



"Special Issue"

ICA-AP Regional Assembly and Co-operative forum - 2012



Mr. Li Chunsheng speaking at the opening ceremony

The 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly, 7th Regional Co-operative Forum and related events took place from 25-29th November, 2012 at Kobe International Conference Center (KICC), Kobe City, Japan. The joint opening ceremony of the 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly and 7th Co-operative Forum was held on 28th November 2012 which was attended by more than 600 cooperators. Mr. Toshizo Ido, Governor of Hyogo Prefecture delivered opening address and Dame Pauline Green, ICA President; Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of ICA-AP; and Mr. Akira Banzai, Chairman of JJC and

President of JA-ZENCHU delivered their special addresses. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-AP proposed a vote of thanks. 7th Regional Co-operative Forum commenced after the formal opening.

Subsequent to the deliberations at the 7th ICA Regional Co-operative Forum, the 10th Meeting of ICA-AP Regional Assembly was held on 29th November. 204 participants from 16 countries and two international organizations attended the Regional Assembly.

Mr. Li Chunsheng, Chairman of ICA-AP Regional Assembly

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From the Editor



The concluding issue of the eventful year 2012 is ready for you. The IYC-2012 started with great energy and witnessed outburst of

enthusiasm as many big and small events have been organised all over the world, many wows have been taken and promises have been made. The IYC -2012 was very very special and historic but 2013 onwards it is very very crucial as the future years have responsibility to carry forward the flame for the generations to come, have responsibility to take actions to achieve goals, to make co-operatives a robust business organisation with social and moral responsibility and keeping alive the spirit of “one for all, all for one”.

The ICA has developed a “BLUE PRINT for a Co-operative Decade” as guide to move into the future and carry forward the flame. The ICA Asia and Pacific has been successful in bringing substance to the rhetoric as we have been able to conclude quite a few significant programs such as 9th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers Conference, 10th Regional Assembly and 7th Regional Co-operative Forum. All these events are significant instruments of lobbying and networking have adopted certain resolutions which, if implemented, may take co-operative movement to a new heights. The 4th Critical Study on co-operative legislation and policy reforms in the Asia and Pacific Region has been published and made available to all.

We are committed to keep alive the spirit of IYC-2012.

With best Wishes for 2013, cooperatively yours-Savitri



Akira Banzai (L) Dame Pauline Green (C) Dr. Choi (R) Charles Gould (FR) at the forum

opened the meeting and welcomed all the members and special invitees and especially thanked Dame Pauline Green, ICA President and Mr. Charles Gould, ICA Director General for their presence.

He further said “2012 will be remembered as a great moment in the history of international co-operative movement. To recognize the long standing contribution of co-operatives towards social harmony and economic progress, the United Nations declared 2012 as the International Year of Co-operatives. In Asia-Pacific region, a range of significant celebratory events took place one after another, throughout the year.

All the events shared the same objectives, namely, to raise the public awareness of cooperative values and principles; to promote the value of influence of co-operative brands; to recognize the unique role of co-operatives in social development; and to create a favorable environment for cooperative development with stronger government support. Looking forward, we shall be more ambitious, to make the Year of Co-operatives into a decade of cooperation.”

The usual business of the Regional Assembly followed after opening. A brief report is presented below:



Board Members and Delegates at the Regional Assembly

ICA-AP Financial Report for 2009-2012

Dr. Chan Ho Choi presented the financial report for the years 2009 to 2012. He informed the members that there was a small surplus during the years 2009 to 2011 and a small surplus is expected in the year

2012 as well. The reports were unanimously accepted by the RA.

Mr. Li Chunsheng and all members appreciated the outstanding performance and positive financial results of ICA-AP.

Re-constitution of ICA-AP Regional Board

The term of office of the current Regional Board is upto November 2012 and according to Rules of ICA-AP, elections to reconstitute the Board for the next four years should be held by the Regional Assembly. 14 nominations from member organizations were received.

The Regional Board appointed an Election Committee comprising of Mr. Simon Alfred Pereira, President of Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU); Mr. Charles Gould, Director General of International Co-operative Alliance (ICA); and Dr. Sisno Tanguyan Romulo, Board of Director, VICTO National Co-operative Federation and Development Center, Philippines to conduct the elections.

Mr. Pereira explained about the election procedure and after voting process, the new Board was announced.



