



International
Co-operative
Alliance
Asia and Pacific

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Launch of 12th Regional Assembly website

We are pleased to announce the launch of the 12th ICA-AP Regional Assembly website- www.newdelhi2016.coop! All information related to the Regional Assembly, Cooperative Forum, Committee Meetings will be posted on the website. You will also find information about hotel accommodation, registration fee, mode of payment, visa requirements, transportation, etc. The website will be frequently updated with the latest information. *Registration to the Regional Assembly will be done only through the website.* We welcome you to visit the site and explore the various options.



International
Co-operative
Alliance
Asia and Pacific

12TH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AND 9TH CO-OPERATIVE FORUM

CO-OPERATIVES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

www.newdelhi2016.coop


REGISTER

15-19 NOVEMBER, 2016

Sri Lanka Flood Relief

In the past week, many districts in Sri Lanka have been affected by floods and landslides that were prompted by the country's worst rain since 2010. The death toll and damage to property has been rising. Two of our members, COOPFED and SANASA are working on flood relief and have sent requests seeking support. In this hour of need, we request you to provide your generous support and help mitigate some of the hardships faced by our cooperative members. The bank details for both organizations can be found at: <http://www.ica-ap.coop/icanews/natural-disaster-sri-lanka>

Travels with the President

Travelling for four days through three countries (Japan, Korea and China) with the second [International Cooperative Alliance](#) (Alliance) woman President [Monique Leroux](#) was one exhilarating experience. The perks of traveling with the President is that you experience not only the red carpet laid out but also the opportunity it provides to hear directly about her vision for the Alliance and from the heads of leading cooperatives about their issues, concerns and actions they would like to see taken. TripAdvisor Rating -  [Click here](#) to read Balu Iyer, Regional Director report.

46th VICTO National General Assembly Meeting in Boracay, Philippines

More than 650 Co-operators from 150 member co-operatives, gathered in beautiful Boracay Island, located 200 km South of Manila on 21 and 22 May. The occasion was the the 46th Annual General Assembly of the VICTO National Co-operative Federation and Development Center (VICTO National), the apex and educational organization of co-operatives in Philippines. The theme for this year was, "Towards 2020; What will your co-op look like?"



Group photograph of participants at 46th Annual General Assembly of the VICTO

The Assembly began with a warm welcome speech by Mr. Romulo T. Sisno, Chairperson of VICTO National. He hoped for active transactions and fruitful results, and wished participant's good life. This was followed by the reading of a prepared Keynote speech by Mr. Balu Iyer, ICA-AP Regional Director. In his speech titled, "What will yOur co-op look like?", he referred the question of "What will your co-op look like" is essence meant "What will our co-op look like?" He touched on what ICA has done during the first half of the Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade and also outlined the priorities for the second half. The broad issues could be categorized as promoting *Democracy* (youth, gender, ageing) and positioning co-operatives in the *Collaborative Economy* (commons, global public good, and digital disruption).

Six speakers from inside and outside of the Philippines spoke about their co-op's activity.

