



## Co-operative Towards Gross National Happiness



*View of the opening of the seminar in Thimphu*

The International Seminar on “Co-operatives: Empowering Communities Towards Gross National Happiness” was held on 8th –10th, October 2012 in Thimphu, Bhutan. This is the first ever International seminar organised on co-operatives.

It was organized by the Royal Government of Bhutan with sponsorship of UNDP in Bhutan. In the opening, the Hon'ble Lyonpo (Dr) Pema Gyamtsho, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests

stated that “Bhutan has taken up a plan to promote co-operatives to achieve holistic human development in line with its development philosophy of Gross National Happiness which goes beyond GDP based on only material factors.”

Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director for ICA-AP was invited as speaker and presented his topic on “Co-operatives and Social Economic Empowerment: Links between Individuals, Private Sector and State Actors”. Dr. Choi hoped to hold a consultation workshop next year in Bhutan on co-operative development at village level in collaboration with the Association of Asian Confederations of Credit Unions (ACCU). The co-operative law 2009 has been enacted in the country to provide the framework under which 170 co-operatives have been functioning.

This international seminar in the capital city of Bhutan gathered a good number of participants and international speakers. Ms. Claire Vander Vaeren, Resident Representative and Resident Co-ordinator, UNDP, Bhutan; Mr. Somchai Channarongkul, DG of the CPD in the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Thailand; Ms. Elenita V. San Roque from ACCU; Dr. Bhagwati Prasad from India; Dr. Dinesh, Chief Executive of NCUI, India; Mr. Xu Defan, Director of Supervisory Board Office, All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC), China; Mr. Hideya Suzuki from the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA), Japan; Mr. Jalan Kumar Sharma, CEO, Small Farmer Development Bank, Nepal were among the distinguished co-operators present.

## Influence

### ICAO Statement for World Food Day - 2012

The International Co-operative Alliance Agricultural Organization (ICAO), a sectoral organisation of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) is pleased to support the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) World Food Day by issuing a statement.

Excerpts from the statement is given below:

World Food Day, celebrated in more than 150 countries today, reminds us of the importance of feeding every member of society- regardless of where he or she lives.

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## From the Editor



Our sincere condolence to the co-operators of India and the family of Dr. Verghese Kurien. A great and illustrious chapter of Indian Co-

operative Dairy Development has been closed. But show must go on! This will be the true homage to the Father of the White Revolution in India.

The official closing of the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives (IYC), “Promoting Co-operatives Beyond 2012” will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 19-20 November 2012.

The ICA is committed to promote the co-operatives beyond 2012 and always and a ‘ICA Blueprint on Co-operative Decade’ is on its way. The ICA President, Dame Pauline Green talked about it at the Extra Ordinary General Assembly of ICA held on 31st October, 2012 in Manchester.

The IYC-2012 is a once in a life time opportunity and co-operatives have been seen in action maximise the benefit of the opportunity. There were several events held. There is one cooperatively emerging country; Bhutan who has organised the first international seminar on co-operatives and is showing potential. Other member countries have also shown remarkable action including the New Zealand Coop have been very active in spreading awareness through programs and NCF, Nepal talked about co-operative trends. The members initiatives have been fully supported by the presence of the ICA President and Regional Director. The ICAO statement on World's Food Day-2012 is reiterating the influence of co-operatives in food production.

Hope you enjoy reading and sending your stories and comments. Savitri Singh

It is particularly fitting that this year's theme for World Food Day focuses on agricultural co-operatives both because we are about to conclude the UN's International Year of Co-operatives (IYC) and because it is those agricultural co-operatives that can mean the difference between success and failure of the world's farmers to earn a decent living and meet global food needs.

We believe that food production is not some distant operation but one that challenges us in our own countries, in our own fields. Farmers in our own communities are working every day on our behalf. And it is through agricultural co-operatives that small farmers - so critical to meeting our food needs - are able to develop the safeguards and receive the education and support that helps individuals, their families and their local agricultural communities. The smallholder farmers are the bedrock of good quality food production underscoring that communities can in many areas of the world provide adequate food for their own populations.