Newly Elected Board Members

The New Board: w.e.f. 29th November, 2012

 <p>Mr. Li Chunsheng <i>President of ICA-AP</i> <i>President of ACFSMC, China</i></p>	 <p>Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav <i>Vice President of ICA-AP</i> <i>President of NCUI, India</i></p>	 <p>Mr. H.A.M. Nurdin Halid <i>Vice President of ICA-AP</i> <i>President of DEKOPIN, Indonesia</i></p>	 <p>Mr. Akira Banzai <i>Board Member of ICA-AP</i> <i>President of JA-ZENCHU, Japan</i></p>
 <p>Mr. Won-Byung Choi <i>Board Member of ICA-AP</i> <i>Chairman of NACF, Korea</i></p>	 <p>Dr. Mohd Ali Baharum <i>Board Member of ICA-AP</i> <i>President of ANGKASA, Malaysia</i></p>	 <p>Ms. Amneris G. Gabriel <i>Board Member of ICA-AP</i> <i>Chairperson of NATCCO, Philippines</i></p>	 <p>Mr. Chan Tee Seng <i>Board Member of ICA-AP</i> <i>Chairman of SNCF, Singapore</i></p>
 <p>Mr. Bandu Ranawake <i>Board Member of ICA-AP</i> <i>President of NCC, Sri Lanka</i></p>	 <p>Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit <i>Board Member of ICA-AP</i> <i>Chairman of CLT, Thailand</i></p>	 <p>Mr. Dao Xuan Can <i>Board Member of ICA-AP</i> <i>President of VCA, Vietnam</i></p>	<p>The new Board led by Mr. Li Chunsheng thanked the Regional Assembly for electing them as President, Vice Presidents and Board Members respectively and pledged before the RA to work efficiently in collaboration with board members.</p>

Report on UN IYC-2012 and Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade

Mr. Charles Gould, Director General of International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), made a presentation on “UN International Year of Co-operatives and Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade” which was approved at the ICA Extraordinary General Assembly in Manchester on 31st October 2012.

Approval of Revised ICA-AP Rules

In view of shifting the ICA-AP Business Office from Singapore to

Malaysia, the following change was proposed in the Rules of ICA-AP.

Article 3: Structure

The ICA-AP is structured at the regional, sectoral and thematic levels and comprises the following:

- A regional office in New Delhi, India
- A sub-regional office in Malaysia.

The Regional Assembly approved the above change in the Rules of ICA-AP.

Formation of ICA-AP Committee on Forestry

Dr. CHOI placed before the assembly that looking at the importance of the forestry sector, it has been decided at the Secretariat that an ICA-AP Committee on Forestry should be constituted. ICA-AP has already received eleven nominations from seven countries to become members of the Committee. Formation of ICA-AP Committee on Forestry was approved.

ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting



Board Meeting in Progress

The meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held at KICC in Kobe on 26th November 2012. All the eleven board members attended the meeting.

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director presented the ICA-AP Activities Report for January to October and Financial Report for January to September 2012 and membership position for the information of the Board. Four new organizations joined during the year and the National Labour Co-operative Federation (NLCF) of India has ceased to be a member of ICA.

While presenting the Strategic Plan for the new Business Office in Malaysia he talked in detail about the background; Strategic Objectives; Office Structure; Mode of Activity; Mode of Financing ; Four-Year Plan; Financing of Activities for One Year; and Expected Outcomes. Prof. Dr. Ali Baharum, President of ANGKASA agreed to the Strategic Plan of the ICA-AP Business Office in Malaysia. He said that ANGKASA Board has already discussed about the MBO and approved it. One coordinator and

Approval of Revised Constitutions of ICA-AP Committees

The Chairpersons of the respective Committees presented their Constitutions based on the model Constitution approved by the Regional Board and the discussions they had in their respective Committee meetings while presenting their report to the RA (Agenda Item 13) for approval. The RA approved the revised Constitutions of all the ICA-AP Sectoral/Thematic Committees.

one support staff would be provided by ANGKASA in addition to free office space. Computers and other equipments are to be bought by ICA-AP. Further discussions would be held with the Regional Director. Referring to the forthcoming election of the Board, Dr. CHOI informed that ICA-AP has received 14 nominations from member organizations. Out of this, the Regional Assembly shall elect eleven board members including the President and two Vice Chairpersons at its meeting in Kobe on 29th November. He also informed in detail about the three nominations received from Iran for the benefit of the members. Mr. Li Chunsheng said that it was a complicated case. Finally, he suggested that we put this issue for voting. Seven members objected to accepting its nomination while four members supported the ICC. The Regional Board approved the formation of ICA-AP Committee on Forestry. It was decided that the date and place of next board meeting should be decided by the new Board after its election on 29th November, 2012.

