



**International
Co-operative
Alliance**
Asia and Pacific

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2015 Annual Activities Report

The online version of the 2015 Annual Activities Report can be accessed at: <http://ica-ap.coop/sites/ica-ap.coop/files/Annual%20Activities%20Report-2015.pdf>. In addition to listing the activities carried out during 2015, this year also, we are featuring voices of participants from our trainings. It is gratifying to hear from participants the knowledge they have gained and more importantly the way they are putting it into practice.

MoU signed for 12th ICA-AP Regional Assembly in New Delhi, India.

The ICA-AP Regional Assembly at its meeting in Bali, Indonesia on 19th September 2014 approved the offer of the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) to host the 12th Meeting of ICA-AP Regional Assembly, Cooperative Forum and other related events in India in 2016. The Regional Assembly is the highest policy-making body in the Asia-Pacific region represented by 91 cooperative organizations from 27 countries which works within the framework of ICA Strategic Plan and implementation priorities decided by the regional authorities. The event aims at creating a platform for professional discussion on various issues and challenges being

faced by cooperatives across Asia-Pacific region. Dr. Dinesh, Chief Executive of NCUI, on behalf of Indian Cooperative Movement, and Mr. Balasubramanian (Balu) G. Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-AP signed the Memorandum of Understanding on 23rd March at the office of ICA-AP. The Regional Assembly will take place from 15 to 19 November, 2016 at Hotel Ashok in New Delhi, India.

Capacity building for gender mainstreaming

The training on “Building Management Capacity of Women for Co-operative Development” was held in collaboration with the Indian Farm Forestry Development Cooperative (IFFDC) from April 18-22, 2016 in Udaipur, India. This training is organized each year in a new country to build a cadre of trainers. Some of the countries where previous trainings have been held include Bangladesh, Mongolia, and Palestine. 20 participants from five organizations located across six states in Indian attended the five days training which was broadly based on the ‘Resource Guide for advanced training of cooperatives on entrepreneurship development of women and gender equality’ developed by ICA-AP. Ms. Eva Majurin, Senior Enterprise Specialist from the ILO’s Decent Work Team for South Asia spoke on ILO’s gender perspective and their enterprise development projects in India.



Participants at the ICA-AP and IFFDC Training of Trainers

Dr. Veena Dwivedi, Assistant Professor, Udaipur School of Social Work, Vidyapeeth University took a session on role of gender. Sh. Mohammed Iqbal, who retired as Deputy Registrar of the Coop Society Office, Udaipur took two sessions on financial management-financial management for women leaders and financial management of co-operatives. Dr. Sudhir Maan, Sr. Project Manager of IFFDC, Rajasthan, presented IFFDC’s Status Paper on women empowerment and their inclusion in cooperatives. Ms. Savitri Singh, Program Director, ICA-AP presented an elaborate account of ICA Gender mainstreaming initiatives and **Leadership Development of Women in Co-operatives with Global Perspective**. A session on monitoring and evaluation was taken up Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP. The training also included visits to two cooperatives in IFFDC’s project area. The first cooperative was formed to restore wasteland through forest plantation. With the technical assistance of IFFDC, the members growing fruits and vegetables using high quality seeds and appropriate irrigation methods. The members were also benefiting from the collection and sale of firewood from the plantation. The second cooperative was engaged in handicraft business such as incense stick making

and meenakari (traditional art) work on wooden articles. The group members were also saving and giving loan to members out of the savings. The training program was covered by Doordarshan Kisan (the national TV news channel for farmers). The overall feedback from the participants on the training was positive.

HIP Cooperative Members in Japan

The Meiji Shrine in Tokyo, dedicated to Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken, located in a 200-acre park with 100,000 trees is a serene, austere, and calming place in the midst of bustling Tokyo city. At the main hall, one can toss some yen into the offering box (follow the ritual to bow head twice, clap twice, and bow once more), buy charms and amulets, and write out one's wish on an ema. Ema's are small wooden plaques that bear various pictures of animals or Shinto imagery and often have a wish written. Earlier in the day, I had seen a similar wish wall at the Health Aging Center of the Saitama Cooperative Hospital. This one was written on paper by the septuagenarian, octogenarian and nonagenarian residents. "I wish to live a 100 years." "I want to eat my favorite food." "I want to be close with my family." Read more at: <http://ica-ap.coop/icanarticles/hip-cooperative-members-japan>

COPAC Convenes Stakeholders Meet at the FAO (Rome)

The 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLC) through its resolution in 2013, urged states to improve statistics on co-operative enterprises and enhance the scope of formulation and implementation of national development policies. The recognition of co-operatives as partners in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the need to further the process for development of international guidelines on co-operative statistics & methodologies for collection of data brought together a variety of stakeholders working on data collection and analysis of co-operative enterprises worldwide, in April in Rome, Italy.



