

ICA-AP Newsletter September Issue

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

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Fostering Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of Agriculture Cooperatives.

The 3rd training course on Fostering Leaders to Reinforce Business Development of Agricultural Cooperative was held from 17 July to 06 August, 2016 at IDACA in Tokyo, Japan. Six participants from 4 countries, India, Philippines, Mongolia and Malaysia attended the course. Organizing farmers and strengthening marketing activities of agricultural co-operatives and farmer's organizations is essential for ensuring sound development of agriculture and activation of the rural economy. The 21 days training covered improvement of agricultural business such as production, quality control and marketing; credit practices; and better living. The training methodology included class room lectures, visits to cooperatives and meetings/interactions with cooperative officials and farmers. Among the things the participants found useful were the lectures on re-distribution system of vegetable & fruits in Japan; marketing and purchasing business of agricultural co-operatives; functioning of wholesale market and visits to JA Shizuoka Welfare Federation's medical facilities and JA Shizuoka Economic Federation's facilities such as fertilizer Plant, pearl rice plant and tea production. The participants prepared their action plan for implementation in their respective cooperatives based on the lectures and visits. The IDACA-ICA team will organize a follow-up visit to assess the implementation of action plans. The training course is implemented by ICA, based on an agreement among ICA, Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives of Japan (JA ZENCHU), Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA) and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan. The closing ceremony was graced by Mr. Toshiyuki Shinada, Deputy Director, International Cooperation Division of MAF and included Mr. Masahiro Konno, Executive Director of IDACA and Ms. Savitri Singh, course coordinator from ICA-AP. A Certificate of Participation was awarded to each participant at the concluding session held at IDACA.



KFCC implements Myanmar Training Workshop on Saemaul Geumgo

The Korean Federation of Community Credit Cooperatives (KFCC) organized a workshop at the MG Human Resource Development center in Korea. Myanmar to promote the Saemaul Geumgo Movement. Nine former and current officials from Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of Myanmar took part in the workshop organized from 22 August to 2 September. The Saemaul Geumgo development model has two pillars – 1) sustainable financial development, stressing savings and 2) self-help development highlighting the cooperative principles. The workshop touched upon the application of cooperative principles, establishment and organization, savings, loans, and accounting. Thanks to the voluntary participation and discussion, textbooks were successfully published based on Myanmar circumstances.



The officials who successfully completed the workshop will start delivering lectures to Myanmar village leaders from October. KFCC plans to support the establishment and operation of Saemaul Geumgo, and promote Saemaul Geumgo Movement to make seeds of hope blossom into a beautiful reality. Former President of Thalyin Cooperative University, Mr. Thein Tun said, “Saemaul Geumgo development model based on savings is what Myanmar really needs, so I will modify and supplement it and make it take strong root in Myanmar, contributing to the Myanmar rural development”. KFCC hopes that this small

step of education can create big change in Myanmar rural development



The power of cooperatives for regional economic development.

Melanesia, which includes the island nations of the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Fiji, and FLNKS, is an important regional partner in the Asia Pacific region and cooperatives have a major role to play in the development of the region. ICA and ICA Asia Pacific was represented at the recent Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Co-operative Development meeting held in Honiara, Solomon Islands on 19 September 2016 by the General Manager of ICA member, the Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals, the national peak body for cooperatives in Australia. ICA Asia Pacific Director Mr. Balu Iyer asked the BCCM to represent the cooperative sector at this important meeting.



This was the first co-operative development workshop arranged by the MSG. The MSG has taken an interest in co-operatives as a vehicle to drive social and economic development in the region. This has been championed particularly by Mr. Ridley Joseph, Director and Registrar of the Office of the Registrar of Co-operatives and Business Development Services in Vanuatu, and Mr. Henry Sanday, Private Sector Development Advisory at the MSG. The workshop was attended by heads of the various co-operative registries and departments in the MSG countries, with the exception of Fiji who were unable to attend.