Reports From ICA-AP Sectoral/ Thematic Committees

Agriculture Committee:



Mr. Akira Banzai at the Meeting

The 39th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Agriculture was held on 26th November at KICC, Kobe, in conjunction with the 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly. 10 members from five countries namely India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam attended the meeting. In addition to the members, there were observers from the participating countries and Pakistan. Mr. Akira Banzai, President of JA-ZENCHU, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Japan Joint Committee of Co-operatives (JJC).

Agriculture Seminar:

A seminar on Agricultural Co-operative Development in Asia and the Pacific region was held at the same venue. 24 participants from India, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Vietnam and ACCU attended the seminar. Mr. Srinivasa Gowda, Chairman of ICA-AP Committee on Agriculture, inaugurated the seminar. The objectives of the seminar were to provide opportunities to the participants to express their opinions about agricultural co-operative development in Asia and the Pacific, exchange information among them and establish mutual cooperation system in future.

The theme of the seminar was “Democratic Management System” and “Leading-edge Business Activities of Primary Agricultural Co-

Consumer Committee:

The 45th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Cooperation was held at Kobe KICC on 27th November, 2012. 18 members and 20 observers attended the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Haruyoshi Amano, Chairperson of the Committee. Mr. Katsumi Asada, President of JCCU conveyed his welcome greetings to the participants. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-AP also attended the opening session and gave his greetings. The members from eight countries (India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Sri Lanka) made brief presentations on the recent activities and business results and the report of the “Study on Consumer Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific” was presented. Activity plan for 2013 and revised Constitution of

operatives”. Under these themes, following papers were presented:

- (a) JA’s Democratic Management System – by Mr. Hiroshi Tsuchiya, former Executive Director of JA-ZENCHU and President of Japan Co-operative Institute;
- (b) Democratic Management System of Primary Agricultural Co-operatives in India – by Mr. Praveen Reddy, Director of IFFCO;
- (c) Promotion of Hamlet-based Agricultural Production Corporation – by Mr. Mitsuo Murakami, Vice-President of JA-ZENCHU.

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The Group of Delegates with Dr. Choi

the Committee based on the Model Constitution of ICA-AP were approved with some modifications to Article-6 and Article-15, as suggested by the members.

Mr. Amano informed that due to shifting of ICA-AP Business Office from Singapore to Malaysia, the functions of the Consumer Committee will be transferred to the International Department of JCCU and Ms. Kanako Miyazawa will continue as Secretary to the Committee. Next meeting will be held in Singapore in collaboration with NTUC Fairprice.

Credit and Banking Committee:

The meeting of ICA-AP Committee on Credit and Banking (RCBA) was held on 26th November, 2012 at KICC, Kobe. Four members (India, Japan, Philippines and Vietnam) and five observers from Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka attended the meeting. In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Mr. Sivadasan Nair from India was appointed as interim Chairman to conduct the meeting. The meeting discussed about the revised Constitution based on the Model Constitution and approved it with some minor changes to Article-6, Article-12 and Article-13, as suggested by the members.



Meeting in progress

Mr. Sivadasan Nair from India and Ms. Divina Cabunoc Quemi from the Philippines were elected as Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee respectively for the next four years.

Mr. Kazuhiko Otake, Managing Director of NORINCHUKIN Bank, Japan made an impressive presentation on "Reconstruction Efforts - the Role Played by Co-operative Financial Institutions". In his presentation, he explained how NORINCHUKIN Bank provided emergency assistance followed by comprehensive reconstruction work and financial assistance to the community after disaster-2011 in Japan.

HRD Committee:

The 24th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) was held on 27th November, 2012 at Kobe KICC. 16 members and 12 observers from 10 countries, namely, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam attended the meeting.

