro Ito, former Director (Special Programs) of ICA in the Region, Tsubasa Nakamura, Special Advisor, P. Nair, Program Officer and Boku Nakano of JCCU, also attended the meeting. Teo Say Hong of Singapore chaired the meeting. The meeting discussed the

modalities and strategies for setting up a thematic committee under the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific. The Committee is expected to be formalized during the next Regional Assembly to be held in Sri Lanka during the last quarter of 2006.

The meeting discussed and finalized the draft constitution of the Committee and also action plans for the period until 2007. The meeting also discussed the holding of the next Youth Seminar in Sri Lanka in conjunction with the Regional Assembly.

Another topic discussed was the participation of youth from this Region at the International Youth Seminar in Cartagena, Colombia.

The meeting also decided to nominate Mr. Teo Say Hong of Singapore as the Youth Representative on the ICA Board. They felt that the Regional Standing Committee should also have youth representatives on it.

It was proposed that the Steering Committee should meet again in the first quarter of 2006, for more concrete discussions on the topics.

Colombia Conference adopts International Youth Action Plan

The representation of Youth on the ICA Board, more than just a space for participation, it is a space for young people to act inside the cooperative movement. Being here implies organizing our work, defining the motives that lead us to be here and draw the course of action to make our dreams come true.

Coherence is required to be in this position; that means acting according to our beliefs. It means forming and consolidating interdisciplinary, inter-generational and international working groups that allow a more precise interpretation of the needs and aspirations of the people represented.

The collective design and action is the only possible way to make a solidary - cooperative scenario a feasible reality.

Colombia assumes the challenge of this representation, led by Juan Carlos Mejía,

who besides having the support of Colombia ICA members, counts on the young people organized in the youth network in Colombia. We have constituted a support group, to struggle to make the following proposals a possible reality.

The Conference adopted an International Youth Action Plan, which has major strategies like a web-page, a youth digest, participate in various events, joint ventures, representation, structure and constitution, funding, employment, entrepreneurship and agreements, with action plans to match these.

Mr. Juan Carlos Mejía, the youth representative on the ICA board, could be contacted at : jmejia@cafitec.edu.co for more information on Youth co-operative activities.



Ms. Jo Biby Scullion, the retiring youth member on the ICA Board with Juan Carlos Mejía, the new representative.

ICA-AP/VCA hold for HIV/AIDS Awareness Workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam

Based on the group discussions and ideas from the delegates at the workshop on "Sensitization of co-operative leaders to generate awareness for prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS" on 3rd May 2006 in Hanoi Vietnam, we have worked out the Action plan of VCA and co-operatives in HIV/AIDS prevention in coming time as follows:

- Propose the Vietnamese Government to facilitate VCA involvement in the National programs and strategies of the Government and cooperative sector will be a main beneficiary.
- Propose the Vietnamese Government and facilitate to establish the co-operative model for HIV/AIDS infected people in order to help them to create self-employment, integrate them in the daily lives and self belief.
- VCA will propose the Prime Minister of the Vietnamese Government to



Participants at the workshop

permit VCA to become a member of National Committee of HIV/AIDS Prevention and request the Government to issue the specific programs and plans for the co-operative sector.

5th ICA-Japan Women Leaders Training Course held



Participants of the 5th ICA/Japan Women Leaders Training Course

The International Co-operative Alliance-Asia Pacific (ICA-AP), in association with its member organisation in Japan, the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives of Japan (JA-Zenchu) and the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA) organised the 5th ICA-Japan Training Course for "Strengthening Women's Agricultural Co-operatives in Rural Areas and Improvement of Farm Management and Rural Life" in Malaysia and Japan. Eight participants - two each from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Sri Lanka, attended the Training Course. The Course was organised and held by the ICA at the IDACA premises from 4th to 28th September 2005. The 10-day component of Comparative Field Study Visits was held in Malaysia from 25th August to 3rd September in collaboration with the National Co-operative Organization of Malaysia (ANGKASA). The program is funded by the Government of Japan in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

The main objective of the Training Course was "to train women leaders in rural areas in developing countries by means of strengthening women's agricultural co-operatives, farm management, and improvement of rural life". The Training Course also provided training for the capacity building of the participants with a view to organise women's associations and study co-operative activities.

