

## COOP Dialogue 6: Positioning Cooperatives in the Gig and Platform Economy Call for Articles

The landscape of economic activities, encompassing production, trading, distribution, and consumption, has been deeply transformed by digital disruption over the past decade. This transformation has been further accelerated by the pandemic, which has pushed for a faster adoption of digital technologies across various sectors. One of the most notable changes is the shift towards a gig and platform economy.

The gig economy is characterised by short-term, flexible jobs. These are often facilitated by digital platforms that connect freelancers with businesses or individuals needing specific services. This model contrasts with traditional long-term employment, offering greater flexibility for workers and employers alike but also bringing challenges regarding job security and benefits.

The platform economy ranging from e-commerce websites to app-based services, has changed how goods and services are distributed and consumed. They have enabled easier access to markets for producers and service providers while offering consumers greater convenience and choice. This shift has created substantial value, especially in terms of efficiency and accessibility.

However, it also raises important questions about the future of work, the regulation of digital platforms, and the balance of power between large tech companies and individual workers or smaller businesses. Platformisation of labour has created an unhealthy tussle between workers and aggregator companies where the latter have often been accused of engaging in exploitative algorithmic micro-task management, high commission fees, lack of social security and predatory practices. Regulatory regimes with meek regulations or legal vacuums are grappling with the question of directing policy to be supportive and beneficial to the various stakeholders involved. The fallout between corporate owners of gig aggregator platforms and workers has shown that there is a misalignment of the goals of these two interest groups.

As the world economy continues to reshape traditional employment and production structures, cooperatives emerge as a potential solution to address the concerns of both workers and consumers in this evolving landscape. Cooperatives, with their principles of solidarity, democratic governance, and social responsibility, can play a transformative role in ensuring that the benefits of the gig and platform economy are shared equitably among participants. Platform Cooperatives can be an alternative to traditional structures and address the vulnerabilities of platform aggregation. The rise of the gig and platform economy presents both challenges and opportunities for cooperatives, making it a focal point for dialogue and exploration.

The sixth edition of COOP Dialogue will be released in May 2024 and will focus on the theme 'Positioning Cooperatives in the Gig and Platform Economy'.

### Guidelines and Requirements

The ICA-AP office invites articles, research papers, opinions, case studies, stories, and short video stories on the selected theme from anyone interested in cooperatives, the future of work, and the gig and platform economy from the Asia and Pacific region. You may use this platform to publicize your work, enhance your visibility, and communicate your best practices and views with diverse stakeholders. For any queries, please contact the COOP Dialogue team at [coopdialogue@icaap.coop](mailto:coopdialogue@icaap.coop). Submission of interest and abstract (300 words) should be done by **16 February 2024**. The complete written material along with pictures can be submitted by **30 March 2024**.

### **Submission Guidelines**

- Submission of interest and abstract (300 words) by 16 February 2024
- Submission of complete written material along with pictures (in not more than 1,500 to 2,500 words excluding references and pictures in .jpg/ .jpeg/ .png formats of size between 500 Kb and 5 Mb) by 31 March 2024. The articles can also include graphics, images, and graphs for illustration purposes and hyperlinks to additional information, documents, or videos.
- Submission of complete videos of 3-5 minutes (in format .mp4 and max size 500 Mb) latest by 31 March 2024
- Language: English
- Format: Word file only
- Authors are encouraged to submit original articles to avoid copyright issues