The opening session was addressed by Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of NCUI and Vice Chairman of ICA Regional Board and Dr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chairman of the HRD Committee. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-Asia and Pacific also addressed the meeting at a later stage. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Bhagwati Prasad. He welcomed the members and stressed the importance of Global HRD Networking (www.hrd.coop) which is developed and maintained by National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI).



The Participants with Dr. Yadav (L) Dr. Prasad (C) Dr. Choi (R) seated

The meeting decided that the Co-operative Learning Center {CLC} project which was conceived, designed and launched by the Global HRD Committee should own and be responsible for the fate of this project. The ICA-AP Secretariat received 33 nominations for the HRD Committee from ICA member organizations in 13 countries. The meeting approved the membership of these nominees.

The Constitution of HRD Committee was revised according to the model constitution for ICA-AP and approved with some minor corrections to article-8 and article-14.

The following three presentations were made at the meeting:

- (a) HRD as a Tool for Good Governance in Cooperatives by Dr. Bhagwati Prasad.
- (b) How Human Resource Development Efforts Help Cooperatives Build Secured Society by Prof. Dr. Rosmimah Bt Mohd Roslin
- (c) Status Report of GHRD by Dr. Dinesh.

The committee discussed about the portal on training which was initially launched in February 2007 at VMNICM in Pune. Recently, the portal has been shifted to NCUI premises in Delhi. Dr. Dinesh informed that the portal will be operative again from early 2013 and the preparations are in advanced stage. The meeting also endorsed the following three points raised by Dr. Chan Ho Choi, ICA-AP Regional Director, in his remarks –

- (a) Networking of HRD training institutions to share experiences, best practices and matters on training;
- (b) Upholding of success stories in ICA-AP website;
- (c) Higher level training for cooperative leaders in the region. It was also decided that these issues will form the part of the strategic planning of HRD for the next four years.

It was decided that the theme of the next seminar to be held in 2013 will be "Success Stories as a Tool for Co-operative Education and Training".

Subsequently, Ms. Norwatim Abd Latif, Deputy Director General of Co-operative College of Malaysia elected as Vice Chair of the HRD Committee for the remaining two years.

Research Conference:

The ICA-AP Regional Research Conference/Meeting was held in KICC, Kobe on 26th November 2012. The conference was attended by 43 delegates from 10 countries namely; India Korea Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Nepal, Turkey, Canada and UK. At the outset, Mr. Akira Kurimoto, Vice Chair of the Research Committee welcomed the participants to the Conference and Dr. G.N. Saxena, Chairperson of the Committee gave the Opening Address.

There were two keynote speakers at the Opening Session - Prof. Johnston Birchall from the University of Sterling, UK and Prof. Lou Hammond Kettilson of Saskatoon University, Canada - who is currently the chairperson of the Global Research Committee of the ICA. Their keynote addresses looked at the Cooperative Potential for Socioeconomic Development and Measuring the Cooperative Difference so that the visibility of co-operatives can be increased.

The theme of the Conference was Bringing Cooperatives back to Centre Stage and the Research Committee had accordingly invited research papers on six sub themes:

- (a) How to Gauge Co-operative Socioeconomic Impact;
- (b) How to Enhance Coop's Visibility by Branding, Publicity and Education;
- (c) Emergence of new Coops for General Interests (health, social care, utilities);
- (d) Public Policies, Laws and Regulations Conducive for the Formation, Growth and Stability of Cooperatives;
- (e) Co-operative Resilience to Economic / Financial Crises;
- (f) Co-operative Response to Natural Disasters.



Dr. Choi and Ms. Tanaka at the Meeting

The meeting was presided over by Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, Chairperson of the Women's Committee. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-AP also attended the opening of the meeting.

The meeting discussed about the revised Constitution of the Women's Committee based on the Model Constitution of ICA-AP and the revised Constitution was approved with some modifications to Article-6 and Article-12.

Ms. Hitomi Tanaka from JCCU (Japan) and Ms. Divina Cabunoc Quemi from NATCCO (Philippines) were re-elected as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee respectively. The Committee commissioned writing of "Resource Guide for Advanced Training of Co-operatives on Entrepreneurship Development of Women and Gender Equality". The Consultant, Ms. Salome Ganibe, presented the outline of the first draft. The members from Korea, Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines made presentation on current situation/updates about gender mainstreaming activities in their cooperatives. The meeting discussed and approved the work plan of the Women's Committee for 2013. The next meeting of the Committee will be held in Indonesia in conjunction with the ICA-AP Regional Assembly, 2014.

