



*Mr. Siva Dangi , a co-operator from Nepal on Mt. Everest with the ICA Flag.*

## Co-ops at the Top of the World

Flags of co-operation were flown at the highest point of the world, as a group of co-operators from Nepal reached the summit of Mount Everest. In celebration of the International Year of Co-operatives ten members from the Nepal Information and Communication Central Co-operative Union (NICCU) took the IYC logo and the flag of the International Co-operative Alliance to the top of the world. The expedition, which was led by Sivakumar Dangi, the General Secretary of NICCU, climbed 29,029 feet to reach the top of the mountain on May 27, 2012 at 6.00am. "NICCU would like to extend warm and sincere thanks to the all members of the team who successfully attempted this extraordinary event;" said Bishnuhari Dhakal, Chair of NICCU. To commemorate the journey, the flag and logo were handed over on behalf of the IYC National Committee by Tourism Minister Hon'ble Lokendra Bist Magar and Chair of National Co-operative Federation Kesav Badal during a special ceremony. Mr Badal praised the co-operative movement of nepal for performing such a remarkable event during the IYC program. When the team arrived back in Kathmandu, a special welcome ceremony was organised for them. Source: <http://www.thenews.coop/node/8459>

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## From the Editor



Nothing is impossible if there is a WILL. The Co-operatives are on the top of the world virtually as some coop enthusiasts come up with the idea of climbing the Everest and hoisting the ICA and IYC-2012 flag on the highest point of the world and became successful too!. We wish that the co-operative model is also embraced by people and the governments as way of life and bring the model at the top of any other business model!

Half of the IYC-2012 has gone by and the members are in celebration spree to maximize the benefit of the opportunity. A number of members' activities have been covered which shows that the Year has actually stirred up the co-operative movement as well the governments and stakeholders and provided them with opportunity to have commitment of "Political Will" by involving Head of the nations and other important Ministers. As almost all the co-operatives are involved into some celebration or the other, it has been able to generate substantial awareness among the citizens outside the co-operative fold.

However, concern remains that what is after 2012? Let's not exhaust our energy and resources in one year and let's continue steadily and vigorously as there is a long way ahead before we pause.

## Upcoming Events

- ICA Asia-Pacific Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on July 1-5, 2012
- Training Course on "Activating Regional Community for Rural Women" July-August-2012

## Co-op story

### "UR JIMS" co-operative



*The members at work in the field*

The story of the "Ur jims" co-operative was presented by Ms. D. Tsendsuren, Director of the co-operative at the 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers Conference held in February 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. The "Ur jims" co-operative is a women led co-operative and is member of the National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Co-operatives.

The co-operative was established in 1999 with 10 members, who are single mums. It started with 2,5 million tugrugs (MNT) and in 2010 this fund increased to 85 million MNT. Now as on 2011 it has 35 members out of which 32 are women.

**The main activities of the co-operative are:**

- Forestation
- Fruit tree plantation
- Fruit processing
- Seedling nursery

**The "Ur jims" co-operative produces:**

- 7.5 tones sea buckthorn
- 1.5 tones gooseberry
- 15000 sea buckthorn seedlings
- other green house plants every year

**Advantages of the co-operative**

- Permanent activities
- Regular increase of members' income

- Members' active participation
- Market recognized high quality product
- Good leadership – member's mutual solidarity and
- Trust in their leaders and their ability and willingness to make the co-operative business successful
- Empowers women economically and socially

**Eco-friendly activities**

- One of the co-operative's main goals is to afforest the region. It started with 56000 tree saplings in 1 hectare. In past 12 years, the co-op has regenerated 360 hectares of wasteland and have planted over 2.1 million trees
- New varieties of trees were introduced in the region in 92 hectares and called their place "Green wall"
- Co-operative by this activities fights against desertification, helps to balance the eco-system and protects the environment
- 90% of Mongolian territory can be regarded as vulnerable to desertification
- These areas are almost exclusively used rangelands, supporting about 40 million heads of livestock and numerous populations of wild animals

### The example of the land developed by the coop:

*Before*



*After*



#### Concern for the community

The coop supports local poor families by distributing free berry tree seedlings and also provides technical assistance to handle growth

and take care of them. 20 families of the community today grow berry trees, with the help of the co-operative members, as a source of some income to them.