The field study visits were arranged to

agricultural co-operatives and women's associations in Yamagata Prefecture of Japan. Lecture-cum-practical field study visits assignments were combined to impart necessary knowledge to the participants on the working of women's associations and the general activities of agricultural co-operatives in Japan. The participants also held group discussions and prepared brief reports on the experiences gained by them. An end-of-the-Course Evaluation session was also held.

In view of the experience gained by the participants through class room lectures, field study visits in Malaysia and Japan, interaction among themselves, and based upon their own work environment, the participants were able to develop brief outlines of their Action Plans which they would recommend to their organisations after their return to their home countries. These plans were developed through holding group discussions and on the basis of their discussions with their seniors before joining the Training Course.

The concluding session of the Training Course was held on Wednesday, 28th September 2005 with Mr. Hideo Ishida, Assistant Director, International Co-operation Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) as Chief Guest.

Mr. Shigeri Fukamachi, Managing Director of IDACA and Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Planning Officer of ICA-AP also addressed the closing session. 'Certificate of Participation' was awarded to the participants by the IDACA.

- VCA will set up the Sub-Committee on HIV/AIDS Prevention which is a focal point to coordinate the activities with the related bodies in the provinces/cities.
- Because of the low awareness and lack of information on HIV/AIDS disease, the people still avoid to communicate or work with HIV/AIDS infected people and sometimes they have discrimination behaviour towards HIV/AIDS people in the daily life. In order to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS in the communities, we should raise the awareness for HIV/AIDS prevention and self-protection for members and train the propaganda/communicators forces for providing the information.
- Sharing and sympathy with the HIV/AIDS infected people and help them to protect themselves with different measures and be more confident in their daily lives.
- Implementing the comprehensive survey to access the problems of the HIV/AIDS infected people facing in the co-operative sector, the discriminatory behaviour existed in this sector or not. Based on the

survey, VCA will prepare the specific programs and plans and propose to the Government for support.

- Integrate the HIV/AIDS propaganda activities into the training courses which are conducted by VCA and its affiliated bodies belonging to VCA and Provincial Co-operative Alliances in 64 provinces/cities of Vietnam.
- Make the film on HIV/AIDS prevention and care of HIV/AIDS infected people in the family for the co-operative sector.
- Put the news on HIV/AIDS in the Newspapers and magazines of VCA.
- Print the leaflet and distribute it through many channels.
- Organising the workshops and seminars in the regions and areas where the vulnerable infected people are increasing.
- Improving the awareness on HIV/AIDS prevention for the co-operative managers, directors, chairmen and officers from the top to the bottom level.
- Promote the establishment of health co-operatives in Vietnam which will be in charge of taking health check-up for cooperative members and communities and labourers.
- Formulate the policies to recruit the HIV/AIDS infected people to work in the co-operatives and become co-operative members if they are interested in and they should have an equal rights as others and no discrimination.

In order to carry out the above activities, VCA from the central to local level needs to cooperate with ICA, ICA-AP, the other apex co-operative organizations and NGOs to assist VCA in term of technical and finance in carrying out the HIV/AIDS prevention for the co-operative sector in Vietnam in coming time and in establishing the first health co-operative model in Vietnam as soon as possible.

Regional Women's Committee Office Bearers meet in Kuala Lumpur



Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Mdm. Rahaiah, Mrs. Savitri Singh and Ms. Sally Ganebe discussing.

A meeting of the Office bearers of the ICA Regional Women Committee was held on 14th November, 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Ms. Rahaiah Baheran, chaired the meeting to discuss about work plan of the committee for the next year 2006 and also to finalize the arrangements for proposed conference in 2006.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICAAP was specially invited to attend the meeting. He expressed his satisfaction with the progress of committee's work

and offered all the support from the office. Minutes of the last meeting held in Bangkok on 26th February, 2005 have been adopted. The secretary presented the report on the action taken.

The committee adopted the work plan for 2006 as proposed in the agenda. In view of the proposed Women's Conference in 2006, there would be no Women's Forum during 2006. However, there will be a Regional Women's Committee meeting to elect new office bearers to the Committee.

