

ICA-AP NEWSLETTER

News from members, ICA-AP activities,
ICA-EU Partnership update & more!

July Newsletter

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16th ICA-AP Regional Assembly – Registrations Open!



ICA-AP will hold its 16th Regional Assembly in Manila, Philippines from 6 to 10 November 2023. The Regional Assembly is being hosted by the Philippines Cooperative Affiliates (PCA) on behalf of the Philippines Cooperative Movement, marking their return as hosts since the last assembly held in 2003 in Cebu.

The Regional Assembly encompasses the Asia-Pacific Cooperative Forum, Regional Board Meeting, various events organized by the regional sectoral and thematic committees, and the statutory meeting of the Regional Assembly. The theme for the 16th Regional Assembly, 11th Cooperative Forum and related events is, “Cooperatives: Our Common Agenda.” ICA-AP will deliberate upon key opportunities and challenges to build a common agenda for cooperatives and chalk out concrete and achievable action points.

The registrations for the Regional Assembly are open and all information is available at <http://regionalassembly.coop>.

ICA-AP Invites Nominations for the Asia-Pacific Cooperative Excellence Awards

INVITING NOMINATIONS FOR

- Inspirational Cooperative Leader Award
- Enterprising Cooperative Award
- Enabling Government Award

APPLY BY AUGUST 31, 2023

WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE 16TH ICA-AP REGIONAL ASSEMBLY WELCOME DINNER ON NOVEMBER 8, 2023 IN MANILA, PHILIPPINES

ICA ASIA-PACIFIC COOPERATIVE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The ICA-AP Regional Office is inviting nominations for the ICA Asia-Pacific Cooperative Excellence Awards that aim to honour outstanding individuals, cooperative organizations, and government ministries/ departments that have made remarkable contributions to the growth of cooperatives and have significantly benefited the cooperative movement. By acknowledging the extraordinary efforts and achievements of these entities, the awards aim to foster a culture of excellence and innovation within the cooperative sector.

Nominations are open until 31 August 2023, and the winners will be announced at the 16th ICA-AP Regional Assembly Welcome Dinner on 8 November 2023, in Manila, Philippines.

All the information and nomination forms are available at <https://bit.ly/apcoopawards>.

17th ICA-AP Research Conference: Deadline Extended for Abstract Submission

CALL FOR PAPERS

17TH ICA ASIA-PACIFIC RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Theme: Cooperatives Advancing Social Responsibility for the 2030 Agenda

Abstract Submission Deadline 10 AUGUST 2023

04-05 November, 2023

Manila, Philippines

International Cooperative Alliance
Asia and Pacific

POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
1904

The 17th ICA Asia-Pacific Research Conference will be held in Manila, Philippines on 4 and 5 November. It is being organized by the ICA-AP Committee on Cooperative Research (CCR) and the Department of Cooperatives and Social Development at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) to bring together academics and researchers on cooperatives in the Asia-Pacific region.

ICA-AP CCR invites young researchers, and postgraduate and doctoral students to submit their abstracts latest by 10 August 2023. It will bestow two meritorious papers with Dr. Mauritz Bonow Young Researcher Award (US\$ 500 and US\$ 300). [Read more](#).

Global Innovation Cooperative Summit – Montreal 2023



Global Innovation Cooperative Summit 2023 will be held in Montreal from 27 to 29 September. With the theme, *Act Now to lead a circular and digital future the cooperators way*, the Montreal event will focus on taking the lessons from the first Summit in Paris and turning them into action. The Summit founders call upon cooperatives to be circular, in a digital life to carry out together the necessary transformations for the benefit of their members and their communities. [Read more.](#)

ICA-AP Updates

Coop Youth Meet in Sabah for the 4th Asia Pacific Cooperative Youth Summit



The ICA-AP held the fourth edition of the [Asia Pacific Cooperative Youth Summit \(APCYS 4.0\)](#) in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, from 27 to 30 July 2023. It focused on the theme “*Cooperation for Sustainable Lifestyles*” and the role of youth in furthering sustainable lifestyles for a greener planet.

