



Youth Summit in Cebu.

Halloween costumes, singing and dancing to popular English tunes and a grand feast, sounds much like a school-fete organized by students. The described gathering was actually 500 volunteers and members of scores of cooperatives in the Cebu region of Philippines, celebrating two days of the Annual Youth Summit. The Summit was organized by [VICTO National](#) (ICA Member operating in the Visayas region) as part of the “Cooperative Month (October)” and “Philippines co-operative movement centennial year,” for its young cooperatives. The co-operatives are owned, led and managed by school going youth in the age group of 7-28 years. The young cooperatives are called “Laboratory Coops” and are endorsed/supported by “Guardian Cooperatives” that are owned-led-managed by adult members thereby fostering a symbiotic friendship among generations, made possible by the [Philippine’s Cooperative Code](#). The Philippines policy-regulatory environment is [youth-friendly](#) owing to a contemporary youth policy and the establishment of the National Youth Commission, an organization that has been well represented by cooperative youth movement. “The annual affair is organized to recognize the participation and support to the co-operatives,” said Ms. Renia Salinas, CEO of VICTO National. She added that, “youth faced the biggest challenge posed by global economic repercussions which makes them anxious about their future. Youth’s impatience may be detrimental to their own future and co-operatives should reassess their products, channels and messages to determine how best they will respond to the needs and preferences of young adults.” The Summit marked the beginning of another year of new youth boards and representatives in hundreds of lab-coops and the national/international representation of youth-cooperators from the Philippines, a process that was an outcome of full democracy and complete transparency – not a bad habit for enterprises to maintain! Santosh Kumar from ICA-AP took part in the Summit and shared the importance of a united movement and emphasized the need for youth to adopt and spread the COOP Identity.

ICA-AP Regional Cooperative Research Conference

The 10th ICA-AP Regional Cooperative Research Conference was held at Vaikunta Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM), Pune, India, on November 5 and 6, 2015. The theme of the conference was Governance of Co-operatives: Issues and Challenges. Financial support for the conference was provided by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and district level banks. Out of 60 abstracts received, 35 were selected through a process of blind review and during conference days there were 30 presentations made by authors from Australia, India, Korea, Malaysia and Philippines in two parallel sessions. The topics covered a wide range of issues such as member participation, role of board and executive, legal environment affecting governance, and structure and processes of governance, and co-operative leadership. Each session was well attended and at the end of each presentation there was a lively exchange of questions and answers. The papers presented in the conference will be further reviewed and selected papers will be published in the form of a book shortly. The opening ceremony was attended by Er. Sanjeeb Patjoshi, IPS, Director of VAMNICOM & CICTAB; Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and President of NCUI; M.V.Ashok, Chief General Manager, NABARD; Dr. D.V. Deshpande, Director, Bankers Institute of Rural Development, Lucknow; Dr L.K.Vaswani, Director, Kalinga Institute of Technology; and Dr Manju Singh, Head PhD Programs Symbiosis International University. The conference was coordinated by

A.K. Taneja from ICA-AP.

Strengthening of Capacity Building in Developing Countries in Asia.

The 2nd ICA-Japan Training Course on “Improving Capacity of Rural Women” was held in Thailand and Japan from September 16 to October 14, 2015. Eight women participants from Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam attended the training. The objective of the training course, supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan is to building capacity of women leaders from rural areas of South-East Asia and South Asia to undertake organized business activities. The first part of the training was held in Thailand in collaboration with the Cooperative League of Thailand, a member organization of ICA and the second part at the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia in Japan. The training included extensive classwork and field study visits (Mie Prefecture). Based on these experiences, the participants were able to prepare Action Plans which they would be recommending to their respective organizations for implementation. The training was coordinated by Sethu Madhavan from ICA-AP.