ICA-AP/ACCU/NABARD Regional Workshop on Co-operatives and Micro-Finance

The ICA-AP/ACCU/NABARD organised a Regional Workshop on Co-operatives and Micro-Finance on 18-21 October, at the Goa-Bogmallo Beach Resort, Goa, India.

An overview of co-operative credit and banking sector in majority of the developing countries of the Asia-Pacific Region shows that while credit unions have achieved appreciable success in the sphere of micro-finance, other co-operatives, by and large, appear to be perhaps the last entrants in internalizing innovative micro-finance programmes.

Thus, it was high time to introduce such ground-breaking schemes to a larger area and dimension, as micro-financing the employment generating activities for poor, down-trodden and under-privileged of the society is one of the prime concerns to improve their physical quality of life.

In line with the theme of the International Day of Co-operatives "Micro Finance is our Business! Co-operating out of Poverty", this regional workshop on co-operatives and micro-



Distinguished delegates at the dias

finance, organized by the International Co-operative Alliance in partnership with Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) of India, aimed at discussing important issues and facilitating growth of a more inclusive co-operative financial

sector for the poor. There was also a need to deliberate upon the problems of the co-operative sector and also the potential of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) as micro-finance models for co-operatives to emanate as also the possibility of integrating other important inputs and financial services for the poor like micro-

insurance. The workshop will draw a road map with broad contours on the role of co-operatives in operationally internalizing micro-finance, including defining the role and responsibilities for each stakeholders involved in micro-finance. Specifically, the outputs were:

- workable model of co-operative micro-finance,
- model for co-operative insurance,
- support systems for co-operative micro-finance.

Eminent resource persons from Asia-Pacific region have made presentations on the following subjects: i. Co-operative Sector - changes required to operationally internalize concept of micro-finance, ii. Micro-finance and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) - concept, formation, linkages with banks and policy initiatives, iii. Micro-finance product designs, delivery systems and institutional support systems for sustainable micro-finance, iv. Development of co-operative micro-insurance system for the poor.

In addition, case studies on best practices relating to co-operative micro-finance system, were also presented at the workshop.

Co-operative-Government Dialogue organized by ICA-AP in Malaysia



Hon. Minister of Entrepreneur and Co-operative Development Yang Berhormat Dato Mohd. Khaled bin Nordin speaking at the Dialogue.

The Co-operative - Government Dialogue was organized by ICA-AP in collaboration with national co-operative apex of Malaysia the ANGKASA from 14 to 17 November 2005 in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

The dialogue that was attended by more than 70 international delegates from the governments and movements of 15 countries deduced following major concerns:

Co-operative Policy & Legislation:

The Government should recognize co-operatives as unique entities with a blend of economic and social responsibility in the light of ICIS of ICA and recommendation 193 of ILO and as a catalyst alongside the public and private sectors in the national development plan.

Co-operative policy must also identify co-operatives as capable of providing services in the areas that are otherwise remained outside the mainstream national development channels.

Co-operative Policy must state the role

Good governance has to be ensured by adopting a clear mission and vision statement coupled with guidelines prescribing role of members, leaders and managers and defining code of conduct.

of the government as that of a facilitator and regulator and not that of a controller. The co-operatives deserve to be enshrined in the constitution of the country for uniform and smooth development of the nation.

Effective Participatory Governance:

A successful Co-operative requires enlightened and informed membership. Although the membership of co-operatives in terms of numbers has increased manifold but dormant membership and the absence of active participation of members in their management have resulted in institutional ailments and has also encouraged the dominance of vested interests causing blockages in the percolation of benefits to the members.

In a large number of cases, elections and general body meetings in co-operatives are not held regularly. The non-conduct of elections and general body meetings regularly has been creating apathy among members towards the management. Meeting of the General Body and Audit of the co-operatives' functioning be made mandatory by law.



The delegates of the Dialogue

Political interests of the co-operative leaders should not be catered at the cost of the co-operatives' operational freedom and viability. Creation of new leadership or second line leadership involving youths and women be made mandatory as per law.