APCYS 4.0 was organized in collaboration with the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation (ICYC) and hosted by the Malaysian National Cooperative Movement (ANGKASA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Entrepreneur and Cooperatives Development (MECD), Malaysia and Malaysia Cooperative Societies Commission (SKM), and with support from the Sabah Tourism Board. It was also supported by many national and international partners such as the Ministry of Industrial Development & Entrepreneurship (MIDE, Sabah) and National Land Finance Co-op Society Limited (Malaysia) as strategic partners; All-China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives (ACFSMC); Krishak Bharti Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO, India), Japanese Consumers’ Cooperative Union (JCCU, Japan) and Dot Cooperation (United Kingdom) as International Partners, and Koperasi Coopbank Pertama Bhd, Koperasi Jayadiri Malaysia Bhd, Koperasi Kakitangan PETRONAS Bhd, Koperasi Kakitangan Felcra (M) Bhd, Koperasi Jamin Ranau Bhd, Koperasi Homestay Papar Bhd and Persatuan Kesenian dan Kebudayaan Suara Buluh Perindu as Malaysian Partners.

The response to APCYS 4.0 was heartening. Over the 4 days, we witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 185 attendees representing 16 countries (Australia, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam).



During the Opening Ceremony, Datuk Ewon Benedick, Minister of Entrepreneur and Cooperative Development, Malaysia welcomed cooperative youth from across the Asia-Pacific

region to his home State of Sabah. He said, "The contributions of youth to society cannot be underestimated. They bring fresh perspectives, creative ideas, and a passion for change. Youth are the catalysts for progress, acting as change agents in their communities and driving social, economic, and environmental initiatives. Malaysia has 207 youth cooperatives with 99,000 members. My Ministry is dedicated to encouraging more coops & platforms like this Summit are important to attract more youth to coops."

The participants had the opportunity to explore the beautiful and culturally diverse Sabah; learn about youth-led sustainable practices and ventures; experience hands-on cooperative activities through community immersion; participate in the Go Green Campaign; interact and network with peers from the region and enjoy the spirit of youth cooperativism.

The Summit featured 13 speakers from 9 countries (Australia, India, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, and South Korea), 3 invigorating plenaries, 8 engaging breakout sessions, and an exciting COOP Pitch competition with 11 finalists and 3 winners.

COOP Pitch, a key highlight of APCYS, provides the participants with the opportunity to pitch cooperative business solutions catering to the needs and aspirations of the youth and community in their country. This year, 11 finalist teams from 7 countries – India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, South Korea, and Vietnam pitched live. The winners were Muda Mudi Coop from Indonesia followed by Likas Vocational College from Sabah, Malaysia, and Lamac Multi-Purpose Cooperative's Coop Youth Planet from Cebu, the Philippines.

1st Prize: Muda Mudi Coop, Indonesia

Team Members: Vastukencana Sih Gita Garudatama and Fadhila Kresna Diarsa



Muda Mudi Coop is a worker cooperative based in East Java, Indonesia engaged in various ICT services such as website creation, social media optimization, branding and IT system software provider. Its coop pitch was to establish a unit which aims to become one of the biggest manufacturers of wood pallets in Southeast Asia. It has a patented wood pallet formula developed using sugarcane and coconut shell waste. Armed with a mission to reduce the consumption of coal and benefit a larger section of society in the alternate fuel market, Muda Mudi Coop is a young enterprise establishing a network of small manufacturers of wood pallets.

2nd prize: Likas Vocational College (Sabah, Malaysia)

Team Members: Mohammad Syafiq Mohd Yusri, Jiroryce Michael Chia, Nursari Hamid, and Nur Maisarah Balqis Jinno



Likas Vocational College pitched for a cooperative which would revolutionize the construction industry with its eco-paving block. The coop's value proposition lies in offering eco paver bricks, an environmentally friendly alternative for construction projects. These bricks are crafted from recycled materials, promoting sustainability and waste reduction. By utilizing palm oil and tire waste, the coop transforms these materials into high-quality paving blocks, minimizing waste generation and maximizing resource utilization. Its mission extends beyond creating a product – educate and inspire stakeholders, including builders, architects, and consumers, about the importance of sustainable construction.

3rd Prize: Lamac Multi-Purpose Cooperative's (MPC) Coop Youth Planet (Cebu, the Philippines)

Team Members: Leo Lingel Tango-An Pañares and Marnel Encarquez Leones



The team pitched the CocoCycle idea, offering a comprehensive and innovative approach to the coconut industry. It combines multiple elements such as fair-trade practices, waste-to-energy initiatives, and the development of value-added products. CocoCycle aims to become a leading provider of sustainable coconut-based products, driving positive social impact to achieve financial success while positively influencing the lives of coconut farming communities and minimizing its ecological footprint.

The winners will receive cash prizes worth USD 4,500 (first prize, USD 2,500; second prize, USD 1,500; and third prize, USD 1,000), guidance and mentorship support to further develop, validate and implement their cooperative ideas.

