

**Minutes of the
2nd Meeting of the
ICA Regional Assembly
for Asia and the Pacific**

Petaling Jaya (Malaysia) : 13-14 June 1996

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International Cooperative Alliance

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

"Bonow House", 43 Friends Colony

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**MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING
OF THE ICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR ASIA & THE PACIFIC
Petaling Jaya, Malaysia : 13-14 June 1996**

Agenda Item No.1 : Opening Session

The Second Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific was held at Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, on 13th & 14th June, 1996. 166 delegates/observers from 22 countries viz. Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Sweden, England and Hungary attended the meeting. In addition, special invitees from IDACA and ILO Coopnet Project also attended the meeting. The list of participants of the meeting is annexed (Annex-1).

The inaugural session started with a prayer followed by welcome address by Royal Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, President of ANGKASA, and addresses by Mr. Graham Melmoth, President of ICA and Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, Chairman, ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific.

The Meeting was then inaugurated by the Hon'ble Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia. Hon'ble Datuk Osu Haji Sukam, Minister of Land & Cooperative Development, Government of Malaysia, and other senior officials were also present.

Full text of the speeches delivered at the inaugural session are annexed to the minutes. (Annex 2-5).

Agenda Item No.2 : Election of Chairperson & Vice Chairperson

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, Royal Prof. Ungku Aziz, Malaysia, was elected as Chairman of the Regional Assembly for the next two years, who took the chair. Thereafter Mr. Shahid Ullah, Bangladesh, was elected Vice-Chairman.

On being elected as Chairman, Royal Prof. Ungku Aziz said that he was honoured to be the Chairman and that he will try to do his best to conduct the meeting.

Agenda Item No.3 : Greetings

Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director-General, ICA, extended greetings from Geneva and said that he along with other staff of ICA, were happy to be present at the meeting.

The Chairman informed the meeting that Mr. H. Toyoda, Vice President, ICA, could not attend the meeting as he met with an accident while returning from the meeting of the ICA Board in Beijing (China). The Chairman and members expressed their concern and wished speedy recovery to Mr. Toyoda.

Agenda Item No.4 : Approval of the Agenda

The items listed in the agenda were approved.

Agenda Item No.5 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Regional Assembly Meeting held in New Delhi on January 5 & 6, 1995

The Minutes of the ICA Regional Assembly Meeting held in New Delhi (India) on 5th & 6th January 1995 were confirmed.

Agenda Item No.6 : Review of the action taken on the minutes of the First Meeting held in January 1995

The RD reported on the action taken on the minutes of the First Meeting of the Regional Assembly held in New Delhi in January 1995, which was noted.

Agenda Item No.7 : Review the membership and subscription from the Region

The information given in the agenda notes was perused.

The Secretary informed the meeting that during the last three years there have been marked increase in the subscription from the region.

Agenda Item No.8 : To prescribe the subscription fee for Associate Members and Observers in the Regional Assembly under Rule 4

Initiating the discussion on the agenda, Dr. Mohinder Singh, delegate from Malaysia, inquired whether the members of the ICA who have left or may leave could be admitted as associate members. The Secretary clarified that as per the recommendations of the Executive Council in Bangalore the existing members who may leave the ICA would not be entitled to be enrolled as associate members.

The Chairman stated that ability to pay between different cooperatives and different countries is very diversified and it was necessary for the ICA to do everything possible to bring in all the countries under the ICA fold where there are cooperative movement. If within the existing membership of ICA, some member finds itself in difficult situation and want to change their status due to their weak financial position, their request should be considered on case to case basis by the Executive Council.

Dr. S.S. Sisodia, delegate from India, said that our main objective should not be the subscription but we must keep in mind that more and more cooperatives should be given an opportunity at the national, regional and global levels to participate. So the rules and regulations should be flexible and liberal to allow organisations to come and join the regional organisation.

The RD suggested that in case an existing ICA member leaves ICA due to financial constraints, its request might be considered on merits. The case may be examined as to why the member is leaving and if it really had financial problem due to which it could not

continue to pay the full membership subscription, their request may be considered for admission as associate members.

The RA accepted the proposal given in the agenda notes for subscription as under and authorised the Executive Council, to consider the applications;

Associate Members	:	USD 1000
Observers	:	USD 3000
Special Invitees	:	No fee

The cases of ex-members of ICA could also be considered by the Council after analysing the circumstances and constraints for leaving the ICA membership on merits. All such cases will subsequently be reported at meeting of the Regional Assembly.

Agenda Item No.9 : Consideration of the Report of the Advisory Committee on the Policy and Direction of ICA ROAP appointed by the Regional Assembly in January 1995

Dr. Y. Paz, delegate from Israel as also member of the Advisory Committee, briefly explained the contents, thinking and approach of the Advisory Committee Report.

The Regional Director informed that this report has been the guideline for planning our next draft four year plan. Because of reduced financial contribution by SCC and CCA financial resources are declining every year and ROAP will have to be more self-reliant. Keeping this situation in view the committee had recommended that the members from region may contribute 10% of their subscription to the ICA for the ROAP. The main emphasis of 10% is for members who are not paying any contribution to the ROAP or who are subscribing only nominal subscription. He further stated that this matter was discussed with Japanese friends and one alternative arrived is to make it, 10% or USD 10,000, whichever is less. In that case, 10% will be applicable only to those members who are not paying or paying less than USD 10,000. The additional contribution which the ROAP is expected to receive as a consequence of this 10% formula will be about SFR 44,000. This amount will be just to meet the cost of some of the deficit of the ROAP which it will have to face as a consequence of reduced service charges from SCC and CCA whose project funding will be reduced from 1997.

With regard to the recommendation that a small group consisting of members of the Board from the region viz. Vice President of ICA from Japan, China, India, Israel and the Chairman of the Regional Assembly which could advise the ROAP from time to time in between the meetings of the Executive Council/Regional Assembly, Dr. Mohinder Singh, Malaysia, said that we must avoid expanding and creating big infrastructure with several more committees. He was against creation of many committees. He stated that ROAP should be action-oriented at ground level. The communication system is so good that one could meet without meeting through quick communication to avoid crating additional work of calling meeting.

The Chairman said that there is a need that the ROAP be guided in more focused way by the movements in the region. So this new structure does not create any new committees. He felt that there was a need for one body to oversee the work of the ROAP.

Interventions were made by delegates from Japan (Mr. H. Nishido), Sri Lanka (Mr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya), India (Dr S.S. Sisodia).

The Chairman further stated that among other things, the main aim of the standing committee will be to oversee in some detail the work of the ROAP. It may also report on the financial affairs of the ICA in Asia and the Pacific. It could be the liaison committee to inform the Executive Council and the Regional Assembly as to what is happening and what kind of problems have to be dealt with.

Dr. Mohinder Singh, Malaysia further, said that in the interim we can decide on guidelines of the role the committee has to play and subsequently the committee could come up with terms of reference which could be presented to the Executive Council for endorsement. He suggested that the committee should : (i) monitor the finances of the ROAP; & (ii) monitor the implementation of the major programmes.

Dr. Sisodia, India, felt that it will be very difficult to specifically identify or earmark the functions of this committee. We should leave it to the Executive Council and authorize them to give the terms of reference, jurisdiction, the work on which the committee may concentrate, workable suggestions and solutions in this connection.

The Regional Director clarified that the Assembly/Council could delegate only its own powers to the committee and not beyond.

The Chairman said that we recognise existing powers of the authority within the ICA structure.

After discussions it was agreed that a standing committee of the Executive Council be formed with the following members:-

1. Mr. H. Toyoda, Vice President, ICA
2. Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, Chairman, Regional Assembly
3. Mr. Yang Deshou, China, Member of Board
4. Mr. Y. Paz, Israel, Member of Board
5. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, India, Member of Board

The Committee may work out its terms of reference and put up to the Executive Council for approval.

It was further decided that the working of this committee will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Regional Assembly.

Dr. V. Kumar, delegate from India, suggested that the ICA ROAP should support the creation of model joint venture cooperatives on the basis of the experience of successful cooperatives and thus unite the cooperative movements through its members and act as the spokesman on behalf of the cooperatives in the region at different levels. He mentioned IFFCO as an example which was established in 1967 with the efforts of CLUSA and other U.S. Coops. like A&P & CFI.

Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, India, requested the President of ICA to consider two recommendation of the committee namely : (i) 50% of the contribution from Asia-Pacific Region should come to the ROAP, and (ii) instead of four members of the ICA Board from the Asia-Pacific Region, there should be six members, including one Vice President. It was clarified by the President that these suggestions would be considered by the special

committee appointed by the Board along with other issues.

The RA accepted the Report of the Working Committee on the Policy and Direction of ICA ROAP. The RA also thanked the members of the Advisory Committee for doing excellent work.

Agenda Item No.10 : Reports by Specialised Committees

The Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson/Secretaries of the Specialised Committees on Agriculture, Consumer, Fisheries, HRD, and Women's Global Committee reported on the activities of their respective committees since the last meeting of the RA. The Chairman of HRD committee also explained the changes in the constitution of HRD Committee based on model constitution which was also approved.

Agenda Item No.11 : To consider the draft Four Year Regional Development Plan of ICA ROAP appointed (1997-2000)

The Secretary presented to the meeting the draft Four Year Regional Development Plan of ICA ROAP (1997-2000) which will be finalised in the planning meeting to be held on 16th and 17th June, 1996

Agenda Item No.12 : Report on IDACA Activities

Mr. Y. Nakaoka, Managing Director, IDACA, reported on the IDACA Activities completed during the year 1995-96 and planned for financial year 1996-97. He thanked all the members for their collaboration and wished that similar cooperation and support will be extended to IDACA activities in the coming years.

Agenda Item No.13 : Model Constitution for Adoption by Specialised Regional Committees

The RA approved the model constitution for adoption by the Specialised Regional Committees, as suggested in the agenda notes.

Agenda Item No.14 : To consider proposal for formation of ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and the Pacific

The RA approved the proposal for formation of ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and the Pacific as proposed by Hon. Senator Hajjah Rahaiah Baheran, Vice President, ANGKASA. The Chairman said that ANGKASA will do its best to provide adequate funding resources to make this committee operational as at present ROAP has no funds on this account.

It was further decided to set up a working committee that will draft the constitution based on the model constitution that has already been approved under Agenda Item No. 13. The countries represented on this working committee will be : Malaysia, Bangladesh, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan.

Agenda Item No.15 : Consideration of the Statement on identity of Cooperatives as approved by Manchester ICA Congress

The RA discussed the Statement on Identity of Cooperatives as approved by Manchester ICA Congress. The Chairman suggested to make aware not only the leaders but every member of the cooperative movement in the respective countries of this Statement of Identity. Many members explained the steps being taken to translate the Identity Statement into local languages and initiated various campaigns to familiarise people with the principles and try to get them included into the respective laws of the member countries.

Agenda Item No. 16 : Progress on Fourth Cooperative Ministers, Thailand, 1997

The Secretary reported on the progress of the Fourth Cooperative Ministers' Conference to be held in Thailand in 1997. He informed that it is proposed to have the conference in March 1997 in Thailand in collaboration with the Cooperative Promotion Department and the CLT.

Mr. Robby Tulus, ROAP, briefed that the Regional Consultation will be held in Myanmar in October-November 1996. The following two Symposiums will precede the Regional Consultation and the Fourth Cooperative Ministers Conference:

(i) "The Impact of Economic Globalization on the Competitive Strength of Cooperative Finance and Banking" to be held in Goa, India, from August 5-9, 1996, and (ii) "The Impact of Globalization on the Competitive Strength of AGRI-BUSINESS Cooperatives" to be held in Bandung, Indonesia in 1996. It was recommended that one session on Cooperative Identity and another one on ICA ROAP programmes be included in the agenda of the Cooperative Ministers' Conference.

Agenda Item No.17 : Nomination of a candidate for election as ICA Vice President from Asia Pacific Region in General Assembly 1997 Meeting

The Chairman stated that we should record our sympathy for Mr. Toyoda, Vice President, ICA, who unfortunately could ^{not} be here due to no fault of his own. He was involved in an accident and is having medical treatment. The doctors have advised him not to travel. Otherwise he is quite healthy. We hope he will be completely recovered soon.

In the absence of Mr. Toyoda, it was decided to defer this item on the agenda to the next meeting of the Executive Council where Mr. Toyoda could be present. The Chairman further said that we respect the wishes of the Japanese delegation to have Mr. Toyoda as Vice Chairman. The RA deferred the decision on this agenda and authorised the Executive Council Meeting in Thailand in March, 1997 to nominate the Vice Chairman for election in Global Assembly meeting in Israel in 1997.

Agenda Item No.18 : Any other item with the permission of the Chair

i) **Proposal for creation of a Regional Housing Committee**

The information given in the agenda was noted.

The delegate from Bangladesh proposed the formation of the Regional Housing Committee which was seconded by delegate from Malaysia.

The RA approved the proposal for a regional housing committee and appointed a committee which will work on the constitution, programme of work and sources of funds etc. The committee will consist of representatives from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Malaysia which was formed to work out the above details.

The proposal of the delegate from Sind Govt Employees Cooperative Housing Society of Pakistan on Low Cost Housing was referred to the above committee.

Ms. Katarina Apelqvist, Chairperson, ICA Global Women's Committee, also addressed the Assembly emphasizing the need for gender integration in the Constitutions of various specialised Committees.

ii) **New Regional Director of ICA ROAP**

Mr. Graham Melmoth, President, ICA, announced at the meeting the appointment of Mr. Robby Tulus, as Regional Director-designate of the ROAP and placed on record the appreciation for the contribution made by Mr. G.K.Sharma to the ICA particularly during the difficult time ICA ROAP was passing in the late eighties. The exact dates of change would be worked out shortly. (copy of remarks annexed Annex -6)

Mr. Sharma on his part thanked all the members and ICA officials for this support during the tenure as Regional Director.

Agenda Item No.19 : Venue and Date of the next meeting

Mr. Shahid Ullah, delegate from Bangladesh, proposed that the 1998 Regional Assembly be held in Bangladesh. This was accepted by the RA. The date will be finalised by the Secretariat in consultation with host movement.

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

G.K. Sharma
Secretary/RD

1st August, 1996

Second Meeting of the
ICA Regional Assembly for Asia & the Pacific
Petaling Jaya (Malaysia) : 13-15 June 1996

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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AUSTRALIA	01. Mr. Garry Cronan Manager, Co-ops. Development Department of Consumer Affairs Registry of Cooperatives P.O. Box 901 Bankstown NSW 2200 Australia	Observer
BANGLADESH	02. Mr. Shahid Ullah Ahmed General Secretary Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union (BJSU) "Samabaya Sadan" 1st floor 9/D Motijheel Commerical Area Dhaka 1000. Bangladesh	Delegate
	03. Mr. Nurul Alam Director Bangladesh Coop Bank & Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union 9/D Motijheel Commercial Area Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh	Observer
CHINA	04. Mr. Yang Deshou Vice President Supervisory Committee All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC) 45, Fu Xing Men Nei Street Beijing 100 801 China.	Delegate
	05. Mr. Li Bao Rong All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC) 45, Fu Xing Men Nei Street Beijing 100 801 China	Delegate

	06.	Mr. Rong Jun All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC) 45, Fu Xing Men Nei Street Beijing 100 801 China	Delegate
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	08.	Mr. B.D. Sharma Chief Executive National Cooperative Union of India, 3, Siri Institutional Area New Delhi-110-016, India	Observer
	09.	Dr. S.S. Sisodia Chairman National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks & Credit Societies, B-14, 3rd Floor, A Block Shopping Complex, Naraina Vihar, Ring Road, New Delhi-110-028, India	Delegate
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	13.	Dr. V. Kumar Marketing Director IFFCO 53-54 Nehru Place New Delhi 19, India	Delegate
	14.	Mr. Indu Bhusan Executive Director IFFCO 34, Nehru Place New Delhi	Observer
	15.	Mr. S.R. Kakar Administrator Delhi Consumers Coop Wholesale Store Karampura Road, Moti Nagar, New Delhi 110015, India	Observer
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	17.	Dr. Saleh Syafradji Head of Research & Development Indonesian Work Coop Alliance J.I. Tebet Barat Dalam Raya No. 15, Jakarta Selatan 12810 Jakarta, Indonesia	Observer
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	19.	Mr. Mohammad Karim Biki Firouzabadi Managing Director Central Union of Rural Cooperatives No. 78, North Felestin Avenue P.O. Box 14155/6413 Tehran, Iran	Delegate
	20.	Mr Morteza Malakzadeh Chairman Central Union of Rural and Agricultural Coops of Iran No. 78, North Felestin Avenue P.O. Box 14155/6413 Tehran, Iran.	Observer

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| 50. | Ms. Sumiko Ishikawa
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	145.	Mr. U.Z. Taseer Secretary Sind Govt. Employees Cooperative Housing Society Ltd., 558-A, Block-5, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi-47, Pakistan	Delegate
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04. Mr. Abd Halim Hj Abdullah
05. Mr. Nasir Khan Yahaya
06. Mrs. Roszurina Hj Omar
07. Mr. Zainal Othman
08. Mr. Shukri Abd Ghani
09. Mr. Arbain Hj Ahmad
10. Mr. Ahmad Adnan Hanif
11. Mrs. Nimmi Abas
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13. Mr. Jamar Mat Ali
14. Mr. Nik Rashid Ismail
15. Mr. Abd Aziz Mohamed
16. Mr. Wan Azizul Tajuddin
17. Mr. Mohd Shukran Abd Majid
18. Mrs. Aziah Talib
19. Ms Nurul Amani Said
20. Ms. Azmiyah Mat Saad
21. Mr. Anuar Bulin
22. Mr. Zolkefli Othman
23. Mrs. Jamaiyah Mohd Jamli
24. Mrs. Sharina Yaacob
25. Mrs. Jamaliah Abdullah
26. Mr. Hairuddin Mohd Saad
27. Mr. Mohd Zainuddin Mohamad
28. Mrs. Asmah Ahmad
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32. Mrs. Norihan Omar
33. Mr. Abdul Rashid
34. Mrs. Hj Asmarah Mohd Amin
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36. Mr. Nazlan Mansor
37. Mr. Sanapi Ahmad
38. Mr. Norhaizan Yunus
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40. Ms Hamidah
41. Mr. Rahman Hasan
42. Mr. Rosli Singah
43. Mr. Zaifulizam Osman
44. Mr. Azizul Zaman
45. Mr. Nurulail Abd Karim
46. Mr. Isa Subal
47. Mr. Ali Yaakob
48. Mr. Jalil Abu Bakar

Speech by
 Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz
 President of ANGKASA
 At the Opening Ceremony of the 2nd ICA ROAP Meeting

YAB Timblan Perdana Menteri Malaysia, Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim
 President ICA, Graham Melmoth and Mrs Melmoth
 YB Minister of Land & Cooperative Development, Datuk Osu Haji Sukam, Chairman ICA
 ROAP, Mr. Vishwanathan, Fellow participants, Honoured Guests.

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to this Second Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific.

My first duty is to record our gratitude to the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister for so kindly agreeing to declare open this Assembly. Those of us from Malaysia know how busy he is, particularly at this juncture literally every minute of his time is occupied with the fulfilment of the heavy burdens of a Deputy Prime Minister, a Minister of Finance and a political leader in a country that is in the glorious phase of rapid growth towards a glowing future. His willingness to take time off for our ceremony today is greatly appreciated by everyone.

To those of you who have travelled far and not so far, to participate in this Kuala Lumpur Session of the ICA ROAP Meeting, may I offer you a warm welcome and express to you my sincere hope that we shall be able to complete our somewhat lengthy agenda within the time allocated.

A number of special committees such as the Agriculture Committee and the Consumer Committee not to omit the HRD Committee in its several manifestations, have completed their tasks and will duly report to the Assembly.

On the home front, I am happy to be able to inform you that our twenty five year old ANGKASA has just completed all the new requirements of the Cooperative Societies Act 1993 and the Cooperative Societies Regulations 1995 and we have the confidence to stretch our juridical limbs as the recognised apex organisation of the Malaysian Cooperative Movement.

To those who have the rare privilege of attending the Centennial Congress of the ICA at Manchester last September, may I say that ANGKASA has worked hard not only to translate the new Cooperative Principles for the 21st Century into the Malay Language. More importantly we have already organised 74 classes involving 6104 participants throughout the twelve states of Peninsular Malaysia where we have explained the theory and application of these Principles.

All the members of ANGKASA yearn to make Malaysia one of the countries where the acknowledged Cooperative Principles are as well understood as they are practised.

This effort will be strongly backed up by the one thousand or so school cooperatives and university cooperatives involving half a million members who are learning Cooperative Principles, practising cooperative management and cooperative democratically among themselves.

Before concluding may I mention a few housekeeping matters. All your needs for today and tomorrow are fully taken care by your hosts, Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia Berhad. This includes the conference bag which has been specially produced for this meeting. At the dinner tonight, you will be the guests of the Honourable Datuk Osu Haji Sukam our Minister for Land and Cooperative Development.

In the paper bag is a coconut shell laminated with coloured rubber tree leaves and filled with Malaysian Sweets. The flower in the bag has been produced from rubber tree leaves by a women's rubber smallholder cooperative from the State of Selangor. We hope these will be happy souvenirs for you to take home.

I should also like to acknowledge the generous donations of substantial contributions by the National Rubber Smallholder Cooperative and KOJADI which have greatly resolved our budgetary problems.

To all the ANGKASA staff who have worked day and night to make this Congress a success, I would like to say 'Terima Kasih' or 'Thank you' and to our friends from the Delhi and Geneva Offices of the ICA, we are glad to collaborate with all of you.

Once again, I welcome all of you and hope you will have a pleasant time which is also productive.

Thank you,

**Speech by Mr. Graham Melmoth, President
International Cooperative Alliance**

Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister, Hon'ble Minister, Prof Aziz, Chairman of ANGKASA Chairman of Regional Assembly, Hon'ble Guest, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am privileged to address this Second Regional Assembly of the Asia and Pacific Region of the ICA here in the capital of the vibrant nation of Malaysia, and home to our generous hosts ANGKASA and the other ICA members from Malaysia, on my first visit to Asia since I was elected ICA President following the Centennial Congress last September,

This follows hard on the heels of the Board's Meeting in Beijing earlier this week, hosted by another dynamic cooperative enterprise, the All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Cooperatives. The explosion of the economies of Asia, and the growth of cooperative movements in those market places, have generated their anxieties and their problems as well as their opportunities, not least for this recently established region of the ICA, and I will refer in a moment or two to both sides of that equation.