Co-operatives from around the world—including those in Argentina, Australia, Canada, Korea, Japan, Norway, Sweden, the UK, and the US—are working to combat food insecurity and fight poverty.

Co-operatives strengthen the bargaining power and livelihoods of small farmers who are less vulnerable to price fluctuations, through working together.

Agricultural co-operatives are values-based businesses that are the essence of both “can do” and “must do.”

“Can do” in the sense that farmers who alone could not compete with their limited crop yields or limited capital together can help build a better and more secure world.

“Must do” because it is agricultural co-operatives which reflect co-operative values including giving back to the community—helping not just the individual to earn a living but supporting the communities in which those co-operatives reside. Time and again the “can do” and the “must do” signal the best of what World Food Day wants from all of us: respecting the individuals and the groups that toil around the globe to provide our food. They also underscore that working in harmony with a sense of greater purpose enriches all of us.

On this World Food Day it is fitting to pay tribute to what this values-based business model offers. It is a key element in moving closer to food security for all citizens of the world.

## Capacity Building

### Training of Consumer Co-op Managers

2012 ICA/JCCU (Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union) Training Program for Managers of Consumer Co-operatives (Miyagi Coop/Coop Net course) was held from 20th July to 5th August 2012. 3 trainees from India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka attended this year.

The main objective of this training program is to expose the participants to the professional management systems and practices of Japanese consumer co-operatives.

Both Miyagi Co-op and Co-op Net have had a long experience of operating both store and home delivery businesses. Miyagi Co-op was ranked as the 6th Top retail consumer co-operative in Japan by its 2010 business results. It is also a pillar organization of the Tohoku Sunnet Federation. Co-op Net is the biggest business federation of consumer co-operatives in Japan.

The course began with introductory lecture about business operations, member activities and social contributions of JCCU and its member societies. After that the trainees moved to Miyagi prefecture and had an on-the-spot training of the store operation at the Miyagi Co-op. In the last part of the training, the trainees visited Coop Net and studied about their environmental and social activities.



*Participants at the training*



## Quality and Safety of Farm Products

ICA/Japan Training on “Quality & Safety Management of Farm Products” was held from September 09 to 3rd October-2012 in Japan which was attended by 13 male and female co-operators/officials from 8 Asian countries.

The objective of the training course is to assist fostering of experts in distribution field who play the roles in the quality and safety management of farm products at an agricultural co-operative or farmers’ group in order to increase income and agricultural production in the LDCs of Mekong River Countries and the South Asian Countries. A formal inaugural function was held to open the program at IDACA and Mr. Executive Director of IDACA and Ms.Savitri Singh, Advisor of ICA-AP made speeches and welcomed the participants. The course concluded with a formal closing ceremony attended by Mr. Deputy Director of MAFF, Mr. Hiraoka Keiji ED of IDACA and Savitri Singh, Advisor of ICA-AP. Mr. from MAFF welcomed the participants and said that the participants will get to learn many useful and good practices from Japan.

A certificate of participation was also awarded to the participants.

The training course was held in IDACA, Japan with a brief home country assignment prior to commencement in IDACA.

The selected participants were expected to undertake their Home Country Assignment in their respective countries for a period of one week prior to the actual commencement of the training course.

The training was conducted in IDACA, Tokyo with classroom lectures and a week long study visit to Nara Prefecture. Following are the key subjects covered during the course:

- Introduction to Japan, Japanese society, culture and agriculture
- Outline of JA organisations
- Marketing business of JA and distribution of agro products
- Presentation of country report and draft action plan by the participants
- Food safety implemented by local governments
- Operational System of JA to study
- Participatory Rural Development Project Method
- Agro Processing and Quality Control
- Anzen/Anshin System at the Agricultural R& D Center
- Evaluation and country action plan



*Photo of participants with ICA, MAFF and IDACA officials*

## University/Campus Co-operatives Workshop

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives for Asia and the Pacific had its Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on July 1-5, 2012. The Workshop was organized in co-operation with Federation of University Co-operatives Malaysia (GAKUB), ANGKASA and NFUCA Japan. The workshop provided an opportunity to the representatives of university/campus co-operatives as well as other stakeholders in educational institutions to work together for the promotion of cooperatives in the region and to work towards organizing and strengthening co-operatives in educational institutions. Around 65 participants from 7 countries i.e. Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia, Philippines, India, Thailand and Singapore were attended. The inauguration ceremony started with the inaugural speech of Executive Director of Co-operative Commission of Malaysia. During the inauguration ceremony, representatives from host country, i.e. GAKUB, ANGKASA and Co-operative Commission of Malaysia, extended welcome speeches.

The ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives also had its 4th meeting on July 1st, 2012, Committee members shared their university/campus co-operatives activities. During the annual meeting they exchanged information about their celebrations of the UN International Year of Co-operatives in 2012. They also had a special discussion on the development of university/campus co-operatives in the region.



*Participants of the workshop*

## Youth meet online

2nd Electronic Meeting of the ICA Committee on Youth Co-operation in Asia Pacific was chaired by Mr. Ilham Nasai from the ICAAP Business office in Singapore at the Singapore National Co-operative Federation office on 4 October 2012 along with Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, Secretary. The meeting was further attended by Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur from Karachi Co-operative Housing Society Union, Pakistan and Ms. Noor Azlinn from ANGKASA, Malaysia and Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director ICAAP who was chosen as the Honorary Member of the Youth Cooperation Committee unanimously by interim voting, a motion that will be formally

assented by the Members at the 5th Meeting of the ICA Committee on Youth Co-operation in Asia Pacific (IC-YCAP) in Kobe, Japan during the Regional Assembly. Ms. Dolly Goh, Chief Executive, SNCf agreed to meet the Committee and issues such as

collaboration in terms of new media and youth participation were discussed. The Youth Co-operation Committee will conduct the election to its board at the Meeting during the Regional Assembly in Kobe on 26 November 2012.

## Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives



*Mr. Hiraoka Keiji, E.D. of IDACA addressing the participants*

Training course on “Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives-2012” was organized by ICA-AP, in India and Japan between 8th September and 3rd November 2012. The overall objective of the training program was to assist fostering of the core leaders, who are expected to play the leading roles in agricultural co-operatives and farmers’ groups that will contribute to improvement of agricultural production and income of the farmers in the LDCs of Mekong River countries and South Asian Countries. The training program was implemented by the ICA-AP with the collaboration of Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), (Gujarat), India, Institute for the Development of Agriculture

Cooperation in Asia (IDACA), Tokyo (Japan) and ICA’s member-organizations in India and Japan with financial assistance from MAFF, Japan.

The Training course was inaugurated by Mrs. Jeemol Unni, Director of IRMA in Anand. Mr. A.K. Taneja, Project Coordinator, ICA-AP addressed the participants on behalf of the Regional Director, ICA-AP. Prof. Madhavi Mehta, Coordinator from IRMA welcomed the participants and proposed a vote of thanks.

11 participants from 07 countries – Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam along with concerned Faculty Members were present. After completing the IRMA Module in India, the participants moved to the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) for a further 25 days training in Japan. The completed on 2nd November 2012 and at the concluding session, Mr. Ishizaki Yoshio, Deputy Director of International Cooperation Division, MAFF, Mr. Hiraoka Keiji, E.D. IDACA & Mr. A.K. Taneja, Project Coordinator, ICA-AP, addressed the participants. Mr. Mahinda Gunaratna, a participant from Sri Lanka, presented a vote of thanks on behalf of all the participants. The Certificates of Participation were awarded to the participants at the concluding session.

## From The Region

### IYC Regional Conference in Singapore



*The speakers and participants at the conference*

Commemorating the now widely celebrated International Year of Co-operatives 2012, a Regional Conference was organised by the SNCf in association with the largest co-operatives in Singapore such as NTUC Fair Price, Government Staff Co-operative, TCC Credit Coop and the likes along with specialised co-operatives such

as Ngee Ann Polytechnic Consumer Co-operative and Employment of Persons with Intellectual Disability Co-operative.