## Governance

## Regional Board Meeting



*The ICA-AP Regional Board members with Dame Pauline Green, Mr. Li Chunsheng and Mr. Charles Gould*

The ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting was held in Beijing (China) on 12th June 2012 which was hosted by the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC). The meeting was

chaired by Mr. Li Chunsheng, Chairman of the Regional Board. 24 persons including members, observers, ICA President and Director General attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed the following major items: Report on the 9th Co-operative Ministers' Conference and Follow-up; Membership Development Strategy in the Asia-Pacific region; Moving of Singapore Business Office to Malaysia; Model Constitution for ICA-AP sectoral/thematic Committees; 10th ICA-AP Regional Assembly and Related Events in Kobe (Japan) from 26th to 30th

November, 2012; IYC-2012 celebration activities of member countries; and Nomination of one Trustee to ICA Domus Trust from ICA-AP Regional Board. It was decided to hold the next meeting in Kobe (Japan) in conjunction with the 10th Regional Assembly on 26th November 2012.

## Around the Region

### SNCF, Singapore



*President Tony Tan launched Singapore's first-ever legal tender stamps*

President Tony Tan Keng Yam launched Co-opaliciouz on 9th June, 2012 an event that witnessed the largest gathering of co-operative members, staff and families in the history of Singapore. The event was organized by the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) to raise awareness for Singapore's co-operative social enterprises. It attracted more than 15,000 people who came together at the Marina Barrage to celebrate the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives (UN IYC), and learnt about the co-operative movement's social impact on a country where 1 in 3 Singapore Residents are members. By coming together as one movement, Co-opaliciouz became a platform that demonstrated

strength in solidarity through the largest number of:

- Co-operative members, staff and families coming together at a single venue over one day
- Co-operative members, staff and families coming to chorus read together, led by the Minister of State for Community Development Youth and Sports (MOS MCYS), Mdm Halimah Yacob
- People coming together to break light-sticks in a synchronized manner and dance to the tune of the Co-opaliciouz song in one location

## Report of the Committee on Youth Employment - 101st International Labour Conference

*(Contributed by Maria Elena Chavez Hertig)*

*The 101ST International Labour Conference held in May-June-2012 discussed and passed resolutions on youth employment which was adopted.*

*The resolution in particular includes a number of references to co-operatives including:*

- *guiding principles on youth employment - Promoting youth entrepreneurship with the aim of encouraging the growth of sustainable enterprises, including co-operatives and social enterprises, in rural and urban areas.*
- *youth entrepreneurship and self-employment through co-operatives (para 35)*

- *enabling environment for businesses owned and run by youth - including for co-operatives (para 37 and recommendation for governments para 40 b)*
- *inclusion of co-operatives in entrepreneurship programmes (para 38)*
- *improving access to finance for co-operatives (para 40 d)*
- *co-operatives in curricula (para 40 g)*
- *technical assistance for co-operatives (para 53).*

*The draft report is available in English, French and Spanish - see [http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/101stSession/reports/committee-reports/WCMS\\_182840/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/101stSession/reports/committee-reports/WCMS_182840/lang--en/index.htm)*

- Fathers and children coming together, and co-operating to read to each other to break the Singapore Book of Records in celebration of the UNIYC

“We are proud that Co-opaliciouz served as a platform for the largest gathering of co-operative members, staff and their families in Singapore’s history. This demonstrated the strength of our movement where 1 in 3 Singapore Residents are members. Through this milestone celebration of the International Year of Co-operatives, we hope to raise public awareness of the spirit and value of co-operative social enterprises, as a regulated model of self-help and a viable layer in Singapore’s multi-layered social safety net,” said Ms Dolly Goh, SNCF Chief Executive Officer.

At Co-opaliciouz, President Tony Tan launched Singapore’s first-ever legal tender stamps and First Day Covers on milestones of the co-operative movement, which tell a compelling story of how co-operative social enterprises were formed to address social issues that had arisen in periods of Singapore’s history for over 86 years.

### ACFSMC, China

The All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives celebrated IYC-2012 and IYC-2012 Conference and Symposium were organized to mark the occasion on 11th and 12th June 2012 respectively.

### VICTO, Philippines:

The VICTO National Co-operative Federation and Development Center (VICTO National) is inviting coops to the IYC’s class (7th Batch) of:

**Philippine Development Education**

**PhDE. 2012**

The event will be held on June 15-21, 2012 in Cebu City.