The judging panel for Coop Pitch 2023 included Ms. Prakruti Upadhyay Pandya, Director of Finance – National Yuva Co-op Society Ltd, India; Mr. Alex Shieh, Senior Manager, Youth & Women, Singapore National Co-operative Federation; and Mr. Zaiwin Kassim, Chairman, Sarawak Innovative Youth Coop, Malaysia.



While addressing the participants at the Closing Ceremony, YAB Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Ahmad Zahid bin Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia said, “I strongly believe that youth participation in cooperatives can be a catalyst for their personal growth, leadership skills, and community engagement, while fostering sustainable and ethical business practices that benefit society at large.” He outlined five compelling reasons for youth to pursue businesses through cooperatives which included Empowerment and Ownership, Skill Development, Entrepreneurial Experience, Community Engagement and Networking and Collaboration. “APCYS 4.0 has been one of the best platforms to strengthen youth cooperative movement. Training & education, youth energy, and enthusiasm have been inspiring throughout the Summit”, Dr. Hamidi added.

ICA-AP thanks the hosts ANGKASA, MECD, SKM, MIDE, all sponsors and the national and international partners for all their immense support in successfully organising APCYS 4.0!

Go Green Campaign 5.0 Launched at APCYS 4.0 with the theme Beat Plastic Pollution



The world is facing an unprecedented environmental crisis, with plastic pollution being one of the most pressing challenges. In response to this issue, the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation (ICYC) collaborated with ANGKASA's 1 million tree campaign to launch the Go Green Campaign 5.0, (GGC) focusing on the theme **#BeatPlasticPollution**. This event took place during the Asia-Pacific Cooperative Youth Summit 4.0 (APCYS 4.0) in Sabah, Malaysia, marking the first physical format of the campaign since the covid pandemic.

GGC was initiated by the ICYC in 2018 with the objective of encouraging youth, aged 35 years and below, to actively participate in tree-planting initiatives and combat the global threat of climate change. Aligned with cooperative values and principles, the campaign aims to showcase the potential of youth and cooperatives in protecting and sustaining the environment.

The Campaign has evolved into a powerful platform for young individuals to join forces and tackle environmental issues. This year's theme underlines the pressing need to combat plastic pollution, which has become a worldwide problem affecting ecosystems, wildlife, and human health.

The objectives of the campaign are:

1. Increase participation of youth in tree planting activities and create awareness about climate change.
2. To spread awareness of the cooperatives' role in sustainable development, and collaboration among youth and cooperatives in the Asia-Pacific region.
3. To establish a long-term commitment to environmental sustainability among participants and their communities.

Members of the ICYC, along with participants from the Youth Summit, joined GGC 5.0. During the event, they engaged in planting tree saplings and participating in a beach cleaning activity.

Around 261 tree saplings were planted at SMK Bandaraya, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, and in partnership with Trash Hero, our coastal clean-up produced 57 kilograms of waste.



Plastic pollution poses a severe threat to marine life, as millions of tons of plastic waste find their way into oceans and water bodies each year which disrupts marine ecosystems, endangering the delicate balance of underwater life. With the realization that the planet's future is in the hands of today's youth, the GGC 5.0 witnessed an impressive turnout of young enthusiasts from across the Asia-Pacific region to participate in the campaign. Their dedication and passion for sustainability were evident throughout the summit.

As the summit concluded, the message was clear: #BeatPlasticPollution requires collective effort and individual actions. By minimizing plastic usage, promoting recycling, and advocating for sustainable practices, we can all contribute to the preservation of our planet.

[Celebrating 25 Years of ICA-AP Women's Committee](#)



**International Cooperative
Alliance Asia and Pacific
Committee on Women**

Gender Equality for a Brighter Future

The ICA-AP Committee on Women (Women's Committee) is celebrating its 25th anniversary on 19 and 20 September 2023. A special event is being hosted by the Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) in Tokyo in collaboration with the Women's Committee. The programme on 19 September will be hybrid and ICA-AP member organizations are invited to attend online upon [registration](#). On 20 September, a field visit to local cooperatives is arranged by the JCCU for Committee members and other guests who will be present onsite.

Established in 1998, in Seoul, South Korea, the Committee promotes gender inclusion and equality in cooperatives in the Asia and Pacific. The activities of the Committee are driven by the objective of promoting gender equality in cooperatives and serving the interest and needs of women in the cooperative sector. Since its establishment, the activities of the Committee are supported by the JCCU, an ICA member since 1971.