You will be glad to know, Mr. President, that I do not come here with pre-conceived notions. Twenty or more years as a cooperative official have taught me not to rush to judgement. This very large region geographically in terms of land mass, oceans, and people in industrial and cultural diversity, in wealth and poverty - has become the power house of the world. Its cooperative movements include representations from all the traditional cooperative sectors which we recognise including major forces in the region's agricultural fisheries, banking, insurance, tourism, retail and industrial businesses. Take one sector and one country alone - housing and India. There are more than 80,000 housing cooperatives in the Republic of India and this sector is playing a key role in addressing the nation's housing problem. The role can only grow in India and elsewhere in Region as hard pressed governments look to the resilience and expertise of cooperatives for solutions. Coming in wake of the UN's habitat II Conference in Istanbul this month, providing adequate shelter for all people is coming to the fore and will incidentally be a theme of the next General Assembly taking place in this region, in Tel Aviv, in October, 1997

Another cooperative sector attracting increasing attention around the world is that of health and in this region there are now numerous examples of successful health care producer or consumer cooperatives. The ICA Board at its Beijing meeting formally accorded recognition as a new ICA specialised organisation to the recognition as a new ICA Specialised Organisation to the International Health Cooperative Organisation, led by its Chairman Dr. Shoji Kato, Chairman of the Medical Committee of JCCU, Japan. And in Agriculture, it is probably true to say that cooperatives are the main driving force in this field in this area, and the key influences in most of the Region's economies. Not all of the vision of Jawahar Lal Nehru for cooperatives as set out in his writing have been realised, but much has been achieved and the ICA is an important focus for it in this region. We shall continue to encourage a government role of guide and mentor rather than controller and regulator so that members share their own destiny in the tradition of their founders.

On the other side of the balance side of the balance sheet, this ICA region has its share of problems, and the report of the Advisory Committee on policy and direction which you will be debating at this Assembly Addresses some of them. The priorities which the report

enumerates-HRD, Business Efficiency, and improvement of cooperative image and relations with government-reflect the committee's diagnosis. The challenge, as always, is to bring about lasting change for the better.

Some of the report's conclusions necessarily touch on issues having global implications for the ICA, including the financing of the Regional Office and representation on the ICA Board. There is a suggestion of a certain percentage of ICA Subscription income being returned to the region, and that there should be a greater number of members on the ICA Board from the Asia and Pacific region.

At its December meeting in Florida, the board put on one side its routine business and devoted itself entirely to a planning session. One of the products of that exercise was the establishment of a special board committee on rules and finance, which I chair, with a remit to give special consideration to the whole ICA subscription formula. The Committee will therefore consider both of the concerns expressed in the advisory committee's report which touch on the ICA global positions. Yehudah Paz is a member of that committee and will no doubt see to it that this aspect of our work is not neglected.

The Committee plans to submit a final report and proposed rule amendments to the board meeting in April next year with a view to placing proposals to the General Assembly in October, 1997.

The Regional structure of the ICA is barely four years old. It was arrived at after a very stressful period for the alliance, a move head office, wholesale changes in staff, financial disarray. My predecessor, ably assisted by the then newly recruited Director-General, Bruce Thordarson, led the process of reform and stabilisation which followed. Each of our regions is now looking at its needs and obligations and each is different. Look for example at the contrasts in the Americas-the sophisticated North American Prairie Cooperatives and the Industrial workshop of downtown SAO PAULO and the Caribbean Credit Union. The desperate needs of the primary commodity collectives in East and West Africa-now joined by the emerging South Africa and its movement. Europe increasingly grappling with the needs of eastern and central European cooperative being turned loose from totalitarian control. All our regions in the new structure look of an ICA which has firm foundations and which can use its influence with governments to provide that legendary level playing field for the world's cooperatives. The board has at all times to balance the needs of the regions and the small central structure for the benefit of the whole.

I feel sure that the case for a larger board with increased asian representation can be made. I look forward to more women cooperators joining the ICA Board too. The Board made good progress this week in the formulation of the Development Trust, resolved upon at the centennial congress in Manchester last September. We hope to press the button for its launch at our meeting in October next.

I am hopeful that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Boutros Ghali, will be present on 1 July in New York at an ICA meeting to mark international cooperative day a few days later and to give publicity to our newly adopted statement of cooperative identity and principles. I look forward to meeting him on your behalf.

We have a lot collectively to be hopeful about in the name of cooperation. This region and this regional assembly have real cause for believing in progress for our cooperatives members. My own society the Cooperative Wholesale Society of Manchester, now 133 years old, takes particular pleasure in receiving delegations from the burgeoning

movements of Asia and the Pacific. I have been fortunate for example in welcoming in the last three months cooperative colleagues from China, Japan, and Korea each of whose movements, like that of our hosts in Malaysia are testimony to the drive and leadership in this region.

I am very pleased therefore to be here at this Assembly today. Thank you.

**Speech by Mr B Vishwanathan, Chairman of the
ICA Regional Assembly held at Kuala Lumpur**

Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim,
Hon'ble Minister of Land & Cooperative Development Datuk Osu Haji Sukam, Mr. Graham Melmoth, President, ICA, Prof. Ungku Aziz, fellow cooperators and friends:

It gives me great pleasure to address the second meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly here at Kuala Lumpur. It is very heart-warming to notice the presence of a large number of distinguished representatives from our member-organisations in the Asia-Pacific Region. This indicates their strong belief in the organisation and activities of the International Cooperative Alliance in this part of the world. The ICA has, since the inception of the Regional Office in 1960 in this part of the world, has provided a good platform for the cooperative organisations and their leaders to get together and exchange their views and experiences on various key issues of cooperative development. The ICA has not only responded to the wishes and needs of the cooperative organisations through its technical programmes, but have fostered a stronger solidarity among the cooperatives and cooperative leaders. Such meetings, as this one, have strengthened the organisation and given it a sense of belonging and a direction.

Since our first meeting in New Delhi in January 1995, several important changes have taken place within the organisation of the ICA as well as within the cooperative sector in the Region. The Centennial Congress of the ICA held in Manchester in September 1995 approved the Cooperative Identity which embodies new Principles of Cooperation and Cooperative Values. The General Assembly which was also held in conjunction with the Congress, elected a new President, Mr Graham Malmoth in place of Mr Lars Marcus who had contributed significantly to the cooperative thought and to the work of the ICA. I have a great pleasure in introducing to you the new President Mr. Graham Melmoth and welcome him among our midst. The Executive Council of the ICA ROAP had also met in Bangalore, India, in November 1995. Keeping in line with the restructuring of the ICA itself, had constituted an Advisory Groups to suggest future directions of the ICA ROAP.

The Group had reviewed the history, organisational structure and the development policies and programmes of the Regional Office and made important suggestions which will be discussed in the Regional Assembly Meeting. Immediately after this Regional Assembly an Annual Planning Session for the ICA ROAP will be held together with the donor agencies to finalise a four-year plan of action.

Our efforts in conducting cooperative leaders/ministers conferences in the Region have been successful. Three such conferences have already been held. The fourth one is to be held next year in Thailand at the invitation of the Royal Government of Thailand. It is matter of satisfaction and encouragement that we have continued to receive full collaboration and cooperation not only from our member-organisations but also from governments in the region. The ICA has been able to harmonise the relations between the two through its activities and relations.

In India, we have just completed a festival of democracy by going through a process of general elections to our parliament. Cooperative institutions in India have adopted

democratic traditions and embarked on programmes which help the poor. Dairy cooperatives, sugar cooperatives, oilseed growers cooperatives, are some of the most successful sectors in the country. Milk production in India, for instance, was stagnant during 1950-1970. But now due to activating dairy cooperatives the production of milk in 2000 AD is expected to go over 70 million tonnes against 20 million tonnes in 1970. Already in 1994 it was 64 million tonnes. Chemical fertiliser production is another strong sector of the Indian Cooperative Movement. We, within the framework of the NCUI have also a strong and an elaborate infrastructure for the education of members and training of cooperative staff. We have been sharing our experiences with our friends in the Region, and using this platform, I would like to invite our cooperative friends to make a greater use of our facilities and experiences. In many of the countries in the Region there are government and movement training institutions, just like the Cooperative College of Malaysia here. We would like them to share their experiences with us, maybe, by using the channels of the ICA.

As Chairman of the ICA Regional Assembly I would like to assure you that the Regional Office would be more than willing to provide any assistance, help, advisory and consultative services to its member-organisations by incorporating the felt-needs of the members in its work programmes. The ICA is neither a rich organisation nor can it provide funds. But it is an excellent network available to all types of cooperatives throughout the world. It is for the users to take advantage of its facilities. With a view to build its own resources and to enable it to provide the needed services, I would like to invite all the member-organisations to strengthen the economic and organisational base of the ICA ROAP.

Before concluding, on my own behalf and on behalf of all the participants, I would like to extend sincere thanks to the host organisation, ANGKASA, and its Chairman, Prof. Ungku Aziz and other members of ICA for making excellent arrangements for this meeting. I wish all participants will have comfortable stay and fruitful deliberations.

Speech by Anwar Ibrahim
Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia
At the Second Meeting of
the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific
Petaling Jaya, 13 June 1996

I heartily welcome the Second Meeting of the International Cooperative Alliance Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific. This significant gathering of the Asian cooperative movement has come at a most opportune moment, as the circumstances of our time would require us to undertake a fundamental review of the role of cooperatives in our society and economy.

The potential of cooperatives as an economic instrument, and as a force that can shape the structure of Asian society, has not been fully appreciated. There are about 500 million individuals who are members of cooperatives in the Asia and Pacific and that number constitutes two-thirds of the total membership of the International Cooperative Alliance. This surely represents a tremendous potential if it is effectively harnessed.

In Malaysia, its importance is borne out by the fact that there are today more than 3,500 registered cooperatives with a total membership of 4.1 million. Their accumulated share holding exceeds RM2.6 billion, with assets around RM10.6 billion. They are involved in all types of business. Although thrift and loan societies still form the bulk of the movement, the trend is now shifting rapidly towards activities such as trading, housing, transport, land development, industrial production, banking and insurance.

However, the enthusiasm for cooperatives in Asian countries seems to have come to a standstill, if not diminished. Current social and economic trends are more in favour of the growth of corporations and conglomerates, and the consequent concentration of wealth and economic power among a handful of individuals. Although in theory the general public can participate in the ownership of these corporations though the purchase of stocks and participation in mutual funds, nevertheless in practice they have practically no influence in the general direction and activities of these companies. Yet, while the opposite is true in cooperative movement, where every member has a say in the affairs of their cooperative, it must also be admitted that the growth of cooperatives lags behind the overall growth of our economies as a whole. One is therefore confronted by the question whether cooperatives really do have a future.

True cooperatives have contributed significantly towards income generation, poverty alleviation and employment creation. It has helped the growth of small-scale enterprises and provided training ground for entrepreneurial development.

We are living in the region which is a major source of global growth. Dynamism in the Asia Pacific region has been brought about by the move to market-oriented economies with increasing liberalization, deregulation and privatisation in our respective countries. While this has nurtured the growth of conglomerates, the cooperatives which are 'people-centred' have an important role to play in ensuring 'growth with equity'.

The success of a cooperative, just like any business concern depends on strong organization, human resources and finance. In view of this, cooperatives will need to

adapt themselves to the demands of the new global environment of liberalization, deregulation as well as privatization. They will need to strengthen their management vis-a-vis other business and commercial entities to maintain and further acquire a greater share of economic opportunities. This is made more urgent with technological advancement where telecommunications and IT have become immensely sophisticated, and information have become obtainable instantaneously.

Cooperatives can become very important sources of capital mobilization by channelling the savings of members to those involved in production and marketing. In this way, members can cut the costs of borrowing and purchasing by cutting the role of the middleman. Cooperation among cooperatives is therefore necessary for this effective horizontal integration. It is therefore pertinent that cooperatives network or form strategic alliances among themselves. I am sure this meeting will provide a forum for member countries to exchange ideas, share their experiences and identify new economic opportunities.

I believe cooperatives that are large and strong are the ones that will survive the pressures of competition. This is evident in many industrialized countries such as in North America and in Europe where cooperatives are competing with the private sector. There will be a need to plan for potential mergers and amalgamation to reach economies of scale in order to maintain and sustain quality service to members. In order to maintain efficiency, big amalgamated cooperatives can form chapters or clusters to run these sub-units effectively.

While cooperatives need to look for innovative ways to deal with the dynamics of economic globalization and competition, they must retain the character and basic values of cooperatives. Profits should not be the only aim but the activities should be viable to provide better and quality services to the members. Let us work together to promote active and constructive participation and involvement of the members to ensure the 'people-centred' character of the cooperatives is intact. Cooperatives have emerged as an important instrument for socio-economic transformation and change. It also serves as a mechanism for income distribution.

On that note, I officially open this Second Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific.

REMARKS BY GRAHAM MELMOTH - 14 JUNE 1996

Mr. Chairman, I should like to raise a rather special point of order.

As colleagues will be aware, our Regional Director, G.K.Sharma, reached retirement age last year. In his usual understanding way, he agreed to stay on until the head office was able to arrange the recruitment of his successor, a task which as we know takes considerable time at the international level. I shall have more to say about that in a minute.

Mr. Sharma is a special person to the ICA for many reasons. He came to his position during the darkest days of the regional office, in mid-87, when it was mired in financial and personnel problems, and on the verge of completing the sale of Bonow House in order to raise the necessary cash to keep afloat. There is no doubt that it was Mr. Sharma's personal intervention and leadership, along with the important help from cooperative friends in both India and Japan, which enabled ICA to emerge from that particular crisis.

Since then, the Regional Office has grown considerably, both in terms of number of members and scope of activities, much of this must be credited to Mr. Sharma's patient, diplomatic efforts to build support for the ICA, combine with his own intimate knowledge of the region and its cooperative members.

Like you, I am sorry that this day has arrived but we know that at some point change cannot be postponed. I would simply like to record on behalf of the ICA Board, the Director-General to whom he reports, and the other head office staff with whom he has worked so closely over the years, our great appreciation for his excellent service during these last 9 years.

I am sure it was quite a change for Mr. Sharma to move from the top position of a big commercial cooperative like NAFED to the small, financially struggling ICA. But he accomplished this change like a real professional, bringing his skills to bear on a different but equally difficult and complex challenge. ICA and the Asian Region have been the beneficiaries of his effort.

On your behalf, therefore, I should like to present Mr. Sharma with a certificate of appreciation and also a special copy of the ICA Cooperative Identity Statement, which has been prepared in a special illustrated version in order to commemorate the ICA's Centennial Congress and the revision of the Principles. This book has just come off the press, and will hopefully find its way more cooperative homes than Mr. Sharma's due course.

I am sure colleagues present would wish to hear a word about the ICA's future staffing plans, even though I have no doubt that this will not be too much of a surprise since there is surely a cooperative grapevine in Asia just as there is in other parts of the world.

Since January of this year the Director-General has been consulting ICA Members in the region about possible candidates for the Regional Director position. We know from experience that this is an extremely demanding position, not easy to fill, for it requires a combination of diplomatic and technical skills, extensive knowledge of the Region,

familiarity with the various donors, and contacts at the highest levels of government.

I understand that several excellent nominations were submitted to the Director-General, who then proceeded to have further discussions with the members in the regions. During the ICA Board's Meeting earlier this week, he informed us that he has come to the conclusion that Mr. Robby Tulus of Indonesia was his choice to succeed Mr. Sharma as Regional Director.

I am sure that Robby Tulus is well known to almost everyone in this room. After working for many years in Indonesia at the grass-roots level, where he was one of the founders and leaders of that country's credit union movement. He was asked by the Canadian Cooperative Association to join its International Department as Asia Project Manager. During that period, the Director-General tells me, Robby emerged as the most prolific project developer and fund raiser of all the organisation's Project Managers.

During the last three years, at his request, Robby returned to Asia, working with the ICA Regional Office as Senior Policy Advisor helping to prepare the last ministerial conference in Sri Lanka, as well as the next one in Thailand, as well as continuing to provide some services to CCA, an important ICA member and development partner. I am sure that it was with considerable regret that CCA was persuaded to part with such a valuable asset.

I understand that discussions are under way about timing, with the goal of Robby's joining the Regional Office as Regional Director around September or October of this year. I further understand that the Director-General and Mr. Tulus have also expressed the hope that Mr. Sharma will continue to provide some specific advisory services to the office, especially during the period leading up to the next ministerial conference. As soon as the exact date of the handing over has been decided upon by the Director-General, I am sure that members in the Region will be advised.

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Second Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia & the Pacific

Petaling Jaya (Malaysia), 13-15 June 1996

A G E N D A



International Cooperative Alliance

Regional Office for Asia & the Pacific

“Bonow House”, 43, Friends Colony (E),

New Delhi - 110065. India.

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**SECOND MEETING OF THE
ICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
Petaling Jaya (Malaysia), 13-15 June 1996**

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Opening Session
2. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
3. Greetings
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Confirmation of the Minutes of the First Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly held in New Delhi (India) on 5-6 January 1995.
6. Review of the action taken on the minutes of the First Meeting held in January 1995
7. To review the membership and subscription from the Region.
8. To prescribe the subscription fee for Associate Members and Observers in the Regional Assembly under Rule 4
9. Consideration of the Report of the Advisory Committee on the Policy and Direction of ICA ROAP appointed by the Regional Assembly in January 1995
10. Reports by Specialised Committees
11. To consider the draft Four Year Regional Development Plan of ICAROAP (1997-2000)
12. Report on IDACA Activities
13. Model Constitution for adoption by Specialised Regional Committees
14. To consider proposal for formation of ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and the Pacific
15. Consideration of the Statement on Identity of Cooperatives as approved by Manchester ICA Congress.
16. Progress on Fourth Cooperative Ministers Conference, Thailand, 1997
17. Nomination of a candidate for election as ICA Vice President from Asia-Pacific Region in General Assembly 1997 Meeting
18. Any other item with the permission of the Chair
19. Venue and date of the next meeting.
20. Closing

**SECOND MEETING OF THE
ICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE ASIA & THE PACIFIC**

Venue : PJ Hilton Hotel, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia

13-15 June, 1996

PROGRAMME

12th June, 1996

15.00 - 16.30 Registration of delegates for Regional Assembly.
PJ Hilton Hotel

13th June, 1996

08.30 - 08.45 Registration

09.00 - 10.00 Inaguration

10.00 - 10.45 Refreshment

11.00 - 13.00 Business Session :

 Agenda Item 2 : Election of Chair Person/Vice Chairperson

 Agenda Item 3 : Greetings

 Agenda Item 4 : Approval of Agenda

 Agenda Item 5 : Confirmation of the Minutes of First Meeting of the Regional Assembly held in New Delhi in January 1995

 Agenda Item 6 : Review of action taken on the minutes of the First Meeting

 Agenda Item 7 : Review of Membership and subscription from the Region

 Agenda Item 8 : Subscription Fee for Associate Members/Observers in the Regional Assembly.

13.00 - 14.30 Lunch

14.30 - 15.00 Business Session :

 Agenda Item 9 : Consideration of the Report of the Advisory Committee

 Agenda Item 10 : Reports by Specialised Regional Committees

Agenda Item No.1 Opening Session

1. Welcome by President, ANGKASA
2. Remarks by President, ICA
3. Address by Chairman, Regional Assembly
4. Opening Address

Refreshment

Agenda Item No. 2 Election of Chairperson & Vice Chairperson

Under Rule 7 of the Regional Assembly, the term of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson is as under:

The Regional Assembly shall elect at its first session a Chairman, normally from the host organisation, who shall preside over the meeting.

The Assembly may elect one or more than one Vice Chairman as deemed necessary.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman will continue till their successors are elected in the next meeting of the Assembly.

As such, the members of the Regional Assembly (RA) are requested to elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

Agenda Item No. 3 Greetings

Agenda Item No. 4 Approval of the Agenda

The members may consider the items listed in the agenda for approval.

Agenda Item No 5 Confirmation of the Minutes of the First Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly held in New Delhi (India) on 5-6 January 1995.

The minutes of the First Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly held in New Delhi on 5-6 January 1995 was circulated to all the member-organisations of the ICA ROAP vide this office letter dated 24 February 1995 (Annexure-I, page 20). No comments have been received. The minutes may be confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 6 Review of the action taken on the Minutes of the First Meeting held in January 1995

Item No. 5 The updated Rules of the Regional Assembly are enclosed.
Rules of the ICA (Annexure-II), page 71.
Regional Assembly

- Item 6
Rules of the
Executive Council
- The updated Rules of the Executive Council are enclosed. (Annexure-III), page 74.
- Item 7
“Cooperative
Charter”
- The statement on the Cooperative Identity which was adopted at the 1995 General Assembly of the ICA held in Manchester on the occasion of the Alliance’s Centenary has been included as a separate agenda item No. 15.
- Item 8
Three Year Develop-
ment Plan
- The programme for 1995-96, the last year of the 3 year development plan, is being implemented as presented in the last meeting. The next Planning Meeting will be held immediately after the Assembly Meeting to consider the next four-year plan. It has been included as a separate agenda Item No.11.
- Items 9 & 10
- No follow-up action needed by the Secretariat.
- Item 11
Report on the Third
Coop. Ministers Confer-
ence
- The full report of the Third Cooperative Ministers’ Conference containing recommendations and all the Ministers papers have been sent to all the members of the Regional Assembly and others concerned.
- Item 12
Recognition of Coops.
by ICA
- The criteria was revised as proposed in the meeting and has been circulated to the members for their consideration. The latest position will be reported in the meeting depending on the response of the members.
- Item 13
World Summit for So-
cial Development
- The World Summit was attended by the World Summit Gender Adviser from the ROAP. A statement for Social in the NGOs forum was made by Ms. Raija Development Itkonen, Board Member, on behalf of the ICA..
- Item 14
Profiles of Coops in
India
- No follow-up action needed.
- Item 15
1. Nomination of Mr.
Toyoda as Vice
President of ICA
- The nomination of Mr. H. Toyoda from Japan to succeed Mr. M. Horiuchi for the remaining two years was accepted by GA.
Mr. Toyoda was elected Vice President in the General Assembly in Manchester for the remaining period of the term.