Institutional Capacity Building:

Co-operatives have a unique character of fraternity and federated system. Each tier integrates the value chain in the business operations and hence enjoys a special status. The role of each tier is specific to the mandate and purpose. Lack of proper guidance and education at the primary level and un-professional management of the businesses at both primary and secondary levels are some of the traditional institutional constraints hampering sustainable growth of the co-operatives.

Government should recognize the important role of the co-operative apex bodies in the formulation and implementation of development plans. The state and fraternity support must come in the form of capacity building interventions aimed at delivering right knowledge on management and operations and imparting necessary skills on project formulation, business planning, market intelligence and modern technology to compete and sustain in post WTO globalize set-up.

Protection to Vulnerable Sections of the Society:

Co-operatives belong to resource deficient segments of the society. The co-operative policy of the government must lay special stress on protection of the vulnerable target groups, women, youths and refugees through co-operative action.

Resource Mobilisation:

There is a dire need to build professional competence and capacity of the co-operatives to leverage existing institutional resources to compete and survive in globalize market economy and boundary less markets.

HRD Workshop on “Importance of Co-operative Governance and Social Responsibility” and 18th Meeting of the ICA Committee on HRD for Asia Pacific



The ICA-AP, Regional Director, Chair and Vice-Chairs of HRD Committee at the meeting

The much-publicized corporate fallout of national and international corporations in many countries has created greater awareness on the need for good corporate governance in the business fraternity. This heightened awareness has led to the urgent need for good corporate governance in all economic sectors and in voluntary welfare organizations and charities.

Increasingly, corporate governance and transparency are being looked upon as competitive advantages in the market place. The other important area of concern and emphasis has been the corporate social responsibility. Many seminars and conferences have been organized for the corporate sector on above subject.

Co-operatives, which have always looked upon social responsibility as one of its key objectives, need to re-evaluate policies

and practices on governance and social responsibility in the context of current thinking. It would help the co-operatives in the region to become more competitive in open market and help strengthen relevance of ICA's role in serving its members rightfully. The International Standardization Organization (ISO) has also launched an extensive effort to establish an ISO Advisory Guideline on this matter, which would of course be referred in setting benchmarks.

To address the aforesaid important issues of concern, the ICA Asia-Pacific in collaboration with Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) organized a Workshop on “Importance of Co-operative Governance and Social Responsibility” in Singapore on 24th and 25th October 2005. Twenty-seven participants from India, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore and

ICA-AP attended the Workshop. The opening ceremony of the workshop was held at Quality Hotel in Singapore on 24th October.

The opening session was addressed by Mr. Leow Peng Kui, Chairman of ICA-AP HRD Committee; Mr. Zulkifli Mohammed, Chief Executive of SNCF; and Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA-AP. The following presentations were made: a) Overview of the Singapore Co-operative Movement; b) Importance of Good Co-operative Governance, and; c) Co-operatives bench-marking Social Responsibility. Field visits were also arranged to NTUC Child Care, NTUC FairPrice and Sea Care Co-op.

The 18th Meeting of the ICA Committee

on HRD for Asia and Pacific was also held at the meeting room of Sea Care Co-operative on 25th October at 14:00 hours. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Leow Peng Kui, Chairman of the HRD Committee. Twenty-three participants from India, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Singapore attended the meeting.

A presentation on “Networking of Co-operative HRD Institutions in Asia and Pacific” was made by Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive of NCUI and Vice-Chairman of the HRD Committee. Country reports on Initiatives on HRD were presented by India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. It was decided to hold the next meeting in Sri Lanka in conjunction with the Regional Assembly.



Delegates at the seminar intently watching a presentation

Devastating Earthquake in Pakistan and India

The recent devastating earthquake on 08 October 2005 shook and shivered hilly terrain of Kashmir in India & Pakistan by killing more than 13,000 on Indian side and 79,000 on Pakistan side of Kashmir. Several thousands of dead and affected had belonged to the primary co-operatives in these areas.



Main areas affected on Indian side fall in Uri division and on Pakistan side fall in Abbotabad, Mansehra, Koshistan, Batagram, Haripur, Bunair, Swat and Shangla. There are just rough estimates available on the scale of the disaster due to extremely difficult terrain and slow rescue operations. However, the authorities in Pakistan have reported the number of affected co-operatives close to 1440 with a membership base of approximately 70,000 families. The estimates are changing every day with the recovery of more and more dead bodies from the wreckage.