The conference saw an attendance of over five hundred co-operators from Singapore and other neighbouring countries. Participants were welcomed by SNCf-Chairman, Mr. Chan Tee



Seng and Key note address was delivered by Prof. Rosabeth Moss Kanter Canter who occupies the position of the Ernest L. Arbuckle Professor of Business Administration at the Harvard Business School and the. The welcome was followed by the inaugural speech by Mr.Chan Chun Sing , the Minister in charge of Co-operatives (Community Development, Youth and Sports) who reiterated the diversity in co-operative success around the world while giving the

example of the cooperative structure of the Barcelona Football Club. The theme of the conference was ‘How Social Capital drives Profits, growth and Sustainability’ and was taken up by the Key note speaker in her discourse on ‘Super-Coop’ based on her book on super corporations. Dr. Chan Ho Choi , Regional Director attended this conference along with Mr. P. Santosh Kumar and Ms. Kanako Miyazawa from the ICA-AP.

## Telling the Co-operative Story



*Ramsey Margolis, Executive Director*

The UN International Year of Co-operatives 2012 has been a cause for celebration for co-operatives around the world, and rightfully so. It is a recognition by the international community of the positive impact the business model has on the communities they operate in. Not only has this been vindicating for those involved in member-owned businesses, it has also provided a fantastic opportunity to educate the wider public about how the member-owned business model works, and more importantly how it impacts the communities they operate in.

Closing the Gap ([www.closingthegap.org.nz](http://www.closingthegap.org.nz)) and Closer Together ([www.closetogether.co.nz](http://www.closetogether.co.nz)) are two New Zealand based organisations that seek to raise public awareness about the benefits of a more equal society, and aim to address systemic causes of economic inequality.

New Zealand Co-operatives Association Executive Director, Ramsey Margolis was asked to speak at a talk jointly hosted by the two organisations on ‘How the Development of Co-operatives can help Reduce Economic Inequality’ along with Professor Morris Altman, the Head of the School of Economics & Finance at Victoria University of Wellington. Professor Altman is also the President of the New Zealand Association for the Study of Co-operatives and Mutuels.

Professor Altman spoke on how the economic incentives for members and businesses are different under a member-owned business model, and how co-operatives like Fonterra have vastly improved the bargaining power dairy farmers would otherwise find themselves in.



*Professor Morris Altman, President*

## Visit of Director General



*DG with Dr. CHOI*



*DG with Dr. Yadav and other guests in NCUI*

Mr. Charles Gould, the Director General of ICA visited office on 18th November, 2012 and met with the staff. He also took a tour of the office premises including library.

He also visited to NOIDA to see the progress of construction of the ICA Domus Trust building. Mr. Gould also made a curtsy call to

## Highlights

1. The National Co-operative Organisation of Malaysia has changed it's name to Malaysian National Co-operative Movement (ANGKASA) according to the new by-law.
2. The new Managing Director of National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) of India is - Mr. Chandra Bhushan Paliwal (e-mail: [mdncdc@ncdc.in](mailto:mdncdc@ncdc.in)).

## Upcoming Events in Kobe, Japan from 26-30th November, 2012

- ICA Regional Assembly and Co-operative Forum-2012
- Meeting of Regional Board
- Meeting of thematic and sectoral committees of ICA-AP

members such as IFFCO and NCUI. The NCUI organised a meeting of all the local ICA members to have an interaction with the DG. Mr. Gould gave an overview of ICA vision for future and shared plans and policy of the organisation in years to come.

## Visitors

## Delegation from ACFSMC



*A group photo of ACFSMC visitors and ICA-AP staff*

Mr. Zhang Wangshu and Mr. Li Shun, officers of International Department of the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives visited the ICA AP office in New Delhi on 17 November, 2012 as part of their business visit to India. The officers of the ACFSMC had a meeting with the Regional Director and also had brief interactions with the ICA staff before leaving to meet with other co-operatives in the city.

## Students from Gandhi Gram University



*The students with ICA-AP staff*

Around thirty students pursuing their Masters in Commerce at the Gandhigram University visited the ICA AP office on 15 October, 2012 as part of an educational training program along with their coordinator Mr. C. Pitchai, that is conducted by the National Centre for Co-operative Training which is an ICA member. The students were given a tour of the library by Ms. Sabitha Venkateshan, Librarian and an introduction to the history of ICA by Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, Programme Officer.