Item 15
 2. Establishment of an Advisory Committee

The RA at its meeting in Delhi in of an Advisory January 1995 had constituted an Advisory Committee which met four times had finalised its report and has been considered by the ExCo Meeting in Bangalore in November 1995.

The Report with the recommendations of the Executive Council has been included as Agenda Item No. 9.

Agenda Item No. 7 To review the membership and subscription from the Region

At the time of the last meeting of the RA, there were 62 members from 25 countries and 1 International Organisation in the region. Since then five organisations have left the membership as under:

1. National Cooperative Housing Federation Ltd., India
2. General Cooperative Union, Iraq
3. Sugar Cooperative Development Institute of Philippines
4. Federation of Free Farmers Coop., Inc, Philippines
5. All India Federation of Coop Spinning Mills Ltd., India

In the meeting of the Board in Manchester the membership of the following two more members from the region has been approved.

1. National Credit Union Organisation, Australia
2. Tonga Cooperative Federation Ltd., Tonga

Now the region has 59 members from 26 countries in addition to ACCU

The total subscription received during 1992-95 by the ICA for the Asia - Pacific region with percentage is given below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Subscription from ROAP Region (SFR)</i>	<i>Total Percentage</i>
1992	466,916	24.6%
1993	499,898	24.94%
1994	523,939	26.16%
1995	632,570	32.10%

The RA may peruse.

Agenda Item No. 8 To prescribe the subscription fee for Associate Members and Observers in the Regional Assembly under Rule 4

The Regional Assembly in 1995 had approved the following proposal as recommended by the Executive Council Meeting in Colombo for associate members and observers, but no subscription fee was prescribed.

4. (c) Associate Members

- i. National Level Cooperative Organisations from the region which are not members of the ICA could be admitted as Associate Members of the Regional Assembly on payments of subscription fee as decided by the Regional Assembly.

Observers

- ii. Parastatal organisations and others at national and regional levels directly concerned with the promotion and support to the cooperatives could be admitted as observers on payment of subscription fee as decided by the Regional Assembly;

Special Invitees

- iii. Special invitees like international organisations and others whose presence may be useful and desirable could be invited as a special invitees. For special invitees no subscription fee will be applicable.

The Associate Members, Observers and Special Invitees will be entitled to submit written papers in advance and present their views in the meetings, but will not be entitled to vote or contest in elections.

In the last meeting of the Executive Council held in Bangalore in November 1995, the following yearly subscription fee for Associate Members/Observers have been recommended to the RA for consideration:-

Associate Members	: USD 1000
Observers	: USD 3000
Special Invitees	: No fee

The ExCo also proposed that cooperative organisations in the countries of the region which are still weak and cannot afford to pay full subscription for global membership only be admitted as associate members normally for a period of three years and in suitable cases another two years, but not more than five years in total. It will not be open to the existing members to change their status. It was proposed that this subscription fee may go to the funds of the ROAP.

The Assembly may decide the subscription fees keeping in view the above recommendations of the ExCo.

Agenda Item No. 9 Consideration of the Report of the Advisory Committee on the Policy and Direction of ICA ROAP appointed by the Regional Assembly in January 1995

The members may recall that the Regional Assembly at its meeting held in Delhi on 5/6 January, 1995 had approved the proposal to constitute an Advisory Committee on the direction of ICA Asia-Pacific Region towards 21st Century. The Committee since then met four times, last being in Bangalore and finalised the Report, which is enclosed herewith.

The terms of reference of the Advisory Committee and its composition may be seen in Chapter I of the report. The report consists of six chapters. The first chapter is terms of reference, composition etc., the second chapter deals with historical background and the ICA ROAP, the third chapter deals with the crisis of 80's and afterwards, chapter four deals with organisational structure of the ICA ROAP, chapter five with finance and development and chapter six with findings and recommendations.

A summary of the findings and recommendations is given below:

The first two para 6.1 and 6.2 of the findings and recommendations give economic as well as the cooperative background and diversities in the region as also the weaknesses and constraints in the movements in many countries of the region. Keeping this background in view, the Working Committee has defined the aims and objectives of the ROAP in para 6.3. Para 6.4 deals with approach, aims and objectives which broadly consists of Educational and Information, activities of economic nature and activities relating to strengthening of the public image of the cooperatives.

Paras 6.5 to 6.14 analyses in detail the approaches to the goals as also the constraints in implementing them.

Paras 6.15 to 6.21 suggests action plan and specific activities in this regard including relations with governmental bodies, public relations and image building.

Para 22 recommends formation of a small Advisory Committee consisting of 4-5 persons to advise and guide R.O.

Para 6.23 and 6.24 deals with various specialised committees including renaming of the trade and industry committee and a suggestion to constitute interest groups in areas where there are no specialised committees.

Paras 6.26 to 6.35 deals more precisely with the activities to be undertaken including the resources needed to carry out these activities.

Realising the fact that the existing resources would not be enough to carry out the proposed programmes particularly in view of the declining support from our development partners, it has been suggested that members from the region should contribute to the ROAP development programme 10% of their subscription to the ICA for ROAP as also HO be persuaded to increase its contribution to the ROAP. (para 6.34)

The committee has also recommended the possibility of increased representation of the region in the ICA Board. (para 6.33)

The report was considered by the Executive Council in its meeting held in Bangalore, India, on 23 November, 1995. After detailed discussions, the Council decided to recommend the report for consideration by the Regional Assembly with the following observations:-

“While the Council members broadly agreed with the contents, findings and recommendations of the report, with regard to recommendation 6.34 (a) which propose that members from the Region should contribute 10% of the ICA Subscription as contribution to the ROAP, one member expressed that the proposal of 10% was not in the draft of the report circulated with the agenda and has been proposed in the meeting only. As such he would not be able to commit as it will need discussions back home.

The members further expressed that instead of making two separate invoices of the HO subscription and regional contribution, it will be desirable that HO raises a single invoice showing the subscription as per formula and 10% contribution for the ROAP which could later on be accounted and transferred to the ROAP account. This will facilitate in remitting money as two remittances would create difficulties at the country level”.

It was also proposed that the small Advisory Committee suggested in para 22 may consist of members of the ICA Board from the region and Chairman of the Regional Assembly.

The Assembly may consider the Report along with the observations of the ExCo.

Agenda Item No.10 Reports by Specialised Committees

A report on those specialised committees, which had their meetings since the last meeting of the RA, will be presented by the Chairmen/Secretaries.

Agenda Item No. 11 To consider the draft Four Year Regional Development Plan of ICA ROAP (1997-2000)

The present cycle of the Development Plan will be over in 1996. From January 1997 to the end of year 2000 new Four Year Development Plan has to be prepared. This draft Four-Year Plan for ROAP is being prepared keeping in view the findings and recommendations of the ICA ROAP Advisory Group, donors priorities and resources availability and is expected to be ready by mid-April 1996. It will be circulated to the members of the Assembly as soon as it will be ready.

The plan will be considered and finalised in the Planning Meeting, which will be held immediately after the Assembly Meeting.

The views of the members of the Regional Assembly, reflecting their needs, is important for the finalisation of the 4 year Development Plan in the Planning Meeting.

Members may like to express their views on the draft plan for consideration by the Planning Meeting.

Agenda Item No.12 Report on IDACA Activities

I. TRAINING PROGRAMMES COMPLETED IN FINANCIAL YEAR 1995~1996

The following 11 courses have been completed during the year 1995-96 :

1. General Course in Agricultural Cooperatives

May 15 - July 7, 1995 24 participants from 21 countries Bangladesh, Brazil Colombia, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Malawi, Mauritania, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand.

2. Group Training on Agricultural Cooperative Movement

July 11 - August 8, 1995 5 participants from Thailand

3. Study visits on Cooperative Management & Development

July 11 -24, 1995 11 participants from Thailand

4. Training Course for Cooperators from Selected Countries

Aug.18 - Sep. 14, 1995 13 participants from Vietnam and Myanmar

5. Training Course for Middle Cadre Technicians

Sept. 18 - Oct.8, 1995 5 participants from China

6. JICA Training Course on Rural Development and Agricultural Cooperative System

Aug. 21 - Oct. 6, 1995 10 participants from China

7. Farm Guidance Seminar with Special Reference to Environmentally Friendly Agriculture

Sep.24 - Oct.13, 1995 9 participants from China, Mongolia and the Philippines

8. ICA Rural Women Leaders Training Course

Oct. 29 - Nov. 24, 1995 6 participants from Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines

9. Asian Agriculture Cooperative Top Leaders Conference

Nov.12 -18 1995 35 participants from 9 foreign countries, International Organisations such as FAO, ILO, AARRO & ICA and Japan

10. Training Course based on the memorandum between JA-Zenchu and NACF

Dec.3 - 16, 1995 20 participants from NACF, Korea

11. 10th ICA/Japan Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agriculture Cooperatives in Asia

Feb. 20 - Apr. 21, 1996 15 participants from Asia & the Pacific

II. TRAINING PROGRAMMES PLANNED FOR F.Y 1996~97

The following courses/seminars are as under the plan for F.Y 1996~97

1. Training Programmes to be Organised in collaboration with ICA ROAP

(1) ICA Rural Women Leaders Training Course

Period : November 11 - December 7, 1996 (27 days)

No. of participants : 6

Countries invited : Yet to be decided

(2) ICA/JA-ZENCHU/IDACA Regional Seminar with special reference to Current Topics (tentative)

Period : November 18, - December 1, 1996 (14 days)

Countries invited : ICA member countries in the Asia and the Pacific

(3) 11th ICA/Japan Training Course for Strengthening Management of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia (tentative)

Period : February 20 - April 21, 1997

No. of Participants : 15

Countries invited : ICA member countries from Asia and the Pacific

2. Training Programme to be organised in collaboration with CPD & ILO

(1) Group Training on Agricultural Cooperative Management

Period : July 9 - August 6, 1996 (29 days)

No. of participants : 5

Country invited : Thailand

(2) Study visit on Cooperative Management and Development

Period : July 9-21, 1996 (13 days)

No. of participants : 11

Country invited : Thailand

3. Training Programmes to be Organised by IDACA with Grants from MAFF, Government of Japan

(1) Training Course for Cooperators from Selected Countries

Period : August 19- September 15, 1996 (28 days)

No. of participants : 13

Countries invited : Vietnam and Myanmar

- (2) Farm Guidance Seminar with Special Reference to Environmentally Friendly Agriculture**
Period : September 23 - October 12, 1996 (20 days)
No. of Participants : 9
Countries invited : Three countries from Asia and the Pacific
- 4. Training Programmes Commissioned by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**
- (1) General Course in Agricultural Cooperatives**
Period : May 13 - July 5, 1996
No. of participants : 20
Countries invited : countries from Asia, Africa & Latin America
- (2) JICA Training Course on Rural Development and Agricultural Cooperative System**
Period : August 19 - October 4, 1996 (47 days)
No. of participants : 10
Country invited : China
- (3) Training Course for Middle Cadre Technicians**
Period : September 16 - October 6, 1996 (21 days)
No. of participants : 5
Country invited : China
- 5. RECA Seminar to be organised in collaboration with the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO)**
Period : October 20 - November 9, 1996 (21 days)
No. of participants : 19
Countries invited : AARRO member countries from Asia & Africa
- 6. Training Course based on the memorandum between JA-ZENCHU and NACF**
- (1) Marketing & Purchasing Business Activities of Agricultural Cooperative**
Period : December 8 -21, 1996 (14 days)
No. of Participants : 20
Country invited : Korea

Agenda Item No.13 Model Constitution for Adoption by Specialised Regional Committees

In the Executive Council Meeting held in Bangalore in November, last year, it was expressed that to bring uniformity in the constitutions and working of the Specialised Committees of the Region, a model constitution be drafted and placed before the Regional Assembly for approval. A similar recommendation has been made by the ROAP Advisory Committee also.

Accordingly, a Draft has been prepared for consideration by the Regional Assembly, which is given below:

Preamble

This Committee is a Committee of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific. The Committee shall work in accordance with the aims and objectives of the ICA and the general policy of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific.

Article 1 : Name

The name of the Committee shall be "ICA COMMITTEE ON FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC". It will be referred to hereinafter as the "Committee"

Article 2 : Definitions

2.1 The word "Region" will be used to refer to Asia and the Pacific, i.e. the area covered by the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Article 3 : Overall Aim

The overall aim of the Committee shall be to advise on promotion and development of..... on sound lines.

Article 4 : Functions

The functions of the Committee shall be as follows :

- i. to review periodically the progress made in the field ofand to suggest necessary action;
- ii. to recommend policies and common lines of action in the field of
- iii. to identify areas for training, research and technical assistance and initiate action;
- iv. to make recommendations and take steps for improving managerial competence and operational efficiency of in the Region;
- v. to identify needs and areas of technical assistance required for national and regional projects/programmes and to organise such programmes;
- vi. to promote the systematic dissemination of information and the exchange of experiences among thein the Region;

- vii. to suggest and initiate programmes of member activities and measures for developing active participation of members.
- viii. to liaise and collaborate with the ICA main Committee, other regional and international organisations concerned with
- ix. to carry out any other activities which are incidental or conducive to the promotion of the aims and the objectives of the Committee.

Article 5 : Membership

5.1 All members including Associate Members of the ICA ROAP Regional Assembly will be entitled to membership of Specialised Committees on payment of prescribed annual contribution. The Committee shall consist of senior executives working in the field of cooperation in the member movement.

5.2 Non-members of the ICA may become member of the specialised Committee provided it accepts the objects of the ICA and the Committee for a maximum period of three years. If during this period the society do not get affiliated to the ICA, their membership will be terminated.

5.3 The Regional Director and/or his nominee and members of the Executive Council of the Regional Assembly shall be entitled to attend the meetings of the Committee.

5.4 The members shall serve on the Committee from one ICA Regional Assembly to the next ICA Regional Assembly.

Article 6 : Involvement of Women and Youth

Considering that the participation of women and youth in cooperative activities is of great importance, the Committee will encourage member organisations to send qualified women and youth representatives engaged in activities to attend the meetings of the Committee as delegates/observers.

Article 7 : Working Groups

The Committee may constitute technical working groups, as may be necessary, to deal with specific issues and problems and they may meet as often as required.

Article 8 : Office

The office of the Committee will be at the ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific at New Delhi or at such place as may be decided by the Committee with the approval of the Regional Assembly.

Article 9 : Meetings

9.1 One meeting of the Committee shall be held along with the meeting of the Regional Assembly. Other meetings can be convened as decided by the committee from time to time.

Meetings shall be convened by the Secretary who shall also furnish to the Committee a report on activities and future plans.

9.2 The meetings of the Committee shall be conducted in English. Participants requiring interpretation in any other language may be accompanied by personal interpreters at their own cost.

9.3 Each member attending the meeting shall have one vote.

9.4 Members who have not paid their annual membership subscription dues shall not be entitled to vote.

9.5 Representatives of institutions/organisations engaged in or interested inco-operative development may be invited to attend meetings of the Committee as observers. The observers shall not have any voting rights.

Article 10 : Officers

10.1 The Committee shall elect a Chairman and a Vice Chairman. Their terms of office shall be from one ICA Regional Assembly to the next ICA Regional Assembly. Retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election.

10.2 The Secretary of the Committee shall be nominated by the Regional Director in consultation with the Chairman.

10.3 In the event of both the Chairman and the Vice Chairman not being present at the meeting, the Committee shall elect a Chairman from among the members present for conducting the concerned meeting.

Article 11 : Relationship with Member Organisations

11.1 One or more members of the Committee may act as the Committee Liaison Officers in respect of their country's cooperative movement on matters relating tocooperative development.

11.3 The members of the Committee will keep the Committee informed of all significant developments in the field ofcooperative in their respective countries.

Article 12 : Report to ICA Regional Assembly

The Committee shall submit a report of its activities to the ICA Regional Assembly.

Article 13 : Finance

13.1 The work and meetings of the Committee shall be on a self-financing basis.

13.2 The financial year for the Committee shall be one calendar year.

13.3 The annual membership subscription for membership in the Committee shall be determined by the Committee for each member which should be paid to the ICA ROAP within the first quarter of the calendar year.

Article 14 : Amendments

Any amendments to the Constitution of the Committee should be included in the agenda and shall not be taken as additional items with the permission of the Chairman and shall be adopted by two-third of the members present. Amendments thus adopted shall come into force after they are approved by the ICA Regional Assembly.

Article 15 : Formation of a Committee

A committee of specific interest could be formed with the approval of the Regional Assembly if members from five countries are willing to join the proposed committee.

Agenda Item No. 14 To consider proposal for formation of ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and the Pacific

Hon. Senator Hajjah Rahaiah Baهران, Vice President, ANGKASA, Malaysia, had sent a proposal by fax to RD with regard to the formation of a Regional Women's Committee at the time of the HRD Committee Meeting held in Bangalore in November 1995. A copy of the fax proposal is reproduced below:-

The ICA Global Women's Committee (ICAGWC) which has already been constituted, acts as an Apex body to ensure Gender Awareness, Gender Planning and Gender Integration within the Cooperative Movement. Issues on the above have been discussed at the recent ICA Congress held at Manchester on September 15-23, 1995.

At that "ICAGWC" Assembly, representatives discussed about the formation of the "ICA Regional Women's Committee (ICARWC)". The ICAGWC has agreed to facilitate the establishment of the ICARWC. Forums could be held to exchange experiences and ideas of Cooperative Women's issues at the Regional level.

I therefore would also like to propose to have a forum where discussions could be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, during the next ICA ROAP Regional Assembly in early 1996.

If found suitable, setting up of this Committee would then help promote activities within the Regional level.

To summarise the above, the two (2) main proposals are:

- i. To set up a Committee ("ICARWC")
- ii. To have a forum to draw up the guidelines on setting up this Committee in Kuala Lumpur in 1996.

Or

A forum to discuss matters of common interest to Women Leaders of member countries in Kuala Lumpur in 1996.

As the formation of a separate Regional Committee was not within the competence of the HRD Committee, it was proposed that the proposal may be placed for consideration of the next Regional Assembly.

The Assembly may consider the proposal of Hon Senator Hajjah Rahaiah Baheran.

Agenda Item No. 15 Consideration of the Statement on Identity of Cooperatives as approved by Manchester ICA Congress.

The final statement on the Cooperative Identity which was adopted at the 1995 General Assembly of the ICA held in Manchester on the occasion of the Alliance's Centenary is reproduced below:-

THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE

STATEMENT ON THE COOPERATIVE IDENTITY

DEFINITION

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

VALUES

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

PRINCIPLES

The cooperative principles are guidelines by which cooperatives put their values into practice.

1st PRINCIPLE : VOLUNTARY AN OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organisations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.

2nd PRINCIPLE : DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organisations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organised in a democratic manner.

3rd PRINCIPLE MEMBER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitable to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually common property of the cooperative. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible;

benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership

4th PRINCIPLE : AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, selfhelp organisations controlled by their members. if they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5th PRINCIPLE : EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives

They inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6th PRINCIPLE : COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7th PRINCIPLE : CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

It is proposed that the statement may be translated by the members in the local languages and given wide publicity.

National Seminars be organised to discuss the implications of the changes as also be included as a theme in the important meetings, conferences and workshops.

Agenda Item No. 16 Progress on Fourth Cooperative Ministers Conference, Thailand, 1997

The Third Cooperative Ministers' Conference was held in July 1994 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The detailed report of the conference was placed before the first meeting of the Regional Assembly held in New Delhi in January 1995.

Discussions are in progress with the Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperatives, Cooperatives Promotion Department and the CLT to hold the Fourth Cooperative Ministers' Conference in Thailand some time in the first quarter of 1997.

The Preparatory Consultation for the Ministers' Conference is proposed to be held in Myanmar some time in September/October 1996.

This is for the kind information of the members.

Agenda Item No. 17 Nomination of a candidate for election as ICA Vice President from Asia-Pacific Region in General Assembly 1997 Meeting.

Under the Rule 7, “the Regional Assembly shall also nominate one candidate for election as ICA Vice-President by the General Assembly. Each member organisation, and international member, in the region is entitled to submit nominations. Candidates must have served on one or more ICA governing bodies for at least two years. The Governing Body shall include : ICA Executive Committee, Regional Assembly, Executive Council. If there is no unanimity, voting, is to be conducted by secret ballot. The Regional Director shall be responsible for communicating the name of the regional nominee to the ICA Secretariat not less than three months prior to the next General Assembly”.

“The Vice President shall serve a four-year term and is eligible for re-election if nominated again by the Regional Assembly”.

Mr. M. Horiuchi, who was elected as Vice President in General Assembly, in 1993 had submitted his resignation and Mr. H. Toyoda was nominated to replace him in Regional Assembly meeting in Delhi in January, 1995. The Assembly nominated Mr. Toyoda to replace Mr. Horiuchi as Vice-President of ICA from the Asia-Pacific Region. Accordingly, Mr Toyoda was elected as Vice President of the ICA from Asia and the Pacific region in Manchester General Assembly for the remaining period of 2 years.

The next election for ICA will be held in General Assembly Meeting in 1997. As the next Regional Assembly is expected to be held after the General Assembly in 1997 the members may nominate a person for election as Vice President from the Region in the next General Assembly meeting to be held in 1997.

Agenda Item No. 18 Any other item with the permission of the Chair

Agenda Item No. 19 Venue and date of the next meeting.

The RA may decide the date and venue of the next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 20 Closing

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING
OF THE ICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR ASIA & THE PACIFIC
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5 & 6, 1995**

The First Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific was held in New Delhi, India, on 5th & 6th January, 1995. 112 delegates/observers from 15 countries viz. Bangladesh, China, India, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Turkey and ACCU attended the meeting. In addition, representatives of SCC and ILO also attended the meeting. The list of participants of the meeting is annexed.

The Meeting was inaugurated by Hon'ble Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, Union Minister of Agriculture, Government of India, and presided over by Hon'ble Mr. Arvind Netam, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, President, National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), Mr. Yang Deshou, Chairman, ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. M. Horiuchi, ICA's Vice President for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Lars Marcus, President, ICA, Dr. Jurgen von Muralt, Director - Enterprise Development & Cooperatives, International Labour Office, and Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director, ICA ROAP.