MOU signed between
ICA-AP and SNCF



A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the International Cooperative Alliance – Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) and Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) was signed on 15th November 2005.

According to this MOU the SNCF will continue to sponsor the ICA Business Office in Singapore

for a term of two years more commencing from 1st January 2006 with an annual sponsorship of S\$ 30,000 per annum.

Part of this sponsorship sum will be utilized by ICA-AP for co-operative development activities in some countries of the Region.

National Workshop on Strengthening of Consumer Co-operatives held in Cebu and Manila and Follow-up workshop in Bangkok



Participants of the workshop in Cebu, Philippines

A National Workshop on Strengthening of Consumer Co-operatives was organized by ICA-AP at Cebu, Philippines on 21-23 November 2005.

Thirteen participants from consumer co-

operative stores from around Cebu participated. VICTO hosted the workshop.

Prof. S.C. Misra was invited by ICA-AP as the Resource Person. The World Scenario of Retail Management was also

presented by Professor Misra.

A similar workshop was organized in Manila, Philippines on 24-25 November 2005. Here also 13 participants from Manila and nearby provinces participated. NATCCO hosted this event.

A Critical Study on Consumer Co-operatives in Thailand was conducted by Dr. Asanee Ratnamalai.

A Follow-up Workshop on Strengthening of Consumer Co-operatives was also held in Bangkok, Thailand from 27-29 October, 2005.

Thirty participants from all over Thailand participated at the workshop, which was organized in collaboration with the Co-operative League of Thailand (CLT).

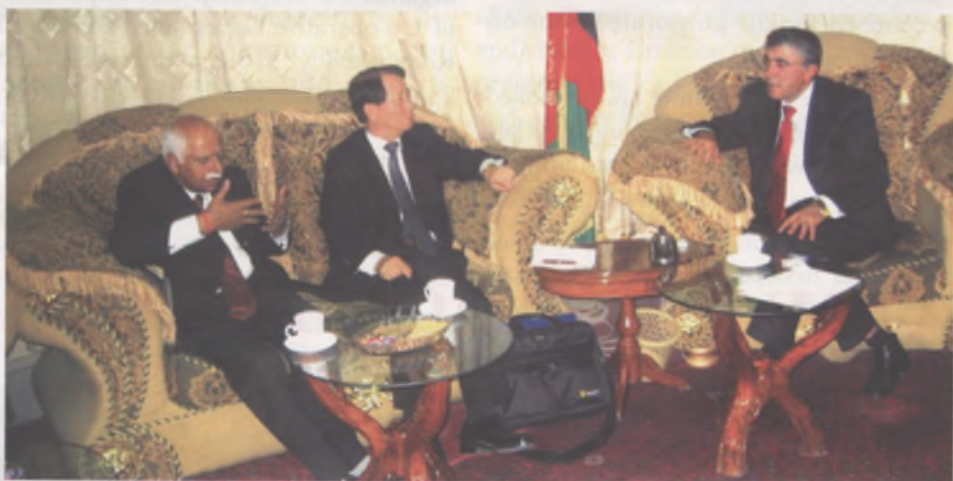


Participants of the Follow-up workshop in Bangkok

ICA- AP official visit to Afghanistan to discuss Co-operative Development Initiatives

On the invitation of Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food of Government of Afghanistan, ICA Asia-Pacific sponsored a two member mission to study the status of co-operatives in Afghanistan. The objective of mission was to identify the areas of interventions for strengthening co-operatives in Afganistan which has a good historical background of co-operative movement beset with 30 years of continuous wars and onslaughts of warlords during the then Soviet

ministers and all the senior officials of Ministry of Agriculture. The following areas of collaboration with ICA emerged during these discussions: 1) Capacity building of government officials and Co-operative leaders. 2) Training of trainers. 3) Helping Ministry to reconstruct Co-operative Training Institute. 4) Facilitation of formulation of Co-operative Policy at national level. The Ministry has already drafted a co-operative legislation which has incorporated definition of co-operative



Mr. Shil Kwan Lee and Mr. B.D. Sharma with the Hon'ble Minister, Mr. Ramin



Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director and Mr. B.D. Sharma with the Afghanistan Minister and other officials.

occupation and Taliban period. Even then the co-operative system has survived, but in weakened shape. Agricultural co-operatives have been very important for agricultural development since long.