Regional Women Forum

The 7th ICA-AP Regional Women Forum was held on 26th November. The theme of the forum was: "Women in Co-operatives Build a Secured Society".

38 Women and men co-operators from 11 countries from the region were present.

5 papers were presented by expert resource persons and member of the committee. The forum discussed about positive action policy, work life balance, childcare, program for women on income generation, capacity building, policy and initiatives for women empowerment etc.



The Delegates at the forum



Dr. Saxena (R) seated with Researchers

Research presentations were made by Dr. Dongre, Dr. Shanta Raj Sharma Neupane, Ms. Ahlung Kim, Ms. Sumi Cho, Dr. Minoru Sugino, Mr., Sanjay Verma, Dr. T. Paranjothi, Dr. B. Ganesh, Dr. Basavaraja, Mr. Shinri Murakami, Ms. Yukiko Yamazaki and Mr. Humpei Hayashi on different sub-themes. The conference threw light on various research results, which are proposed to be documented for circulation shortly.

Research Committee Meeting:

After the Conference, the ICA-AP Committee on Research met to decide on the new Constitution of the Committee and also to elect new office bearers of the Committee. Dr. Chan-Ho Choi joined the Meeting and participated in the discussions on the new Constitution. It was impressed upon him to find more ways and means of attracting and engaging youth and researchers in the program of ICA. The new Constitution, as approved by the Committee and the researchers present was sent to ICA-AP for revision. Dr. G.N. Saxena and Mr. Akira Kurimoto have been re-elected as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee respectively for a second consecutive term of 4 years.

Women's Committee:

The meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Women was held on 26th November, 2012 at the Kobe KICC. Eight members out of eleven and 22 observers from 11 countries attended the meeting.

Recommendation of the Women Forum

We women and men from 11 countries from ICA Asia Pacific Region who participated in the regional women forum on this day 26th November, 2012 deliberated upon the theme “ Women in Co-operatives Build a Secured Society” recommend the following points to be implemented by ICA-AP as well as its member co-operatives for the empowerment of women and gender equality in co-operatives:

1. Assessment of the women empowerment and gender equality policy and strategy
2. Impact assessment of work done in last decade on gender issues and progress of status on participation of women at all levels in co-operatives.
3. Should re-affirm their commitment towards environment safety and food security to reduce burden on women as they carry the responsibility of food production and home care.
4. To implement our all time recommendations for reservation of 30% seats for women at all levels of the co-operatives.
5. Must allocate budget for carrying out the above recommendations.

Youth Committee:

The 5th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Youth was held on 26th November, 2012 at KICC, Kobe. The meeting was attended by members from India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Members from Iran and ACCU sent their messages through the internet.



Youth Members

In the absence of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur was appointed as the Interim Chair until the next meeting. The meeting was also attended by observers from Malaysia, Japan, India and Sri Lanka.

The members adopted the agenda and also confirmed the inclusion of Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director as the honorary member of the Committee. Opening remarks followed by Country Presentations by the members who gave a brief idea of the co-operative movement in their countries and the participation of youth in cooperatives and future plans.

A presentation was made by the secretary on ‘Co-operative Business Solutions’ and the need for effective results for the cooperative sector from efficient technology. A report on the Committee’s Face Book page with over 700 members was also shown. This was followed by a presentation on Youth Workshop on

‘Introduction to Co-operatives’ and related activities in Pakistan along with an account of the Floods in Pakistan in 2010 and its grave consequences. The Regional Director shared his views and opinions on the future of co-operatives.

The model Constitution was discussed and received several suggestions.

However, the agenda remained inconclusive and will be taken up again in the next meeting to be held in Buldana (India) in April 2013.

Forestry Committee:



Delegates at the forestry committee meeting

The preliminary meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Forestry was held at KICC, Kobe on 27th November, 2012. Out of 11 nominated members from seven countries, only four members from three countries – India, Indonesia and Japan - attended the meeting. In addition, some observers also attended the meeting from these countries.

Mr. Shieyoshi Satoh, President of National Federation of Forest Owners’ Coop Associations, Japan, was selected for the post of Interim Chair of the Committee and Dr. K.G. Wankhede, Chief Executive of Indian Farm Forestry Development Co-operative (IFFDC), India, was selected for the post of Interim Vice-Chair till the first formal meeting of the Committee.