PhDE is inspired by the month-long courses offered by VICTO National in the 100+ whose graduates have become pillars of the co-op movement today. Graduates will join the international network of 1,000+ Development Educators (DE) communicating through a list-serve. Contact: PhDE Coordinators: Jaci A. Tilbe - mobile: 09052518938 and Mario Encabo - mobile: 9232465834 ; telefax: (032) 253-1317; email: [jat.cooplover@gmail.com](mailto:jat.cooplover@gmail.com); [putsch123@yahoo.com](mailto:putsch123@yahoo.com)

## Highlights

### 1. Theme of the Co-operative Day-2012 ([www.2012.coop](http://www.2012.coop))

The ICA wants to make the International Day in 2012 something that we will all remember – one in which one billion co-operators can get involved in order to raise public awareness about the co-operative business model. The theme for the International Day 2012 is **THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CO-OPERATIVES!**

### 2. New Chairperson /officials /contact

**Philippines:** MS. AMNERIS GOZUN GABRIEL has been elected the new Chairperson of the National Confederation of Co-operatives (NATCCO) in the Philippines.

She has been with the co-operatives for more than 20 years and is presently the Chairperson of the Philippine Air traffic Controllers' Multi-Purpose Co-operative (PATCOMC) from where she is elected Chairperson of NATCCO.

**China:** Mr. Zhang Gaoling is the new secretary general of ICCIC, China

Iran: Mr. Dariush Pakbin is elected as the General Secretary of the Iran Central chamber of co-operatives (ICC).

**Kuwait :** Mr. Abdul Aziz Mohammed Al-Samhan is elected new chairman of Union Consumer Co-operative Societies of KUWAIT in a election held on 11th June 2012.

**Nepal:** The new e-mail address of National Co-operative Development Board (NCDB) of Nepal is; [coopdesk@gmail.com](mailto:coopdesk@gmail.com)

### 3. New member

We welcome Pishgaman Kavir Co-operative Company (PKYCC) as new member from Iran to the International Co-operative Alliance family. PKYCC is a primary co-operative whose membership is IT companies. It is the only IT co-operative in Iran. They have local offices in all provinces of Iran and they also have companies outside of Iran. They are one of three companies in Iran with the license for international calling services. The services they provide to members include helping them get grants and loans and ensuring member participation.

**Contact:** Mr Hosseinali Karimi Yazdi, Deputy of R and D training Centre

Email: [info@pishgaman.com](mailto:info@pishgaman.com); [karimi@pishgaman.com](mailto:karimi@pishgaman.com)

### 4. Co-op Story

The ICA-AP Communication team has covered the story of the unique "Irula Snake Catchers' Industrial Co-operative Society", Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu, India which featured in our earlier issue.

A short film was also produced by the team, as an initiative towards the ongoing IYC2012. Find the film online : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dup3Pj-mZXY>. For further information, contact: Mr. P. Santosh Kumar [santosh@icaroop.coop](mailto:santosh@icaroop.coop).

## NCF, Nepal:

On the occasion of IYC-2012, the National Co-operative Federation of Nepal in collaboration with Department of Co-operatives, National Co-operative Development Board and Youth and Small Business Self Employment Fund, Nepal has successfully organized a National Seminar on Co-operative Strengthening and Business Promotion of Co-operative Unions from 3-4 June, 2012 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

## Members Service

### Development of Consumer Sector

ICA/COOPFED Workshop on Development of Consumer Co-operatives was held on 24th May 2012 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific initiated a Sub-Regional Workshop on Development of Consumer Co-operatives in 2009. This was the first time for the Sub-regional Workshop to be held in Sri Lanka.

The objectives of the workshop are to

- 1) Promote understanding of co-operative principles
- 2) Strengthen management of consumer co-operative societies
- 3) Understand the present status and problem areas of consumer co-operatives
- 4) Strengthen relationship with local government

The committee wishes to influence the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries – Consumer movement, focusing on the development of consumer co-operatives in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The inauguration ceremony started with the traditional dance of Sri Lanka performed by young artists. 86 persons attended the ceremony. During the inauguration ceremony, representatives from host country, i.e. COOPFED and Ministry of Co-operative & Internal Trade of Sri Lanka delivered welcome and inaugural speeches. Presentations were made by Dr. Bhagwati Prasad, Former Chief Executive of National Co-operative Union of India, Mr. Ranjith Hettiarachchi, Chief Executive officer of Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions ( ACCU) and Mr. Takashi Yoshijima, Executive Officer of Miyagi Co-op. More than 50 persons participated in the Workshop. After the Workshop, the participants enjoyed visiting Co-op Wennappuwa.. Co-op Wennappuwa is a multi purpose co-operative society that is located about 2



*Workshop in Progress*

hours by road from Colombo and runs insurance, banking, canteen, retail, and gasoline station businesses. The community residents

can become a co-op member by paying Rs. 100 as share capital and can receive services from the co-op.