From the beginning of the 1960s, the ICA-AP Regional Office focused on gender issues and on enhancing youth and women's participation in cooperatives. During the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, seminars on promoting women's participation and empowerment in the cooperative sector were held in the Region. During the United Nations Women's Decade from 1975 to 1985, initiatives for integrating women and gender concerns in cooperatives were accelerated by the Regional Office.

In 1990, the Human Resources Development Project of the ICA identified the need for gender inclusion and women's participation in cooperatives. Between 1990-1991, the ICA-AP conducted a series of surveys in 14 countries in the region to study the existing issues in achieving gender integration in cooperatives within a broader socio-economic environment of each country. These surveys resulted in 14 country studies and one regional study which were considered as the stepping stone to formulate gender policies and promote activities in the region based on facts. In April-May 1992, a 'Regional Consultation on Gender Integration and Women in Cooperative Development in Asia and the Pacific' was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It was the first such consultation that was organised to identify appropriate strategies for gender planning in cooperatives at the national and regional levels. A year after the Colombo consultation, the ICA-AP, the Japanese Cooperative Union, the Swedish Cooperative Center and the ICA Women's Committee jointly organised the 'Asia-Pacific Conference on Gender Planning in Cooperatives' in Tokyo, Japan in 1993. Based on the results of the fact-finding surveys conducted by the ICA-AP in 1991, the conference concluded that the establishment of appropriate policies at all levels of cooperatives is essential to achieve gender equality.

In September 1995, the fourth ICA World Conference on Women was held in Beijing, China to advance the goals of equality, development and peace for all women. The conference was attended by more than 17,000 participants, including around 4,000 accredited NGO representatives and a host of international civil servants, as well as 6,000 government representatives. The ICA members from Asia and the Pacific Region also participated. The conference adopted the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action towards respect for women's human rights and the realisation of gender equality. The Beijing Women's Conference marked a significant turning point for the global agenda for gender equality and it was a great encouragement for women cooperators in the region. The conference also had a positive impact on the cooperative movement in the region and shaped the perspective further on promoting gender equality and gender mainstreaming in cooperatives. In June 1996, during the second ICA-AP Regional Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a proposal to create a regional women's committee was formally approved. Later in September 1996, women cooperative leaders from the Region organised a 'Regional Consultation Meeting on Gender Integration in Cooperatives' in Bangkok, Thailand, where it was collectively recognised that awareness of gender equality needs to be generated and promoted at all levels within the cooperative sector.

A pro-tem Regional Women's Committee was formed in February 1997 and discussions on byelaws were facilitated with the guidance of the Malaysian National Cooperative Movement (ANGKASA). Immediately after, during the fourth Asia and Pacific Ministers' Conference, gender issues in cooperatives were put on the table before cooperative ministers for the first time. The conference resulted in a declaration that called for the need to work towards full participation and leadership of women in cooperatives. Since then, the Asia and Pacific Ministers' Conferences have made recommendations on laws and policies aimed at women's capacity development and the realisation of gender integration in cooperatives, and have positively influenced policymakers and stakeholders across the region.

Before the formal inception of the Committee, another landmark activity was organised. The first 'Regional Conference on the Status of Women in Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific' was held in Tagaytay, the Philippines in May 1997. The ICA-AP and the Asian Women in Cooperative Development Forum (AWCF) from the Philippines co-hosted the 'Conference on Decision-Making by Women in Cooperatives' or famously known as the 'Tagaytay Conference', in which over 100 cooperative stakeholders participated. The Tagaytay Conference adopted the 'Tagaytay Declaration' and 'Platform for Action' calling on all stakeholders to increase the participation of women in leadership and decision-making in cooperatives. Since then, two iterations of the Tagaytay Conference have been organised in 2006 and 2016 respectively, with each conference having reviewed the status of women and gender equality in cooperatives and resulting in identifying new areas of action such as research, education and training.

On 25 October 1998, during the third ICA-AP Regional Assembly in Seoul, South Korea, then known as the ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and the Pacific (ICA-RWC for Asia & Pacific) held its first statutory meeting. The meeting was attended by about 30 national committee members. Ms. Rahaiah Bahren from Malaysia was elected as the first Chairperson, and Ms. Hatsuko Omori from Japan and Ms. Rameshwari Ramchandra from Singapore were elected as Vice Chairpersons.



Women Committee Meeting in 1999

The first statutory meeting of the Committee identified the need to promote networking among women cooperators, organise exposure and exchange programs and trainings on leadership development.