Welcoming the delegates, Mr. B. S. Vishwanathan, President, NCUI, said : "Visualising intense competition for the cooperatives in the face of privatisation, the five point strategy for cooperative development has been adopted. The strategy involves specific policy enunciation by the Government for cooperatives; amendment of cooperative law to democratise the functioning of cooperatives; strengthening of base level structure; reorientation of the working of federal cooperatives to strengthen their primaries and enhancing active involvement and; participation of members, especially of rural poor in cooperative sector".

Mr. Yang Deshou of China said "some of the governments in Asia and the Pacific region had obtained better understanding of the role and need of cooperatives in the new social and economic situation and are already reviewing and revising cooperative laws. This indicates that governments have come to realise the effectiveness of cooperatives in ameliorating the economic condition of the weaker sections of society. The present dramatic changes characterised by marketing and economic conditions, provide a new situation for most of the developing countries of this region. The situation however, also provides an opportunity to the cooperatives to sort out their problems and strengthen themselves with a view to facing the competition".

Mr. M. Horiuchi, Vice President of ICA, in his greetings emphasized that the ICA has been restructured to meet the new challenges. He complimented the Indian Cooperative Movement in hosting the ICA Regional Assembly.

Mr. Lars Marcus, President, ICA, in his remarks observed that there are great challenges ahead for cooperatives in the context of the changed economic scenario. The strength of cooperatives lies in their capacity of solving the problems through mutual sharing.

Dr. Jurgen von Muralt, Director - Enterprise Development & Cooperatives, spoke of the growing collaboration between ICA and ILO.

Mr. G. K. Sharma, Regional Director, ICA ROAP, said: "The cooperative movements in the region is passing through a crucial period, particularly in view of the market economy being adopted by most of the countries. It gives new challenge to cooperatives. While on the one hand it provides greater opportunities and scope to operate it would also result in many cases lesser patronage and assistance from the governments. In market economy, it is the survival of the fittest and no one is concerned with weaker sections of the society. The importance of cooperatives, therefore, gets much more significant in the market economy as they must provide a vehicle particularly to those who are not much fortunate to have larger capital resources and contacts. The Assembly will consider issues which will help the cooperatives in the region to march forward in this fast changing global scenario."

Appreciating the role of the International Cooperative Alliance in promoting cooperatives in the Asia and the Pacific region, Hon'ble Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar stated that in the present context the ICA has greater responsibility as it has to work for regional integration of cooperatives and development of human resources. It has to be a resource centre for cooperatives of the region. It should also assist to establish International Trade Relations on cooperative basis and economic collaboration.

Presiding over the inaugural function, Mr. Arvind Netam, Minister of State for Agriculture and Cooperation, said that the cooperative movement has been able to provide quite a strong shield for the weaker sections of the community against the middlemen and the exploiters. He was hopeful of further development of cooperative movement, in the region and pointed out that there was every possibility of bringing power and energy sectors under cooperative fold.

Mr. B. D. Sharma, Chief Executive, NCUI, expressed his thanks to the hosts and organisers of the Regional Assembly for their support and collaboration.

Full text of their speeches are annexed to the minutes.

Agenda Item No. 2 Approval of the Agenda

The items listed in the were approved.

Agenda Item No. 3 Confirmation of the Minutes of last Regional Consultation in Beijing, April'93

The Minutes of the ICA Regional Meeting for Asia and the Pacific held in Beijing, China, on 21 & 22 April, 1993 were confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 4 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Mr. B. S. Vishwanathan, India, was elected as Chairman of the Regional Assembly for the next two years, and Prof. Ungku Aziz, Malaysia was elected Vice-Chairman.

Agenda Item No. 5 Consideration of the amendments to the Rules of the ICA Regional Assembly

The meeting approved the recommendation of the Executive Council in its meeting held in Colombo in July 1994 regarding addition of clause 4 (c) to Rule 4 of the ICA Regional Assembly as under :

“c. Associate Members

- i. National level cooperative organisations from the region which are not members of the ICA could be admitted as Associate Members of the Regional Assembly on payments of subscription fee as decided by the Regional Assembly.

Observers

- ii. Parastatal organisations and others at national and regional levels directly concerned with the promotion and support to the cooperatives could be admitted as observers on payment of subscription fee as decided by the Regional Assembly;

Special Invitees

- iii. Special invitees like international organisations and others whose presence may be useful and desirable could be invited as a special invitees. For special invitees no subscription fee will be applicable.

The Associate Members, Observers and Special Invitees will be entitled to submit written papers in advance and present their views in the meetings, but will not be entitled to vote or contest in elections.”

The meeting also approved to modify Rule 7 to include ICA Congress, General Assembly and Board as also to modify the word “Regional Council” with “Executive Council”. Accordingly, the amended Rule 7 will be read as under :

“7. Elections

The Regional Assembly shall elect at its first session a Chairman, normally from the host organisation, who shall preside over the meeting.

The Assembly may elect one or more than one Vice Chairman as deemed necessary.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman will continue till their successors are elected in the next meeting of the Assembly.

The Regional Assembly shall also nominate one candidate for election as ICA Vice-President by the General Assembly. Each member organisation, and international member, in the region is entitled to submit nominations. Candidates must have served on one or more ICA governing bodies for at least two years. The Governing Body shall include : ICA Executive Committee, Regional Assembly, Executive Council. If there is no unanimity, voting is to be conducted by secret ballot. The Regional Director shall be responsible for communicating the name of the regional nominee to the ICA Secretariat not less than three months prior to the next General Assembly.

The Vice President shall serve a four-year term and is eligible for re-election if nominated again by the Regional Assembly.”

Agenda Item No. 6 Approval of the Rules of the Executive Council

The draft rules of the Executive Council, including an amendment regarding membership of the ICA Vice-President from the region in the council, were approved.

Agenda Item No. 7 Presentation and consideration of the Third Draft of the “Cooperative Charter”

The ICA Director-General, Mr. Bruce Thordarson, described the background and process of the current review of the cooperative principles. Dr. Y. Paz, member of the Resource Group working with Dr. Ian MacPherson, highlighted in detail the proposals contained in the third draft of the “Cooperative Identity Statement”

Mr. Y. Kato, Vice President of JA-ZENKYOREN, Japan, said on behalf of Japanese JA-Group that he would like to say a word about the proposed revision, there are several points we want to see modified, as a matter of fact. However, in light of the limited time available today, he would confine his address my address only on the issue of cooperative capital.

He said that under the current Principles of 1966 share capital shall only receive a strictly limited rate of interest, if any. The proposed revision, instead says that “cooperatives might pay interest on capital” and keep silence about “limited” interest.

Behind the proposed line of revision, is a situation where for some cooperatives the principle of limited interest rate on share capital is a hindrance to raising capital. Such a problem could be approached by introducing more diverse ways of raising capital; ways which would stall limited interest rate and protect the governing right of the cooperative by not allowing capital contributors other than members to have any say in the affairs of the cooperative.

He further stated that it is an issue of adaptation to reality; it has to be our fundamental principle that “members mutually contribute shares to capital of their cooperative, for which there is a limit placed on interest.” To provide that “cooperatives might pay interest on capital without providing for any limitation could well; drive cooperatives to run the business for the

purpose of raising income to pay return on capital. Danger there is that the business of cooperative will start to be run for a wrong purpose where the means become the end.

JA-Group thinks that a revised principle should stipulate the concept of limited rate of interest on share capital. He emphasised that a well considered thought be given by ICA authority on this important point.”

Mr. Shigenori Takemoto, President, JCCU, Japan, highly appreciated Dr. Macpherson’s definition of cooperatives, in which he states clearly ‘that a cooperative is an autonomous association of people united voluntarily’. He mentioned that this definition was stated properly in the contemporary context. In addition, he would like to pay respect to MacPherson’s proposal since he has reflected their comments in formulating the new principles with regard to the different roles of members and employees in the participatory democracy, the significance of reciprocal education among cooperators and so on. He believe that these viewpoints were crucial not only for Japanese cooperatives but also for the Asian Cooperative Movements.

In Japan, he believed that consumer cooperative movement has developed through practising cooperative principles. The notable characteristics of Japanese movement is the practice of participatory democracy and autonomy. The participatory democracy can be exercised by members in three factors as investment in cooperative capital, utilisation of cooperatives facilities and participation in the cooperative business operation by members. He understand that the trinity of these three factors has enhanced members’ sense as main actors in consumer cooperative movement and it has brought a good result to cooperative business as well. Besides, they have made strenuous efforts to organise autonomous and viable consumer cooperatives. Although Japanese movement has never received any subsidy from Government and it has evolved to be a socially and economically independent movement. However, it is needless to say that independence from Government doesn’t mean isolation. Consumer cooperatives have always tried to realise their ideals by collaborating with consumer organisations, women’s and the other citizen’s groups.

Lastly made a short comments concerning the “Declaration for the Cooperative Movement in the twenty first Century”.

“It has been fifty years since the World War II ended. Now that the cold war has come to an end, we are seeking a new global order. However, we are still confronting such problems as regional conflicts, starvation, poverty and environmental destruction. It is imperative for us to ask ourselves how we can contribute to the everlasting peace of the world.

Japanese cooperators have learned the “importance of peace” from the bitter experience of the World War II including that of the atomic bombing. Japanese consumer cooperatives plan to conduct the following three activities in these three years;

1. Promote study meetings and international exchange activities among members and double the fund raising to contribute to the UNICEF programs for children and mothers in the world.
2. Study about the history of Japanese fore’s invasion of Asian countries during the World

War II in order to enhance public opinion not to repeat the same fault and to promote the friendship with the Asian people.

3. Promote members' peace campaigns and raising public opinions for the elimination of atomic bombs which will destroy the mankind and the global environment.

In this conjunction, I would like to strongly urge the ICA and its member organisations can take initiatives for building the lasting peace."

Mr. S. Chandra, India, emphasised "Literally 'Principle' means 'Fundamental Truth as basis of reasoning or 'General law as guide to act'. If this interpretation of the world 'Principle', which is universally accepted, is also applicable to the cooperative movement, every cooperator should base the working of cooperatives on the fundamentals set by the pioneers of the movement. Fundamentals do not change, despite the changing socio-economic conditions. The fundamentals of cooperation were that it stood for, 'honesty and for such virtues that count for so much in the whole lives of people'.

The Rochdale Pioneers had never conceived of propounding any principles of cooperation. They had formulated certain rules which were understood by all members and whose application was successfully demonstrated.

The background paper of Dr. Macpherson captioned, 'Cooperative Identity in the 21st Century' denotes that some prediction might be made about the structure and role of cooperatives in the next century. The identity of cooperatives as such is well known from the beginning. It is because of their identity based on certain rules of business that they were identified distinctly from other forms. The caption also does not indicate that an attempt is being made to re-structure the principles of cooperation. Vol. 87, No. 3, 1994 of the Review of International Cooperatives says that Dr. MacPherson, "is also responsible for the ICA project on the re-definition of the Cooperative Principles". Earlier, in this paper it is has been shown that an attempt to codify the principles in 1921 was found to be hasty as it affected the membership of cooperative other than consumer cooperatives in the ICA and something was immediately done to make them more practical and universal.

The ICA Commission on Cooperative Principles, which codified them for acceptance by all, in my opinion, was a marriage of convenience. On the one hand, it was to be seen that the countries of both the capitalist and communist blocks accepted them. the acceptance of Non-aligned nations was equally important. The big question was "Can there be common concept of cooperative organisation which would be valid in America as in Russia and in India and many countries of Africa and Asia?" The concern of the commission was whether it could work out a common set of principles acceptable to all or formulate different principles for Western countries, under developed countries and the socialist countries. The opinions were sharply divided. The Western countries had a strong feeling that there could not be cooperation in socialist countries.

He said that he used the term 'marriage of convenience' for acceptance of the principles by all the member countries of ICA because not only the net result of the work of the Commission but the composition of the Commission itself represented a balance between the

capitalist countries, socialist countries and developing countries.

It is an exaggeration when it is said that acceptance of the reformulated principles as Vienna Congress of the ICA held in 1966 was a near miracle. Now when we are talking about the cooperative identity in the 21st century, in the last decade of 20th century, we find whole hog changes in the economies of the world. The bi-polar world with an additional pole of developing countries has now become uni-polar. Those who still feel that they practise their own ideologies have also adopted in big measure the process of liberalisation of their economies.

The legal framework for cooperatives has undergone changes which include assumption of powers by Government/ Registrar of Cooperatives to supersede elected board of directors, to nominate the board including the chairman, to merge, amalgamate and divide cooperatives and so on and so forth. In the developed world also things have changed and it is difficult to presume as to what shape the work of 21st century is going to take politically and economically. One may hazard a guess but based on such a guess it would be rather fatally hazardous to pre-determine the cooperative identity in the 21st century.

In the Asia-Pacific Region, the role of the Government in the cooperative movement has been accepted even by the ICA. The Sydney Declaration, which was followed up by consultations organised by ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the conferences of Ministers of Cooperation have very clearly brought out the fact that in some of the countries, the Governments have over stepped their legal powers in respect of cooperatives. The organisation of these events resulted in a growing consciousness in some of the countries, the Governments have over-stepped their legal powers in respect of cooperatives. The organisation of these events resulted in a growing consciousness in some of the governments of the Region to reformulate their cooperative laws to make them more democratic, providing for more autonomy for the cooperatives. However, in some countries this still remains to be done.

Thus the shape of the cooperative movement to come in the 21st century in some of the countries is still fluid. In what shape it is moulded will depend on many factors including the type of polity that ultimately takes from there, and whether the process of liberalisation of the economy takes root all over the world or some countries reverse the process in the 21st Century. Keeping these in view, one has to think as to how the cooperative identity could be maintained.

Dr. MacPherson has prepared a draft Charter (Declaration). All said and done the movement must have the perspective for the 21st century but the perspective should be that may be universally accepted without resorting to marriage of convenience or acceptance by diluting the fundamentals. For this it is suggested that ICA should not define any principles because principles as they exist today, were the rules of business of earlier cooperatives. In the diverse situations, as exist in the world today and some diverse situations in different cooperatives within a country, within a region, and in the world, it would be better if they are left to work out their own rules of business which one may like to term as principles. The Declaration may contain some details about the situation and for this purpose I feel that the efforts of Dr. MacPherson are commendable. They talk about the weaker sections, the role of government,

etc. but it should confine itself to two things viz : (i) The fundamental values, and (ii) The definition of Cooperative. If we leave the entire issue to these two things and allow each cooperative to formulate its own principles, as per the local situations and needs, we would have more autonomous cooperatives because they would not be judged by certain codified principles, but would be judged by their performance vis-a-vis their own rules based on the definition of a cooperative and the fundamentals set by the Rochdale Pioneers.”

Mr. Kidai Uchida, President, Japan Workers Cooperative Union, said : “First of all, I wish to express my greetings of solidarity to the cooperators of ICA office and the colleagues of Asian and Pacific regional cooperatives.

At this moment, it become more and more important to promote solidarity among the cooperative movements in the world, especially in Asian and Pacific region. Because, in order to gain good future for people, it is indispensable to establish a new economy system based on people against the control by the multinational companies for attaining people’s controlling future. In this context, we have been interested in the process of modification of ICA cooperative principles and the charter. I wish to speak recent activity of our organisation and to comment on the draft of the principles and charter, on behalf of the Jigyodan, Japan Workers Cooperative Union, wishing to make better principles and charter.

Jigyodan held “ ’94 National Meeting on Cooperation” last November, on the subjects of “creating new jobs useful for citizen and community- What is new job style and cooperative work?”

Mass unemployment and uneasiness to lose job are now haunting over the Japanese society and people. An overwhelming money first principle and bureaucracy and easiness to lose job are now haunting over the Japanese society and people. An overwhelming money first principle and bureaucracy are controlling Japanese society, and are throwing out the necessity of job creating which people really need to.

On the other hand, we can find a small but a new wave of creating good work and community by “new cooperatives “ in Japan.

Our national meeting which gathered grass roots movements discussed a new direction of cooperation, especially with local governments and public sectors.

Many new types of cooperatives gathered in our national meeting, for example, such as follows:

- A safety and high quality foods producer cooperative tying up with urban citizen.
- A community development cooperative controlled by citizen, not depending on big business and Central Government.
- Senior aged persons cooperatives to create jobs and social services.
- Women cooperatives to create useful social work to the community.
- Education or school cooperative to promote human development of the children against educational bureaucracy and conformism.

A culture cooperative combining artists and audience to protect a living of performer and develop good culture.

We believe in that this new movement will grow as an important sector to change broad skirts of Japan's economy and society.

I would like to mention my view on the principles according to the first version of final draft made by the Macpherson group.

First point is to clarify "good work" as a basic character of the cooperative business is desirable. We welcome a phrase of commitment to service in the 4th principle (commitment to service) and at the same time we think it would better to add "good works" next to "services". The reason why we assert is that cooperative business are being required as their mission to create new production and new living system by transforming traditional mass production and mass consumption system.

Secondly, we suppose that its is better to insert a phrase something like "to seek democratic change of enterprises as a whole and market" in the 8th principle, as a responsibility of cooperatives to the external community. I think Cooperatives should have a will to give effectiveness to private companies and public sectors as one of their objects in the 21st century.

Cooperatives can and must promote cooperation among producers and consumers and citizens in order to create high quality and safety products and serves and employment and a faithful social standard for labour. To create a democratic controlled market becomes also a basement of fair international economic order.

Third point we stress is that it is important to recognise of the social and public character of cooperatives. Cooperatives also realise public interest. So cooperatives should have power to promote a democratic law making and social policy of the Government in order to develop community. We think "Public interests oriented character" of cooperatives should be inserted in the 5th principle (Autonomy)

Finally, how cooperates contribute to overcome the modern world crisis and problems such as global environmental pollution, monopolistic control of multinationals, exploitation of labour and resources, widening the difference of the rich and the poor, unceasing of wars and ethnic violence.

It should insert any adequate expression that cooperative is a entity of seeking the development and survival of the humankind.

Dr. R. C. Dwivedi, India, said : "I would only confine my views on certain recommendations which was made by Sydney Conference. One very important recommendation was government and cooperatives relationship to combine basic values, social economic objectives and competitiveness. The credit goes to Mr. Lars Marcus that he initiated discussion on basic values in Stockholm Congress and he used the word "basic values". Let us be very clear what are the basic values and what are values which are not basic. I gave a lot of thought to it and I am preparing a document for the Manchester Congress. I feel basic values are those which are above time, which are above space, which are above individual. I do not agree with my friend Mr. S. Chandra that values and principles are to change according to the diversification

of cooperatives....Therefore this subject is so vast and I am happy that the finality will be done in Manchester. We should be very clear as to what the basic values are which will remain the same....These values must reflect in the cooperative principles. You cannot have the principles which will weaken the values. The principles are to strengthen the values and the instrument which is very influential in strengthening and making cooperative principles and values operative is the cooperative law. At least in this part of the world every country has a law and the provisions of the law should be such that they should reflect the cooperative principles and the values of which the principles are the best. In the Indian Cooperative Laws we have now defined what are the cooperative principles. In the new laws, it reflects in every provision of the Act, the cooperative principles and also the values and therefore my submission in short is that we should be very clear what are the values, what are the cooperative principles.”

Prof. Ungku Aziz, Malaysia, said : “Honesty is universal value, conflict of values and cooperatives are 99% involved in business. We must examine the question whether they are really universal values in the areas where cooperatives are practising.”

Mr. Lars Marcus, President, ICA, said: “I will not talk about basic values and principles. I will talk about the ideas behind the process that started in the late 80’s are now arriving to the final stage. There were political thinking behind this work of the ICA. We have clarified the understanding of our work with a wide membership when I say that the cooperatives in Asia are in my eyes. You have engaged into discussions about the true nature of cooperatives, discussions about our economic efficiency, about right to become more successful in business. Some cooperatives tend to move according to the post-era thinking than other movements we have identified. The matter returns to the Board and it is upto the Board to decide upon how this should be presented at the Congress in Manchester. The initiative in 80s came from the Board and now the Board will go back to the Congress and present the results of the work that has been done.

Agenda Item No. 8 Three Year Development Programme of ICA ROAP and Work Programme for 1995-96 and reports by Specialised Committees

The ICA Regional Director and Project Advisers described the Regional Office’s development programme and its eight technical projects : Policy Development and Legislation, Development Planning and Coordination, Agricultural Cooperative Development, Consumer Cooperative Development, Human Resource Development, Gender Integration, Agricultural Management Training, and Rural Women Leaders’ Training. Other activities are undertaken in the areas of environment and worker-owned enterprises.

Mr. Karl Fogelstrom of the Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC) said that a recent SCC-sponsored evaluation of the ICA’s development programme was generally positive but that weaknesses existed in the areas of planning, establishment of performance indicators and donor coordination. He said that SCC’s future approach towards ICA would involve supporting activities rather than institutional development, and that this approach would include a gradual shift of SCC’s support from Asia to Africa.

In addition, the Chairmen of the Consumer and Fishery Specialised Committees briefed the RA about their respective committee meetings.

Mr. B.D. Sharma, India, made the following suggestions : (1) ICA should document a study on the Taxation Laws in Cooperatives, (2) Technical cooperation in the field of insurance cooperatives (3) Structural Reforms - specific study or specific experiences should be documented, (4) ICA ROAP Data Bank - It would be difficult for one person to undertake the entire activity. That division requires strengthening, (5) Strengthening of National level Consumer Cooperative Federation (6) Gender Integration - NCUI had held a workshop in collaboration with ILO in which ICA was represented and in that workshop a very specific set of policy norms were recommended. Future work programme of gender integration could be modelled on those policy norms. The Indian Cooperative Movement has decided that NCUI could formulate some sort of training modules on women cooperatives, women employees in cooperatives and personnel management policies in relation to gender integration in cooperatives, (7) Room for closer collaboration between HRD Project of ICA and NCUI - HRD Project should operate through only NCO so as to avoid anomalies. There is no coordination between INCOTEC and HRD Committee, (8) India should be allotted more seats in the ICA/ Japan Agricultural Management Training Course, (9) In the SCC Leadership Programme, NCUI would like to have collaboration on this.

Mr. Hakaru Toyoda, President, JA-ZENCHU, Japan, made the following statement :

“First of all, let me offer our sincere congratulations upon success of the first regional assembly and let me thank President Marcus, Mr. Vishwanathan, Mr. Yang and Mr. Sharma and other host cooperators for the great efforts.

Last September, JA-group held its 20th National Congress, and passed a resolution on “Re-structuring of Japanese Agriculture, and Reformation of JAs towards the 21st century.