## Message of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)

### **90th ICA International Co-operative Day 18th UN International Day of Co-operatives 7th July 2012**

The 2012 International Day of Co-operatives is a day of unusual significance, as 2012 marks the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives. In keeping with that special occasion, the theme for the International Year is also the theme for this International Day: 'Co-operative enterprises build a better world'.

The International Year of Co-operatives is the time to tell the co-operative story to a wider audience. It is not only a story of past success, of individuals coming together during difficult economic times to leverage their resources, access markets, and restore balance to price negotiations. The resiliency and stability of the co-operative enterprise model is also a message for today.

Co-operatives are a key part of the way forward for the 21st Century economy. In recent years, the world has demonstrated an urgent need for a more diversified global economy.

Co-operatives have the scale to contribute in a much greater way to that diversification. Even today, the Global300 Report produced by the ICA shows that the 300 largest co-operatives in the world have a combined annual turnover of USD 1.6 trillion, equivalent to the GDP of many large countries. They provide over 100 million jobs worldwide. In Brazil, Russia, India and Africa, some 15% of the population is a member-owner of a co-operative, compared to less than 4% who are shareholders. In Kenya, co-operatives contribute 45% of GDP, while in New Zealand, they contribute 22%. In the United States, 30,000 co-operatives employ two million people, with the largest regularly appearing on Fortune's '100 best places to work' list.

Co-operatives are values-based enterprises. The co-operative has the greatest degree of participatory governance of any of the major

enterprise models. Because of this member engagement, co-operatives reflect the values of the community. Since their earliest days, they have been concerned with how their goods have been produced and their services delivered. A commitment to sustainability is one of the seven Principles that ICA's members in 100 countries have agreed define a co-operative.

These Principles—equity, participation, sustainability—come together to make co-operatives vibrant and successful places for decent work. In every sector, from agriculture, fisheries, and forestry to co-operative banking and credit unions, from housing and healthcare to mutual and co-operative insurance, and especially in worker formed co-operatives, co-operatives create decent jobs, enjoy greater trust among consumers and last longer than other forms of enterprise. They are building a better world.

The ICA was established in 1895 to advance the co-operative model. It works with inter-governmental and nongovernmental organisations to promote co-operative development; with countries to advocate for a legal and regulatory framework that recognises the

unique and specific needs for co-operatives to flourish; and with its members to encourage inter-co-operation.

The ICA calls on all co-operators throughout the world to take the occasion of this special year's International Day of Co-operatives to tell their co-operative story. These stories can be found at [www.stories.coop](http://www.stories.coop).

To celebrate International Co-operative Day, the ICA has launched a series of eBooks in collaboration with the Global News Hub to show how 'co-operative enterprises build a better world'. The eBooks will be released in the run-up to the virtual event of Co-operatives United, which is the global culmination event for the International Year of Co-operatives to be held in Manchester in October 2012. Sign up to receive further information on the virtual event or to book your place in Manchester visit [www.manchester2012.coop](http://www.manchester2012.coop). In the meantime, download the IYC eBooks [www.thenews.coop/virtual](http://www.thenews.coop/virtual) to find out the difference co-operatives make – available from 5 July 2012.

## Join Together in Manchester-2012

# CO-OPERATIVES UNITED / WORLD FESTIVAL AND ICAEXPO

29 OCT—2 NOV 2012  
MANCHESTER CENTRAL, UK



[www.manchester2012.coop](http://www.manchester2012.coop)

### Coop United-Logo

Co-operatives United is the culmination event for the International Year of Co-operatives, and will be held in Manchester, UK from 29th October – 2nd November 2012.

The Co-operators are invited to attend the event.

There is a page on ICA website describing the event: <http://www.2012.coop/en/ga>. The readers can link their website to the official event website: [www.manchester2012.coop](http://www.manchester2012.coop) where bookings are now live.