



President of India inaugurates 16th Indian Co-operative Congress



The President of India along with national and international leaders at the opening of the Congress

The National Co-operative Union of India organized its 16th Indian Co-operative Congress on 25-26 June 2013 in New Delhi. The Congress was inaugurated by Honorable President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Shri Sharad Pawar, Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister of India, several very important political leaders such as Chief Minister and Governors of States, Ms. Dame Pauline Green, President, International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), Mr. Li Chunsheng, President, ICA-Asia Pacific were present at the ceremony.

About two thousand national co-operators, leaders, government officials along with about forty foreign delegates attended the two days long deliberations.

In solidarity with the slogan of IYC-2012, the theme of the congress was set as "Co-operative Enterprise Build a Better World".

The Co-operative Congress is a very significant event of the Co-operative movement of India which is held in every three years. This

event is an important platform for lobbying, advocacy and capacity building wherein the leaders and co-operators come together to discuss relevant issues concerning various aspects of co-operatives in the country and making recommendations to impress upon the government and other stakeholders for creating enabling environment for sustainability and development.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India expressed his pleasure in inaugurating the great event of national importance and mentioned the importance of co-operation as a philosophy being followed in all walks of life. To him, co-operatives have a great potential which needs to be harnessed for the development of the society. He recalled the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi on cooperation and referred the Directives Principles of the Indian Constitution and considered co-operatives as a tool for economic growth. He felt that co-operatives can transform the economy and can play important role in bringing cohesion & harmony in the

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From the Editor



New Delhi has recently witnessed a good example of co-operative solidarity as a galaxy of co-operative leaders from Asia-Pacific as well as the ICA

leadership came to attend the 16th Indian Co-operative Congress organised by National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) in June end.

The presence of President of India, Union Minister of Agriculture and a large number of top leaders including Governors, Chief Ministers and Co-operative Ministers of several states at the Congress sends a strong message across about strategic and crucial presence of co-operatives in the country at the same time inspiration to the co-operative fraternity in the neighbouring countries who were also present there.

Participation by Dame Pauline Green and Mr. Li Chunsheng at the Congress of the world's largest cooperative movement was significant in impressing upon the political leadership of the country about worldwide influence of the cooperatives

In our initiative to engage with members, first ICA event was organised in Mongolia and the response was overwhelming. The co-operatives in the world owe IYC-2012 largely to Mongolia and one could sense a strong political will in the country to develop co-operatives as viable mechanism of livelihood for the people. Uniting, developing and serving a nomadic community is a challenging task but co-operatives have already made a mark in the country and should be engaging more with ICA activities for capacity building.

Hope you enjoy reading this issue.
Savitri Singh

community life. He expressed his belief in the strength of co-operatives in facing global crisis. Though co-operatives have limitation, he reiterated his conviction over the strength of co-operatives in finding solutions and hoped that co-operatives can enter into new areas such as education, health, precision farming etc. He viewed that co-operatives need a bottom up approach wherein it can work as an organization of the people, by the people, among the people and achieve qualitative development along with the quantitative achievements and concluded by hoping that this congress will deliberate on strategies for developing an equitable world through co-operatives.

Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, President NCUI delivered welcome address and congratulated Agriculture Minister for passing of historical Constitutional Amendment Bill 2011 in the Parliament making "formation of co-operatives" a fundamental right of the citizens. He also mentioned about the merits of co-operatives and touched upon core issues which needs attention of the government such as Director Tax Code and its implication on the economic viability of co-operatives, inclusion of a separate chapter on co-operatives in 12th Five Year Plan draft and inclusion of subject on co-operatives in the school syllabus.

Dame Paulin Green, President, ICA said that "India as cooperatively developed country could widen its coverage to all the villages, towns and cities. Their are good stories to tell in the co-operative sector and India should develop global brands too". She also shared her experiences of visiting IFFCO which is serving the rural people.

In her speech, she congratulated President of India for making formation of co-operatives a Fundamental Right through 97th Constitution Amendment and stressed upon the need for helping the co-operatives by recognizing their significance as well as channelizing the funds to this movement.

She concluded the speech by positively hoping for building a better world through co-operatives.

Shri Sharad Pawar, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Food Processing industries said that he came from the field of co-operatives and understands the role played by the co-operatives in various spheres like rural credit, supply of inputs storage, marketing, consumer, sugar and other areas and financial inclusion is the mantra to achieve inclusive growth. He said that the Government of India, in its endeavor to provide enabling policy & legal framework for co-operatives, brought out important milestone in amending the constitution of India, Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act and the implementation of Short Term Co-operative Credit Structure Reforms & Revival Package. He also mentioned the contribution of co-operatives in ensuring achievements of target in food production and the greater role played in implementing the food security bill.

The Minister concluded by saying that co-operative is the potential tool for the sustainable development of its members, stakeholders and women.