9th Dr. Verghese Kurien Foundation Day Lecture

Balu Iyer, Regional Director delivered the 9th Dr. Verghese Kurien Foundation Day Lecture at the [KIIT School of Rural Management in Bhubaneswar](#). His lecture focused on Repositioning Cooperatives: The Road Ahead. The rise of the [Sharing Economy](#) is bringing into focus the central tenets of cooperative form of business - ownership, democratic governance, community engagement and economic participation. While the concept of ownership in the sharing economy has moved beyond investors and fund managers to include employees; it still has to go a distance to emulate the cooperative model of ownership where each member has a share and a vote. [Platform Cooperatives](#) are emerging to address existing platforms that often exploit and exacerbate existing inequalities, even while promising to be the great equalizers and in their place build platforms owned and governed by the people who rely on them. The emerging trends of rapid urbanization, demographic trends (aging and youth bulge), inexorable inequality and environmental degradation has brought into sharp focus the need to have a model that has embedded within it economic, social and environmental concerns. Cooperatives are uniquely positioned in this regard to organize the rising tide of workers from the informal to formal sector, create a healthy and purposeful community for the aged, provide responsible ownership opportunity to youth and create sustainable communities. [Millennial's](#) are going to occupy a central stage in the coming years. Cooperatives need to actively work to engage and involve them. This is because [Millennials rate social and economic inequality as the top challenge the world faces globally and locally](#). With Millennials the balance is shifting in favour of work being a place where they derive a sense of purpose and fulfilment. Where the focus is on people and purpose, not just products and profits.

2017 ICA Global Assembly in Malaysia

The 2017 ICA General Assembly will take place in Malaysia. The official announcement was made at the closing session of the ICA General Assembly in Antalya, Turkey by former ICA President Dame Pauline Green. Dato Abdul Fattah Abdullah, President of [ANGKASA](#), along with 65 delegates proudly extended their invitation to co-operators from around the world to join the next Assembly and experience Malaysia, a confluence of many Asian cultures. Malaysia is home to 12,000 co-operatives with over seven million members and a turnover of US\$8,126 m. The apex body, ANKGASA, was founded in 1966 to unify Malaysian co-ops and represent them at national and international level. Co-operatives in Malaysia are seen as the third leg of the economy and the objective of the National Co-operative Policy is to increase the contribution of the co-operative movement to the GDP from 5% in 2013 to 10% by 2020.

Co-operatives raise their voice at the B20

Representatives of co-operative businesses participated in the B20 Summit in Antalya, Turkey, preceding the G20 meetings. They called for greater inclusion of the co-operative perspective and for the recognition of their specific business model in B20 recommendations to the G20. They reminded the B20 delegates of the size and impact of the global co-operative sector, citing from the recently released 2015 edition of the World Co-operative Monitor, which shows 7% growth in turnover for the 300 largest co-operatives alone, aggregating USD 2.4 trillion. 250 million people are employed by or organise their living through a co-operative. Monique Leroux, Chair and CEO of Desjardins Group, and newly elected President of the International Co-operative Alliance, called for the recognition of the diversity of business models, in particular in financial regulations. "We need an appropriate calibration of the rules to avoid any adverse effects for financial co-operatives, because they are fundamental for financing growth and, in particular, financing SMEs", Ms. Leroux said. She was joined by Jean-Louis Bancel, President of the International Co-operative Banking Association. Charles Gould, Director-General of the International Co-operative Alliance, stated 'We see the B20 as an important venue for a range of issues essential to co-operatives as they are for all businesses. We appreciate being welcomed in this forum and encourage a greater inclusion of the impact and potential of the co-operative model in B20 recommendations.'

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. 49th Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on Consumer cooperation and Seminar, Malaysia, December 1st 2015.
2. Fair Trade and Halal Certification, Malaysia, December 2nd 2015.
3. ICA-AP South Asia Regional Consultation, Nepal, December 14th -15th 2015.
4. Fostering Core Leaders of Agriculture Cooperatives (Selected countries), nomination deadline- December 15th 2015
5. Third Regional Conference on status of Women in Cooperatives, Philippines, February 9th -11th 2016.

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

Copyright © 2015 ICA-AP, All rights reserved.

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

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)