It contains three main points:

1. “restructuring agriculture and revitalisation of rural communities;
2. “strengthening of cooperative activities and promotion of rural development;
3. “reformation of JA business activities and organisational structures.

It was also mentioned that JA-group establish closer relationship with overseas cooperative movements and international organisations like ICA

As it will be reported in the next agenda, JA-group established IDACA 30 years ago and has been collaborating with ICA in promotion of agricultural cooperatives.

In recent years, JA-group has done projects in Thailand and the Philippines having support from the Government of Japan. We are hoping to activate more of such cooperation activities including Women-In-Development projects in the region. Thank you for listening.

Agenda Item No. 9 Report on IDACA Activities

The Regional Director, Mr. G.K. Sharma, described the nine courses completed during 1993 by IDACA, including three that were carried out in collaboration with ICA ROAP.

He informed the meeting that Mr. Y. Nakaoka has taken over as Managing Director, IDACA, in place of Mr. Shiro Futagami.

Mr. Riazuddin Ahmed, Pakistan, wished that IDACA should organise a special study tour programme of 10-15 days for policy-makers in Japan, India, Korea and other countries which have something to show about the cooperative movement so that they come back more motivated in promoting the cooperative movement. The RD informed the meeting that we were trying to get some donor for this programme including Japan, but somehow we have so far not succeeded. In this regard JA-ZENCHU may perhaps be able to persuade the Government of Japan to consider including this in the programme.

Dr. V. Kumar, India, was highly appreciative of the training programmes being conducted by IDACA. He felt that the time is right now where we can have better exchange to the Indian Cooperative Movement on the training aspect and we can have participants from countries like Japan, Korea, Malaysia, who are better off in terms of agro-business enterprises. We could provide some sort of facilities for inter-acting kind of programme that could also be in curriculum exchange with IDACA.

Agenda Item No. 10 To consider the paper : “The Conversion Syndrome - A Review of the Conversion of Australian Cooperatives into Investor Owned Firms”

The Regional Director introduced the paper prepared by Mr. Garry Cronan, Manager (Cooperative Development), Department of Local Government & Cooperatives, New South Wales, Australia, concerning the tendency for Australian Cooperatives to convert into investor-owned firms.

Interventions were made by Dr. S.S. Sisodia, India, Mr. Han Seung Hee, Korea, Prof. Ungku Aziz, Malaysia, Mr. Yehuda Paz, Israel, Mr. B.D. Sharma, India, Mr. Riazuddin Ahmed, Pakistan, who strongly opposed to the idea of any conversion syndrome. They felt that this issue has been raised on account of lack of capacity of cooperatives to mobilise their resources. We should improve our efficiency and we should have structural integration from grass root level upto the national level. We should concentrate our efforts on structural integration, mobilise resources through adoption of practical measures etc. It will not be fair to the cooperative movement to allow cooperatives to be both cooperatives and capitalistic company at the same time.

The cooperative movement should maintain their cooperative identity and sustain their competitive strength into the 21st century.

Mr. Ravi Shanker, India, said that there is a need for greater integration among state and national cooperative laws. This is because in the Indian context, cooperation is not a federal subject. Therefore, the opportunity for cooperatives to register themselves as cooperative companies under the Indian Company Law will provide cooperatives the much needed level playing field to compete with the private sector companies and the multinationals. Mr. Ravi Shanker also clarified that in this era of liberalisation and globalisation-while cooperative register themselves as cooperative companies under Company Law, they will not lose their

identity or character since they will continue to strictly adhere to and follow all the cooperative principles and practices.”

Many members very much appreciated the paper which they considered logical and thought providing.

Based on the discussions, it was felt that cooperatives must maintain their identity. Every country has to find their own solution to maintain their identity. We have to be alert, cautious, adopt ourselves to the changing times and maintain our identity.

Agenda Item No. 11 Report on the Third Cooperative Ministers Conference held in Colombo, Sri Lanka

Mr. Robby Tulus, Senior Policy Adviser, ICA ROAP, summarised the conclusions and the recommendations of the July 1994 Ministerial Conference, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in four major areas: government-cooperative relationship, cooperatives in the market oriented economy, regional coordination, and international operation. The next conference is scheduled to be held in Thailand.

The RD informed the meeting that the full report containing all the papers will be issued in 4-6 weeks and will be sent to all the members of the RA.

Agenda Item No. 12 Consideration of the Report on draft proposal for recognition of cooperatives by ICA

The Regional Director reported that the Executive Council had recommended the appointment of a small committee to examine the proposal for recognition of cooperatives by ICA.

The Committee met on 4th January and after detailed discussions, came to the following conclusions :

1. The Committee, in principle, agrees with the proposal with the suggestion that it should be called “Recognition of the genuine and efficient cooperatives”.
2. The criteria laid down in the Agenda need reconsideration and readjustment. It would be desirable not to have three criterias but one criteria should be there on weightage basis. Based on weightage, they could be graded for recognition award.
3. The criteria may be re-examined by Mr. B. D. Sharma, Chief Executive of the NCUI and Mr. G. K. Sharma, Regional Director, ICA ROAP together and a revised proposal would be sent to all members of the committee for their comments and advice.
4. The proposal should be implemented on pilot basis in select countries where member organisations are interested to implement it.
5. A report on the progress made in this regard may be submitted in the next Regional Assembly Meeting

The above recommendations of the committee as circulated were agreed.

**Agenda Item No. 13 World Summit for Social Development convened by the U.N.,
March 1995, Copenhagen - Role of ICA and Coops in Social
Development**

Dr. Daman Prakash of ICA-ROAP described the background to the United Nation's March 1995 Social Summit and the role which the cooperatives could play in influencing and implementing the meeting's themes of poverty alleviation, employment creation, social integration.

In response to a question from Mr. B. D. Sharma, India, about cooperative participation at the Social Summit, Mr. Bruce Thordarson reported that ICA would be represented both at the official meeting and at the parallel NGO forum in Copenhagen.

Agenda Item No.14 Presentation on a "Profile of Cooperatives in India"

The National Cooperative Union of India provided information on the cooperative movement in India, which officially includes some 350,000 cooperatives with a membership of 164 million.

Agenda Item No.15 Any other item with the permission of the Chair

**1. Letters from Mr. M. Horiuchi, Vice-President, ICA, to President, ICA, and
RD, ICA ROAP, about the position of President from Asia-Pacific Region**

Mr. M. Horiuchi announced his intention to retire as ICA Vice President at the Manchester Congress in September 1995. He proposed that Mr. Hakaru Toyoda, President of JA-ZENCHU, be nominated by the region to succeed him for the remaining two years of his term. This was supported by Mr. Vishwanathan, seconded by Dr. Paz.

The RA unanimously nominated Mr. H. Toyoda for election to the post of Vice President of ICA in next General Assembly.

The RA also appreciated the services rendered by Mr Horiuchi to this region.

**2. Letter of Mr. M. Ohya, Executive Director, JCCU, Japan on the establishment
of a Advisory Committee on the direction of ICA Asia & Pacific Region**

Mr. M. Ohya, Executive Director, JCCU, suggested a proposal to establish an ad hoc Advisory Committee that would review the structure and operation of the Regional Office, and make recommendations to the Regional Director. Mr. Yang spoke in favour of this proposal, which was accepted.

**3. Mr. Kyu-E Lee, Chairman & President of the Korean Federation of Commu-
nity Credit Cooperatives (KFCCC), after the election of Chairman thanked ICA
for letting them join the ICA family and introduced his organisation, KFCCC has
been admitted into ICA membership in 1994.**

**4. Mr. Yang Deshou, China, informed that the All-China Federation of Supply and
Marketing Cooperatives had been separated from the Ministry of Agriculture at the
beginning of 1995, and that plans were underway for the first Chinese Cooperative**

Congress, to be held in May or June of this year, in order to finalise the restructuring of the movement. He invited all participants to attend the Congress and indicated that in the future the Chinese cooperatives would be able to place more emphasis on international activities. Mr. Yang also expressed thanks for the support he had received as Chairman of the Regional Assembly.

Agenda Item No. 16 Venue and date of the next meeting

Prof. Ungku Aziz, Vice Chairman of the Regional Assembly proposed that the 1996 Regional Assembly be held in Malaysia, this was accepted by the RA. The date will be finalised by Secretariat in consultation with host movement.

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

G. K. Sharma
Secretary

New Delhi
10 February, 1995

**First Meeting of the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific
New Delhi, 4-7 January, 1995**

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- 2. Mr. Malte Jonsson**
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- 4. Dr. Daman Prakash**
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- 7. Mr. Pradit Machima**
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- 8. Ms. Akiko Yamauchi**
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- 9. Mr Prem Kumar**
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Welcome Address by
Mr. B. S. Vishwanathan
President, National Cooperative Union of India

Respected Chief Guest, Bal Ram Jakhar, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture, President of the function Mr. Arvind Netam, Hon'ble Union Minister for State for Agriculture and Cooperation, Mr. Lars Marcus, President, ICA, Mr. Horiuchi, Vice-President, ICA, Mr. Yang Deshou, Chairman, ICA Regional Assembly, Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director-General, ICA and Mr. G.K.Sharma, Regional Director, ICA ROAP, distinguished delegates from abroad, my colleague cooperators from India, Ladies and Gentlemen !

1. At the outset may I convey very warm and respectful greeting to all of you, who have assemble here on the first meeting of ICA Regional Assembly after the restructured organisational system of ICA. We feel greatly happy and privileged in hosting this first meeting of the distinguished cooperative leaders. This meeting would not be a merely routine international get together of cooperators, but, I hope, could be a milestone in promoting cooperative solidarity within the ICA fraternity, in general, and Asia and the Pacific region in particular.
2. On this occasion we have amongst us a veteran cooperator and Union Agriculture Minister Dr. Bal ram Jakhar. Himself a progressive farmer, horticulturist and scholar of distinction he is a great advocate of cooperative values and ideology. His presence on this occasion is matter of great satisfaction and encouragement to all of us in furtherance of the objective of cooperatives. I extend him a very respectful and warm welcome on behalf of members of ICA Regional Assembly, and on my own behalf.
3. Mr. Arvind Netam, who is the Minister of State in charge of Cooperation in the Government of India has kindly agreed to preside over the inaugural function. Mr. Arvind Netam basically is a cooperator and a very renowned champion of the weaker sections of the community. He is a leader of tribal and indigenous people in our country with long standing public life. He was also Chairman of a National Level Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India. I also extend a very friendly and warm welcome to him.
4. Mr. Lars Marcus, President of ICA : Mr. Horiuchi, Vice-President of ICA; Mr. Yang Deshou, Chairman, ICA Regional Assembly; Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director General ICA and Mr.G.K.Sharma, Regional Director, ICA ROAP are inseparable part of ICA family. On behalf of Indian cooperative movement and my own behalf I extend very warm welcome to them.
5. I welcome their excellencies from embassies of different countries; representatives of ILO; AARO; FAO who have kindly graced the function. I extend very sentimental and emotional welcome to all the delegates who have come to India in spite of their travel hazards and pre occupations at home. I also accord warm welcome to all the distinguished invitees and representative of national cooperative federations.

6. Friends, as you know cooperation is intrinsically woven in to social and cultural fabric of our country “Vasudhaivkutumbham” ie. “whole world” is a one family” is our cultural motto. This was the philosophy which influenced our founding fathers and the great leaders namely Mahatama Gandhi and Pt Jawaharla Nehru to assiduously promote cooperation as an important instrument of development after independence. In our development strategy cooperation was accepted as an important vehicle of socio-economic transformation particularly that of the rural people and the weaker sections of the community. It was made incumbent upon States to provide multifaceted support to cooperatives.
7. As a result of the collective efforts of the people and the Government we are having a very strong cooperative sector consisting of 353000 cooperative societies of all kinds with the membership 164 millions and total working capital of more than 800000 millions. There is no segment of our economy which has been left and untouched from the influence of cooperatives. In some of the segments particularly agriculture and agro processing, the cooperatives have acquired commanding position. However, presently our cooperative movement is passing through a period of transition as cooperative movements of other countries of the world.
8. Our national economy is being subjected to extensive privatisation, marketisation and globalisation by dispensing away with the control of State in economic activities. Obviously, cooperatives can not remain unaffected from these changes. The greatest challenge before them, therefore, could be how to ensure their distinct identity and their organisational values. Discouraged with State sponsored and supported cooperatives, some cooperators have started thinking to go for cooperative companies. However, this concept does not have acceptance of the cooperative movement as a whole.
9. In September, the National Cooperative Union of India organised an Expert Consultation in collaboration with ILO to formulate an action programme in regard to positioning of cooperatives in market oriented economy. The consensus opinion that emerged in Expert Consultation was that cooperatives must maintain their distinct identity and values. The Government was also called upon to recognise cooperatives on different footing as they are the organisation of persons of limited means. The Government should create a conducive environment where cooperatives function as self-regulated, self-managed and self-reliant units.
10. We have adopted a five point strategy for cooperative development. The strategy involves a specify policy enunciation by the Government for cooperatives; amendment of cooperative laws to democratise the functioning of cooperatives; strengthening of base level structure; reorientation of the working of federal cooperatives to strengthen their primaries and enhancing active involvement and participation of members, especially of rural poor in cooperative sector. In line with this strategy the movement has taken a number of initiatives for structural adjustments and to establish cooperatives in new areas. We have set up “ National Cooperative Bank of India” to remove the systemic gaps within the cooperative banking and financing sector. Now, we are organising a cooperative insurance system. We also propose to set up an International Cooperatives Trade

Promotion Organisation for providing trade and technology support to the cooperatives particularly in the field of agro-processing. I call upon the international community, particularly the cooperative community, to support our endeavours so that one of the largest cooperative sectors in the world could withstand the forces of market oriented economy.

11. I hope this Assembly meeting would also give serious consideration to the issue of positioning cooperatives in the market-oriented-economy.
12. In eighties ICA Regional Office had difficult times, which reached to critical a stage where the Regional Office was likely to be wound up and building sold. However, with the timely support of Indian Cooperative Movement and prudent decision of the ICA Headquarters, it was saved. Today ICA Regional Office in India has stabilised well. Much credit goes to the vision far-sightedness and action oriented approach of Mr. G. K. Sharma, the Regional Director.
13. The ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific has done tremendous cooperative developmental work practically in every field of cooperative activities. New strategies suggested by ICA Regional Office have been very useful to the movement in the region particularly in the spheres of human resource development, agricultural cooperatives and consumer cooperatives. Indian cooperative movement also contributed to ICA's endeavours whatever it could. We feel emotionally involved and identified with the efforts of ICA in furtherance of cooperative values and philosophy. I hope this meeting would further strengthen our solidarity and resolve to preserve, protect and restore cooperatives in the service of the poor who may be worst victims of market orientation during the transition period.

With these words I once again welcome all of you.

Welcome Speech by
Mr. Yang Deshou,
Chairman, ICA Regional Assembly for Asia & the Pacific

Hon'ble Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, Minister for Agriculture, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture, President of NCUI, Mr. Vishwanathan, President of ICA, Mr. Lars Marcus, Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Cooperators :

First of all, as the Chairman of the Asia Pacific Regional Assembly, I would like to express my warm welcome to all of you for coming to this Regional Assembly Meeting and I would also like to convey my heart-felt thanks to NCUI and all other Indian cooperative organisations as well as all staff of ICA ROAP for their great efforts made for this conference.

This Regional Assembly marks that the establishment of our new regional governing body has been preliminarily completed, which is of great importance to the cooperatives not only in our region but also in the world. Asia and the Pacific Region is a growing area and an area enjoying the fastest economic development throughout the world. With its long history, vast land, abundant resources, big population and great potentials, our region has become the focal point of the world's attention. It is all the same for the cooperatives in this region. The cooperatives in our region consist of 62.5% individual membership and 28% institutional membership of the ICA, and they are widely scattered in middle-east, south, west, south-east, far-east and the Pacific region. The cooperatives in this region have a big potential and bright future.

Through the joint efforts of ICAROAP and all our member organisations, the relationship between cooperatives and the governments in our region has been largely improved and strengthened to our satisfaction. As of last July, three cooperative ministerial conferences had been convened, through which we exchanged views with the government and expressed our hopes. And positive impacts have been in many countries. The government has obtained a better understanding on the role and need of cooperatives in the new social and economic situation and some of the governments in this region have already taken up to review and revise cooperative laws. This indicates cooperatives as the organisation of the weak are becoming more and more concerned by the people and the governments.

Obviously, cooperatives are also confronted with some problems. The world economy is experiencing a deep and dramatic changes. The market economy characterised by competition and the world economic integration are becoming the main trend of the world economy. For most developing countries in Asia and the Pacific region, this is a new issue.

The cooperatives are not exception. How to grasp the opportunity and face the new challenges under this new situation is an overhead problem for us. And it is for the very reason that ICA adjusted its structure to attach more emphasis on regional works. That is why we gather here today to discuss the Rules of our Regional Assembly for making it more adaptive to the social and economic situation of our region and to consider our development programme and work for making our regional structure play its full role in the course of promoting the

cooperatives in this region to develop into healthy, self-reliant and strong-ones. Therefore, I hope all distinguished delegates presented here to actively contribute your talent and ideas to the conference and to the cooperative development of our region.

Finally, I once again express my welcome and thanks to you for coming to this conference and I wish this Regional Assembly a great success.

Thank you.

Remark at the Opening by Mitsugu Hori-uchi

ICA Vice President for Asia and the Pacific

Thank you, Chairman Yang !

Honorable Speaker. Honourable Ministers ! President Marcus! Mr. Viswanathan ! Dear Cooperators! Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am Mitsugu Horiuchi, the Vice President representing our region on the ICA.

On behalf of ICA member Organisations in the region, let me first of all, thank National Cooperative Union of India, and other ICA members in India playing host to this first ICA assembly of our region. Then, I welcome you all, ICA members, to the first assembly meeting.

Today, your Vice President have two points to submit.

1. That it is, indeed, commemorable, that we have come to be able to be meeting in the first of our Regional Assembly, and I would like to share with you all, this special jubilee.

That we, the cooperators, in the region of Asia and Pacific are gathered together for a Regional Assembly is a crystallization of our past efforts towards restructuring and regional structuring of our ICA. As we all remember, the Stockholm Congress of 1988 instructed to have “the organizational and management structures of ICA” reviewed. It was taken up by the Structure Committee. The committee report of 1991 recommended, among other things, “the establishment of 4 new regional assemblies (including one in Asia and Pacific) in recognition of the growing importance of regional issues and trends within the ICA”, which was adopted by the Tokyo Congress of 1992.

Following that decision, we met in Consultation Meeting in the spring of 1993 at Beijing to pave the way for a regional structure including adoption of the Rules of the Regional Assembly under the Chairmanship of Mr. Yang Deshou of China. On the occasion of the first Assembly meeting of today, let us hope that we shall see all our movements to make further progress based on “collaboration among the ICA member organisations at regional level and provide a forum for discussion” for which our new regional structure is meant to become an effective instrument.

2. Now, let me say a word about how members are expected to support the ICA.

Last September, the President, Vice Presidents including myself gathered in Geneva and discussed about future activities of ICA. Some proposal will be submitted from the Board to the General Assembly in Manchester.

I want to borrow this occasion and appeal that members in Asia and Pacific region may also stand to support the International Cooperative Movement as it enters the second century at the next Congress.

With these two-point message as Vice President for your region, let me conclude by wishing a great success of our first Assembly Meeting.

Thank you.

**Speech by Mr. Lars Marcus,
President, ICA**

At the Inaugural Session on January 05, 1995

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Minister of Agriculture, representatives of cooperative organisations, honoured guests, cooperators and friends,

ICA has a long history. This year, it celebrates its centennial. This could offer a very good reason for a look at times which have passed.

I believe, history could be of interest but of importance only if you understand the present and are prepared to analyse the future in order to change. This is the simple and only safe way to cooperative success. However, this could be a problem. Please accept that my message, for this reason, will be incomplete, I will omit the historic aspect in my message.

How then shall present times be understood by cooperators? In comparison with previous generations, no one amongst us can today claim lack of information. Let me sort out from the affluence four trends, I believe, to be of special importance to the cooperators.

The first is about the discussion on a globally free trade and the formation of multi-national markets on all continents. The consequences are already there and will change the situation for us who serve a national, regional or generally local membership. Those of you who do not understand that they need international networks are wrong, completely wrong. The ICA offers one, but commercial alliances you have yourselves. Look for partners inside ICA.

The second is about the rich, the global capital and the OECD on one side and the poor every where, but not least in Africa, Central America and South East Asia on the other. Will cooperatives, again and again, be a force to strengthen those with the right claim for a decent life and safer future? Times will be tough for us, but cooperative solutions will be more and more frequent.

The thirds are the strong and increasing immigration waves due to pressing economic, social and political but unfortunately also more and more military conditions. Literacy and modern communications move people away to uncertain futures. It is fair to describe this as a brain drain, increasing impoverishment of the South and strength of the North.

My fourth point is this, a divided world. An isolate - an island of rich and intelligencia, in an ocean of poverty, illness and illiteracy- offer an unbearable thought. It means a world of unrest, setbacks and wars. In the frontline of victims you will find, more than 700 million cooperators and thier families, whom we in the ICA represent.

More than half of us live in Asia and the Pacific, the majority under serve economic pressure. It is not to say too much that a tremendous responsibility stays with you, the Asian leaders, and by that also with this Assembly.

It is true that our main responsibility is due to the economy in local societies. But to defend the interests of members, we can not afford a near-sightedness caused by geography as well

as by racial, ethnical and political prejudices. We have to reach out for our neighbours. We have to represent the forces of democracy, internationalism and solidarity with the unfortunate on the national arena.

What, can we ask, is the importance of four regional assemblies inside the ICA Network?

The ICA membership is very diversified, both in different sectors of activities and geographically. Our specialised organisations cater for our increasing number of branches. The Regional Assemblies are intended to serve the purpose of stronger geographical links. The idea is as simple as this. Collaboration between equals is natural and easy. The banker in Switzerland and a fisherman from Sri Lanka can have a common base in cooperative ideas, but talking business is likely to mean a somewhat limited conversation. The Regional Assemblies are also aimed at being umbrellas for a sectoral work.

To me the creation of four Regional Assemblies also means that the ICA has passed a milestone. The size of our membership and above all its strength is not the least in your region, which has made it possible to shrink the previous European domination in the ICA affairs and on its agenda.