To mark the establishment of the Committee, it was also decided to organise the Regional Women's Forum as an avenue to discuss the needs, challenges and issues faced by women cooperators and identify ways to address them. 130 participants from 19 cooperatives participated in the first Asia and Pacific Regional Women's Forum held in conjunction with the third Regional Assembly. The participants shared a common need to make their respective cooperatives more democratic in order to achieve gender equality. It was a historic event with the participation of many women cooperators, previously unseen at the Regional Assembly.

From October 1998 to May 2023, the ICA-AP Committee on Women has held 13 statutory meetings, 11 Regional Women's Forums, several workshops, conferences, and seminars; participated in 7 Asia-Pacific Ministers' Conferences; conducted 18 trainings of trainers; published 2 regional research studies on gender-disaggregated data in cooperatives, 2 manuals and 1 resource guide for trainings on women's leadership development. The Committee takes pride in its association with international organisations such as the Swedish Cooperative Center (now known as the We Effect), International Labour Organisation (ILO), AWCF, and several ICA member organizations in the Region.

Over the two and a half decades, the Women's Committee has worked on topical and pressing areas. This includes advocating for a gender-disaggregated database in cooperatives; developing training manuals on cooperative leadership; making recommendations for reservation for women in cooperatives at the Asia-Pacific Ministers' Conferences; making visible the role played by women cooperators during COVID-19, advocating for peace and non-violence as important values to be included in the Statement of Cooperative Identity; and now looking at climate change as a priority area for educating and training women cooperators at the grassroots.

To commemorate the 25th anniversary year, the Women's Committee has created a special theme and tagline, "Gender Equality for a Brighter Future".

The anniversary event is based on this theme and will be celebrated together with the Women's Committee members and upcoming women leaders in the cooperative sector from different countries, ICA-AP representatives, ICA members and cooperators from Japan, supporters and well-wishers of the Women's Committee, advocates of gender equality from international organizations such as the UN Women and public officials from the Government of Japan.

The event is symbolic as the Women's Committee will walk down memory lane and showcase significant moments and accomplishments realized over the last 25 years. It will present an avenue for Committee members to exhibit their interventions on gender equality and engage in enriching dialogues, thereby, presenting an opportunity to the guests for mutual learning. On this occasion, a special booklet will be launched by the Committee, which among others, has compliments from different stakeholders, case studies of the exemplary work on gender equality within the cooperative sector across Asia and Pacific; and perspectives in the context of governance and law. The event will also serve as a platform to engage in critical reflections on how the Committee could steer its direction in the future, and identify priority areas that are fast emerging and calls for action in the next 25 years.

[ICA-MAFF \(Govt. of Japan\) Online Training Course on "Promoting Women's Activities in Rural Communities"](#)



Online Training Course on "Promoting Women's Activities in Rural Communities"

ICA-AP with financial support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan and in partnership with the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) is conducting a Training Course on Capacity Building of Rural

Women on their roles for vitalization of Rural Economy from 22 August to 14 September 2023, in Tokyo, Japan.

As part of the course, pre-recorded lecture videos have been prepared by IDACA to enhance knowledge of the role played by cooperatives and rural women in strengthening rural communities in Japan. This year, we are providing the opportunity for ICA member organizations to watch the videos to learn about the efforts of Japanese cooperatives and look at opportunities to apply the learnings to their work.

There are 8 videos available for remote watching until 14 September 2023. The poster below has further details on the videos.



Promoting Women's Activities in Rural Communities

Join our training program to learn how cooperatives and women are playing vital role for strengthening rural communities by watching our YouTube.

Enhance your skill and knowledge on empowering rural women and their organizations, and discover impactful business strategies to boost women's income.

Don't miss this opportunity!



Program Details

Streaming period is from Aug. 7 to Sept. 14, 2023!

Video No.	Name of Program
Video 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agriculture and Agri. Policy in Japan• Organization of Japan Agricultural Cooperatives (JA)
Video 2	Business Activities of Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan
Video 3	Japanese Female Farmers in Agro-Food Value Chain
Video 4	Changes in the Environment Surrounding Rural Women "Women's participation to society and management / Asset building"
Video 5	Organization and Activities of JA Women's Associations
Video 6	Role of Women in the Agricultural Cooperatives "No future for JA abandoned by women"
Video 7	Message from Women Leader in the World - by World Farmers' Organization
Video 8	Business Activities of Agricultural Cooperatives and Rural Women's Organizations in Asia - Case of South Korea



If you are interested in viewing the above videos, please scan the QR code on the right and enter your contact information via Google Form. We will email you the URL of the website where the video is posted.