Now the government is serious to revive these co-operatives and in this context they want to solicit the support of ICA. So far 600 agricultural co-operatives have been registered in various provinces and the number is being increased to 4000 in near future. The mission had extensive discussions with Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture Mr. Ramin, his two deputy

and principles of co-operation as given in ICA Co-operative Identity Statement. It will shortly be submitted to Ministry of Justice and then be placed before parliament for enactment. The mission also visited two agricultural co-operatives which are located in grape growing areas. Co-operative leaders in the co-operatives were very much enlightened and possessed a good business sense. The co-operatives mentioned following requirements for their effective services to the farmers:

1. Training of Co-operative leaders

- and managers in formulation and implementation of workable business development plan,
2. Introduction of Co-operative financial system for members of agricultural co-operatives,
3. Education of co-operative members
4. Infrastructre for warehousing and marketing of agricultural produce,
5. Agro-processing co-operative leaders felt that strong co-operative system in rural areas can motivate farmers to desist from opium cultivation.

To begin with ICA Asia-Pacific has

decided to conduct a sensitization programme for co-operative leaders and government officials in India in collaboration with National Co-operative Union of India. The programme is scheduled to be held in India.

The mission consisted of Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA-AP and Mr. B.D. Sharma, Senior Consultant. ICA-AP would be glad to solicit the support of ICA members and international community to participate in our task to rebuild the co-operative movement of Afghanistan.



The Regional Director presenting a plaque to the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food, H.E. Ramin

ICA-IFFCO Segment of 20th ICA/Japan Training Course inaugurated

The Twentieth ICA-Japan Training Course on 'Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia' was held in India, China and Japan, from December 14, 2005 to April 22, 2006. The programme was implemented by the International Cooperative Alliance [ICA] in collaboration with JA-Zenchu [Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan] and the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia-Japan [IDACA]. A generous financial assistance was provided to the ICA by the Ministry of Agriculture,

enhance and sustain their farm income. It was also expected that agricultural cooperatives introduce and accelerate the agro-processing activities to add value to the primary products of their members. This objective was sought to be achieved through intensive classroom teaching, skills development in producing and analysing development project proposals, exchange of experiences and study visits. The India segment included three components, [i] Review of Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and



Mr. Prem Kumar, Programme Director, speaking at the inauguration of the Training Course at FMDI, Gurgaon

Forestry and Fisheries [MAFF] of the Government of Japan to conduct the programme. It was executed by the ICA in accordance with the agreement reached between the two organisations. The Course was held in the following two phases:

Phase-I : Home Country Assignments (December 14, 2005-January 14, 2006)
Programme held in India (January 15-March 4, 2006)
Programme held in China (Mar 5-12, 2006)

Phase-II : Programme held in Japan at IDACA (March 13-April 22, 2006)

comparative Field Study Visits to national and primary level cooperative organisations in Delhi, Gurgaon area held at the Fertiliser Marketing Development Institute (FMDI) of Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) from January 15 to 31, 2006 [ii] Management Leadership Development Module at the Institute of Rural Management [IRMA] at Anand, from February 1 to March 2, 2006 and [iii] the wrap-up sessions held in New Delhi (March 3-4). The third segment was on comparative field study visits to agricultural cooperatives and related institutions in China, which was conducted from March 5 to 12, 2006 with



Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director, Asia-Pacific and Dr. D.K. Bhatt, Marketing Director, IFFCO, addressing the participants

The twelve participants to this Training Course were nominated by ICA Member-Organisations from eight countries i.e., China-02, India-02, Indonesia-01, Laos-01, Nepal-01, Sri Lanka-01, Thailand-02 and Vietnam-02.

The main objective of the Training Course was to help improve the capabilities of managers in agricultural cooperatives. It was expected that the trained managers, by using project-oriented approaches, help the basic members at the grassroots level to

the active support and collaboration of the All-China Federation of Supply & Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC).