The draft constitution of the Committee was approved with a slight change, and accepted the List of nominated members and wanted the Secretariat to place this constitution and List of nominated members to the 1st formal meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Forestry for ratification.

University/Campus Coops Committee:

The meeting of the Office Bearers of the ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Cooperatives was held on 25th November at the Coop Inn, Kyoto in Japan. The day-long meeting reviewed the activities of the Committee during the year 2012 and also planned the forthcoming activities. The meeting was presided over by Prof. Kokichi Shoji, Chairperson of the Committee. The Vice Chairpersons, Prof. Ali Hasan from Malaysia and Prof. Zenaida Diola from the Philippines and the Co-Secretaries Mr. Ohmoto from Japan and Dr. Dongre from India were present along with the observers. A team of representatives from the Korean University Co-operative Federation also participated in order to discuss about the preparations for the forthcoming regional workshop.



Group of committee members and participants

The meeting adopted new Constitution of the Committee and also the Budget proposals for the year 2013. The next ICA-AP Regional Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives will be held at Seoul (Korea) in 2013.

Seminar on Promotion of Co-operative Tourism



Participants at the Seminar

A seminar on Co-operative Tourism was organised on 27 November 2012 in conjunction with Regional Assembly events in Kobe. The seminar was attended by 23 persons including participants from ACCU, India, Iran, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

Mr. Yonemoto, Managing Director-Nokyo Tour delivered the key note address and highlighted the initiatives of N-Tour in Green tourism, data on inbound and outbound tourism and relief operations undertaken by them during the devastating earthquake of

March 2011. The other presentation was by COOPFED, Sri Lanka which gave an account of COOPFED tourism business. It is the tourism business arm of the Consumer Coop Federation.

Other papers were from representatives of Philippines who mentioned the nascent cooperative tourism business in Philippines, Mr. Sanjay Verma of the National Co-operative Union of India who cited the case of Durina Tourism as suggested by Dr. CHOI. Durina is a strategy developed by a Scottish Tourism consultancy company in parts of India. There were frank and open discussions on the need and feasibility of a committee or committee like structure for the cooperative tourism sector.

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director led the discussions and identified the various facets of cooperative tourism.

Following recommendations were made at the Seminar:

The participants to the seminar Confirm that

- Co-operative Tourism has potential at the primary as well as at apex organisation to realise their business capacities.
- Co-operative Tourism is distinct from commercial tourism and is participatory in nature.

The Participants further confirmed that

- Co-operative Tourism should be defined as strategic area of co-operative business
- Co-operative tourism should be included as business for local development and should be supported by government in terms of enabling legal and policy environment.

Suggestion from Board Members at the Regional Assembly

Ms. Amneris G. Gabriel, ICA-AP Board Member from Philippines suggested that Regional Board election guidelines should be brought out and published in advance.

Dr. Choi replied that the new rules of election which have been followed in this election (2012) will be included in the minutes of the Regional Assembly which will serve as guidelines for the future Regional Board elections.

Venue and date of next Regional Assembly

Mr. H.A.M. Nurdin Halid, President of Dewan Koperasi Indonesia (DEKOPIN) offered to host the next Regional Assembly and related events in Indonesia in 2014. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) offered to host the 2016 Regional Assembly in India.

The assembly accepted the offers of DEKOPIN and NCUI. The dates and venue would be decided in consultation with the DEKOPIN.

7th ICA-Asia and Pacific Co-operative Forum

7th ICA-Asia and Pacific Co-operative Forum on the theme "Role of Co-operative in Times of Natural Disaster" was held on 28th November, 2012 in Kobe International Conference Centre, Japan. More than 200 persons including international and local Japanese cooperative delegates, leaders, resource persons and government officials from 20 countries attended the forum.

The theme of the forum was "Role of Co-operative in Times of

Natural Disaster".

The general objective of the forum is to bring together co-operatives and other stake holders such as United Nations agencies on a platform to deliberate upon role of cooperatives as partners of disaster management and strengthening their capacity for disaster preparedness, mitigation and management.



Delegates at the opening

Expected results:

1. To raise awareness about role of co-operatives during the disaster and to resolve and recommend that cooperatives be recognized as “Partner in disaster management” by respective governments and UN.
2. UN-ICA partnership for capacity building of cooperatives for disaster management.