You may also send us an e-mail addressing to sptidaca@gmail.com to let us know that you would like to watch these videos. (Please provide us your name, organization belonging and home country.).

To watch the videos, one needs to register online using the QR code in the flyer or by sending an e-mail to IDACA at sptidaca@gmail.com. Please provide your name, organization, and country in the email. IDACA will send a URL to those who have successfully registered, to watch the videos.

The videos can be watched anytime during the given period and an e-certificate will be provided by IDACA to those who watch all videos and submit the completed questionnaire.

We request you to circulate this information and flyer within your network and encourage your members and staff to register and learn through these videos. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact us at: simren.singh@icaap.coop

Member Updates

South Korea's Nonghyup Bank Commences Operations in India



Picture Credits: Indiancooperative.com

The Nonghyup Bank from South Korea commenced its commercial operations in India with the opening of the country's first branch in Noida in July 2023. With this, Nonghyup Bank now operates 11 overseas branches in 8 countries. It opened its branches in Hong Kong, Beijing, and Sydney last year.

A grand opening ceremony was held at the Jaypee Greens Resorts in Greater Noida on 13 July, in the presence of Mr. Siddharth Nath Singh, Member of Parliament and former MSME Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Chang Jae-Bok, Ambassador of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in India, Mr. Park Euy-don, Chairman of the United Korean Association in India, Mr. Kim Yong-Gi, Vice President of NH Nonghyup Financial Group, Dr. U.S. Awasthi, MD &CEO, Indian

Farmers' Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO), Mr. Sohn Myung-sik, CEO, KIA Motors, and Mr. Hong Sung-chang, MD, NH Nonghyup Bank, India.

In March 2022, the bank obtained in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for establishing its first branch in India – in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. According to the bank officials, the new branch was opened to prepare a foothold for entering the Southwest Asian market and to promote business expansion centred on corporate finance services.

Mr. Kim Yong-Gi said, *"India is a market with unlimited development potential with a population of 1.3 billion people and infrastructure."*

From the ICA-AP Regional Office, Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director and Mr. Kukbhushan Kukreja, Director – Admin & Finance attended the opening ceremony. In his tweet, Mr. Iyer wrote, *"Pleasure to attend the launch of first Nonghyup Bank #Korea in #India. Speaking at the opening @drusawasthi said @IFFCO_PR and NACF share much in common – top 300 #cooperatives, goal of farmer interest, passion for innovation, & part of @icacoop ICA! Wish NH Bank all success!"*

Article source: <https://www.asiancommunitynews.com/korean-nh-nonghyup-bank-commences-its-india-operations-opens-its-first-branch-in-gr-noida/>

IFFCO Kisan Drone



Image Credits: Agriculture Post

In line with the vision of the Indian Prime Minister's vision of Sahkar Se Samridhi (prosperity through cooperatives), the Indian Farmers' Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO) has launched a

nationwide campaign to procure 2,500 Kisan Drones. It is seen as a step towards sustainable agriculture and for the upliftment of the rural economy. ' These drones will serve as cutting-edge spray solutions for IFFCO's revolutionary products, Nano Urea and Nano DAP. IFFCO's Managing Director & CEO Dr. U.S. Awasthi tweeted, "IFFCO forays into Agri-Drones through "IFFCO Kisan Drone". He said "This is the "Biggest Smart Agri-Solutions in India by procuring 2500 agri drones as Spray Solutions for Nano Urea and Nano DAP (Di-ammonium Phosphate)". [Read more.](#)

SNCF's Emerging Leaders Programme



Picture Credits: SNCF

The inaugural Emerging Leaders Programme (ELP), organised by the Singapore National Cooperative Federation (SNCF), saw several cooperators congregating at Bintan Island, Indonesia for a three-day boot camp.

Spanning March to July 2023, the boot camp marked the first outreach activity attended by participants between the ages of 30 and 50. These participants were amongst the few selected by their co-operatives to attend. As part of the training curriculum at the boot camp, participants had to undergo several training courses or activities, administered by lecturers from the Republic Polytechnic (RP) and Runninghour Co-operative, to bolster their capabilities as promising future leaders within the Singapore Co-operative Movement.

SNCF hopes to nurture 100 cooperative leaders via ELP in the next five years. [Read more.](#)

Cooperatives as Socio-Economic Drivers are Empowering Individuals and Nations



المؤسسة التعاونية الأردنية
JORDAN CO-OPERATIVE CORPORATION

Broadly speaking, the cooperative sector, represented by cooperatives and its members, is nothing more than a third sector parallel to public and private sectors in the economic system besides being an integral part of the social and solidarity economy which is highly significant in the comprehensive sustainable development process, in particular.

