

June 2018

#### **International Day of Co-operatives**



#### Dear Members,

Happy International Co-operative Day! This July 7<sup>th</sup> we will mark the 96<sup>th</sup> International Co-operative Day and the 24<sup>th</sup> United Nations International Day of Co-operatives! 1.2 billion members of the co-operative movement will be celebrating the #CoopsDay under the theme, *Sustainable consumption and production of goods and services* and slogan, *Sustainable societies through cooperation*!

Why does Responsible Consumption and Production matter? According to the United Nations, if the global population reaches 9.6 billion by 2050, the equivalent of almost three planets will be required to sustain current lifestyles! We don't have three planets where humans live; only one! In order to achieve economic growth and sustainable development we urgently need to change the way we produce and consume goods and resources. Another reason is the magnitude of food waste at the retail and consumer level and food losses along the production and supply chain. The FAO estimates that one third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally. That amounts to about 1.3 billion tons per year. This is a travesty of justice as almost 800 million people go hungry in a planet that easily produces enough food for everyone.

The question is not about producing more food. While globalization, urbanization and commercialization have brought significant changes to agricultural and food systems through scientific advances and capital-intensive schemes and by integrating supply chains and global agricultural markets; the benefits have not been uniform. Not included in these are smallholder producers, women and youth, in developing and under-developed countries.

SDG12 strikes at the very core of sustainable development. SDG12 calls for a change in behavior as we are not consuming or producing sustainably and calls for everyone one to play their part in building a sustainable future for future generations. Co-operatives have an important role to play in SDG 12

as the core of the membership consists of small and medium farmers and women and the preponderance of co-operatives in the agriculture and consumer sectors. The efficient management of natural resources, reduction of waste and sustainable patterns of consumption can help with food security and help the shift toward a resource efficient economy. As value-based and principle driven organizations, co-operative enterprises are by nature a sustainable and participatory form of business. Co-operatives foster democratic knowledge and practices and social inclusion. They have also shown resilience in the face of the economic and financial crises. There is a strong case for investing in co-operatives given the multi-dimensional nature of returns – economic, social and environmental - through the business enterprise rooted in collective action.

President Ariel Guarco in his message said, "On the International Day of Co-operatives, we are going to show the world that it is possible to grow with democracy, equity and social justice. That our societies cannot continue wasting resources and excluding people. That we must improve the present and preserve the future for the next generations. And that we are proud to be part of this movement. A movement with values and principles. A movement committed to social justice and environmental sustainability." Let's join him and the 1.2 billion members across the world to show our commitment to build sustainable societies through cooperation!

#### **ICA-AP ACTIVITIES MAPPING**

#### Joint ICA-AP Consumer Committee and MBO Sustainable Development Goals Seminar 2018



Participants listening to the proceedings of the Seminar.

The ICA-AP Malaysia Business Office (MBO), ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP Consumer Committee), Malaysian National Co-operative Movement (ANGKASA) and Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) jointly organized the Sustainable Development Goals Seminar from April 24-25, 2018 at Aloft Kuala Lumpur Sentral Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The theme of the seminar, 'SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production', coincides with the theme of this year's International Day of Co-operatives. The two-day event was attended by more than 100 delegates including 30 ICA member organizations, Malaysia co-operative leaders, invited guests and resource speakers.

The Welcome Address was delivered by Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP. He called for a change towards sustainable development as this was the cornerstone to building a sustainable future for generation to come. Mr. Haruyoshi Amano, Chairperson of ICA-AP Consumer Committee and Manager, International Department of JCCU said that consumer co-operatives, by linking producers and consumers, can influence behaviour and contribute to SDG 12. Prof. Madya Dato' Dr. Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Razak Shaik, Director General, Co-operative College of Malaysia, explained the correlation between SDGs and the co-operative sector, and shed light on activities carried out by Malaysian co-operatives in relation to SDGs.

Ms. Denise Westerhout, Lead for Sustainable Markets Programme, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Malaysia, spoke of sustainable palm oil development and said this needs three conditions: independently audited, certified against RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) and traceability. Dr. Ruslan Abullah, Director Science and Environment, Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC), presented a paper on Malaysian palm oil industries including certification of palm oil like RSPO and MSPO (Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil).