Cooperators in Africa, the Americas and Europe will, like you, have a better chance every second year to turn to their own continents, their problems and opportunities. I am convinced that this will not diminish our common interest in a global organisation.

As you know the other three regions have already held their Assemblies. Let me now tell you of three major issues at their meetings.

Africa is continent where the cooperatives are the weakest. For almost 50 years, they have been given support from the colleagues in the OECD countries. The money has mainly come from government agencies. Evaluating the progress made today, you find donors are more and more reluctant. Supporting national apex organisations costs money and have little grassroots effect. At the same time African overall situation is growing worse and worse with the fortunate exception of South Africa and a growing European responsibility is identified. More aid is in the pipeline. Will a cooperative alternative be attractive?

On an initiative and in collaboration with European members, a report was presented to our African friends at their Assembly - about setbacks about governmental interference and about inefficiency and corruption in cooperative ranks. Self criticism was called for and a new policy to attract donors was presented. Such medicine does never taste everybody well, but was accepted. It was also understood that more cooperative support, and increased support, would be forthcoming but not as a pay off for the colonial exploitation, but as an investment for expected well defined results.

In the Americas, the Assembly represented a start and with enthusiasm. Their leading theme was 'Commercial Collaboration' but also to get to know each other. A meeting of this size between cooperators from South, Central and North had never taken place and between equals. This was not for those in any one's backyard.

The European Assembly also held a new element and several old ones. Here our members had the ICA for a century but they seconded our work with a strong structure of multinational

soectoral bodies. There was on many minds some fear that the ICA should interfere in or limit in suhc work. Should ICA open a Regional Office in Brussels ? Some wanted us to, but others felt uneasy about the thought. Even though it was made clear and avoid any overlapping in activities by concentrate on European, East-West relations and development support, together with the members and not behind their backs. Some fear and doubt was there when the meeting began. However, the assembly was well prepared and a very promising work plan was adopted in unison. Graham Melmouth, European ICA President and of our Vice Presidents had certainly two hot days but a happy ending.

The result of your Assembly will be known tomorrow, but only on paper and in your minds. Another step will be taken on a ladder without end, but also note that the future is up there to be caught.

Please have high expectations and see to that they are fulfilled. This was my greetings and from colleagues world wide.

Let us all meet in Manchester, later this year.

Thank you.

**Remarks by Mr. G.K. Sharma,
Regional Director, ICA ROAP**

1. The restructuring of the ICA was approved in Tokyo Congress in October, 1992. Prior to that, the highest policy body in the region was the Regional Council which consisted of two delegates from each country. As a result of restructuring Regional Council has been replaced by a Regional Assembly in which all the members in the region are entitled to participate. In the meeting of all the members in the region held in Beijing, China, in April 1993, the constitution of the new Regional Assembly was adopted which has been approved by the General Assembly. Based on this constitution, the first meeting of the reconstituted Regional Assembly is being inaugurated today.
2. There are many important issues before the Assembly for consideration which includes certain amendments to its rules with regard to membership, consideration of the cooperative charter relating to Cooperative Principles to be considered in the Manchester Congress next year, the Three-Year Development Programme of the ICA ROAP, U.N. World Summit for Social Development to be held in Denmark in 1995 and the Role of ICA and Cooperatives in Social Development, as also a paper on Conversion Syndrome - an issue being raised in many countries of cooperatives versus cooperative companies.
3. The Regional Assembly is highest policy body in the region to promote collaboration among the ICA member organisations at the regional level and provide a forum for discussion of regional as well as global issues. It is to guide Regional Office on its programmes of activities and has to make recommendations and to submit proposals and resolutions for consideration by the General Assembly.
4. The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific was first office established by the ICA in the region and was inaugurated in 1960 by the then Prime Minister of India, late Pt. Nehru. The office had the privilege of having Mrs. Indira Gandhi, who later became the Prime Minister of India, as the Honorary President of the Regional Council for more than a decade. Initially, the Regional Office was acting as a Education Centre with financial support from the Swedish Cooperative Movement. However, in course of time it became a fullfledged Regional Office providing a useful forum for the movements of Asian Pacific Cooperative Movements.
5. As a result of the restructuring the Asian Region which was earlier confined upto Iran has been extended upto Israel and its membership has increased from 16 to 25 countries. The new countries from whom membership have been added to the region are Iraq, Jordan, Israel, and Kuwait and three CIS countries from the former Soviet Union, namely, Uzbekistan, Kyrgystan and Turkmenistan. Myanmar, which had left ICA membership in sixties rejoined ICA recently and Mongolia which was not so far a member, also joined the ICA. Consequently, today there are 62 national level cooperative organisations as its members from 25 countries representing around 460 million individual members. In addition, there is a regional organisation, ACCU as its member.

6. The ICA will be celebrating its centenary next year. The Asia-Pacific Region's association with the ICA is as old as ICA itself. In the First Congress Meeting of ICA held in 1895, a professor, Mr. Krishna Menon, from Agricultural University in Madras was present. It may be mentioned that initially ICA was established by 12 countries from Europe and India was only country from Asia present in it. In the Fourth Congress held in 1900 in Paris, a representative of the then British Indian Cooperative Union, Calcutta, attended the meeting as a member. This was followed by a delegate from Australia in the Fifth Congress held in 1904. The third country from Asia to join the ICA was Japan which attended the Eighth Congress held in 1910 in Hamburg. Today, even though the institutional membership from Asia accounts for only 28%, it account for two-third of the individual membership of the ICA.
7. The cooperative movements in the region is passing through a crucial period, particularly in view of the market economy being adopted by most of the countries. It gives new challenge to cooperatives. While on the one hand it provides greater opportunities and scope to operate, it would also result in many cases lesser patronage and assistance from the governments. In market economy it is the survival of the fittest and no one is concerned with weaker sections of the society. The importance of cooperatives, therefore, gets much more significant in the market economy as they must provide a vehicle particularly to those who are not much fortunate to have larger capital resources and contacts. The Assembly will consider issues which will help the cooperatives in the region to march forward in this fast changing global scenery.

Inaugural Address by
Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar,
Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture
Government of India

Friends, I join Shri B.S. Vishwanathan in welcoming you all, particularly the members of ICA Regional Assembly. It is a matter of privilege for the Indian Cooperative Movement to host the very first meeting of ICA Regional Assembly after re-structuring of the ICA. I appreciate the NCUI for inviting the Regional Assembly to meet in India. About five years ago, the Indian Cooperative Movement enjoyed the privilege of hosting ICA Central Committee Meeting in Delhi. We welcome such meetings/events as significant source of guidance to us. To some of my friends, the Delhi climate may be a little uncomfortable since mercury is going down. Nevertheless, I hope, you will feel at home and enjoy your stay. We welcome you with all our warmth of hearts.

2. Cooperatives occupy in the Asia and Pacific Region an important place in the economy of all the countries. It is also a common feature that the governments in this region have a positive and supportive attitude towards cooperatives. Though cooperatives were organised in India in the eighties of the 19th Century, in its present form the Indian Cooperative Movement started in 1904 when the first Cooperative Societies Act was passed. Thus it is nearing a century of its useful existence. During this period, it has faced many challenges. However, it has constantly progressed. Cooperatives constitute the third important sector of our economy, the other two being private and public sectors. Its significance is fully manifested in the vision that it has to play a balancing role between public and the private sectors. It is highly diversified, covering all the important areas of the economy.
3. In all, there are nearly 35 million cooperatives with nearly 200 million individual members. It has covered practically all the half million villages of India. Structurally, it has a sound vertical and horizontal framework. Interestingly, there are tiny cooperatives with small membership as also giant cooperatives having thousand of members. In the field of agriculture, cooperatives have played a very crucial and strategic role by supplying agricultural credit and other inputs, marketing and processing facilities etc. But for cooperatives it would have been difficult to achieve the green revolution which has made India, not only self-reliant in foodgrains, but we are in a position to export foodgrains. Cooperatives have become a model for production, processing and distribution of milk. As a result of deliberate policy of the government, cooperatives have played important role in improving the socio-economic conditions of weaker sections of the society. However, not all is well in the cooperative sector, as we have various problems. Cooperative development is imbalanced in different parts of the country. Some of the States are cooperatively well developed, while some are coming up, still others are lagging behind due to various cumulative factors. The Government of India has designed special schemes for under-developed States. The membership, by and large, is non-participative.

The Governments have also involved themselves more than required, making the cooperatives too much dependent on government for finances and other support. There is a need to build professionalised cadres to improve the working of cooperatives. The primary societies at the village level, which serve the individuals, are very weak. They need to be strengthened. This is our greatest concern. The target, as was envisaged by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru to convulse India with cooperation is yet to be achieved. The journey is long, but we are marching with determination.

4. Government of India has taken a decision to transfer the power and authority from the Registrar of Cooperative Societies to the members. The laws are being amended substantially with the objective to allow free play of the cooperative principles as was recommended by the Cooperation Ministers' Conference convened by ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific at Sydney, Jakarta and Colombo. Our direction of cooperative development is to combine "cooperative values, socio-economic objectives and competitive strength".
5. In the context of emerging new economic order as a result of liberalisation, marketisation and globalisation of economy, after dis-integration of the communism, new challenges have surfaced before cooperatives. The challenge is that cooperatives will have to face competition with multi-nationals and big business houses. This calls for making cooperatives managerially efficient, cost effective and quality-conscious. That is the only way to survive in the environment of competitive markets and global impact. There is no alternative to it. As cooperative leaders, you have to find new ways and means to ensure that performance of cooperatives is not only at par with private enterprises, but still better. While the multi-nationals have certain financial and operational advantages, you have edge over them because of structural framework and large membership. What is needed is better service to the members so that they develop more faith in and reliance on their cooperatives. In Indian situation, it is crucial to strengthen primary cooperative societies to meet the challenge. National Cooperative Union of India, in collaboration with ILO, organised recently an Experts Consultation on "Role of Cooperatives in New Economic Policies" to consider measures for preparing cooperatives to new situations. I appreciate the concern being felt by the cooperative movement.
6. In market oriented economy the apprehension that the weak, both individuals and nations may be exploited. We live in a world of unequal and disparities. The developing countries in the region have problems of poverty, unemployment, infrastructural deficiencies etc. Government and cooperatives have to jointly work to solve these problems. We would welcome any kind of assistance from other countries in regard to this. We assure you to whatever assistance we can give. Cooperation is mutuality. I suggest that you give your serious thought to evolve and establish an international cooperative system in the region through which exploitation of any nation by any sector of economy is avoided. There should be mutual benefits. It is a difficult task no doubt, but strengthening of cooperation as a bridge between various countries is most suitable way of peaceful co-existence. My vision is that, as Nehru envisaged, Cooperation should not be confined to economic activities alone it should be extended to solve other problems as well so that it promotes

international understanding, high sense of human values and lasting peace. Long term international peace will go a long way in accelerating the pace of economic development in the region.

7. I am well aware of the role the ICA is playing in assisting cooperative to improve their functional efficiency in this region. Its guidance both to government and cooperatives has given new direction of action at government and cooperative level. In the present context, the ICA has greater responsibility in the region. It has to work for regional integration of cooperatives and development of human resources. It has to be a resource centre for cooperatives of the region. It should also assist to establish international trade relations on cooperative basis and economic collaboration. While expecting the ICA to be more helpful, it is necessary to strengthen its resources. It should give guidance to make cooperatives more efficient and genuine in character. It should also assist cooperatives to establish trade relations on cooperative basis, and develop human resources. It is to give valued counsel both to Government and the Movement. India has always supported ICA's efforts for development of cooperatives and we shall continue this support. This Assembly is the highest forum of cooperatives in the region. I hope you will deliberate upon the various issues and come out with recommendations which will make the cooperatives strong, competitive and value oriented. I once again welcome you and wish your stay comfortable.

Presidential Address by

Shri Arvind Netam

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Cooperation

at the Inaugural Function of ICA Regional Assembly

New Delhi (India) January 5, 1995

Chief Guest of the function, Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture, Mr Lars Marcus, President, ICA, Mr. Horiuchi, Vice-President, ICA, Mr. Yang Deshou, Chairman, ICA Regional Assembly, Mr. Bruce Thordarson, Director-General, ICA, Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, President, NCUI, Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director, ICA, distinguished guests, my colleague cooperators from India, ladies and gentlemen.

Let me take this opportunity and privilege to greet you all and convey my best wishes for a very happy and prosperous New Year. I would also specially like to thank all the participants who have assembled here from different parts of the world to deliberate on present crucial and sensitive issues which need due consideration in the forthcoming discussions in this Regional Assembly meeting. This is the first international business meeting of cooperators and cooperative experts, being hosted by Indian Cooperative Movement in the auspicious New Year. I am sure it will mark a good beginning for promotion and development of cooperative activity, all over the world in general and in India in particular and the same tempo and endurance will continue in future.

As I have perceived, cooperative movement in India has made multi pronged, multi-faceted and multi-dimensional development. On many counts it has been able to provide a quite strong shield for the weaker sections of the community against the middlemen and the exploiters. I have all appreciation for the efforts made and support provided by the ICA ROAP, New Delhi, (India), in making the Indian Cooperative Movement value based, objective oriented, democratically vibrant and sustainable. Indian Cooperative Movement has hardly spared any activity from its coverage. Establishment of National Cooperative Bank, filling the systematic gaps in rural credit has proved a landmark. Likewise cooperativisation of insurance system in India, for which the stage is almost set, again will prove a boon in reducing premium payment burden coupled with need based facilities to both, cooperatives and the members. I am also told that continuous researches are also being made to bring power and energy sector under cooperatives and for all this I would like to recognise and congratulate the cooperative leaders, experts and also the professionals.

The Government, with a view to effect reforms in Indian economy has come out with a New Economic Policy providing for privatisation, market competition, globalisation and withdrawal of economic support and state control. This will have some effect on work styles of cooperatives as they are state protected and state supported institutions. The Indian cooperatives, thus have to ensure, preserve and maintain their ideals, philosophy as also the values by making them sustainable.

I feel happy to learn that in order to provide due status and recognition to Indian cooperatives, possible legal hurdles are being removed by further amending the cooperative legislation. Similarly, the cooperatives at the primary level are being strengthened along with improving efficiency of the higher level cooperative structure. The members have also been made aware about their rights and responsibilities through a well established network of cooperative education and skill and expertise development of staff is done through cooperative training organisations. To make all our efforts successful I would like to make a call to this international expert body, the ICA to provide needed guidance and support.

Being actively engaged with cooperatives right from the base upto national level, I have close association with ICA ROAP, New Delhi, and I feel proud in expressing that ever since its establishment it has been doing good and appreciable services for the growth and diversification of our national cooperative movement.

I am sure the deliberations in this Regional Assembly will help in drawing a practical programme/schedule for development of cooperatives all over the region. I wish all success to this Regional Assembly meeting.

RULES OF THE ICA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR ASIA & THE PACIFIC

1. Name & Status

It shall be called the ICA Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific and forms part of the governing structure of the International Cooperative Alliance in accordance with Article 16 of the ICA Rules.

2. Objects

The basic purpose of the Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific is to promote collaboration among the ICA member organisations at the Asia-Pacific regional level and provide a forum for discussion of regional as well as global issues.

3. Functions

The Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific shall :

- a. submit reports proposals and resolutions for the consideration of the General Assembly;
- b. establish the priorities for the ICA work programme in the region;
- c. establish policies for the financing of ICA office(s) in the region;
- d. establish Regional Specialised Committees and approve their constitutions;
- e. implement the decisions of the ICA General Assembly in the Region;
- f. nominate one candidate for election as ICA Vice President;
- g. draw up its business procedures and representation rules, subject to approval by the General Assembly.

4. Membership & Representation

- a. The Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific shall consist of representatives appointed by the ICA member organisations with head office in the region, and by the ICA international member organisations, who have members in the region. No specific term is fixed for such appointments. The representatives will continue representing their organisation till written intimation is received by ROAP about their withdrawal or replacement from the appointing organisations.
- b.
 - i. Every member organisation shall be entitled to appoint/nominate at least one voting representative.
 - ii. Member organisations from countries in the region shall be entitled to additional votes/delegates based on multiple of ICA Geneva membership subscription or as otherwise approved by the Regional Assembly.

iii. The total number of voting representatives from any country shall not exceed the maximum number of member organisations from any country in the region.

c. **Associate Members**

i. National level cooperative organisations from the region which are not members of the ICA could be admitted as Associate Members of the Regional Assembly on payments of subscription fee as decided by the Regional Assembly

Observers

ii. Parastatal organisations and others at national and regional levels directly concerned with the promotion and support to the cooperatives could be admitted as observers on payment of subscription fee as decided by the Regional Assembly;

Special Invitees

iii. Special invitees like international organisations and others whose presence may be useful and desirable could be invited a special invitees. For special invitees no subscription fee will be applicable.

The Associate Members, Observers and Special Invitees will be entitled to submit written papers in advance and present their views in the meetings, but will not be entitled to vote or contest in elections.

Member organisations from the region shall have the right to send non-voting observers to the Regional Assembly, with no limit imposed on their number, upon payment of established registration fee for observers.

ICA members from other regions may also attend Regional Assembly meetings as observers upon payment of the registration fee for observers.

Non-members of ICA such as international organisations, governments and parastatal organisations concerned with the promotion of Cooperative Principles and cooperatives and supporting ICA activities could be invited to the Regional Assembly meetings as Observers and would be allowed attend the meeting upon payment of registration fee as decided by the Regional Assembly.

5. Meetings

The Regional Assembly shall, as a rule, take place every second year, alternating with the General Assembly.

Time and venue of the meeting shall normally be decided by the previous Regional Assembly.

An extraordinary meeting of the Regional Assembly may be convened by the Regional Director in consultation with the Chairman of the Regional Assembly for specific agenda.

The Regional Director shall be responsible for preparation and circulation of meeting documentation, and together with host organisation, for practical organisation of the Regional Assembly.

All questions on which the Regional Assembly votes shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast. Voting by correspondence may be allowed if voting representative is not able to attend in special circumstances.

The languages of the Assembly shall be English. Delegates using other than English shall arrange their own interpreters.

The meeting shall be on self-financing basis.

6. Finance

The delegates and their member organisations shall be responsible for covering the expenses of their participation at the Regional Assembly.

A registration fee will be charged in order to offset the cost of ICA documentation, interpretation, staff participation, etc. as decided by the Regional Assembly.

Basic costs of organising the Regional Assembly shall be borne by the host organisation(s).

7. Elections

The Regional Assembly shall elect at its first session a Chairman, normally from the host organisation, who shall preside over the meeting.

The Assembly may elect one or more than one Vice Chairman as deemed necessary.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman will continue till their successors are elected in the next meeting of the Assembly.

The Regional Assembly shall also nominate one candidate for election as ICA Vice-President by the General Assembly. Each member organisation, and international member, in the region is entitled to submit nominations. Candidates must have served on one or more ICA governing bodies for at least two years. The Governing Body shall include : ICA Executive Committee, Regional Assembly, Executive Council. If there is no unanimity, voting, is to be conducted by secret ballot. The Regional Director shall be responsible for communicating the name of the regional nominee to the ICA Secretariat not less than three months prior to the next General Assembly.

The Vice President shall serve a four-year term and is eligible for re-election if nominated again by the Regional Assembly.

8. Special Dispositions

The Rules and Procedures of the Regional Assembly, and any subsequent amendments, shall be subject to approval by the General Assembly, as laid down in Article 16 of the ICA Rules.

The Regional Assembly, as the policy-making body of ICA in the continent (s), shall not duplicate with the functions of the Regional Directors/Regional Offices/Regional Councils, which are the technical arm of ICA as laid down in Articles 22 and 23 of the ICA Rules.

RULES OF THE ICA ROAP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Preamble

1. The Regional Assembly for Asia & Pacific Region in its meeting held on 21-22 April, 1993 in Beijing, China, decided to have a Regional Executive Council consisting of representatives from the National Cooperative Movements of the Asia-Pacific Region. The Council shall be known as the "Executive Council for ICA ROAP".
2. The Council shall be to :
 - a) advise on the overall policy and programmes of the ROAP;
 - b) review the results of the activities of the ROAP; and
 - c) make recommendations to the Regional Assembly on matters concerning the cooperative movements in general and the Asia-Pacific region in particular;
 - d) serve as a permanent contact organ between the national cooperative movements and the ROAP.
3. The Executive Council will consist of :
 - a)
 - i. One delegate from each member country;
 - ii. Chairmen of Specialised Committees in the region;
 - iii. One delegate from each member regional organisations.
 - iv. Vice President of the ICA from the region.
 - b)
 - i. The Apex Members National Union from each country would nominate one delegate to the Executive Council.
 - ii. In countries where there is more than one National Organisation as members, the nomination shall be through consensus of the members within the country. When there is no agreement, the Chairperson of the Regional Assembly may nominate the delegate from such a country).
4. The meetings of the Executive Council may be convened in between the Regional Assembly Meetings and prior to the meetings of the Regional Assembly. Notice shall be issued to the members normally not less than three months in advance of the date of the meeting. However an urgent meeting may be called with a notice of at least 3 weeks
5. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Executive Council shall be elected by the members at the meeting of the Executive Council from a period of two years or till the next meeting of the council whichever is later.
6. A member of the Executive Council shall continue till either he is withdrawn or replaced by another delegate.

7. The members of the Executive Council may submit items for inclusion in the agenda of the Council meetings. Such items shall be submitted at least six weeks in advance of the date of the meeting.
8. The Regional Director shall be the Secretary of the Executive Council.

REPORT OF

***THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON THE POLICY AND DIRECTION
OF ICA REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC***



***International Co-operative Alliance
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
'Bonow House', 43 Friends Colony (East)
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

Formation of the Committee

1.1 The Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific at its meeting of 6th January, 1995 approved the proposal to constitute an Advisory Committee on the Direction of the ICA Asia and the Pacific Region Towards 21st Century, hereafter in this report called "The Advisory Committee".

Terms of Reference

1.2 Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee were laid down as follows:

1. " to review the current governing bodies and the Secretariat functions of the ICA Asia and Pacific Region
2. to make recommendations on the policies and directions of the ICA Asia and the Pacific Region".