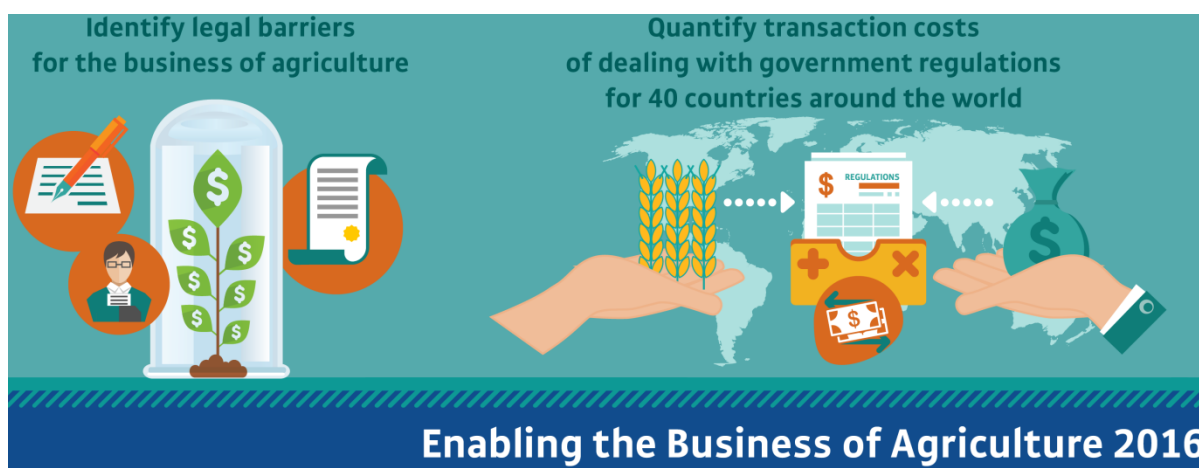
1. “Inclusive Growth: Leaving no one Behind – LAMAC Multi Purpose Co-operative” by Ellen Limocon (Philippines). Ellen introduced the successful stories from LAMAC’s credit and agriculture sector and its various social activities for the members.
2. “International Youth Tourism Program in Malaysia” by Ms. Norlaili Mansor, Angkasa. She presented the co-op business model of international youth program, which promotes mutual understanding and cultural exchange among the youth.
3. “Participation for community building and sustainable activities of consumer co-op in Japan” by Yuki Nishimoto, JCCU/ICA-AP. Yuki presented the 2020 vision of Japanese consumer co-ops, and the business cases and activities under its vision.
4. “Leveraging Social Media in Co-ops” – by Ms. Malou Guanzon-Apalisok. She presented how social media affected the world and importance of co-ops to bundle and grab its power as well.
5. “Gender Program of Local Government’s Unit” – by Mayor. Wilbert Ariel Igoy from Malinao Town. He introduced successful gender programs implemented inside of his organization.
6. “I see Kids Tours” – presented by Mr. Gian Carlo Luna. He introduced the youth tourism program conducted in Philippines.

Ms. Segunda A Lacaba, Chairperson of Eastern Visayas State University MPC from Tacloban City in her closing remarks, told the plenary was very informative for her. She added “the range of speakers, the diversity of sectors, the examples from co-ops of different sizes provided a broad canvas and there were enough cases for each cooperatives to take back and implement in their own co-operatives.”

The 46th of VICTO National’s AGM ended in great success on 22nd May, after the presentation of the business and accounting report of fiscal year 2015.

Enabling the Business of Agriculture Project – World Bank Study Team visit to India

The World Bank [Enabling the Business of Agriculture](http://eba.worldbank.org) (EBA) project, analyzes and monitors regulations that impact agriculture and produces indicators to inform and encourage efficient regulation that supports successful agribusinesses in local and regional trade. The EBA 2016 report covering 40 countries (<http://eba.worldbank.org>) aims to promote ‘smart regulations’ to support agribusinesses as well as safety and quality control. This report is a step in identifying barriers in achieving the SDGs and aims at putting food sectors and agriculture at the centre of the international community’s response. One of the key features of the report is to quantify the transactional costs of dealing with government regulations. The basic idea is to highlight good practices in regulation of agribusinesses that enable the agribusinesses worldwide. The data for the report has been collected empirically through standardized questionnaires followed up by conference calls and written correspondence and the respondents were chosen from the private, public and the civil society sectors.



This year ICA is collaborating with the World Bank in its expanded coverage of 62 countries to have cooperatives contributing to the report. The EBA team was in India from May 16 to June 1 to test a sub-national approach, studying regulations both at the federal and state level. The selected states for the study were Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Odisha for. In each state, the 12 thematic areas to covered including seed, fertilizer, machinery, finance, transport, markets (rice), land, water, livestock, information and communication technology (ICT), gender and environmental sustainability. In order to collect information on each area, the team met with and surveyed expert respondents in each state and in Delhi. The ICA Asia-Pacific regional office facilitated meetings for the EBA team with with leading cooperatives in India; among others, Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED), and National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Ltd. (NAFSCOB). A team from the ICA-AP regional office also briefed the EBA team on the cooperative sector in India. The EBA team gained important insights into financial and fertilizer cooperatives. Mr. Bhima Subhramanyam, Managing Director, NAFSCOB was able to put across the point that the EBA study while looking at access to finance in India, did not look at the laws and regulations of Rural Cooperative Banks; but did include Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperatives (PACS). Dr. Awasthi, Managing Director, IFFCO was able to share with the team detailed information on fertilizer registration, importing, distribution and subsidy and how they were leveraging the cooperative network to provide more quality fertilizer products to farmers.

Engaging with the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC)

In order to strengthen cooperative institutions in the Asia Pacific region, ICA-AP is making efforts to engage with the regional entities such as Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Gulf Cooperating Countries (GCC) and the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC).