Two case studies about activities carried out by co-operatives to achieve SDG 12 were presented. The first was presented by Dato' Hj Aliasak Hj Ambia, Ex-chairman of ANGKASA and Chairman of Smallholders Co-operative Negeri Sembilan. He highlighted the case of agricultural co-operatives which focused on palm oil plantation and how they created sustainable societies. The second case study by Ms. Atsuko Yano, Marketing Department Manager of JCCU, was on ethical consumption. Members of JCCU participate in ethical consumption by using certificated co-op brand products like RSPO, FSC (Forest Stewardship Council), MSC (Marine Stewardship Council), Rain Forest Alliance, and Fair Trade.

On the second day, the delegates visited the Sime Darby Palm Oil Plantation on Carey Island, Selangor. Sime Darby is the largest palm oil player in Malaysia. The delegates were given a tour of the plantation and an overview of the process involved in harvesting oil production. In terms of achieving the objectives of the seminar, the delegate said that they gained information on the theme as well as examples of work being undertaken by co-operatives on SDGs. They were also made aware of the benefits of palm oil.

#### **ILO organizes Workshop on C2C Trade**



Group discussion sessions from the ILO C2C workshop.

The ILO organized a technical meeting on Enhancing Cooperation and Trade between Co-operatives and other SSE organizations for decent work on June 12 at the ILO HQ in Geneva, Switzerland. ICA-AP participated through the ILO online platform and shared the history of trade related interventions of ICA-AP since the 1960s to the ICA-Expo 2012 (Bengaluru, India) and the creation of the ICA-AP committee on Co-operative Trade and Business in 2016. The workshop was fruitful in terms of sharing good practices, challenges and opportunities on C2C trade and exploring areas for future action and collaboration. Fairtrade International and World Fair Trade Organization highlighted their experience bringing in ethical and Fairtrade products from African, Latin American and Asian producer organizations. Coop Denmark presented the case of advancing direct trade with Kenyan coffee producer co-operatives by shortening the value chain, enhancing product quality and building export capacities for producer co-operatives. Coopermondo Italy brought out the case of export of biological pineapples produced by a Togolese youth producer co-operative to Italian consumer co-operatives in partnership with Italian co-operative banks. The co-operatives from Asia included ANGKASA Malaysia, JCCU, and iCoop Korea. The ILO Local Empowerment through Economic Development (LEED) unit from Sri Lanka also took part.

The main challenges faced by co-operatives in furthering C2C trade were: a.) regulatory constraints, b.) limited business literacy, c.) inability to meet phytosanitary and other requirements and d.) lack of market facilitation and institutional support mechanisms. The opportunities identified by the groups were: a.) replication and expansion of ongoing C2C initiatives, b.) enhancement in consumer awareness on responsible consumption and production, c.) increased collaboration among organizations like Fair Trade and co-operative representative bodies and d.) presence of tools and know-how on co-operative development and fairer supply chain practices. The participants agreed on an action-plan to institutionalize the network (of participants), create a platform for promoting C2C market linkages besides, and continue meetings targeted on specific goods and services.

#### **NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS**

#### 19th Vaikunth Bhai Mehta Memorial Lecture



The Hon'ble Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu (center) lights the lamp to inaugurate the Lecture. Image credit: PIB

The National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) organized the 19th Vaikunth Bhai Mehta Memorial Lecture on June 25. The lecture was delivered by Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India.

Mr. Naidu acknowledged the pioneering contribution of Vaikunth Bhai Mehta to the growth of the cooperative movement in India. He informed the audience that Mr. Mehta, a devoted Gandhian, was appointed Chairman of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board in 1953 and in 1959 as the Chairman of the Commission on Agricultural Co-operative Credit. He made valuable contributions as the Finance Minister of the state of Maharashtra.

Mr. Naidu said that throughout the world, agricultural co-operatives have played a significant role in organizing small farmers, who in turn contribute to 80% of the world food production. Agricultural co-operatives can play a vital role in the Government of India's Seven Point Agenda for doubling farmers' income by 2022 by educating farmers to reduce the cost of cultivation.