## Reaching out

### International Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal



*A group photo of delegates with Dr. Choi*

International Conference on “Co-operative Trends and Development in Asia and Pacific Region” was held in Kathmandu, 3rd – 4th September. It was jointly organized by the Ministry of Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation and the National Co-operative Federation (NCF) of Nepal. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, in his opening remarks, reiterated the importance of public statement of Honourable Prime Minister of Nepal made on May - “Co-operative sector shall be developed as the backbone of socio-economic development, opening that co-operative will be placed as a bridge between private and public sectors.” As Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, NCF Chairman expressed, it was a great break through and

achievement for the cooperative movement of Nepal. The co-operative sector in Nepal, having 23 thousand co-operatives and 3 million members, has been covering vast areas of cooperation from agriculture to consumer, credit, banking, insurance and social services. Mr. Keshav Bhattari, Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives and Poverty Alleviation (MoCPA) provided his welcome speech in the inauguration. Mr. Parmanand Jha, Vice President of Nepal Government, Mr. Eknath Dhakal, Minister of MoCPA and Mr. Deependra Bahadur Chhetri, Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission were the special guests.



*Conference in Progress*



## Health Co-operative Sector in Nepal



*Dr. Choi at the construction site of the MMIMS*

The health indicators of Nepal are embarrassing. Poverty, malnutrition, ignorance, deep rooted traditional beliefs, unmanaged urbanization and deteriorating environmental conditions are the major factors affecting health of the Nepalese people. Struggling on these, Nepal Health Care Co-operative Limited (NEHCO) was founded and registered under co-operative act on 17 March, 2006. In line with national and international thinking of Center of Excellence with purpose of providing quality medical education, health service delivery and health research, Manamohan Memorial Institute of Medical Sciences (MMIMS) was established under NEHCO. The MMIMS has been established by a group of academicians, researchers, industrialists and prominent professionals with extensive exposure to a wide range of innovative knowledge, experience and teaching/learning practices. Apart from this, MMIMS aims at providing high-end health services facilitating with modern medical technologies within the reach of all Nepalese citizens. Dr. Chan Choi visited the NEHCO and MMIMS on 4th September, and hoped that the Asia-Pacific Health Coop Organization (APHCO) could be an ICA-AP Committee together with NEHCO. Dr. Choi suggested an international seminar with NEHCO in this regard.

## Asian Credit Union Forum 2012



*ICA President at the Forum*

The Association of Asian Confederations of Credit Unions (ACCU) held the Asian Credit Union Forum on 7th ~8th September 2012 in Manila Philippines at the Crowne Plaza Galeria Hotel. In the

opening of the Forum, Dame Pauline Green, the ICA President provided her special speech to the participants of more than 250 co-operators.

The ACCU has been an 'Associate Member' of ICA since 1992. According to the ACCU's statistics, the number of individual members has reached to 41,987,000 persons in 22,325 credit unions in the 23 countries in Asia ([www.aaccu.coop](http://www.aaccu.coop)).

## Homage to the Father of the White Revolution in India



On behalf of the one billion members of the global co-operative movement, I would like to express my condolences and deepest sympathy following the sad loss of Dr Verghese Kurien who sadly passed away earlier this week. We held the late Dr.Kurien with the utmost respect and recognise his extraordinary life-long contribution to the co-operative movement.

Dr Kurien, Father of India's White Revolution, showed how a small co-operative can grow to dominate a business sector. The Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation, or Amul as it is well known and which he led for 30 years, helped make India the world's largest producer of milk.

More importantly, Dr Kurien found a way to bring a decent and fair livelihood to thousands of India's dairy farmers, who would otherwise have been unable to compete against the big, commercial dairy machine. The co-operative model has done the same for workers and customers in sectors from banking to retail around the world.

I am pleased that the co-operative movement had the opportunity to recognise Dr Kurien's contribution in 2001 when it bestowed upon him the first ICA Rochdale Pioneers Award.

Yours co-operatively

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pauline Green".

**Dame Pauline Green**

President - International Co-operative Alliance