ICA-AP delegates with the HE Mr. Arjun Thapa (center)

His Excellency Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa, Secretary General of SAARC attended the Regional Consultation held in Kathmandu on December 14 and 15, 2015. H.E. Mr. Thapa motivated the gathering by stating that co-operatives work for the common good of people and are key to achieving inclusive growth. He further mentioned that there should be an endeavour to develop a SAARC Blueprint for Cooperatives and formation of a regional consortium of cooperatives for deeper integration. He called for the need to explore the possibility of having a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with ICA-AP.

In order to take forward ICA-AP's engagement with the SAARC and build on the commitment of SAARC towards cooperatives, ICA-AP staff attended a meeting with the Secretary General at the SAARC Secretariat on 28 April 2016. Prior to the meeting, ICA-AP consulted the National Cooperative Federation of Nepal (NCF) on the next steps towards building and continuing relationship with the SAARC Secretariat. A detailed discussion on, 'ways to integrate the agenda of cooperatives within the SAARC development agenda' was held. Definitive ideas were discussed and the following tentative actions were decided:

The SAARC Secretariat, under the leadership of the Secretary General will organize a meeting to introduce ICA-AP to its Directors from member countries. The objective will be for ICA-AP to get introduced to the SAARC system, its programs and priorities. Similarly, ICA-AP will introduce its activities and priorities to the SAARC Directors. The meeting will also explore how ICA-AP, as a regional body of cooperatives having a wide membership network in SAARC countries, and the SAARC Secretariat can work together for sustainable development.

A SAARC regional workshop focused on cooperatives will be held later in the year (ideally in September). As per SAARC rules, the request for a workshop should come through the concerned Ministry of a SAARC member country to the SAARC secretariat. NCF, being the representative of cooperatives in Nepal, will liaise with the Ministry of Cooperatives in Nepal to propose a workshop to the SAARC Secretariat. ICA-AP will collaborate and take lead in organizing the workshop along with the Ministry of Cooperatives, the SAARC Secretariat and NCF.

Nepal - one year after the earthquake

April 25, 2016 marked one year since the devastating magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Nepal. Cooperatives were badly affected, around 1,000 had lost their lives, over 1,500 among the injured and loss of livelihood, animals and property running in the millions. The Alliance launched an immediate appeal to assist in relief and to rebuild co-operatives in Nepal and was able to raise close to \$1 million dollars. This included in-kind assistance of \$250,000 from IFFCO, and monetary contribution of \$363,000 from JA-Zenchu group, \$183,000 from U.K. Cooperatives, and the rest from members in Australia, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Korea, Philippines, and Singapore.

The National Cooperative Federation, Nepal (NCF/N) provided grants to 34 primary level cooperatives in 11 affected districts. The grants ranged from \$ 1,000 to \$5,000 and used in the reconstruction of milk collection centers, farmhouses, coffee processing centers, and vegetable collection centers. The grants were given out after field visits by the field verification teams and in consultation with district union members and government officials. NCF/N is in the process of working out the modalities for giving out soft loans. The National Agriculture Cooperative Central Federation Limited (NACCFL) provided assistance to selected Small Farmer Agriculture Cooperative Limited (SFACL) in the districts of Dolakha, Dhading, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Ramechhap, Kathmandu and Sindhupalchowk. Training and monetary support was provided for income generating activities, provision of vegetable seeds and seedlings for horticulture. Assistance was also provided in the construction of warehouses using low cost technology at three SFACLs - Bhedpu of Dolakha, Chalnakhel of Kathmandu and Jeevan Sudhar of Sindhupalchowk districts. Priority was given to single women, disadvantaged groups and those highly dependent on agriculture.

International Summit of Cooperatives.

The first speakers from Asia confirmed their attendance at the International Summit of Cooperatives. With five months to go until the event, the [International Summit of Cooperatives 2016](#) announced the participation of speakers from Asia for its third edition, which will run from October 11 to 13, 2016 in Québec City, Canada, at the initiative of the [Desjardins Group](#) and the [International Co-operative Alliance](#). Among the confirmed names are: Nazik BEISHENALY, President, Kyrgyz Cooperative Union; Datuk MOHAMAD ALI HASAN, Vice President, Malaysian National Co-operative Movement- ANGKASA; Choe OKUNO, President, Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives - JA-Zenchu; Inja PARK, Chairperson of Consumer Activities, iCOOP; A. K. SINGH, Director Cooperative Development & ESP, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO); Tamotsu SHOZUI, President of the Board of Directors, Zenkyoren; Yasuhiro YASASAKI, Advisor to the President and the Board of Directors on Global Strategy, The Norinchukin Bank; and Keshab Prasad BADAL, Chairman, National Co-operative Federation Ltd (NCFN)

These eminent experts will have a perfect forum for discussing the main global economic issues and the key role of cooperatives and mutuals in setting in place sustainable development strategies. Their contributions, revolving around the theme of *Cooperatives: The Power to Act*, will provide the opportunity to outline the international political, social, economic and financial situation, and to review the business models that would be most conducive to global prosperity, including the cooperative route.