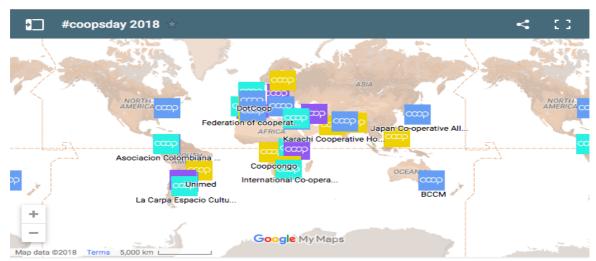
After globalization of the Indian economy, the Indian co-operative movement, the world's largest, has its own inherent strengths and weaknesses. With more than eight lakh co-operatives, the co-operatives have significant presence in all areas of socio-economic activities. Dairy co-operatives have ushered in the milk revolution with AMUL a household name while IFFCO and KRIBHCO provided farmers much needed fertilizer and other inputs.

Mr. Naidu took note of how farmers were falling prey to moneylenders despite the vast presence of agricultural co-operatives. He said that going forward we need to strengthen co-operatives so that they can work for the welfare of the farmers and give them timely credit at a reasonable rate of interest. Co-operatives in order to sustain and better serve their members need to diversify their operations in new areas like honeybee production, seaweed farming etc. They should also train farmers in the right use of fertilizers and adoption of new technologies.

An important point of reflection was the fact that generally one speaks of public-private partnerships when it comes to synergies for generating resources and carrying out joint projects. Co-operatives-public-private partnerships, as the third element, can provide a new model of development with wide relevance to the farming community. Mr. Naidu remarked that he found tremendous opportunities for co-operatives in solving the problem of unemployment, particularly in the rural areas where there is a shortage of skills. Skilling the rural population through co-operatives can be a big leap forward. The Indian government has set a goal of establishing 100 Smart cities in different states. To achieve this, the services of labour and contract co-operative societies such as Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society need to be engaged in modern and high-tech infrastructure development and such organized labour co-operative societies need to be replicated.

Mr. Naidu advised that co-operative training must not only be imparted to employees in co-operatives, but to children in schools, colleges, universities, technical and professional institutions, and for those who have limited information but want to form their own co-operatives. He said that since 'Cooperation' is a state subject and co-operatives are participatory and people-based organizations, the co-operative movement needs to be strengthened by the states.

### Mapping the upcoming International Day of Co-operatives!



A snapshot of the map from the ICA website.

ICA and DotCoop have launched an innovative initiative to literally map what it's members are planning for the upcoming International Day of Co-operatives on July 7, 2018. A visit to the <a href="map">map</a> will reveal these small boxes marked 'Coop' across the globe. A simple click on any one of them will reveal what that particular co-operative has planned for the big Day. Members from the Asia Pacific region have actively contributed to this map.

The Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union from Pakistan will plant trees to combat climate change while the Japan Co-operative Alliance (JCA) will hold panel discussions on the themes of 'Missions of the JCA for Sustainable Societies' and 'Sustainable societies through cooperation among co-operatives.' The Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals in Australia will be screening the documentary 'A Silent Transformation'. The Jordanian Co-operative Corporation will host a ceremony honouring supporters of the Jordanian co-operative movement, review the successes at the national and international levels, and hold an exhibition to market and promote co-operative products. The National Co-operative Federation of Nepal will conduct a seminar where paper presentations will be made on various SDGs and hold an award ceremony to commemorate successful member organizations. The National Co-operative Union of India will hold a painting competition for children on themes relating to agriculture, farming areas, nature, environment, people, family etc. All the paintings will be sent to IE-NO-HIKARI Association of Japan for "The 26th Annual World Children's Picture Contest. In addition, they will be holding a seminar on the theme of the International Day of Co-operatives.

ICA-AP will be hosting a special edition of Coop Mic on July 7 in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The Coop Mic will feature H.E. Charlot Salwai Tabimasmas, Prime Minister, Republic of Vanuatu, H.E. Bob Loughman, Deputy Prime Minister, Republic of Vanuatu, and Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP. The event will be broadcast live at 2130 (GMT) on July 6 on our <u>Facebook</u> page. Be sure to catch some simulating conversations on the theme of the International Day of Co-operatives all the way from the Pacific Islands!