The workshop commenced with an outline of the issues being faced by these departments in their aims to develop co-operatives in country. It was explained that co-operatives had been prevalent across Melanesia for several decades until they started to decline in the 1970s. By the time political unrest came to the region, the majority of co-operative businesses had closed, and by the late 1990s they were mostly non-existent. Issues raised by the group included a lack of political awareness of the sector, lack of access to sufficient access to capital and capital raising opportunities, lack of sufficient education about the co-operative model and issues in relation to market access and supply chain logistics.

The BCCM General Manager, Ms. Alexandra Hordern, spoke to the group, providing a background on the ICA and the work the ICA does globally, and in the local region. Emphasis was placed on the need to engage with the ICA, noting the large number of important networking and trade events held by the regional office and the head office. The meeting closed with recommendations encouraging greater engagement with the ICA, the BCCM, and a renewed sense of the co-operative purpose.



Training course on, Improving Capacity of Rural Women

The 3rd ICA-Japan Training Course on “Improving Capacity of Rural Women” was held in Thailand and Japan from 6th to 30th September 2016. Eight women participants from eight countries, namely, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam attended the Training Course. The objective of the Course was to assist in capacity building of leaders of rural women for promotion of more organized business activities in South-East Asia and South Asia. Part-I of the program consisting of field study visits with a focus on observation of the activities of cooperatives/women groups and social institutions was held in Thailand from 6th to 13th September in collaboration with the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT), a member organization of ICA.



Participants of the ICA-Japan Training course on Improving Capacity of Rural Women

Part-II of the program held at the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) from 14th to 30th September included extensive classroom work and study visits to agricultural cooperatives in Mie Prefecture of Japan. Lecture-cum-practical field study visits assignments were combined to impart necessary knowledge to the participants on the working of women's associations and the general activities of agricultural cooperatives in Japan. Some of the key subjects covered at IDACA were: (a) Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Japan; (b) Women's Associations of Japanese Agricultural Cooperatives; (c) Rural Women's Entrepreneurship (marketing and local agro-processing); (d) Women's Participation in the Rural Development; (e) Finalization and Presentation of Action Plans; and (f) Reporting and Evaluation. Based on the experiences gained by the participants through class room lectures, field visits in Thailand and Japan (Mie Prefecture), the participants were able to prepare their Action Plans which they would be recommending to their respective organizations for implementation. A course evaluation was conducted at the conclusion of the Training. The participants felt that the training course was very relevant for women leaders of agricultural cooperatives in Asia and it should be continued. The Training Course is funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan. A Certificate of Participation was awarded to each participant at the concluding session held at IDACA. Mr. Sethu Madhavan coordinated the program.



CCW Global Youth Forum

Consumers Co-operative Worldwide (CCW) Global Youth Forum, “Co-operatives and Youth: Empowerment, Employment, Engagement” was held in Nesebar, Bulgaria from September 22 to 23 2016. The forum was hosted by the Central Co-operative Union in Bulgaria (CCU). The 2-day forum was attended by 31 co-operators, mainly youth generation, from 14 countries. Dr. Peter Stefanov, President of CCW and CCU, gave an opening speech in which he said that there are 1.8 billion youth worldwide who may be the potential co-operative leaders and members. However, there are a number of youth who have fallen into the vicious cycle of poverty, isolated from education, and unemployed. It is essential to examine the condition, issues, and solutions to engage youth. Cooperative need to have a long-term vision of 30 to 50 years engage youth in co-operatives. The Forum was an attempt in this direction.



Co-operators at the (CCW) Global Youth Forum

The reports from the delegates from the four regions Europe, Africa, America and Africa followed.

