

ICA-AP Year-End Report 2025



ICA-AP Team at 17th ICA-AP Regional Assembly, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2025 marked a milestone period for the International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), defined by strong regional convening, deepened engagement around the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC), renewed governance, and expanded programs across research, youth, women, policy dialogue, and capacity building. Against a backdrop of global uncertainty, cooperatives across Asia and the Pacific demonstrated resilience, relevance, and renewed purpose in building people-centered and sustainable development pathways.

Sri Lanka hosted the [17th ICA-AP Regional Assembly](#) and the 12th Asia Pacific Cooperative Forum from 24 to 28 November 2025 in Colombo, welcoming around 450 cooperative leaders, policymakers, researchers, and partners from 22 countries. Hosted by the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Department of Cooperative Development, SANASA Federation Limited, Matara District Cooperative Hospital Society Ltd, and the National Institute of Cooperative Development, the gatherings brought together the region's highest cooperative decision-making body. The opening ceremony was graced by Hon. Wasantha Samarasinghe, Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security, and Cooperative Development, who highlighted national cooperative reforms and the important role that over 10 million members in Sri Lanka have to play in building an inclusive and just society.



(L-R) Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, ICA-AP President, presenting a souvenir to Hon. Wasantha Samarasinghe, Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security, and Cooperative Development, Sri Lanka, and Delegates at the 17th ICA-AP Regional Assembly in Colombo, Sri Lanka

Held alongside the Assembly, the [12th Asia Pacific Cooperative Forum](#) created a space for reflection and dialogue under the theme "Cooperatives Build a Better World: Strengthening Resilience, Sustaining Investment,

and Smart Communication." The plenary framed cooperatives as catalysts for a better future while returning to shared concerns around informality, inequality, and climate risks. Parallel sessions explored resilient cooperative financing, progressive policy and legal frameworks, and the role of storytelling, branding, and communication in strengthening cooperative identity and public trust. A key outcome was the adoption of the [Colombo Declaration](#), which reaffirms cooperative identity and positions cooperatives as essential partners in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Anchored in the ICA Asia and Pacific Strategy 2026–2030, the Declaration recognizes cooperatives' contributions to economic growth, decent work, social inclusion, poverty reduction, and environmental sustainability.

The IYC 2025 was officially launched in Asia and the Pacific through a [high-level event](#) at the United Nations University in Tokyo, jointly organized by ICA-AP, the IYC2025 Japan Committee, and the ILO Office for Japan. Bringing together nearly 700 delegates, the launch set the tone for a year of regional celebration and advocacy, culminating at the Regional Assembly in Colombo. Across the region, IYC 2025 was marked with creativity and strong national ownership. India hosted a flagship celebration in New Delhi alongside the Foundation Day of the Ministry of Cooperation, highlighted by the inauguration of the Tribhuvan Sahkari University (TSU) in Anand. Nepal recognized outstanding cooperatives and released a national cooperative song celebrating the role of cooperatives. Japan combined creative messaging with parliamentary resolutions supporting cooperatives, while Indonesia jointly commemorated IYC with International Credit Union Day. Jordan, Palestine, the Philippines, Singapore, and others amplified cooperative values through national messages, livestreams, and digital campaigns. CoopsDay 2025 served as a focal moment to highlight how cooperatives are responding to climate change, inequality, and economic insecurity through people-centered solutions.



(L-R) Members of the New ICA-AP Regional Board, and Presentation of the ICA Asia-Pacific Cooperative Excellence Awards 2025

This year, the Regional Board met four times to deliberate on various important matters. The 17th Regional Assembly elected the new [ICA-AP Regional Board for the 2025–2029](#) term, reaffirming Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav (India) as President, supported by Vice Presidents Mr. Adili Wubuli (China) and Datuk Seri Dr. Abdul Fattah Abdullah (Malaysia). Reflecting the region's growing diversity, Jordan joined the Board for the first time alongside representatives from Japan, Vietnam, Iran, Korea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. A significant milestone was the granting of full voting rights to women and youth representatives on the Regional Board, strengthening inclusive and democratic governance.

The [ICA-AP Cooperative Excellence Awards 2025](#) celebrated inspirational leadership and innovation. Mr. Gilbert Llanto (Philippines) and Mr. Khem Bahadur Pathak (Nepal) were recognised for decades of transformative leadership, while Kollam District Cooperative Hospital Society Ltd. (India) received the Enterprising Cooperative Award for excellence in cooperative healthcare. The Dr. Mauritz Bonow Young Researcher Awards honored emerging scholars Ms. Sadurya G (India) and Ms. Rossalina Christanti (Indonesia).



(L-R) Participants at the Asia-Pacific Regional Youth Dialogue in Bangkok, and Participants at the Closing Ceremony of ICA-MAFF Women Training Course at the IDACA headquarters in Tokyo, Japan

The 19th ICA Asia-Pacific Research Conference, held in Colombo in partnership with SANASA Federation and SANASA Campus, brought together researchers and practitioners under the theme “Cooperatives Build a Better World.” The Young and Emerging Scholars Workshop and the Coop Colloquium series further advanced research capacity across themes, including energy transition, housing, governance, and cross-border cooperation. Throughout 2025, ICA-AP strengthened gender equality and youth engagement. The Committee on Women advanced research on gender-based policies, delivered training on climate action for women cooperators, and organized advocacy at the NGO CSW69 Forum. Youth engagement was reinforced through the Asia-Pacific Regional Youth Dialogue in Bangkok, participation in the World Food Forum, and a dynamic Youth Talk Show addressing employment, equality, and sustainability. Capacity building continued through webinars on cybersecurity, ethical leadership in university cooperatives, sustainable development, cooperative finance, and ASEAN-level dialogue. Strategic projects under the ICA-EU partnership, collaboration with FAO, Heifer International Asia, and ICA-MAFF training programmes further expanded ICA-AP’s development footprint.

ICA-AP strengthened its visibility through [publications](#) such as COOP Dialogue, updated country and sector snapshots, and joint media initiatives. Membership expanded significantly with new organizations joining from China, India, Palestine, the Philippines, and Vietnam, reflecting growing confidence in ICA-AP’s regional role.

During the year, ICA-AP bid farewell to Simren Singh and Ganesh Gopal and welcomed Nitya Shukla, Ayushman Madhwal, and Shrija Sinha. A staff learning exchange in Anand, Gujarat, focused on the Amul model and dialogue with TSU, reinforcing institutional learning.

Overall, 2025 was a year of consolidation, celebration, and renewal for ICA-AP. Through strong regional convening, inclusive governance reforms, expanded partnerships, and vibrant IYC celebrations, cooperatives across Asia and the Pacific reaffirmed their relevance as democratic, people-centred enterprises. As ICA-AP looks ahead to the 2026–2030 strategy period, the foundations laid in 2025 position the movement to respond with confidence, solidarity, and innovation to the challenges and opportunities ahead.



Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav
President



Balasubramanian Iyer
Regional Director