## ICA-EU PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ON CO-OPERATIVES IN DEVELOPMENT: PEOPLE CENTRED BUSINESSES IN ACTION





In March 2016, the ICA and the European Union signed a Framework Partnership Agreement (Europe Aid/150-053/C/ACT/Multi) to implement a multi-year and multi-country development programme aimed at benefitting and advancing co-operatives worldwide. The Partnership is officially titled "Co-operatives in Development: People Centred Businesses in Action", translated into the social media hashtag #Coops4Dev (co-operatives for development). The Partnership has 8 Result Areas and 33 Activity Streams for delivery by 5 units, one housed in each regional office and one at the coordination level in Brussels. The AP unit has identified three strategic development priorities namely, participation of Co-operatives in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Youth Inclusion in Co-operatives, and Exploring Work and Ownership Structures in Co-operatives. The ICA-AP implements the programme in collaboration with Alliance members and in partnerships with other stakeholders such as governments, international development agencies, private sector and NGOs in the region. You may read more about the Partnership here.

#### ICA Domus Trust Releases Book on Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society



(Center) Holding the Book from the Left we have Mr. T.P. Ramakrishnan, Mr. S.K. Sharma and Mr. Rameshan Paleri

The ICA Domus Trust, India launched the book ULCCS - the Saga Continues at the ICA-EU supported International Conference on Co-operatives in the Changing World of Work at the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode on May 1, 2018. The book, authored by Mr. S.K. Sharma, former Director of the National Co-operative Development Corporation (India), was released by T.P. Ramakrishnan, Minister of Labour, Government of Kerala. ULCCS - the Saga Continues chronicles the 93 years journey of India's oldest labour contract co-operative and brings out key elements in leadership, management and participation of members that led to the co-operative's success and relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## Workshop on India-EU Development Cooperation Organized by Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and EUD to India and Bhutan



Representative image for Indo-EU Cooperation. Image credit: Narada News

Ambassador (Dr.) Mohan Kumar (RIS) and Ambassador Tomasz Kozlowski, European Union Delegation (EUD) opened the Workshop on India-EU Development Cooperation and Way Forward on 13 June 2018 at Hotel Lalit, New Delhi. ICA-AP participated in the high-level workshop and made a presentation on best practices in Civil Society Cooperation, Potential for Replication of Successful Models. The workshop was to help the EU collaborate with Local Authorities, CSOs and the diversified private sector on common priorities and explore continuation of the India-EU Development Dialogue.

The main objectives of the workshop were to a.) Explore innovative models of development, best practices, successes and synergies that can be replicated, taken forward through future India-EU bilateral/trilateral/regional development cooperation; b.) Identify potential areas of collaboration/thematic sectors for India-EU development cooperation; and c.) Define the scope for triangular cooperation and possible third countries/regions that could be considered for future India-EU development cooperation, and come out with recommendations. EU-India relationship was upgraded to a strategic partnership in 2005 and transitioned into an equitable partnership in 2014 following India's economic dominance not only in South Asia but also globally. The 13th India-EU summit in 2016 helped the two Unions to identify areas of mutual interest and draw-up an ambitious Action Agenda 2020. At the 14th EU-India Summit held in October 2017, both sides acknowledged their interest in adding value to their partnership and to explore ways to re-initiate the Sub-Commission on Development Cooperation that was set up in the 1990s to oversee EU Cooperation in India.

The EU since the 90s has moved beyond a traditional assistance-type agenda towards blending grants from the EU with loans from international financial institutions, leveraging additional funding for jointly identified development needs. Today EU support to India focuses on climate change, clean and renewable energy, water, urban development and resource efficiency, and strengthening of civil society organizations. Co-operatives in Europe, especially the Co-operatives Europe Development Platform that comprises of 10 co-operative umbrella organizations from Europe and that work on development cooperation in Africa and Asia, strengthen the case for promoting various typologies of co-operatives in India with an aim to enhance participation of communities in sustainable development. The ICA-AP intends to work closely with the EUD to India and Bhutan to promote different types of co-operatives in South Asia, especially in emerging areas like renewable energy and healthcare services.

#### European Commission Organizes its 2nd Partnership Forum 2018 in Brussels, Belgium



Staff members of the ICA and the European Commission after the closing ceremony of the Partnership Forum 2018.