The Business Sessions of the Congress addressed and discussed the following issues:

- Direct Tax Code Bill – Income Tax Exemption to Co-operatives
- Co-operative Legislation and Governance—Recent Trends
- Co-operative Credit Sector – Issues and Challenges
- Co-operative Enterprises- Acceptable Business Model
- Consumer and Food Production—Role of Co-operatives
- Women and Youth in Co-operatives
- Co-operative Education and Training
- Emerging Cooperatives and Weaker Section Cooperatives

Important Information

“ICA Global Conference & General Assembly will be held in Cape Town, South Africa on 1-5 NOVEMBER 2013”

The President of ICA-Asia Pacific visited ICA-AP Office



Mr. Li Chunsheng in the library

Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of ICA-Asia Pacific visited Delhi on 24-25 June 2013 on an invitation by National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) to attend the 16th National Co-operative Congress of India. He took some time out of his busy schedule to visit the ICA-AP Office and meet with the staff.

He was very pleased to visit the office and meet with the staff members on 24th June, 2012 as it was his very first visit to the office. Mr. Li held a meeting with staff wherein Dr. Choi made presentation about the progress of the office and an informal

discussion was held about overall activities of the office.

While interacting with the staff, Mr. Li expressed his happiness and said that this office has a long history of 53 years and he is happy to be here. He further observed that “I have visited all the ICA regions but co-operative network and office of this region is the best and financial position is also better than the other regions. This shows that people in Asia-Pacific have great confidence in co-operative system. I hope to get support from all the members to strengthen the co-operative network in the region and especially thankful to Indian co-operative movement for their continuing support and also the country for providing space for establishing the office and all the staff are also Indian.”



In discussion with Dr. Choi



Mr. Li Chunsheng seated with ICA-AP staff

After the meeting he also took a tour to the building and saw the working space and Library and Documentation Centre.

Mr. Li Chunsheng was re-elected as President of ICA-Asia Pacific in November 2012 for the second term.

Governance

Opening of ICA-AP Business Office in Malaysia



Meeting with ANGKASA in Progress

Dr. Chan Ho Choi along with Mr. K Sethu Madhavan, Manager (P&M) visited ANGKASA in Malaysia to review progress of establishment of the ICA-AP Business Office in Malaysia with Prof Dato Dr. Mohd Ali Baharum, President of ANGKASA, Dr. Baharum organized a formal meeting on 15th May, 2013 wherein 4 Vice Presidents of ANGKASA along with several Sr. Officers were present for discussion.

He extended a warm welcome to all and informed that the office space identified earlier for ICA-AP Malaysian Business Office has been taken over by MyANGKASA Holdings for its expansion and ANGKASA has identified two sites for ICA-AP which they have already visited in the morning.

Dr. Choi said that ICA-AP would like to locate its Business Office closer to the MyANGKASA Holdings and preferred the 1st floor of A-307, Glomac Business Centre. Dr. Baharum informed that the paper work of this office would take 2-3 months to complete and it will be ready by August and renovation work could also be done

He is representing China Co-operative movement at the ICA network and is the President of All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives which is a longstanding esteemed member of ICA from the region.

simultaneously.

Dr. Choi said that the office will be registered as ICA-AP Representative Office in Malaysia. In short it would be called as Malaysian Business Office (MBO). The registration of the office is very important and it should be attended to immediately. In order to avoid any laps, ANGKASA being the local organisation may help in completion of Registration formality. Dr. Baharum informed that Dr. Mohamed Shafari Yaakub of MyANGKASA Holdings will be responsible for registration of ICA-AP Malaysian Business Office and facilitation of long-term visa for expatriate staff.

Dr. Choi also talked about opening of a office bank account in Malaysia as soon as possible and this year's contribution of USD 20,000 from ANGKASA would be used for setting up the Malaysian Business Office and further discussed about work allocation of the staff to be seconded from ANGKASA and joining of other staffs from 3 other countries. Since 2 staff would join office in June and July respectively and the office would not be ready by that time, ANGKASA may provide two working desks for them.

After the meeting in ANGKASA, Dr. Choi met Datin Hajah Zuraidah Binti Hasni, Director, Extension and Promotion Division, Co-operative Societies Commission of Malaysia in her office on 16th May and discussed the proposal of organising the 1st ICA-AP Regional Conference of Registrars of Co-operatives in Malaysia in August. The Director informed that she will convey the decision of the commission in due course.

Capacity Building

Enhancing the Role of Women in Co-operative Business

In our endeavour to reach out to all the members and provide services, the first ICA program was held in the country ever since the Mongolian Co-operatives became member from the region.

ICA-AP Regional Workshop on "Enhancing the Role of Women in Co-operative Business" for women and men co-operative leaders of our region was held from 4-6 June, 2013 in Mangolia in collaboration with Mongolian Co-operative Alliance (MNCA).

The three days programme consisted of one day workshop followed by two days study visits to few successful co-operative businesses/women groups in the country. The consultations during the workshop focused upon co-operative endeavour to promote women's interests for gender mainstreaming in co-operatives. The program objectives were to:

- Provide a platform to co-operators of different countries for networking and experience sharing which may lead to mutual business opportunity.



Dr. Choi presenting "The Joint Declaration of the 9th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Minister's Conference" to Mr. Enkhbold Nyamaa



A picture of the opening of the workshop

- To have an exposure of gender focused best co-operative practices in Mongolia.
- The co-operative members of Mongolia will be having an opportunity to interact with foreign co-operators and learn from their experience.

