

## Message from ICA-AP President Li Chunsheng and Regional Director Balu Iyer

Greetings from ICA-AP! We are going through difficult times and seeing the impact of the virus through lockdowns, loss of jobs, steep drop in business, and a toll on mental and physical well-being.

In the midst of the crisis, it is heartening to see cooperatives, whose services are essential (dairy, agriculture, health, credit), discharge their duties admirably; motivating to see many cooperatives take part in the covid-19 response; encouraging to see contributions being made to Funds set up to meet short and long-term requirements, and taking action to direct members to options being offered under stimulus packages by governments.

We would like to hear about these and document them to show ways in which cooperatives in the region are responding and the measures they are taking. We welcome your thoughts on ways in which ICA (global and regional office) could support members in the region. We will call on you in case a member requests support and we see them benefitting your work/support.

The decision about the World Cooperative Congress in December 2020 in Seoul should be made soon. This has bearing on the Region as we plan to hold the 14<sup>th</sup> ICA-AP Regional Assembly and Board elections during the Congress. The Asia-Pacific Regional Board will meet online on May 19 and take a call on the Regional Assembly. We will keep you posted once the decision is made.

The Regional Office though under lockdown, continues to operate remotely. The activities planned over the next two months have been postponed and will resume once we are clear about the lift in lockdown, ease of travel restrictions, and member's plans.

We will tide over these difficult times together, as cooperatives have shown their resilience in times of need and have evolved to meet emerging challenges.

In solidarity!

Li Chunsheng  
President, ICA-AP

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