The inauguration of the Course held on 16th January, 2006 was attended by Mr. D.K. Bhatt, Marketing Director of IFFCO, Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive, National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), Mr. Shil-Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director [Asia-Pacific], Mr. Tomofumi Inoue, First Secretary in the Japanese Embassy in India, Mr. Ikuo Ashikari, General Manager, IDACA, Mr.



Participants with the distinguished guests at FMDI, Gurgaon, India

Y. Abe, Manager (Trg), IDACA, Mr. D. Bhattacharya, Joint General Manager (HRD), IFFCO, Dr. R.N. Kundu, Sr. Manager (Trg), FMDI, and Mr. Prem Kumar, Adviser, ICA/Japan Training Course.



Mr. T. Inoue, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in India, addressing the participants

Mr Prem Kumar, Programme Adviser, ICA-Asia & Pacific was responsible for the conduct of the Training Course. The programme in Japan was held under the direction of Mr. Kazuo Tsukada, Executive Director of the IDACA. Mr. Toru Nakashima, Deputy Manager [Trg], and Ms. Eiko Oshita, Coordinator, were designated by IDACA as Programme Coordinators for the Part-II of the course.

As a part of their studies, the participants had produced 12 development project proposals during their Home Country Assignments [HCAs] in accordance with the guidelines provided by the ICA. While at IRMA, the participants were imparted

training in skills of developing project proposals.

The second part of the programme held at IDACA [March 13 to April 22] included extensive classroom work and study visits to agricultural cooperatives in and around Tokyo, Yamanashi and Kagoshima Prefectures in Japan. The focus of studies was on the historical development of the Japanese Agricultural Cooperative Movement, innovations, management practices, diversification and business promotion.

The participants got acquainted with a variety of national level cooperative federations and other institutions in Tokyo, and held discussions with leaders, members, managers and staff of agricultural cooperatives in Japan.

A continuous process of evaluation and appraisal has been followed throughout the term of the Training Course, e.g., at the end of each component, through evaluation forms and group discussions. An End-of-the-Course Evaluation was conducted at the conclusion of the Training Course.

The Certificates of Participation were awarded to the participants at a concluding session held at the IDACA in Tokyo before their departure for their home countries.

As up to the end of the 20th Training Course, a total of 291 managers of agricultural cooperatives from 16 countries of Asia had attended the training programmes. They prepared a total of 288 project proposals on topical subjects.

Workshop on Replication of Success Story of Saigon Co-operative to other regions of Vietnam

A Consumer co-operative workshop on "Replication of success story of Saigon Co-operative to other regions of Vietnam", was held on 26-27 March 2006 at Hanoi.

There were 40 participants from five Northern provinces of Vietnam. Two Resource Persons were invited by ICA-AP - 1) Prof. S.C. Misra from India, and 2) Ms. Quyen of Saigon Co-operative.

Mr. Mishra explained the participants as to how to prepare a project report to start a Consumer Co-operative, while Dr. Quyen narrated factors that have contributed to the success of Saigon Coop. At the end of the workshop, the



Participants of the workshop on the final day

participants prepared an Action Plan to replicate Saigon Co-operative experience.

Conference on "The Role of Co-operatives in Poverty Alleviation"

Ninety delegates (45 from Vietnam and 45 from 11 countries - Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, U.K.) participated at the Conference on Poverty Alleviation.

The conference was jointly hosted by Vietnam Co-operative Alliance and ICA-AP. Ms. Nguyen Thi Hang, Hon. Minister, Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs of Vietnam, inaugurated the conference on 22nd March 2006.

The inaugural session was presided over by Ivano Barberini, ICA President. Mr. Nguyen Tien Quan, President of Vietnam Co-operative Alliance welcomed the delegates and Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA-AP



Ms. Tran Thi Minh Chanh, Vice Chair of Social Affairs Committee of Vietnamese Assembly, Mr. Nguyen Tien Quan, President, VCA, ICA President, Ms. Nguyen Thi Hang, Hon'ble Minister, Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director at the inauguration of the conference.

presented the introductory remarks.