From the Asia Pacific region, there were 3 presenters, two from Japan and one from China. Mr. Katsumi Asada, President of Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) and Vice-President of CCW gave his speech on, "The expectations from the young co-operators". Mr. Asada said that in order to realize the 17 Sustainable Development Goals advocated by the UN, co-operatives as social sector characterized by mutual assistance and solidarity should play an important role. He emphasized on the need for human resource development of youth to enable them to adjust and fit in the changing age. Ms. Yuki Nishimoto, ICA-AP (seconded from JCCU) spoke on, "Role and Education Program of Youth Staff in Community Based Consumer Co-op in Japan," and Ms. Liu Ting, Deputy Director of All China Federation Marketing and Supply Chain Co-operatives spoke on, "Youth Policy and Activities within China Co-op". At the end of the forum, the delegates drafted a manifesto, "We, the Co-operative Youth," which will be submitted to ICA Board in Quebec in October



AP Co-operative Youth Summit Culminates in Bali

The paradise island of Bali (Indonesia) played host to 70 young people hailing from 17 countries where they met for the first ever Asia Pacific Co-operative Youth Summit (19-22 Sep 2016) at the Zizz Convention Hotel on the theme – **Youth, Co-operatives and the power of innovation and entrepreneurship**.

While Alliance members [ACFSMC](#), [ANGKASA- Malaysia](#) and [Buldana Urban](#) – India sponsored parts of the event, [DEKOPIN](#) and [KOPINDO](#) from Indonesia participated at local hosts along with [Kubu Gunung Credit Co-operative](#), Bali and Zizz Convention Hotel, who played their roles as hospitality partners. The Summit was conceived as a platform for youth in the region to interact with each other; hear stories by young persons who have started co-operatives; engage in team activities such as rafting, traditional Kecak dance and biking in Ubud; and importantly make friends from the co-operative movement, for life! Information about the summit and its key speakers can be found [here](#).



Participants of the Asia-Pacific Youth Summit

The Summit also featured a battle of co-operative ideas - *Co-operative Pitch*- that provided participants an opportunity to present new and workable ideas about forming co-operatives in areas where they perceived real needs. 17 ideas were presented that covered agricultural tourism, agriculture incubators, solutions for migrant workers, catering services (targeted at workers), modern transport systems, student housing, e-waste recycling, mobile fish vending vans, performance art collective, youth events - owned and managed by young persons, and e-commerce for co-ops among others. These ideas were judged by the key speakers at the event and the chairperson of the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation. The Best Pitch was awarded to Justine Lynn Limocon and Kevin Palson from LAMAC Multipurpose Co-operative, Philippines for the idea of Youth Engagement in Organic Farm Tourism while the Best Pitcher award was bagged by Shawn Hoh from Ngee Ann Polytechnic Co-operative, Singapore for his team's idea on providing co-operative solutions to migrant workers in Singapore. The team won the award for the first runner-up. The co-operative idea of Leonardo Desucatan from VICTO National, Philippines to recycle e-waste won him award for the runner-up and Young-Gi Kwon won the honourable mention for his idea of having youth centred conferences, owned and managed by youth. The Summit's first edition was well received by participants and there was much excitement to organize such events regularly.

Please follow the links on Facebook and the Youth website for photographs and other updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/asiapacificcoopyouthsummit/> and www.youth-asiapacific.coop