The cooperative sector represents a social and solidarity economy system based on universal principles and borderless values endorsed by all International Cooperatives Alliance-(ICA) member states including Jordan to serve individuals and nations equally.

Due to the significant role of cooperatives in human societies, the leading states in cooperative areas have realized the need to integrate into a single crucible to manage and synergize the efforts of the cooperative movement at the global level. Consequently, the International Cooperatives Alliance (ICA), one of the oldest NGOs and globally represented was established in 1895 in terms of the number of its members.

In its foundational phase, the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) approved seven principles that cooperatives subscribe to: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; concern for the community to be the compass of the cooperative movement towards growth and development, and a beacon to enlighten its way to achieving the desired goals and aspirations to be an independent, prosperous and self-reliant movement.

In accordance with such international data, Jordan early recognized the importance of cooperative work in local communities especially in rural areas by inspiration and simulation to be a pioneer in the Arab region, as Jordan issued the first cooperative legislation in 1952 according to which the Department of Cooperative Construction was established within the Ministry of Construction and Development at that time, followed by the establishment of the first saving and credit cooperative society in the Southern Ghor District in Karak Governorate named "Ghor Al-Mazra'a and Haditha Society for Savings and Credit" in 1953.

Since the inception of cooperative work locally in the early fifties of the last century, the Jordanian cooperative movement received continuous Royal support. Crowned by warmth and popular support, the Hashemite leadership spared no effort over and over to support the

cooperative sector over decades at all levels in alignment with The Economic Modernization Vision sponsored by His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein as a priority on systemizing the cooperative societies and agricultural unions.

On the other hand, the Vision coincided with the government's launch of the Public Sector Development Plan in terms of developing the cooperative sector which has adopted the restructuring of the Jordanian Co-operative Corporation in a way that guarantees improving its efficiency and strengthening its role in supporting the Vision to increase the contribution of cooperatives to local development in line with the slogan of the International Cooperatives Alliance this year (Cooperative for Sustainable Development) besides the development of agricultural and other economic activities, not to mention the expansion of its work and the trend towards creating a financial fund which opens a window to provide financing for 1500 cooperatives including 133,000 members distributed in various Jordan governorates.

The Royal greatest care and continuous follow-up being dedicated by His Majesty encompassing various issues at all levels to cooperatives for being an integral part of the development process system is fundamental evidence towards the launch of the Royal Initiative in order to activate and develop the role of cooperative societies in the Jordanian Badia regions. The Royal initiative support has had a positive impact on cooperative beneficiaries, members and the local community through projects implemented at socio-economic levels.

It is worth emphasizing the Royal Initiative's significance in supporting the cooperative sector and cooperatives throughout the reform efforts undertaken by Jordan Co-operative Corporation to promote this vital sector in order to effectively strengthen the position of the cooperative movement in Jordanian society, especially under this invaluable Royal Initiative and the government road map for plans and programs related to Modernization at the administrative and economic levels.

Likewise, support for cooperatives does not end with the contribution to promote the cooperative sector in Jordan as the Ministry of Agriculture, represented by HE Minister Eng. Khaled Al-Hanifat, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Jordanian Co-operative Corporation spares no effort in providing support for agricultural cooperative societies for their important role in strengthening the food security system, as well as guidance to establish qualitative cooperative societies including cooperative membership with competitive advantage in each region or governorate to maximizing the added value of agricultural products by providing the necessary support for the qualitative cooperatives - under establishment - at all technical and advisory levels, facilitating contact with donors by taking the fullest possible advantage in enhancing their activities and work, as well as working to cut the costs of requirements in direct contact with agricultural cooperative societies.

In line with the guidelines aiming at creating an effective and prominent cooperative sector on socio-economic level, the Jordanian Co-operative Corporation has worked to match the outcomes of the National Strategy for the Jordanian Cooperative Movement (2021-2025) and its Executive Plan starting with new legislations by adapting the Economic Modernization Vision and the Public Sector Development Program towards establishing a cooperative

development fund to provide grants and loans for cooperatives and reviving the Cooperative Development Institute as a nucleus for academic qualification in the field of cooperation.

Jordan joined cooperators this year worldwide celebrating the 101st International Day of Cooperatives (#CoopsDay) on 1 July 2023. Under the theme 'Cooperatives for sustainable development', this annual celebration recognized the significant contribution and substantial role of cooperatives to the global economy in building a more sustainable future on socio-economic and environmental levels in various regions and sectors in a way that guarantees community protection, domestic resources boost up, call for social responsibility and sustainable long term practices.