Composition of Advisory Committee

1.3 As directed by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Director of ROAP appointed seven members of the Committee as follows:

- i. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, President, NCUI, India
- ii. Mr. Yang Deshou, Secretary General, ACFSMC, China
- iii. Mr. M.Ohya, Executive Director, JCCU, Japan
- iv. Mr. Lim Ho Seng, Chairman, SNCF, Singapore
- v. Prof. Ungku A. Aziz, President, ANGKASA, Malaysia
- vi. Mr. Han Seung-Hee, Sr. Executive Vice President NACF, Korea
- vii. Mr. Yehuda Paz Ginguld, Director, International Institute, Histadrut.

Mr. G.K. Sharma, Regional Director, ROAP served the Committee as its Secretary.

Meetings of the Committee

1.4 The Advisory Committee held its meetings as follows:

- The first meeting was held in Delhi on 7th January 1995 at Ashok Hotel at the time of the Regional Assembly. This was followed by the second meeting held on 9th and 10th March, 1995 at Singapore at the headquarters of the NTUC Fair Price Cooperative. All the members of the Advisory Committee were present. The Committee developed the scope and shape of its frame of reference in concrete terms, within the broadly conceived terms as set out in the Office Memorandum of January 12, 1995 (Annex I). It attempted to redefine the objectives of the ROAP, designed the methods for their realisation and examined the institutional structures relevant to this process
- The third meeting was held on 29th and 30th May, 1995 at Beijing, China. The meeting was attended by all members of the Advisory Committee except Mr. Yehuda Paz from Israel and Mr. Sung-Hee-Han from Korea. It was presided over by Yang Deshou. The Committee, apart from reviewing its deliberations of the previous meeting, dilated on the issues pertaining to programmes and funding of the Regional Office as also the location of the Office.
- The fourth meeting of the Committee was held on 18/19 September 1995 at Manchester where the recommendations and the draft Report of the Advisory Committee were considered. The final meeting was held on 23rd November, 1995 a day prior to Executive Council Meeting in Bangalore.

CHAPTER II
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ROAP

I. Establishment of ROAP

- 2.1 The establishment of the Regional Office & Education Centre for South-East Asia came as a result of the discussions that took place at the various Congresses of the Alliance since 1948. At these discussions, ways and means were explored to bring the national cooperative movements in the developing countries closer to the Alliance and also to seize the global challenge of contributing, through the instrument of Cooperation, to the social and economic development of the developing countries.
- 2.2 The 19th Congress of the ICA held in Paris in September 1954 passed a Resolution emphasizing "the obligation which rests upon every member of the Alliance, and especially on those which are firmly established in their own countries, to supply every kind of aid and encouragement to cooperative pioneers and newly formed organisations in the under-developed countries" and directing the authorities of the Alliance to draw up a programme of action by the ICA and its members for the promotion of cooperation in all its forms in the under-developed regions of the world and to consider ways and means of providing the finance necessary for the execution of this programme.
- 2.3 After an exploratory tour undertaken at the instance of ICA by Dr. G. Keler of Sweden in the winter of 1955-56, a Conference was convened at Kuala Lumpur in January, 1958 for the purpose of consulting the cooperative organisations and the governments of the Region. Guided by the views expressed there and its own further studies, the Alliance decided to establish its Regional Office in New Delhi. At about the same, the Cooperative Movement of Sweden was examining the possibilities of doing cooperative educational work in India. Finally the Swedish Movement and the ICA agreed upon starting a Regional Office and an Education Centre for South-East Asia.

- 2.4 At the 21st Congress held at Lausanne in October 1960, a Long Term Technical Assistance Programme was drawn up which defined the role of the Alliance in the field of technical assistance to the low-income countries of the world.
- 2.5. The Plan for the establishment of a Regional Office for South-East Asia and an Education Centre at New Delhi, which had already been approved by the Executive was reported to the Congress held at Lausanne. The Regional Office and Education Centre was opened on November 14, 1960 by late Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India.
- 2.6 At the beginning, the Regional Office and the Education Centre functioned as separate institutions under a Regional Officer and Director respectively. Although separate institutions, they worked in close collaboration . To ensure further coordination, the Regional Office and the Education Centre were merged in the autumn of 1963 into one institution called the "Regional Office & Education Centre." The Regional Officer was placed in charge of the amalgamated institution. The designation of the head of the institution was changed to "Regional Director" in 1970.

Functions and Set-up Contemplated

- 2.7 The main tasks of the Regional Office cum Education Centre was to develop the general activities of the Alliance in the Region, to act as a link between the ICA and its affiliated national movements, to represent the Alliance in its consultative relations with the regional establishment of the United Nations and other international organisations, to promote economic relations amongst member-movements, including trading across national boundaries, to help in the supply of technical information and assistance, and to conduct educational activities for the benefit of the movements in the Region.
- 2.8 The Swedish Cooperative Movement contributed a major part of the finances required by the Regional Office amounting to about 73 per cent of the annual expenditure, whilst the Alliance contributes about 17 per cent and the balance was

provided by the member-organisations in the Region. From within the region JA-ZENCHU particularly helped the ROAP in its educational programmes by establishing IDACA and providing training facilities through ICA ROAP.

- 2.9 The contributions made by the member-movements towards the costs of the educational programmes of the Regional Office increased over the years. Members movement borne the costs of obtaining local lecturers, the travel, board and lodging costs of the local participants and the costs of study visits organised in connection with each technical meeting. The movements which sent participants to the seminar, except the movement of the host country, provided 50 per cent of the travel costs of their participants whilst the ICA pays the balance.

The Advisory Council

- 2.10 In the beginning, the Regional Office and Education Centre was advised by an Advisory Council composed of representatives of the national cooperative movements in the Region which were members of the ICA. The Council usually met once a year to consider the programme of the Regional Office and Education Centre for the forthcoming year. The chairperson was appointed. Mrs. Indira Gandhi was the Chairperson of the Council for about a decade.

CHAPTER III

CRISIS OF EIGHTIES AND AFTERWARDS

- 3.1 Beginning of eighties was a period of upheaval for the ICA ROAP as also for ICA. The headquarters of ICA shifted from London to Geneva in 1982 and there were many changes in personnel staff. In ROAP, the SCC which was funding the major expenses decided to reduce its assistance and the strength of the office had to be reduced considerably. Out of total strength of 32, 22 staff members were retrenched. This created a serious financial crisis as not only assistance from SCC was reduced considerably but compensation had to be paid to the retrenched employees. For this purpose, the fund created to maintain the Bonow House was used and when this did not serve the needs, it was decided to dispose of Bonow House building also. An agreement for sale was signed and an advance of Rs.2 million was taken for paying compensation. However, the sale of "Bonow House" could be saved later on, but the overall image and credibility of the ROAP during this period came down considerably in the region.
- 3.2 It was during the later part of eighties onwards that efforts were made to restructure the ROAP and approach other donors to provide assistance. Fortunately a Project on Training of Managers of Agricultural Cooperatives by MAFF of Japan was approved. This provided some financial breathing point to the ROAP. The Regional Director, Mr. R.B. Rajaguru, left ROAP on 30th June, 1987. Efforts were made to explore the possibility of retaining the Bonow House instead of shifting to a rented premises in NCUI. Fortunately, the JCCU agreed to advance a loan of Rs.2 million for paying back the advance to the NCDC which was persuaded to agree to cancel the sale. This loan was paid back along with interest out of the rent charged from the projects which otherwise would have been paid for the

rented premises. Along with the assistance received from MAFF, some time later JCCU also came forward to provide funds for consumer activities to be undertaken by ROAP. On the other hand, SCC continued to provide its level of assistance without further reduction. This gave some financial stability to the ROAP.

II. THE SITUATION AFTER THE TOKYO CONGRESS

3.3 As a result of the restructuring of the ICA approved by ICA Congress in Tokyo in 1992, the geographical area of the ROAP has enlarged extending upto Israel which was earlier confined only upto Iran. Disintegration of Soviet Union also added new members from CIS countries. The membership of the ROAP has increased from 14 countries before restructuring to 24 countries with 62 members in addition to one regional member, ACCU. The new countries which have been added to the region are Jordan, Kuwait, Israel, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgystan. Kazakhstan which is a part of Asia geographically preferred to join the European Regional Assembly. In addition, Mongolia and Myanmar also joined the ICA ROAP in recent years. On the other hand, SCC had difficult times and therefore started further reducing the funding. However, during this period, MAFF/JA-ZENCHU, JCCU and CCA came forward to support various programmes and thus absorbed the declining effect of SCC's financial support.

The MAFF funding for two projects also comes to an end in June 1996. Discussions with MAFF are, however, going on to continue the assistance.

CHAPTER IV

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Regional Assemblies

4.1 As a result of restructuring in the Tokyo Congress, the Regional Council which consisted of two delegates from each country was replaced by Regional Assembly in which all the members of the ICA in the Region are represented. The Regional Assembly is to meet once in two years. The functions of the Regional Assembly under its constitution are as under :

- a. submit reports proposals and resolutions for the consideration of the General Assembly;
- b. establish the priorities for the ICA work programme in the region;
- c. establish policies for the financing of ICA Office(s) in the region;
- d. establish Regional Specialised Committees and approve the constitutions;
- e. implement the decisions of the ICA General Assembly in the Region;
- f. nominate one candidate for election as ICA Vice President;
- g. draw up its business procedures and representation rules, subject to approval by the General Assembly.

Executive Council

4.2 The next policy level body is the Executive Council which consisted of one delegate from each country and chairmen of specialised committees. The council is to meet in between the meetings of the Regional Assembly and prior to the meeting of the Regional Assembly. The functions of the Executive Council are as under :

- a. advise on the overall policy and programmes of the ROAP;
- b. review the results of the activities of the ROAP;

- c. make recommendations to the Regional Assembly on matters concerning the cooperative movements in general and the Asia-Pacific region in particular;
- d. serve as permanent contact organ between the national cooperative movements and the ROAP.

Specialised Committees

The Specialised Committee appointed with the approval of Regional Assembly are bodies of professional to advise the Regional Director and ROAP on sectoral matters.

- 4.3 At present there are six specialised committees as under
 - a. ICA Committee on Agriculture
 - b. ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation including University & College Cooperatives
 - c. ICA Committee on Human Resource Development
 - d. ICA Committee on Trade and Industry
 - e. ICA Committee on Fisheries
 - f. ICA Committee on Cooperative Finance

The Consumer Committee has been most active and meeting twice a year in carrying out various activities. The Agriculture Committee meets once a year. The Fisheries Committee which was not active in the past has become somewhat more active and is meeting once a year. HRD Committee is also meeting every year. The CTI which was supported earlier by Cooptrade Project has become less active since the expiry of the Cooptrade Project. The Finance Committee has been non-operational since last two years.

Secretariat

- 4.4 The secretariat at present consists of the Regional Director with core staff and the project staff. The core staff posts covered are Manager (Admn)-cum-Executive Secretary to Regional Director, Finance Officer, one Secretary, one driver, one messenger, one cleaner. The rest of the staff are on contract basis funded out of project funds. The Project Advisers and officials under the projects are appointed on two year contract basis. The

officials under the core staff who are continuing prior to 1985 are with no fixed contract. In case of vacancy of core staff leaving the post is filled on contract basis.

CHAPTER V

FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Development Activities

5.1 The development programme of the ROAP is based on funding by development partners primarily SCC, JCCU, MAFF, CCA and member organisations support. A statement showing the funding position of these projects from various development partners is enclosed as Annexure II. Another statement showing total ROAP Budget during last 5 years and contribution by development partners is enclosed as Annexure III.

Resources Available

5.2 The development plan is based on 3 year cycle. The present 3-year planning cycle is from 1994/95 to 1996/97. The present 3-year planning has been prepared by the Regional Office and concurred by the Regional Assembly and the development partners. The financial estimates have been prepared on the basis of the assumed contributions from the development partners - SCC, CCA, JCCU and MAFF as their firm commitments are on year to year basis only. Out of these, SCC and CCA are external to the Region. The activities are rather at a low level based on limited available resources. They are not sufficient enough to meet the demands of 25 member countries, specially when about 15 countries need the development support badly.

5.3 For funds needed for the above planned activities, SCC, CCA, JCCU and MAFF have given firm commitments for 1995/96 only. The indications are that SCC may reduce the contributions by 1997 and the uncertainty on the part of MAFF and CCA, for funding continues. The most uncertain estimates appear in the column 'Others'. These provisions have been included, pending negotiations with some development partners. The MO Contributions normally comes from them as local contributions for activities. They normally bear some parts of the costs. On adhoc basis some

funds have been provided by NSW Government of Australia for promoting cooperative trade from Australia.

Members Subscription

5.4 Another statement showing the members' subscription to ICA countrywise from Asia is enclosed as Annex IV. It may be seen from the statement that 45% of the subscription accounts for by Japan alone. Japan and China together account for 61.68% and Japan, China, South Korea and India (4 countries) account for 76.80%. The assistance received from HO is based on CHF 50,000 for each office. Thus Africa, which has two offices, gets double contribution than Asia even though Africa is much smaller and their members' subscription is only 2.1% compared to 26% from ROAP.

Contribution to ROAP

5.5 In October 1973 in the Regional Council Meeting member countries agreed to make annual contributions to the funds of the RO as follows :

	<u>Rupees</u>
Australia	18,000
Bangladesh	6,500
India	25,000
Indonesia	9,000
Japan	29,000
Korea	10,000
Malaysia	10,000
Pakistan	6,500
Philippines	8,500
Singapore	6,500
Sri Lanka	6,500
Thailand	8,000

	143,500
	=====

5.6 However, only Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, South Korea, India, Sri Lanka and Singapore have contributed the above amounts from time to time. While Japan and Korea increased their contributions based on dollar rate prevailing at that time, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Singapore continued to pay in Indian Rupees. Rest of the

countries are not contributing. This subject was placed before the Regional Council in 1988-89 to consider revision of contributions from members, but the Council decided not to take any view in the matter and advised the Secretariat to discuss with members on voluntary basis. Since then China and India are the only countries which have agreed to increase contribution : USD 3,500 and Rs. 75,000 /- respectively annually to the ROAP.

5.7 HO contribution

The Head Office contributes CHF 50,000 to each Regional Office. Thus ROAP which is the largest region also gets CHF 50,000 whereas Africa which has two Regional Offices gets CHF 100,000/-

5.8 Resources Needed

The development plan is based on 3 year cycle. The present 3-year planning cycle is from 1994/95 to 1996/97. The present 3-year planning has been prepared by the Regional Office and concurred by the Regional Assembly and the development partners. The financial estimates have been prepared on the basis of the assumed contributions from the development partners - SCC, CCA, JCCU and MAFF. Out of these, SCC and CCA are external to the Region.

5.9 The activities have been kept at a very low level considering the traditional funding patterns. They are hardly sufficient to meet the demands of 25 member countries, specially about 20 countries who need the development support badly. Out of these estimates, SCC, JCCU, CCA and MAFF have given firm commitments for 1995/96 only. As the indications are that SCC will reduce the contributions by 1997 and the uncertainty on the part of MAFF and CCA, the funding is yet to be considered. The most uncertain estimates appear in the column 'Others'. These provisions have been included, pending negotiations with some development partners. The MO Contributions normally comes from them as local contributions for activities. They

normally bear some parts of the costs. There is no cash inflow to the ICA ROAP from members.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Background

- 6.1 Asia-Pacific region is very large and diversified region extending from Japan to Israel and Korea to Fiji covering 26 member countries. China and India alone account for one-third of the world population. A World Bank study has defined global poverty at US\$ 370 per person a year in constant 1985 PPP prices. Out of the 1,133 million poor in the developing world, 731 million lived in East Asia (169 million in South-East Asia and 562 million in South Asia) in 1990. The Asian Region has made some progress in reducing its share of the world's poor from 68% in 1985 to 65% in 1990. However, higher population growth in South Asia has led to an increase in the absolute number of poor from 532 million in 1985 to 562 million in 1990. The region has the richest as well as the poorest countries. The highest per capita GNP being Japan of US\$ 38,750 and lowest being Afghanistan of US\$ 150 and less than 250 in Vietnam and Bangladesh. Similarly, inflation range is also very diversified being as low as 0.2% in Japan to 73% in Mongolia, 56.7% in Afghanistan and 31.5% in Iran. While in Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Israel the literacy rate is practically 100%, it is as low as 35% in Bangladesh and Pakistan, 54% in Iran and 48% in India.
- 6.2.1 Cooperatively also the region is equally diversified. It covers two-third of individual ICA global membership coming from 26 countries through its 60 affiliated organisations. One can find the best possible and worst possible examples of cooperatives in the region. The region covers all types of cooperatives. Agriculture and multipurpose accounts for 57.60% housing 10.61% and consumers occupying 8% share. The strength and weakness of the cooperatives can be seen from the fact that the average membership and share capital

of a primary agriculture cooperative being as high as 1650 and US\$ 915 million in Japan, 1348 and US\$ 88185 in Thailand, 4946 and US\$ 26912 in China and 584 and US\$ 10,276 in Malaysia and as low as 40 and US\$ 95 in Bangladesh, 40 and US\$ 450 in Pakistan. Sri Lanka has an average membership of 405 and the average share capital of US\$ 450. In Fiji on the other hand the membership is very low 40 per society the share capital is comparatively higher i.e US\$ 5205 per society. The position is not much different in case of consumer cooperatives also. While the average membership and share capital in Japan is 26,636 and US\$ 4.7 million, in Thailand it is 1958 and US\$ 54203, it is as low as 26 members and US\$ 1057 share capital in Fiji and 52 members and share capital of US\$ 5464 in Philippines. In Bangladesh most of the consumer coops are defunct except a few employees and women stores.

6.2.2 One major difference which could be noticed in the cooperatives of the region which also reflects their strength and weakness is that in countries like Japan and Korea where under the cooperative law a cooperative can trade only with members and in Australia the members are responsible for the proper functioning of the cooperatives. In countries like Fiji, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Iran etc it is the government which still shoulders the responsibility of proper functioning of the cooperatives through the process of audit and inspection. This role of the government is responsible to a great extent for dormant membership and lack of professionalism. The position of national federations is equally diversified. In China, Japan, South Korea and Australia, there are no umbrella organisations though Japan has tried to fill the gap by having the Japanese Joint Committee on Cooperatives, a loose body having representatives of all sectors of cooperatives. China, South Korea and Japan have very strong sectoral national federations, but in Australia all such efforts in this direction have failed so far.

These umbrella organisations in some countries like India, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand are fairly active and strong. but in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Philippines and some others they are struggling for their survival.

6.2.3 The cooperatives have contributed substantially in various sectors of economy including agricultural production, stabilising of prices, providing consumer goods and social services etc and made visible impact. But very often they have not been able to built their public image to the desirable extent. Further with, the free market economic policy of many governments in the region, cooperatives have to face new challenges. Governments support, particularly financially, is declining. This has not necessarily resulted in loosening of the control and intervention in the management of cooperatives by the government but only added to severe competition.

6.2.4 Consequently, cooperatives are facing many constraints. Some of these constraints are:

- a. large percentage of dormant base membership,
- b. unviable size and capital base of the cooperatives
- c. over-involvement of government in the management of cooperatives,
- d. lack of professional management,
- e. lack of accountability and transparency, and
- f. weak national federations.

Aims and Objectives

6.3 Keeping in view the Asian cooperative background, the overall goals of the Alliance in the Region should be;

- i. Strengthening the self-reliance and self-management of the cooperatives in each country and of the Asia-Pacific regional framework in general.
- ii. Development of regional structure and programme of activities which would strengthen the cooperatives in the countries of the region, build useful linkages between them and respond effectively to their needs and aspirations.

- iii. These structures and programmes must be relevant to the needs and the realities of today and tomorrow; to the rapidity of scientific and technological as well as political, social and economic change characteristic of our era; and to the rapid development and growth of the Asia-Pacific region and its emerging pre-eminence as a world's economic centre of gravity as well its largest centre of population.
- iv. The regional centre of the cooperative movement as the ROAP is, must serve the region's cooperative movements in their struggle to effectively compete in today's free market economy in which the multinational companies play an even more important role.
- v. Equally, the regional endeavours must aid in preserving the cooperative identity and in strengthening the active participation of members in the activities and in the control of their cooperatives.

6.4 These goals could be approached, in the first instance, through three areas, namely:

1. Educational and Information-providing activities;
2. Activities of economic nature including
 - a. those relating to the promotion of cooperative relations in the fields of trade, finance and technological exchange;
 - b. those relating to the creation of frameworks of effective assistance and solidarity, particularly for weaker cooperatives including those facing challenges to their survival;
3. Activities relating to the strengthening of public image of cooperatives and enhancing their role, acceptance and understanding on the part of national governments and of regional political and economic institutions.

APPROACHES TO GOALS

Education - Information

- 6.5 For developing the education, training and HRD regional activities, it is necessary first to assess the main needs of the cooperatives in various countries of the region, in the fields of education, training and information, then to verify the availability of adequate background material relevant to the training/education needs earlier assessed and finally to prepare and implement:
1. Programmes for exchange of education/HRD materials;
 2. Programmes for exchange of experts and staff of education/HRD institutions;
- 6.6 Side by side, data banks based on material collected and exchanged, be developed. To start with, it would be desirable to publish and update information on status of cooperatives in the form of a Directory. The information in this directory, in addition to basic statistics, may include:
- i. explanation on basic situation and trends with regards to the movement;
 - ii. position of government policy and cooperative legislation;
 - iii. critical problems and possible solutions;
 - iv. list of publications and reference material available. (This information for the year 1994 may, possibly be published by 1996. Based on experience of this compilation, possibility of undertaking periodical reviews be examined).
- 6.7 Regional and sub-regional seminars and workshops be organised. Possible themes for initial programmes be teaching/learning methodologies and membership education.
- 6.8 Short-duration regional workshop programmes could be organised for cooperative leaders.

- 6.9 A regional seminar/workshop for those concerned with legal aspects of cooperatives, particularly those connected with the cooperative Registrar's department may also be organised.
- 6.10 Regional exchange programmes, between two or more countries, through which cooperative leaders and staff could obtain on-the-job training within successful and innovative cooperatives, could be organised wherever possible.
- 6.11 Selection of participants in the seminars and workshops must be carefully made. National workshops/Seminars particularly for grass root workers should be in local language. Regional programmes which will have to be in English normally should not be for primary or grass-root members. Only higher level professionals and policy makers should be selected for attending them.
- 6.12 Study visits focused on a particular aspects of cooperative life or a particular cooperative sector may be arranged. However, such visits for government officials should be a part of follow-up of the Ministers' Conference and not come under the normal programme of the ROAP in view of its limited resources.
- 6.13 Regional efforts may be made to promote university/college cooperatives wherever possible.
- 6.14 The three to four international education/training institutions now existing within the Asian-Pacific region be encouraged and assisted to form a network and develop joint programmes.