Road to 2030: Youth Panel on Co-operative Policy



To make use of the presence of a large number of young persons associated with co-operatives along with young coop entrepreneurs in Bali (Indonesia) during the AP Co-operative Youth Summit, the ICA-AP and the EU Project on Co-operatives in Development- *People Centred Businesses in Action*, organised a multilateral seminar in form of a **Youth Panel on Co-operative Policy**, with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in 2015 and the global theme of the 2016 International Day of Co-operatives (IDC) – the Power of Co-operatives to Act for a Sustainable future, in mind. The IDC is celebrated annually on the first Saturday of July, as detailed in the [1992 resolution 47/90 of the United Nations](#). The day was opened by a thematic speech by Mr. Suruto Ph, Chairperson of National Association of Socio-Economic Cadres, Indonesia and was followed by a thematic presentation by Mr. Balu Iyer, Regional Director of ICA-Asia and Pacific. The panel was supported by feedback received by various youth participants on what they envisaged as contents of the youth statement that was to be adopted the same day. The youth panel was moderated by Mr. Balu Iyer and saw the participation of Ms. Teepee Gile, Founder-Red Roots Artists Co-operative, Philippines; Mr. Ilham Nasai, DEKOPIN- Indonesia; Mr. Sangay Rinchen, Founder- Happy Green Co-operatives, Bhutan; Mr. Francois Hastir, Credit and Mutuals Canada; Mr. Sebastien Chaillou, solidarité étudiante, France; Dr. Sukesh Zamwar, CMD, Buldana Urban Credit Co-operative Ltd., India and Ms. Caroline Sekyewa, Project Manager, ICA-Africas. All present realised the importance of youth as future members and leaders in the cooperative movement. Asia Pacific region comprises of 60% of the global youth population and to realize Agenda 2030 of the Sustainable Development Goals and the vision set out in the ICA Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade, the panel agreed to actively engage youth in the co-operative movement. The outcome document – [Asia Pacific Youth Statement](#) adopted on 23 September 2016 calls on each of us to:

1. Enhance youth engagement in co-operatives and further the awareness of youth on the co-operative enterprise model by mainstreaming youth in co-operatives.
2. Ensure youth become advocates for gender equality inside and outside the co-operative movements to build an equitable society.
3. Create an enabling employment environment for youth to be engaged in work driven by passion and empathy towards others as well as co-operative values and principles, rather than competition and profit making.
4. Increase the participation of youth in co-operative management and leadership boards to enhance inclusion and to prepare youth for the future of co-operatives
5. Encourage youth to carry out research on co-operatives, from school and university co-operatives, and educate others on the values and principles that drive co-operative enterprises.
6. Promote development programs through co-operatives to sensitize youth on skills and ethical and value based entrepreneurship, efficient use of technology and resources to help spread the message of co-operatives, education to a wider section of society, essential education through co-operatives on youth rights, learning on sexual education and responsible and consumerism and life under water and on land, inclusion of indigenous persons in the co-operative fraternity, and partnerships among organizations working in the interest of youth and co-operatives globally.



International Summit of Cooperatives, Quebec City, Canada

The Third International Summit of Cooperatives is nearly upon us. From October 9 to 13, the Summit will provide a unique opportunity to network, learn and work together around the theme of [Cooperatives: The Power to Act](#). With some 230 speakers, 9 forums, 6 round tables, 7 sectoral meetings, 14 international studies, 3 pre-Summit activities and 30 Rendezvous, the Summit is a toolbox filled with growth strategies and innovative ideas for managers and decision-makers of cooperatives and mutual. The Summit will feature 9 forums in the following areas:

- Developing a **culture of innovation** – a priority to provide capacity for growth
- **Frugal innovation**: an inclusive and sustainable growth strategy
- **Work in the digital era** – are we ready for the future?
- The economic reality of **cooperatives in start-up or expansion phase**
- **Committing to the community**
- **Gaining access to capital for growth** – a capital conundrum for cooperatives
- In the era of **big data** use analytics to create value
- **Cross-sectoral collaborative ecosystem** – driving future business strategies to pursue success and growth
- Cooperatives, challenges and business opportunities within the **collaborative economy**



ICA-AP Regional Assembly

The planning for the Regional Assembly and related events are well underway. We encourage members to register at <http://newdelhi2016.coop/> as soon as possible for the Assembly and also book their accommodation at the conference hotels. We also have information on [Tours and Travels](#) arranged by NCUI for the participants. November is a busy tourist season and hotels will be hard to come by. We have rooms blocked at Hotel Ashok and Hotel for a limited period of time; please avail of this opportunity at the earliest.