The European Commission (E.C.) organized its second 'Partnership Forum' on Strengthening and Deepening (our) Partnerships Worldwide with Civil Society (CSO) and Local Authorities (LA) in Brussels, Belgium on June 25 and 26, 2018. The first Forum was organized during the summer of 2017 at Flagey, Brussels (Belgium), almost a year after a score of development actors (LAs, CSOs) including the ICA, signed the Framework Partnership Agreements with the European Union through its Commission to implement global, regional and national development programs. A reason for the interest of the E.C. in deepening its bonds with civil society, local authorities is the growing recognition for and the implementation of a 'multi-stakeholder and inclusive approach' in achieving the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The European Union (and in it, the Directorate General for Development Cooperation or 'DG Devco') is the world's biggest donor organization affecting development programs globally with help and assistance from community led organizations, CSOs and LAs.

The message of these Partnership Forums is not only to foster a deeper relationship of the EU with community led organizations, but also promote partnerships and collaboration among the FPA signatories. At the 1st Forum in 2017, the ICA and Fairtrade International jointly organize a parallel session on community led and owned enterprise models where the ICA-AP presented the case of student owned campus co-operatives, and the Fairtrade International the role of the organization and the modalities involved, in generating fair returns to farmers in Africa (brought out by Ms. Wangeci Gitata, Strategic Partnership Lead of Fairtrade Africa).

This year the E.C. stressed on the need for transformation and fundamental change to the "Business as Usual" model of development and urged participants to promote the principles contained in the Agenda 2030 where Co-operatives are recognized as part of the movement to undo business as usual in paragraphs 41 and 67. The 2018 Forum was split in two days and divided into 5 sessions besides the opening and closing. The objective of the Forum was to stimulate an open dialogue with CSOs and associations of LAs, and the participants were expected to network, increase synergies, showcase their work and share information and good practices. The key sessions were on Enabling environment for CSOs and LAs to implement programs on SDGs; the element of resilience in development; the New Urban agenda; Climate Action; and Peace Security and Development. It is noteworthy to mention that renewable energy source co-operatives (RES), co-operatives' role in attaining and maintaining peace and ICA's new thematic committee on international development, found space in the discussions

during the sessions. E.C. Commissioner Neven Mimica congratulated the Forum on its successful completion and signed two more FPAs, one with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the International Organization of Employers (IOE). Mr. Bruno Roelants, DG ICA and Mr. Marc Nöel, International Development Director led the ICA's participation at the Forum. For details on the Forum and official EC report, please write to <a href="mailto:Santosh.kumar@icaap.coop">Santosh.kumar@icaap.coop</a>

#### **COMMUNICATIONS WATCH**

Ms. Anasmita Ghosh, a second year Master's student at the Institute of Rural Management Anand, India writes about her 6-week Summer Internship at ICA-AP

#### Co-operatives: From a Layperson's Perspective



Ms. Anasmita Ghosh

Amul, Manthan, dairy, agriculture, farmers...these are some of the commonplace terms that come to an average Indian's mind when asked about co-operatives. However, the reach of co-operatives is much greater than that! In today's rapidly changing world, the co-operative model needs to be urgently propagated because solutions for contemporary problems, such as unemployment, poverty, exploitation of local production systems, etc. can be partially provided through the successful implementation of co-operatives. The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) is dedicated towards the promotion of the co-operative sector, and through my work as an intern at the Asia-Pacific regional office of ICA, my perspectives on what co-operatives are and how they contribute towards development have changed significantly.

As a second-year student of Rural Management at IRMA, I had some knowledge of what co-operatives are, but again it was mostly limited to perceptions of dairy and agriculture co-operatives in India. Through my work at ICA-AP, I have learnt that co-operatives are not just social welfare organizations limited to producers at the grassroots level but are viable economic institutions that prioritize the needs of their members and community in a sustainable manner. Some of the key learnings that I have received during my stint at ICA-AP have changed the way I perceive and think about co-operatives:

The co-operative model can be applied to virtually any sector. During my first week at ICA-AP, I was surprised to learn about the different committees of ICA and the vast range of sectors that they are aligned with, such as youth, university, research, women, agriculture, bank, forestry etc. Members may range from farmer producers and factory workers to consumers and even students. **Nobody is excluded from co-operatives.** 

There are multiple stakeholders that are involved in the development of the co-operative sector. It is not just in the interest of the co-operative organizations and their worker members, but many others like welfare organizations, policy advocacy groups, academicians, government bodies, private entities etc. are also invested in the growth and creation of co-operatives. International bodies such as EU and ILO work with co-operatives to promote them and to create an enabling environment at regional, national and international levels. Government bodies contribute in terms of institutional

strengthening, legal and policy framework, while private organizations can contribute in terms of human resources development and financial strengthening.