Richard Bartlett from Loomio to speak at Youth Summit

Youth Summit, Bali-2016 will feature [Richard Bartlett](#) of the New Zealand based, worker owned cooperative, [Loomio Co-operative Limited](#) as the *keynote speaker*! Rich as we know him, will speak on the theme *co-operatives, youth and the power of entrepreneurship and innovation in the 21st century*. Rich, an engineer turned coop activist, serves as Loomio's *Director of Autonomy*, something he assures, is a real designation at this decision making co-operative!

[Register for the Coop Youth Summit](#) to know the story of youth who have given shape to what they call their *"shared purpose to achieve positive social impact together."* The Summit is an experiential event that will combine **Action** to experience outdoor activities such as rafting, canoeing, hiking, and cycling and **Reflection** to imbibe real life situation vis-a-vis co-operative values to understand the *co-operative model* where one can practice economic democracy and social justice. In order to make it affordable, the registration fee is kept at \$150 per participant for the five-day event; travel excluded.

ICA-Asia and Pacific-NACF Joint workshop on Agriculture System in Korea

The joint Workshop on Agricultural system in Korea was organized by ICA-AP and NACF, Korea. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Kim Jeong Sik, Vice Chairman, NACF. Mr. Beom Seok Lee, General Manager, Mr. Sang Seok Kim, Senior Manager and Mr. Gwangeok Hong, Senior Manager were also present at the workshop. The workshop was co-ordinated by Mr. K. Kukreja, ICA-AP and Mr. Seugnmin Lee, NACF. Participants from Asia-Pacific and Africa region participated in the workshop. This year, on the initiative of Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP; we also invited participants from Africa region for intra regional cooperation. There were twenty participants from ten countries namely India, Myanmar, Malaysia, Magnolia, Nepal, Vietnam, Philippines, Saudi Arabia and two countries of Africa i.e. Kenya and Swaziland participated in the workshop.

International Day of Co-operatives

THE 2016 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CO-OPERATIVES



On July 2, the 2016 International Day of Co-operatives, we commit our support to the SDGs! The Alliance calls on co-operators worldwide to celebrate the 2016 Day by showing how the co-operative principles and values act in support of the Sustainable Development Goals. The slogan for the [2016 International Day of Co-operatives](#) is 'Co-operatives: The power to act for a sustainable future'. The slogan was chosen to emphasize [the co-operative contribution to the United Nations' Sustainable Development goals, or SDGs](#). Co-operatives are important partners to achieve the SDGs, because they foster democracy, practice social inclusion and operate with concern for the environment, all while having a significant economic impact on the world economy.

Register for the global
COOP Marque and
a .coop domain name at
www.identity.coop

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Asia Pacific Regional Seminar on "COOP: *Building a Better World*" on the Occasion of Centenary Celebration of Thai Cooperative Movement and 94th International Cooperative Day Celebration, 4–8 July 2016, Bangkok, Thailand. Please contact A.k. Taneja at taneja@icaroap.coop and Phanuwat Wanraway at green.ct@gmail.com
2. Training course on "Fostering Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of Agricultural Co-operatives in FY2016," from 17 July to 06 August, 2016. This training is restricted to participants from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, and Thailand. Last date to receive nominations is 10 June 2016. Please contact Savitri Singh (savitrisingh@icaroap.coop) for

further details.

3. ICA-AP and All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives workshop on "Cooperative Finance for Agriculture" in Dali, China from 26 to 30 July, 2016. Please contact Frank Cao (frankcao@icaroap.coop) for further details.
4. Youth Summit, September 20-24, 2016 Bali, Indonesia
5. Quebec International Summit of Co-operatives October 11-13, 2016
6. Regional Board Meeting in Colombo on June 16-17, 2016
7. International Day of Co-operatives July 2, 2016
8. Regional Assembly, New Delhi November 15-19, 2016

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