Event Highlights from the Assembly

Women Forum

The theme of the forum is: ‘Women in Co-operatives: The Power to Act for a Sustainable Future.’ By 2030, India will have the largest working age population in the world and possibly the youngest population too. However, India needs to do more to engage its working-age population in productive labor, especially women, who constitute nearly half of the work force, but represent only 21 percent of the participating labor force. Working women in India tend to be grouped in certain industries and occupations, such as basic agriculture, informal services, sales, and handloom and handicraft manufacturing. These

sectors are where cooperatives exist in large numbers. Even here, participation of women is low due to socio-economic and cultural constraints. Women farmers, producers and workers end up in lower-paid and less-responsible positions than their abilities would otherwise allow them are often deprived of services and other benefits provided by a co-operative. The Data Study commissioned by ICA-AP in 2015 shows that while there is an overall improvement in women's participation in cooperative; there is still significant distance to cover in terms of quantitative and qualitative participation. The study also showed that there is negligible number of women leaders and managers although at the support staff level their number is 30% or more. ICA-AP has introduced various platforms and instruments to address the issues surrounding women empowerment, gender mainstreaming and gender equality in cooperatives. The biennial Regional Women Forum is one such platform to bring women and men cooperators together to review the situation, address issues and identify challenges and opportunity in achieving the goal of gender equality.



Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives in SAARC ++ during the Assembly

A one day workshop on *Positioning University/Campus Co-operatives in the context of the SDGs* will be organized by the ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives (ICUC) in collaboration with the National Co-operative Union of India, on 16 November 2016 at Hotel Ashok, the venue of the [12th ICA-AP Regional Assembly](#) in New Delhi, as a follow up to the 2011 workshop on the same subject held in Mangalore, India. Although the workshop will focus on promoting university/campus co-operatives in the SAARC region, it shall also see technical exchange of relevant information and knowledge from countries such as Japan, Republic of Korea and Malaysia among others. To participate in the workshop, please write to Dr. Yashvantha Dongre, Co-Secretary, ICUC at ydongre@gmail.com or Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, Secretary, ICUC

at santosh.kumar@icaap.coop

Knowledge Sharing Seminar on Workers Co-operatives



The ICA-AP and the EU Project on Co-operatives in Development – *People centered businesses in action*- along with key stakeholders from the India labour co-operative collaborated to organize a meeting on *collective entrepreneurship* in Kozhikode, Kerala in August 2016. Following this up and to take concrete steps to promote industrial and service co-operatives at the regional level, ICA-AP and [CICOPA](#) will organize a *Half-day* workshop on 16 November (1400hrs onwards) aimed to introduce the reality of industrial and service cooperatives in and around the Asia-Pacific region, and to address the issue of why it is strategically important today to promote them in the context of advancing sustainable jobs, entrepreneurship and the economy, as well as local and regional development. To participate in the workshop, please write to Mr. P. Santosh Kumar at santosh.kumar@icaap.coop or to Mr. Hyungsik Eum at eum@cicopa.coop



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UPCOMING EVENTS

1. International Summit of Cooperatives, October 11-13, 2016, Quebec City, Canada
2. National Cooperative Summit, Philippines, October 24-26, Pasay City, Philippines
3. Regional Assembly, India, November 15-19, 2016, New Delhi, India; contact Mr. Sethu Madhavan (sethu@icaroap.coop)
4. C2C Workshop in China, December 10-13, Hainan, China; contact Frank Cao (frankcaombo@gmail.com) and Ju Wonsick (ju03303@gmail.com)
5. Conference in Iran, February; contact Santosh Kumar (santosh.kumar@icaap.coop)
6. Ministers' Conference, Hanoi, April 18-21, 2017; contact Ms. Savitri Singh (savitrisingh@icaroap.coop) and Mr. Sethu Madhavan (sethu@icaroap.coop)