Executive summary and result:

Following points emerged through presentations and discussions:

1. In all the countries Co-operatives play an important role in supporting the community at the time of disaster and at any crises.
2. The govt. Intervention in Japan during the 2011 disaster was slow whereas co-operatives provided more organised and faster services.
3. The ICA always mobilised the resources and helped members all over the world during disaster.
4. Emergency relief is important but post disaster rehabilitation is crucial
5. Disasters can not be prevented but preparedness lowers the risk
6. UN and Governments realise the importance of co-operatives in community mobilisation and coordination
7. Net working and coordination with government and other civil societies for in put and support is very important for co-operatives.
8. The man made disasters like Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant leakage is more dangerous and having longer impacts. The man made disasters should also be included in the draft resolution.
9. The ICA mobilises resources but a system should be put in place for quick response.
10. Establish procedure for disaster management and prepare the community through communication and education
11. The ICA and UN will take forward the discussion for partnership.

Brief Proceedings:

The forum was divided into 5 sessions besides opening ceremony and keynote speech. Following guests delivered speech at the opening:

- Mr. Akira Banzai, JJC Chairman & JA-Zenchu President
- Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of the ICA for Asia-Pacific
- Dame Pauline Green, President of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)
- Mr. José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Director of the ILO Employment Sector
- Mr. Tsuyoshi Shaito, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, Govt. Of Japan
- Mr. Toshizo Ido Governor of HYOGO Prefecture
- Mr. Tatsuo Yada, Mayor of Kobe City

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director, ICA-AP delivered words of appreciation to all the guests, hosts, partners and participants.

Keynote Speech on the theme “ Role of Civil Society in Times of Natural Disaster” was delivered by Mr. Masaki Watabe, Head of United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs(UNOCHA) Kobe Office, Japan.

After that country report presentation started. In the first part,



Mr. Masaki Watabe from UNOCHA speaking at the Coop Forum

reports on Japan co-operatives experiences were presented. The title of papers and name of the presenters are listed as:

- Special Speech: Kaihara Toshitami, former Governor of Hyogo Prefecture
- Report: Hajime Yaguichi, JJC Senior Director & JA-Zenchu Ex Director – “Great East Japan Earthquake and Effort towards Recovery and Reconstruction by Japanese Co-operative Movements
- Report: Fukushima IYC Planning Committee – “Current Status and Issues of Great East Japan Earthquake and the Nuclear Accident.

This session was chaired by Mr. Katsumi Asada President of JCCU and Vice President of JJC.

In the second part of Country Reports presentation, other members of ICA-AP were invited to share their experiences as listed below:

- The Great Flood of Thailand by Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit, Chairman, CLT, Thailand
- The Tsunami Disaster case of Sri Lanka by Mr. Bandu Ranaweke, Chairman, NCC, Sri Lanka
- The Tsunami Disaster case of Indonesia by Mr. Nurdin Halid President, DEKOPIN, Indonesia
- The Flood Disaster case of Philippines by Ms. Amneris G. Gabriel, President, NATCCO, Philippines

This session was chaired by: Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of ICA-Asia Pacific.

After the segment of country experience sharing, a panel discussion and open forum was held on the topic: Co-operatives Build A Secured Society.

Chairperson of the session, Dame Pauline Green, ICA President invited following panellists to make statement on the topic of the discussion:

- Mr. Banzai Akira, JJC Chairman & JA-Zenchu President
- Mr. Vitoon Naewpanit, Chairman, CLT, Thailand
- Mr. Nurdin Halid President, DEKOPIN, Indonesia
- Ms. Amneris G. Gabriel, President NATCCO, Philippines
- Mr. Masaki Watabe, UNOCHA

A draft resolution was prepared and circulated to the participants prior to the panel discussion. All the panellists made short statement and then the chairperson opened the floor inviting questions, observations and suggestions from the participants.

The statements by the panelists are as following:

JAPAN:

Mr. Akira Benzai stated that Co-operatives provide better and faster relief owing to the coop principles that are engrained in the Co-operative DNA. A stable, secure society will be reached when people to people and mutual help will become the norm. However, for a greater role to be played by co-operatives, local citizens and local governments are important. The government should recognize the values that coops bring to sustained activity. The IYC was a landmark opportunity. Co-operatives are now venturing in renewable energy and we hope to diversify into new areas of co-operative development.