Consequently, the cooperative sector is a major driver of the socio-economic system and one of the leading instruments for sustainable development of its outstanding contributions in investment, agricultural projects, manufacturing industries, housing, tourism, environment, etc. Likewise, it plays a vital role in addressing poverty and unemployment by creating job opportunities in Jordanian society, participating in achieving socio-economic development for people and nations, increasing competitiveness, promoting scale economies, upholding cooperative education, training and democracy values, strengthening food security, and paying a good consideration for the society as an incubator for cooperatives.

To cherish the global commemoration, the Jordanian Co-operative Corporation confirms its commitment with its all might to promote the cooperative sector taking into account all requirements and priorities drawn by the Royal Vision and the Public Sector Development Plan to engage positively through the Cooperative National Strategy to find an independent, prosperous and self-reliant cooperative movement that would boost Jordan to rise to the ranks of developed countries and match with the counterparts worldwide.

One never overlooks the role of cooperatives and their contribution to the local development process regardless of the cooperative movement's limited impact on Jordan's Gross National Product GNP considering how widespread it is across the country in Jordanian Badia, villages and cities, besides the involvement of different age groups and the desire of youth and women to establish their own cooperative projects to increase economic share and the guarantee of fair distribution of the gains achieved.

A Sustainable Jordan will be a strong contributor to a better world for the future by pursuing sustainability principles for economic growth and quality of life compatible with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to achieve no poverty, zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumptions and production, and climate action to ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. In line with the SDGs and empowering the Jordanian women's role at the national level, the involvement of females in nationwide cooperative activities has steadily expanded, considering cooperatives as one of the financial resources available to empower women economically and socially.

Currently, we witness the presence of 79 women's cooperative societies in various governorates including 3,570 women members. Meanwhile, Jordanian youth of both genders

are joining cooperatives by establishing cooperative societies and projects out of their belief that cooperative work has the power to change the course of their lives by creating new opportunities and limiting unemployment and poverty rates considering the efficient role of cooperatives directly contributing to the well-being of humankind economically and socially.

By Mr. Abdel Fattah Al-Shalabi, Director General, Jordan Co-operative Corporation

Policy and Legal Watch

Cooperatives Engagement in G20 and the Role of ICA and Members



The Group of 20 or [#g20](#) is a premier forum for international economic cooperation and decision-making, comprising a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies. The G20 has played a valuable role in addressing the global financial crisis, putting forward reforms advancing growth and development, and shaping collective approaches on issues requiring international cooperation.

The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) as the global umbrella organization for cooperatives has been advocating for greater recognition of the cooperative sector in the G20's economic and social agendas and for the inclusion of cooperatives in policy dialogues and decision-making processes. The efforts of the ICA and its members have resulted in cooperatives being mentioned in the policy papers of the Business 20 (B20) and Civil Society (C20) taskforces in Australia (2014), Germany (2017), Japan (2019), Saudi Arabia (2020), and Italy (2021).

Mr. Balu Iyer, ICA-AP Regional Director writes for the souvenir released by the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) on the occasion of the 17th Indian Cooperative Congress held in New Delhi, India on 1 July 2023. Read the full article [here](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

1. International Youth Day Webinar on *Empowering Youth through Green Skills: Pioneering the Way for a Sustainable Future* – 16 August 2023. [Register here.](#)
2. ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting in Malaysia – 21 August 2023
3. ICA-AP Trade & Business Committee/ ASEAN Co-operative organization/ ANGKASA Cooperative to Cooperative Trade and Business Conference on Cooperative Partnerships for Sustainable Development and Climate Action: A Collaborative Approach to Addressing Global Challenges – 22 and 23 August 2023
4. ICA-MAFF (Govt. of Japan) Training Course on Capacity Building of Rural Women on their Roles for Vitalization of Rural Economy – 22 August – 14 September 2023
5. ICA-AP Committee on Women 25th-anniversary celebration in Tokyo, Japan – 19-20 September 2023. [Register here for online participation.](#)
6. ICA Regional Workshop for Leaders of Consumer Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific in South Korea (only for members of ICA-AP Consumer Committee) – 16 to 20 October 2023
7. 17th ICA Asia-Pacific Research Conference in Manila, Philippines – 4 and 5 November 2023
8. 16th ICA-AP Regional Assembly in Manilla, Philippines – 6 to 10 November 2023