Participants at the Multi-Stakeholder workshop

This multi-stakeholder workshop on statistics of co-operatives was organised at the FAO building in Rome, Italy on 5-6 April 2016 by the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Co-operatives or COPAC, of which ICA is the current chair. Mr. Charles Gould, Director General, ICA assumed the role

of the chairperson for the two day workshop. He informed the group about various existing international initiatives on coop statistics in the form of the [World Co-operative Monitor](#), [Survey of Co-operative Capital](#), the [Global Census of Cooperatives](#) by the UNDESA and the [CICOPA global report on cooperatives and employment](#). He added that the ILO's Department of Statistics and the Cooperative Unit have jointly undertaken a global mapping initiative on the availability of cooperatives statistics consisting of an inventory of 69 countries on sources, providers/producers and variables related to employment and economic issues. Other workshop participants included Universite du Quebec a Montreal, Canada; University of Valencia, Spain and Centro StudiLegacoop, Italy, representing the academia and the Turkish Ministry of Customs and Trade, Vietnamese General Statistics Office, Ethiopian Central Statistical Agency and the Counsellor of the Iranian Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare at the ILO, Geneva representing their respective governments. The main objective of the workshop was to present the findings from the global mapping exercises and select case studies facilitate by the ILO and FAO and gather feedback and inputs from workshop participants. The workshop was divided in two main sessions namely 'Setting the Scene' that saw various agencies present their findings and case studies and secondly, 'Developing a Roadmap' that began with a brainstorming session on identifying parameters for collection of data such as 'definition' of cooperatives, 'classification' schemes to be used in collection of data and 'challenges' in undertaking the coop statistics exercise in order to contribute to developing harmonized guidelines on coop-statistics and propose the same at the 2018 ICLC.

Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives-2015

The Training course on "Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives-2015" was organized by ICA-AP, in Thailand and Japan between 14 February and 09th April 2016. The overall objective of the training program was to assist fostering of the core leaders, who are expected to play the leading roles in agricultural cooperatives and farmers' groups that will contribute to the improvement of agricultural production and income of the farmers in the LDCs of Mekong River countries and South Asian Countries. The training program was implemented by the ICA-AP with the collaboration of Co-operative League of Thailand (CLT), Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kingdom of Thailand, and Institute for the Development of Agriculture Cooperation in Asia (IDACA), Tokyo (Japan). The Training Course was funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan.



Participants at the Training Course

The Training course was formally inaugurated by Dr. Kok Dansmaran, Chairman of CLT, on 15th February 2016, in the presence of Mr. Mr. Panuwat Na Nakornpanom, Director (Planning), CPD, Mr. Konno Masahiro, Executive Director, Mr. Yukio Abe, Overseas Cooperative Development Consultant, IDACA, and Mr. Sutus Chan-Ngiab, Dy. Executive Director, CLT. There were 16 participants from 6 countries – Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, and Vietnam. The Training Course in Thailand was conducted in Bangkok and Co-operative Technology Transfer Centre 5 of the CPD at Korat (Nakhon Ratchasima Province). After completing the CLT/CPD Module in Thailand, the participants moved to the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) Japan on 14th March 2016. They remained in Japan till 09th April. At the concluding session at IDACA on 8th April 2016, Mr. Iwahana Masahito, Deputy Director of International Cooperation Division, MAFF, Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP, Mr. Konno Masahiro, Executive Director, IDACA & Mr. A.K. Taneja, Project Coordinator, ICA-AP, addressed the participants. Mr. Sim Boramy, a participant from Cambodia, presented a vote of thanks on behalf of all the participants.

BALI (Indonesia) To Host coop Youth Summit

The ICA Asia and Pacific will organize the **COOP YOUTH SUMMIT 2016** in Bali, Indonesia from 19-25 September 2016 in collaboration with the Kubu Gunung Credit Union, Bali, Indonesia on the theme – *Youth, Co-operatives and the Power of Entrepreneurship and Innovation*. This experimental event will combine **Action** to experience outdoor activities such as rafting, canoeing, hiking, and cycling and **Reflection** to imbibe the real life situation vis-a-vis co-operative values to understand the Co-operative model better and consider it as a superior enterprise model wherein youth can practice economic democracy and social justice. Issues such as decent work and self employment for youth; technology and entrepreneurship for co-operatives in the 21st century; and the contribution of co-operatives in achieving the SDGs will be addressed.

The COOP YOUTH SUMMIT will also feature the **CO-OP PITCH**; a competition for youth to share their ideas on value based ethical enterprises to address their communities' socio-economic and cultural needs and aspirations. Youth, representatives and employees of co-operatives and university/campus co-operatives are open to register for the event. Private stakeholders and public authorities who want to partner with youth and co-operatives are also invited. All registered participants can avail accommodation (twin sharing), food (duration of the Summit) and touristic activities against the payment of the registration fee of USD 150/-. Queries can be sent to youthsummit@icaroap.coop. [Click here](#) for the Registration form.

Prof. Baharum's Obituary

Former President of ANGKASA, Prof. Dato' Dr. MOHD ALI Baharum passed away on 25th April 2016 at the age of 65. Prof. Baharum served as President of ANGKASA from 2009 - 2013 and prior to that as Deputy President from 1993 - 2009. He also served as the ICA Asia Pacific Regional Board Member from 2008 - 2013. Outside of cooperatives, he was known as Shariah Advisor to numerous financial institutions including the Malaysian Central Bank, The Royal Bank of Scotland (formerly known as ABN AMRO Bank Berhad) as well as BNP PARIBAS Bank.

On behalf of ICA-AP we would like to recognize the numerous contributions made by Prof. Baharum to the development of cooperatives in the Asia Pacific region. May his soul rest in peace.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

1. 16th ICA-AP Regional Workshop for Managers on, "Management of Consumer Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific" in Singapore, 31 May to 2 June 2016
2. Youth Summit September 20-24, 2016 Bali, Indonesia
3. Regional Assembly, New Delhi November 15-19, 2016
4. Quebec International Summit of Co-operatives, October 11-13, 2016
5. International Day of Co-operatives July 3, 2016

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Our mailing address are:

9 Aradhana Enclave, R.K. Puram, Sector 13, New Delhi, India 110066

AND

Suite 307, Block-A, Glomac Business Centre, Jalan SS 6/3, Kelana Jaya, 47301, Petaling Jaya, Selangor
Darul Ehsan, Malaysia*

www.icaap.coop

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