THAILAND:

The political insecurity and the flooding were disastrous last year. Fortunately we have the king who has encouraged sufficient economy. I myself believe in principles of co-operatives. The 7th principle of cooperatives has assumed greater importance.

INDONESIA:

It is very important to translate the principle and spirit of cooperation into practice. Solidarity- mutual help is how co-operatives can move forward, principally concern and care of co-operative. Natural disaster is a common problem. Cooperatives need to maintain a close relationship with the government to give the government an input and seek support and give support at times of disaster.

UNOCHA:

Mr. Watabe said that every organisation has its own comparative advantage. There is need to adopt standard procedure, mitigate the risks. One cannot prevent from natural disaster to happen but how come we are not prepared? Continuous education is needed. Co-operative play a key role and risk reduction-mitigation-preparedness – allows to respond effectively.

The cooperatives can handle disaster management very well and especially in Kobe it was proved. Community based activities are needed, communication ensures quality and transparent work.

Upcoming Events

- 2nd ICA-Japan Training Course on “Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives-2012” 02 February to 12 April 2013, India and Japan.
- Office Bearer Meeting of ICA-AP Committee on Women and one day TOT Workshop, Japan, 13 - 14 February, 2013.

HIGHLIGHTS: New Members

The following four organizations have been admitted as member of ICA during the year.

- Pishgaman Kavir Yazd Co-operative Company (PKYCC), Iran
- Kotikawatta Thrift and Credit Co-operative Society Limited (KTCCS), Sri Lanka.
- Central Union of Iran Animal Farmers (CUIAF), Iran.
- Nepal Agricultural Cooperative Central Federation Limited (NACCFL), Nepal.
- Current membership of ICA-AP is 80 member organizations from 25 countries.

Questions from the floor



Delegates from Pakistan asking the Quotation at the forum

Mrs. Errum Bhajji from Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union, Pakistan wanted to know who was the faster actor in disaster management: PUBLIC Sector /GOVERNMENT/NGO? Mr. Akira Banzai (JJC) replied that in case of recent disaster relief and management, the Government have been a slow actor. Funding is made possible there but money is not always well spent. At all times, the principles of co-operation have helped the Japanese case. Community based activities, confidence of the people blessed with the tremendous help from members has helped cooperative development in Japan after disaster.

Mr. Watabe (UNOCHA) added that every organization has its own comparative advantage.

The national level response should be to establish coordination across different actors.

The Co-operative Forum Resolutions

The Co-operative Forum adopted a resolution which is circulated to members and have been uploaded on the ICA-AP Website for wider outreach.



President ACCU (L) President ICA and DG ICA at the Regional Assembly - 2012

Prof. Dr. Mohd. Ali Baharum President, ANGKASA, Malaysia enquired where should the fund donations be collected for disaster help and he suggested that ICA-AP should create an International Fund. Dame Pauline Green, President- ICA responding to that, informed that there is a disaster management fund at ICA Central Office but mobilization is rather slow.

Japanese delegates suggested that only natural disaster is not damaging but manmade disasters like leakage of nuclear power plants in Fukushima have even longer lasting impact. Therefore, manmade disaster like this should be included in the resolution.

After the panel discussion and open forum, a Special Speech was delivered by Mr. Uchihashi Katsuto, Japan IYC National Planning Committee Representative of Japan. On the topic “ Creation of a Safe Society”. Mr. Uchihashi gave a thorough view of Japanese society, culture and practices and also focused upon problem faced by the society in these rapidly changing times. He focused upon the disasters faced by the society due to various reasons. Mr. Uchihashi propagates the philosophy of FEC : Food, Energy and Care. He emphasized on self sufficiency in food production, renewable energy sources and care for the community, elderly, environment etc. The forum concluded after the special speech by Mr. Uchihashi.

At the concluding session, Dr. Chan Ho Choi presented the resolution of the forum. He requested participants to send their observations and suggestions on the draft resolution for inclusion. Mr. Katsumi Asada, Chairman of JCCU and Vice Chair of JJC made concluding remarks. He said that I am happy to see many co-operators participating in the forum and expressed his gratitude to all. He briefly mentioned about the speeches made during the day and further said that a bridge is built between co-operatives to face disasters and the co-operatives should not only come together to support each other during disaster but should also cooperate with each other always.