Twelve co-operative leaders / managers from ICA member co-operatives from six countries namely China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Nepal and twenty one from the host country Mongolia attended the program.

Mr. Enkhbold N, Chairman of the MNCA and Member of Parliament, Ms. Gantsetseg B, State Secretary Ministry of Labour, Ms. Bat-Amgalan B, Head of SME Development Department, Ministry of Labour and a group of Members of Parliament attended the opening and delivered opening and special address respectively.

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director addressed the participants and Ms. Savitri Singh, Advisor-Gender Programme & Communication of ICA-AP delivered introductory address at the opening ceremony. The MNCA presented status paper and discussed certain co-operative stories. Ms. Savitri Singh made presentation on ICA initiatives for women empowerment and gender mainstreaming in co-operatives and also introduced the “ICA-AP Committee on Women”. The foreign participants also made presentation to share information about status of women and gender integration in their country and coop stories followed by question –answers and discussion. Next day the foreign and local participants made a study tour to Bornuur bor tolgoi co-operative, an agriculture co-operative located 100 km north of the Ulaanbaatar city.

The program was widely covered by the Mongolian national print and television media.

Agriculture Co-operative in Mongolia



A coop bazaar

In Mongolia, first co-operative established in December, 1921 and there have been operating mostly government driven, ‘socialist type’ co-operatives till 1990. Since 1990, started development of ‘market driven’ co-operatives and there are about 1900 co-operatives by the end of 2008 with 2125 thousand members. In

terms of co-operative operation fields, about 26% of total co-operatives are in agriculture sector, 25% in consumer service and wholesale trade, 25% in manufacturing, 10% in financial sector and rest of co-operative operations belong to social service, education and health service etc. The annual total income of all co-operatives



The 90 year old coop member ready for the horse catching competition

provide services to meet out daily necessities of the members as well as the community in the area and currently running a consumer store, beauty parlour and tailoring and dress designing shop. A co-operative bazar is organised occasionally where members bring

their products for selling. The chairperson of the co-operative is a women who is a dedicated worker and very much committed to the cause of improving the standard of living of people through co-operatives.



The Chairperson explaining to an Indonesian participant



The Mongolian hospitality with a huge tray full of variety of milk products and modern cold drinks

Training on 'Agricultural Products Marketing and Logistics for co-operatives'

While continuing the efforts to promote the growth of co-operatives and enhancing the capacities of the co-operative managers, the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing co-operatives (ACFSMC) in collaboration with the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) conducted a training course on 'Agricultural Products Marketing

and Logistics for co-operatives' in Beijing along with study visits to Co-operatives in Jinan and Zibo cities of the Shandong Province from May 22- 31, 2013. The training was attended by 28 participants from thirteen countries in Asia Pacific and two participants, one each from Tanzania and Uganda in Africa. The inauguration ceremony was held on May 23, 2013. Mr. Li chunsheng, President



Group photo of the participants

ICA AP, Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director, ICA-AP, Ms. Ann Herbert, Director ILO Office (China and Mongolia), Mr. Yang Qian, Director, ICECC and Mr. Zhang Wangshu, Director, International Department of ACFSMC delivered address at the opening.

The objective of the training was to share information and knowledge on the principles of agricultural co-operative management and value addition. The course also laid emphasis on the role of co-operative federations and implications of latest

technology while developing the co-operative supply and marketing channels. The chief resource persons were Mr. Huseyin Polat, former ILO official and Mr. GE Shuyuan, Division Chief, Co-operative Guidance Department, ACFSMC. They were assisted by Mr. Mohamed Farzan, ILO, Sri Lanka and Mr. Tendy Gunawan, ILO- Indonesia and the course was coordinated by Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, ICA AP. The staff of ACFSMC provided all the support in organising the program.

Membership

New Member

We welcome National Co-operative Bank Ltd. (NCBL) in the family of ICA as new member from Nepal.

NCBL is the co-operative banking federation which provides banking and financial services to its member co-operatives. They also provide different activities for members to strengthen their professional and competitive competencies.

For more information: www.coopbank.com.np

Members who left this year

1. Sharjah Co-operative Society (SCS)
PO Box 5435, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
2. Supervision and Coordination Central Union of Rural and Agricultural Co-operatives of Iran (SCURA) 4th Floor, No.518, North Felestin St Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.
3. Mollah-Al-Movahedin Credit Co-operative (MAMCC) No.472, 68th St. Seyed Jamaledin Asadabadi St. Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.
4. Fiji Co-operative Union (FCU) Limited, Fiji

Upcoming Events

- 5th Meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives and Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives will be held on 4-7 July, 2013 in Seoul, South Korea.
- ICA-Japan training course on "Quality and Safety Management of Farm Products FY-2013" will be held on 9th July to 3rd August, 2013 in Tokyo, Japan.
- ICA-AP Regional Co-operative Youth Forum and 6th meeting of the ICA-AP Committee on Youth will be held on 17-21 July, 2013 in Buldana, India.