Six countries i.e., Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and Vietnam presented PRSP papers for their respective countries.

Mr. Johnston Birchall, Sr. Lecturer in Public Policy, University of Stirling, Deptt. of Applied Social Science, Scotland was invited by ICA-AP to present a special paper on "The Role of Co-operatives in Poverty Reduction".

In addition, Ms. Rosemarie Greve, Director, ILO Office in Vietnam, also presented a paper on "An ILO Perspective on Poverty Reduction and Co-operatives".

RCBA/ICBA/SANASA/People's Bank Symposium on Corporate Governance of Co-operative Banks



Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan lighting the inaugural lamp at the seminar. Mr. Eugeniusz Laszkiewics, Chair of ICBA, is seen on the left.

A symposium on Corporate Governance of Co-operative Banks was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 25 February 2006.

Seventy participants (21 (RCBA), 09 (ICBA) and 40 (SANASA/PEOPLE'S BANK of Sri Lanka) attended the

symposium. SANASA Development Bank and People's Bank of Sri Lanka hosted the symposium.

Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, Chairman, RCBA chaired the inaugural session. Mr. Eugeniusz Laszkiewics, President of ICBA, presided over the function. Key

Note Speech was delivered by Dr. (Mrs.) Rani Jayamaha, Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

Following presentations were made at the symposium:

- Corporate Governance: Concept, Co-operative Values and Principles as applied in Corporate Governance of Co-operative Banks by Mr. P.V. Prabhu, Trustee Secretary, National Institute for Rural Banking.
- Co-operative Legislations vis-à-vis Corporate Governance of Co-operative Banks by Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive, NCUI
- Role of Board of Directors - by Dr. P.A Kiriwadeniya, Chairman - People's Bank, Leader of SANASA Movement
- How to protect interest of Stakeholders in Co-operative banks - by Mr. P.V. Pathirana, Dy. General Manager, People's Bank of Sri Lanka.

All these presentations along with Key Note Speech of Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, are available on ICA's website: www.icarop.coop

Seah Kian Peng becomes a Member of Parliament



Mr. SEAH KIAN PENG, Chairman of Singapore National Co-operative Federation, a member of the ICA Global board and ICA Regional Standing Committee has been elected as a Member of Parliament of Marine Parade Group Representative Constituency in Singapore.

Mr. Seah, a Colombo Plan scholar, is the Deputy CEO and COO of NTUC Fair Price Co-operative. He is also the Chairman of the NTUC Media Co-operative.

We, at the ICA, congratulate, Mr. Seah for being elected as an MP and we are confident that this would help greatly the co-operative movement of Singapore, in the Asia-Pacific region and globally, in influencing policy decisions on co-operatives.

ICA and NCUI organise training programme for Afghan co-operators

On the request of Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food of Government of Afghanistan, ICA-AP, in collaboration with the National Co-operative Union of India, sponsored a 2-member study mission to Afghanistan - Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director and Mr. B.D. Sharma, Sr. Consultant, ICA Domus Trust from 14-18 February 2006.

Based on these discussions, the Minister, Senior Government Officials and Co-op leaders of the Mission felt that several issues need to be addressed for revitalization of co-operatives in Afghanistan. Hence, ICA-AP decided to conduct a sensitization program for co-operative leaders and government officials in India in collaboration with National



The participants with NCUI and ICA officials at VAMNICOM, Pune.

Co-operative Union of India (NCUI).

The program was held at Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management, Pune in India from 29th April to 6th May 2006. Ten persons (8 government officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Animal Husbandry, Government of Afghanistan) and 2 co-op leaders attended the programme.

Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, NCUI inaugurated the programme and Mr. B.D. Sharma, Senior Consultant, ICA Domus Trust, presided over the function. Dr. S. Siddhanti, Professor at VAMNICOM was over-all in-charge of the programme.

Edited by P. Nair, Communication Officer, ICA-Asia & Pacific, 9 Aradhana Enclave, Sector 13, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066. <nair@icarop.coop> and printed at Diamond Offset, HS 14, Kailash Colony Market, New Delhi-110048. India. Tel.: +91-11-29232836, +91-98111-72786 E-mail: amin_zaidi@yahoo.com