Every country has their own unique co-operative ecosystem. Globalization and influx of technology has led to the standardization of international corporate structures, but co-operatives are businesses that serve the needs of the people who use it and thus are more attuned towards the requirements of the local population. Co-operatives are local institutions that address local needs by using local talent and infrastructure.

The impact of co-operatives is not just restricted to the local level, they are also important contributors towards development at higher levels. Many international bodies (ILO, EU, UN) have realised the contribution of co-operatives as towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and are actively working to promote this model in both developed and developing nations. They are especially useful in contributing towards the achievement of SDG 8, which promotes employment creation, sustainable livelihoods and decent work for all. Similarly, co-operatives contribute to the reduction of poverty through access to basic livelihood opportunities and greater compliance with development policies at all levels.

Co-operatives can help alleviate rural problems in a number of ways. The first prominent way in which it does so is through direct ownership of assets. Many small farmers are forced to rent or loan land and equipment in order to produce a meagre amount of output. However, in a co-operative, farmers can pool their marginal resources together in order to gain direct ownership over their assets. Co-operatives can provide a sustained source of income to many rural communities while minimizing the effects of negative externalities, such as limited marketing opportunities, lack of involvement of women, and financial losses. Co-operatives promote access to greater markets and less vulnerability due to fixed rates. They enable groups of women to find decent work especially in post-harvesting seasons and reduce losses through greater financial accountability.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### Registrations are open for Asia Pacific Co-operative Youth Summit 2.0!



Poster for the Call for Registrations for the Summit.

ICA-AP, its members in the Philippines and the ICA-EU Partnership, are proud to announce the Asia Pacific Co-operative Youth Summit 2.0 (#CoopYouthSummit) from August 18-21, 2018 in Cebu, the Philippines. The theme of the Second Summit is, 'Creative Skills, Co-operative Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development'. For more information about the Summit and to register please click <a href="here">here</a>.

#### ICA-AP launches a new video series



Poster for the Call for Videos.

If you're a young cooperator based in the Asia Pacific region, we can help you tell your story! All you need to do is use a DSLR camera or a mobile phone and record a one-minute video of 1920x1080 resolution. In the video, you should introduce yourself and your co-operative, and explain why 'youth are important for the future of co-operatives'? At the end of the video please sign off by saying #Youth4Coops (Youth for Co-ops). Please send the video to <a href="mailto:anam.mittra@icaap.coop">anam.mittra@icaap.coop</a> by the deadline July 18, 2018.

# UPCOMING EVENTS!

#### **July 2018**

- Forum on Development of Co-operatives in Pacific Islands, Port Villa, Republic of Vanuatu, July 4-7
- International Day of Co-operatives, July 7
- Asia Pacific Regional Seminar on "ASEAN Co-operative Commodities forward to the Globe" at CLT Training Center, Bangkok, July 11–13
- 2<sup>nd</sup> ICA-Japan training course on Empowering Women in Business and Management of Agricultural Co-operatives to be held in Thailand and Japan from July 19 to August 11.

• EU ASEAN Training Seminar on Multilateral Advocacy, Jakarta, Indonesia, July 24-27

#### August 2018

- Second Asia-Pacific Co-operative Youth Summit, Pinamungajan, Cebu, The Philippines, August 18-21. More information at: www.youth-asiapacific.coop/youth-summit/
- ICA-AP-ACFSMC seminar on Development of e-Commerce Platforms (tbc)

#### September 2018

- Implementation of next steps for Co-operative Development in Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, September 10-14.
- Young Development Professionals' Meet, New Delhi, India (tbc)

#### November 2018

13th ICA-AP Regional Assembly and 10th Co-operative Forum, Tehran, Iran; November 26-30.
Theme: Co-operatives Help Economies Become More Resilient and Sustainable. More information at <a href="http://www.regionalassembly.coop/tehran2018/">http://www.regionalassembly.coop/tehran2018/</a>