Activities of Economic Nature

- 6.15 Multinationals are growing fast. If cooperatives have also to grow, it would be possible with only mutual cooperation. It was noted that the following were some of the constraints in the smooth development of economic

collaboration and cooperative trade among the member countries:

- (i) No proper structure for trade;
- (ii) Smallness of operations;
- (iii) Lack of qualified persons;
- (iv) Most of the trade-items are primary products which have limited demand;
- (v) Absence of strong financial structures.

6.16 With all these constraints, the following action plan is suggested :

- (a) The Committee on Trade and Industry should be reorganised and renamed "Cooperative Network for Economic, Technology and Trade Collaboration". It should consist of cooperative enterprises and not policy makers. There should be no restriction on the membership of this Committee. Any one who is interested in promoting cooperative trade or economic collaboration be allowed to join it on voluntary and self-reliant basis. Collaborations could be on trade, technology as well as know-how. Rules may be framed defining who could join this committee and on what terms. China has already developed a network for trade and collaboration in the cooperative sector through the subsidiaries of large cooperatives and its total export trade is now estimated to be 1.3 billion US Dollars. The offer of China to host the first meeting of the re-organised Committee as also a trade seminar with proper preparations in 1996 may be considered.
- (b) The ICA ROAP should attempt to publish periodically pamphlets on the subject of cooperative to cooperative export-import trade, technical collaboration and joint ventures and also organise trade seminars. However, for organising trade seminars, there should be intensive preparations. For this, ICA ROAP may remain in intimate touch with the national movements, for securing information - on an ongoing basis - on

possibilities and interest of cooperatives in trade and the initiation of joint ventures and about cooperatives engaged in foreign trade, both export and import.

Long-term Suggestions re Economic Activities

6.17 The Committee recommends that the following activities may be taken up when resources permit;

- (a) Technical support to promote joint ventures and joint activities between cooperatives particularly within the region, on a wholly self-reliant basis.
- (b) Explore the possibility of organising periodic "Clearing House" gatherings and Exchanges should be considered, with adequate preparations and documentation.
- (c) Framework for the exchange of technologies and methodologies be developed.
- (d) Encourage promoting of economic cooperation between cooperatives. To this end, cooperatives ought to adopt a policy of favouring other cooperatives as business, trade, financial partners wherever economically possible.

Support - including Assistance, Solidarity, Survival

6.18 Cooperative movements in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region are at various stages of development. Many cooperatives are very strong, whereas some are so weak that they are facing challenges to their very survival.

6.19 While the need and help to the weak cooperatives was highly desirable, the ICA ROAP does not have enough resources to undertake this responsibility and therefore will have to remain on low priority. In addition to financial constraints, in some countries this issue is also politically sensitive. However, if some strong movements within or outside the Region, want to undertake such programmes on bilateral basis, this should be encouraged. It is, therefore, recommended that:

- (i) ROAP should encourage bilateral relations and assistance, and
- (ii) provide limited expertise and consultation where required, depending on resources.

The movements which undertake such bilateral activities be requested to keep the ROAP informed about such activities, in the interest of proper coordination of resources.

Relations with Governmental Bodies

6.20 For more effective relationship between autonomous cooperatives and governmental frameworks the following approaches are suggested:-

- (1) Periodic conferences of cooperative ministers be continued and further developed.
- (2) Regional consultations of top government officials of departments relevant to cooperatives, particularly those taking place prior to the Ministerial Conferences, should be continued.
- (3) Visits of senior government officials to successful cooperatives, both within their own country and in the region as a whole should be arranged.

The visits should be a part of follow-up of the Ministers Conference and not come under the normal programme of the ROAP in view of its limited resources.

- (4) The recommendations of the Ministers Conference should be submitted to the Executive Council for consideration and follow up.

Public Relations & Image Building

6.21 The following steps would help in cooperative image building :

- (i) Efforts should be made to include topics about and/or relevant to cooperatives on the agenda of important regional or sub-regional conferences and meetings.
- (ii) Use should be made of the IPS (International Press Services) and other media facilities to give greater publicity to cooperative success stories and greater coverage of cooperative congresses (national and regional) as well as of ministers meetings.

- (iii) Publication of a book on "Cooperative Founders (one or two per country) in the development of the cooperative movement in the various Asia-Pacific countries, with an analysis of their significance, may be taken in hand.

Regional and Sub-Regional Framework

- 6.22 The highest policy body in the region is the Regional Assembly consisting of representatives of all the members, meeting once in two years. The next is the Executive Council consisting of one representative from each member country which is expected to meet once in a year. The committee is of the opinion that it would be desirable to have a more compact group of 4-5 persons as **Advisory Committee** who could meet more frequently to guide and advise the RO, and report to the Regional Assembly and Executive Council.
- 6.23 At present there are six specialised Committees in the region. Of them, the Committees on Agriculture, Consumers including network of University, College and School Cooperatives, HRD are functional and should continue.

Recently the Fisheries Committee has also become more active.

Regarding the Committee on Trade and Industry, the necessary recommendation has been made in para No. 6.16 (a) above.

The Finance Committee is really not wholly effective at present. Also, there are areas for which there are no Committees at present. It is recommended that "Interest Groups" on such areas may be constituted. They may, however, operate on ad hoc basis. A full day's time may be reserved on the occasion of the meetings of the Regional Assembly, when such groups may be encouraged to discuss their problems.

- 6.24.1 The ROAP, in addition to extending its general support to the specialised committees and interest groups, circulate reports on their activities and further exchanges of information etc. among them.
- 6.24.2. Rules of the Specialised Committees needs to be examined and placed before Regional Assembly to bring uniformity. Non-members of ICA be allowed as members of specialised committees for a maximum period of three years by which they should become member of ICA.
- 6.24.3. All committees should meet once along with the Regional Assembly.
- 6.25 The Asia-Pacific Region covered by the ROAP, is extremely diverse both in geographic spread and population. While each country has its own characteristics, several countries do form sub-regions on the basis of similarities both in background and present day realities. It is recommended that the countries in sub-regions interested in forming structures or institutions for promoting Cooperation among Cooperatives be encouraged to do so. However, such arrangements should not effect the development of the Region as a whole as an integrated cooperative community.
- 6.26 Based on the aims, objectives and approaches, the important activities to be taken up by ROAP could be summarised as under:

I. MEETINGS

- | | | | |
|------|---|---|----------------------|
| i. | Regional Assembly | : | Once in two years |
| ii. | Executive Council | : | One every year |
| iii. | Meeting of Specialised Committees | : | At least once a year |
| iv. | Ministers Conference & Preparatory Meetings | : | Once 2/3 years |

- II. i. Collection of Data on yearly basis on progress of national movements/member organisations.
- ii. One or two studies on specialised issues/subjects.

- iii. Regional Review of Cooperative Movement in the Region - either once in 3 years or one-third countries every year.
- III. i. Develop contacts with governments/movements in member countries - non member countries with a view to (a) enrol new members, and (b) increase subscription.
- ii. Promote Collaborations:
 - a. Economic - trade - joint ventures - supply of basic information and statistics in this regard.
 - b. Exchange of information, materials and experts particularly on education, training and member participation and encourage network and joint ventures between them.
- iii. Exchange of experience and information on new trends in cooperatives and new technology.
- iv. Visit of government officials to successful cooperatives domestically and regionally.
- v. Encourage University/College Cooperatives
- vi. Encourage Gender Integration

6.27 With regard to funding for these activities to be undertaken by ROAP, it could be as under:

The Regional Assembly and Executive Council is being organised under ROAP budget and cost is covered by Registration Fee - USD 100 per person for Regional Assembly Meeting.

With regard to the specialised committees, the Consumer Committee, Agriculture Committee, HRD Committee and Fisheries Committee, which are being convened under respective project activities.

The other Committees/Interest Groups may meet before Regional Assembly Meetings on self-financing basis.

Ministers Conference/Consultation

First two Ministers Conferences were funded by SCC and the third one and the next one is being assisted by CCA. Prospects of future assistance, either from SCC or CCA, are

very remote. We will, therefore, have to discuss this issue in the next Conference for covering its cost. It may be mentioned here that so far Government of Indonesia, Government of Malaysia and Government of Sri Lanka, have already contributed USD 65,000 to this fund on adhoc basis. The meetings of the preparatory Consultative Committee and the National Sub-Regional Workshops are being held on self-financing basis, though limited financial support has been extended for some of these meetings by the CCA.

6.28 Collection of Data

i) At present this item is being covered under the project activities and it should be continued under the project funding. Publish a directory of statistics.

Studies

ii) Two studies this year have been included under the project activities and efforts can be made for some time to include this item under project resources.

Review of the Cooperative Movement

iii) At present, this item is not being undertaken and if we have to undertake this, we will have to raise resources for it. The requirements may be around CHF 15,000-20,000.

6.29 Contact with Members

i. This activity has to be carried out under the ROAP budget.

Promote Economic Collaborations

6.30 This item, at present, is not covered under any budget. In the discussions during the last meeting, it was proposed that we may have a part-time person for this. Efforts will be made at the time of next planning meeting whether this activity could be adjusted under the plan activities; otherwise, we will have to find necessary manpower and resources for this.

At present, we have no funding under the projects specifically for arranging exchange of experience and

information of new trends and new technology. However, various specialised groups can be useful forums for exchange of information.

6.31 University/College and School Cooperatives

i This activity is presently covered under the Consumer Project.

ii. There is a separate Project on Gender Integration, funded by JCCU.

6.32 Library

Library, at present, is being financed by different donors under ROAP. It may have to be entrusted to the Bonow Trust.

6.33 Three areas are identified under para 6.4 which should form the basic activities of the ICA ROAP in the future. However, in addition, ICA ROAP is carrying out programmes financed from different donors, reflecting their priorities. These programmes are not conflicting with the overall goals, but are only exceptionally referred to in the Findings and Recommendations. Such type of programmes are depending on donor financing and ICA ROAP should continue to seek collaboration with donors, both inside and outside the region.

6.34 The important activities referred in para 6.26 are being partly implemented presently from the limited resources available from Development Partners as briefly explained in para 6.27. However, in case from 1997 onwards the Development Partners further reduce their contributions, the ROAP will face difficult situation to carry out even the minimal activities. It is, therefore, necessary that resources have to be raised at ROAP to maintain the minimal programme as mentioned in para 6.24 and other activities needed from time to time. Thus the following suggestions are made in this regard :

a. Some of the members are not making any contributions to the ROAP. In 1972, a formula was laid down which has not been revised or updated. Meanwhile many new

members have joined the organisation but no formula has been prepared for them. It is recommended that the members in the region should contribute to the ROAP on 10% of subscription additionally.

- b. The stronger movements may be approached with specific proposals to explore possibilities of their providing financial support.
- c. Many of the small cooperatives cannot afford to attend global meetings or pay the ICA annual subscription. It is recommended that the system of associate membership to ROAP with lower membership fee be considered. This will also give additional income to the ROAP.
- d. In addition, following suggestion are given to effect economy in expenses:
 - Meetings of the specialised committees may coincide with the meetings of the Regional Assembly and Executive Council. Any meeting in between, may be held on self financing basis.
 - Tour programmes of project advisers may be properly coordinated to avoid frequent visits.

6.35. The Head Office is contributing CHF 50,000 based on its support to each office and has no relation to the subscriptions from the region. A chart showing the ICA subscription and ROAP's share is enclosed as Annexure IV. The group is of the view that while it appreciates the need to keep the minimum level of contribution to the regions where subscriptions are not sufficient, for Asian Region it must have some relation to the subscriptions ICA receives from the region. It is felt that in case the Regional Office is not able to service its members properly, it will adversely affect the overall subscription to the ICA from the region. In the opinion of the Committee, the region should get about 50 per cent of the subscription received from this region of the ICA. However, this matter should be discussed with the President and DG of the ICA by the

members of the ICA Board from the region to arrive at mutually agreeable solution.

Role of the ROAP within the ICA

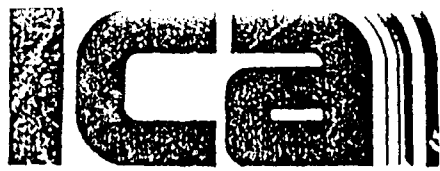
6.36 The Committee is of the view that the Asia-Pacific Region needs to be given a greater weightage in the ICA in consideration both of its pre-eminence in terms of ICA membership and of general increase in significance of the region. It is proposed that :

- (i) In view of its size, the Asia-Pacific Region representation in the ICA Board be increased from the present four (including the Vice-President) to six (including the Vice-President). For this purpose, the size of the Board may be enlarged if necessary. This should be discussed by the Members of the Board from the Region with DG and President with regard to the strategy to be adopted in this regard.
- (ii) Possibility of having a member from this region in the Audit and Control Committee may also be explored.

Location of ROAP

6.37 The question of change of location of the ROAP office from the angle of centrality and better flight timings was considered. Considering all the facts including the cost of index, facilities available/to be provided by the government and other factors including the fact that in case Bonow House is disposed off the sales proceeds cannot be transferred outside India under the Indian Foreign Exchange Rules, the Committee is of the opinion that the office should continue at the present location. The Committee, however, recommends that :

- a. The Indian Cooperative Movement should extend more support to the ROAP; and
- b. The meetings convened by the ROAP should be rotated keeping in view the travel convenience of members.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

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12 January 1995.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

The Regional Assembly at its meeting held on 6th January, 1995, while considering the proposal submitted by Mr. M. Ohya, as additional agenda item No. 16, approved the proposal to establish an Advisory Committee on the direction of the ICA Asia and Pacific Region in late 90's and towards 21st century. The objectives of the Advisory Committee would be as under :

1. to review the current governing bodies and secretariat functions of the ICA Asia & Pacific Region.
2. to make the recommendations on the policies and directions of the ICA Asia & Pacific Region.

Accordingly, an Advisory Committee consisting of the following is appointed :

1. Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, President, NCUI
2. Mr. Yang Deshou, Secretary General, ACFSMC
3. Mr. M. Ohya, Executive Director, JCCU
4. Prof Ungku A. Aziz, President, ANGKASA
5. Mr. Lim Ho Seng, Chairman, SNCF, Singapore
6. Mr. Han Seung-Hee, Sr. Executive Vice President, NACF
7. Mr. Yehuda Paz Ginguld, Director, International Institute, Histadrut

The Regional Director will be the Secretary of the Advisory Committee. The members of the Committee will work on self-financing basis.

The Committee will submit its report to the Regional Director who after processing it will place it before the next meeting of the Executive Council for consideration.


G.K. Sharma
Regional Director

SUMMARY OF ICA ROAP BUDGET

Period: 1st July 1995 - 31st December 1996

- HQ, Geneva
 ROAP, New Delhi
 ROECSA, Moshi
 ROWA, Abidjan

- Budget
 Quarterly report
 Annual report

Date: 11.01.95 Prepared by: Malte Jonsson

Approved by:

Implementing Officer:

Project Code	Name of the Project	BUDGET (SFR)	ACTUAL	ICA-HQ	MO's	SOURCE OF FUNDS				OTHERS
						SCC	MAFF	JCCU	CCA	
2000	Policy Development and Legislation Project #	1,309,000		0	772,000	0	0	0	343,000	194,000
2100	Development Planning and Coordination Project	230,000		0	20,000	210,000	0	0	0	0
2200	Agricultural Coop Development Project	530,000		0	285,000	180,000	0	0	0	65,000
2300	Consumer Coop Development Project	418,500		0	88,500	0	0	330,000	0	0
2400	Human Resource Development Project	281,500		0	53,500	165,000	0	0	0	63,000
2500	Gender Integration Project	244,550		0	80,900	0	0	131,650	0	32,000
2600	Agricultural Management Training Project **	730,000		0	10,000	0	720,000	0	0	0
2700	Rural Women Leaders Training Project	280,000		0	0	0	280,000	0	0	0
2800	Others : 2810 - CICOPA Project	20,870		0	0	0	0	0	0	20,870
900	ROAP Administration and Meeting.	229,500		75,000	55,000	18,000	0	0	0	81,500
Total ROAP Budget		4,273,920		75,000	1,364,900	573,000	1,000,000	461,650	343,000	456,370
Total ROAP Budget in Percentage		100%		1.75%	31.94%	13.41%	23.40%	10.80%	8.03%	10.68%

from 1st January 1995. : ** upto 30th June 1996

SUMMARY OF ROAP BUDGET

Y e a r	Total Budget	SCC	MAFF	JCCU	CCA/DID	OTHERS	MO	HO	ZENCHU
1994-95	24,49,936	382,000 15.59%	860,000 35.10%	282,100 11.51%	80,000 3.27%	314,336 12.83%	481,500 19.65%	50,000 2.04%	
1993-94	35,89,605	388,000 10.81%	860,000 23.96%	230,600 6.42%	213,000 5.93%	329,867 9.19%	1495,260 41.66%	50,000 1.39%	22,878 6.4%
1992-93	35,21,468	585,000 16.61%	853,040 24.25%	151,500 4.30%	-	629,920 17.80%	1245,000 35.35%	50,000 1.42%	-
1991-92	46,09,277	1104,722 23.96%	714,445 15.50%	134,444 2.91%	-	1069,999 23.21%	1585,667 34.40%	50,000 1.08%	
1990-91	35,00,019	945,731 27.02%	714,444 20.41%	134,444 3.84%	-	557,881 15.94%	1147,517 32.79%	50,000 1.43%	

MEMBER ORGANISATION CONTRIBUTION RECEIVED TOWARDS
ROAP ACTIVITIES

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>ORGANISATION</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>AMOUNT INR</u>
<u>1992</u>			
China	ACFSMC	1992	85,865
India	NCUI	1992	50,000
Japan	JJCC	1992	194,735
Korea	NACF	1992	15,336
Thailand	CLT	1992	8,000

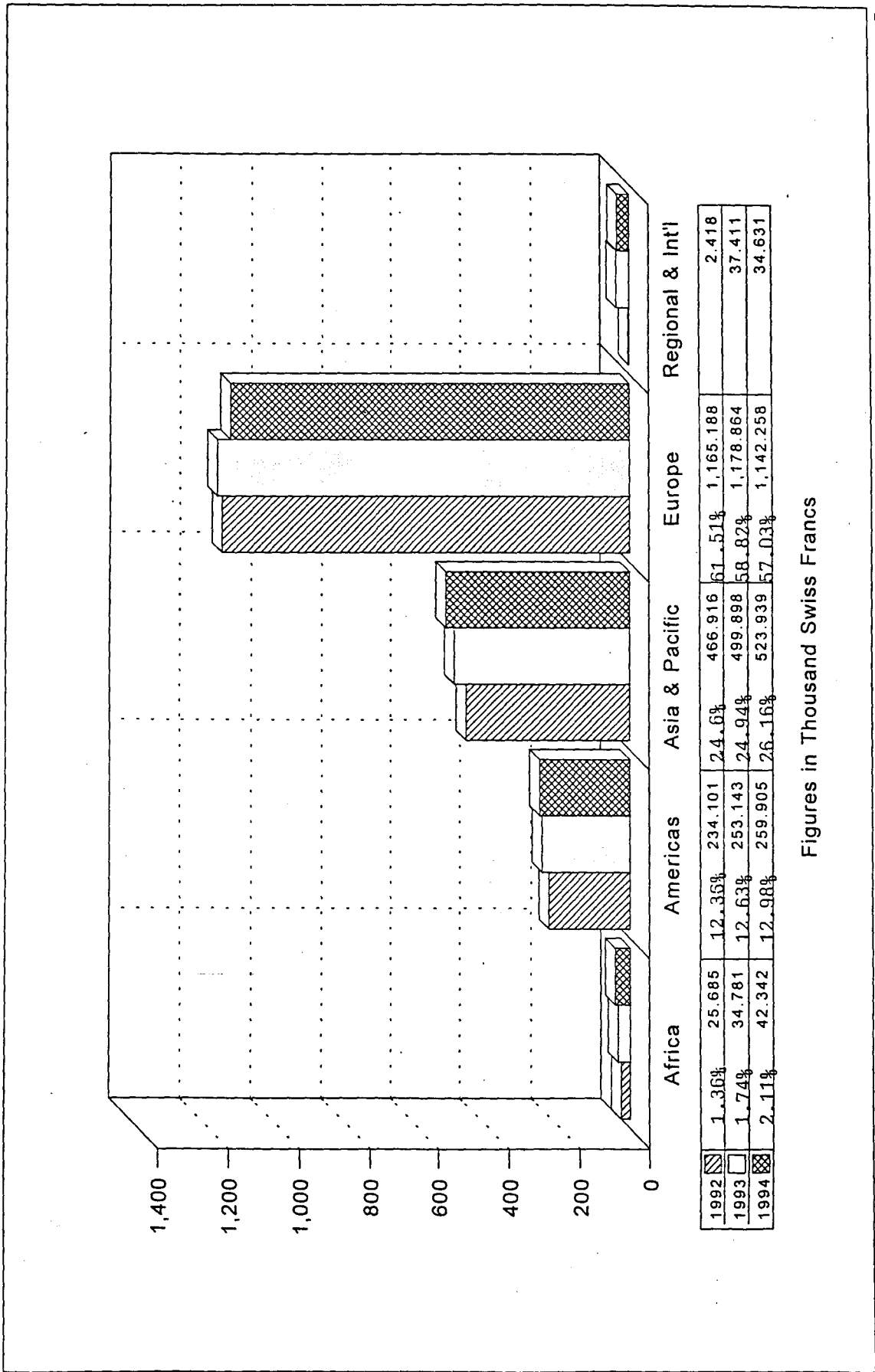
			353,936
			=====
<u>1993</u>			
China	ACFSMC	1993	92,474
India	NCUI	1993	75,000
Japan	JJCC	1993	246,903
Malaysia		1993	10,000
Thailand	CLT	1993	8,000

			432,377
			=====
<u>1994</u>			
China	ACFSMC	1994	155,000
India	NCUI	1994	75,000
Japan	JJCC	1994	272,203
Korea	NACF	1994	18,584
Malaysia		1994	10,000
Thailand	CLT	1994	8,000

			538,787
			=====

ICA MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

1992 - 1994



Figures in Thousand Swiss Francs