



## ICA Launched IYC-2012



President Dame Pauline Green at the Launch

The International Co-operative Alliance Launched the UN International Year of Co-operative 2012 on Wednesday, 16 November, 2011 in Cancun, Mexico. A historical gathering of 2000 co-operators and stake holders from around the world witnessed the launch at the opening of the ICA General Assembly 2011 by ICA President, Dame Pauline Green who termed it as "once in a generation" opportunity.

On this occasion, UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and ILO Chief-Juan Somavia sent their video messages. Mr. Ban Ki Moon congratulated ICA and said that unique and invaluable presence of co-operatives in today's world help poverty reduction and creation of jobs and facilitates social inclusion. In the current economic situation, co-operatives have helped prevent many poor people and communities from sliding into poverty.

Mr. Juan Somavia expressed his long standing belief in co-operative ideas and support to co-operatives by ILO with reference to Article-193.

## COOP Story

### Tribe and Traditional Knowledge in Co-operative Hands

As per the ICA-Asia Pacific's ongoing International Year of Co-operatives initiative of collecting and documenting co-

operative stories from the region, the Irula Snake Catchers' Industrial Co-operative Society was visited by Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, Programme Officer in December 2011 at Mahabalipuram, India. Under the leadership of legendary "Snake Man" Romulus Whitaker, the Irulas of Chingleput district on the shores of the Bay of Bengal came together in 1978 and formed the Irula Snake Catchers Industrial Co-operative Society. The co-op has served not only to provide a living but also to preserve a culture that has spanned at least three generations.

The co-operative started with 26 members and today has more than 350—and is the largest venom-producing centre in India with annual sales of over U.S. \$15,000. Snake catchers earn several times more per live snake turned in for milking than they did for reptiles slaughtered for their skins. Being in co-operative hands and following the co-operative



Members displaying various snakes and the method of extracting snake venom

principles, this rather peculiar activity of catching snakes and extracting venom is done according to the governmental

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## From the Editor



Season's Greetings! The year end issue will be reaching you in the New Year! As we reported, the year was full of events, surprising and pleasant both. Japan and Thailand suffered losses due to natural calamities. Co-operatives and members are devastated.

However, we have been able to complete all the activities to serve members in the region, of course not without generous support and active participation by them.

The IYC -2012 was formally launched by UN in New York on 31st October, 2011 and by ICA in Cancun on 16th November 2011. Hope co-operatives and stake holders will be able to utilise this opportunity for the utmost advantage of this people's movement. The members from Americas have proposed an "Eighth Principal" which is being debated upon.

A new member, Iran from the region joined the ICA Board of Directors which is first from the Middle East. Changes help keeping the movement vibrant. Coming year will open up with a couple of big events- the 9th Co-operative Ministers' Conference and the Regional Assembly-2012. We are grateful to the members for solidarity and collaboration in making the ICA- AP serve them better.

With best wishes, Savitri Singh

## Upcoming Events

- Meeting with CPD, Thailand- 15-18 January, 2012-01-12
- ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting-26 February, 2012 Bangkok, Thailand
- 9th Co-operative Ministers Conference - 27th February, 2012 Bangkok, Thailand

norms with no malpractice whatsoever.

The Irulas is a community known for its unique knowledge of understanding the snakes' habitat and the skill of catching piousness snakes. Rat snakes, Cobras and Vipers are predominantly caught and then set free after four sessions of extracting venom. The venom is then dried and is sold to research labs and biotechnological establishments to help produce antidotes for snake bites.

The members provide education to the tourists and clear misconceptions about snakes in the society. Located in the premises of the "Crocodile Park", this co-operative society makes an ideal location for an academic excursion.



*Members catching a Cobra*

ICA-AP is producing a small film on the members and the activity of the society and will be up on the ICA-AP website by the end of January 2012.

## Governance

### ICA-AP Regional Board Meeting

The meeting of the ICA-AP Regional Board was held at Moon Palace Hotel in Cancun on 15th November 2011. 25 persons including 10 board members, staff and observers were present.

The Chairperson, Mr. Li Chunsheng extended warm welcome to board members and introduced 2 new members, Mr. Vitoon Neawpanit, Chairman of CLT and Ms. Amneris G. Gabriel, Vice Chairperson of NATCCO from Philippines. The member from Thailand was not present. The President further thanked all the co-operative movements of the region for their valuable contribution.

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director presented the activity report, financial report and work plan and budget for 2012. All the reports and work plan were approved by members after discussion and minutes of the last meeting held in Guangzhou on 2nd March 2011 was confirmed.

Mr. H.A.M Halid, Secretary General [DEKOPIN] Indonesia and regional board member observed that ICA AP

should play an active role to convince governments and the cooperative movement to change the working environment and the co-operatives should be given more important role to play in the country.

Dr. Choi also explained the membership situation in the region and the chairperson observed that the membership has grown substantially and members should support ICA in bringing in more co-operatives under the umbrella of ICA from the region.

Issues related to membership procedure were raised by some members and the Chairperson said that this could be brought up to the ICA Board.

The preparation of 9th Co-operative Ministers' Conference, IYC-2012 and the ICA-AP Regional Assembly- 2012 were also discussed. The 9th Co-operative Ministers' Conference will be held in Thailand from 27th February to 1st March 2012. Dr. Choi explained about preparations. The office has commissioned Critical Study and has dispatched a set of questionnaires to all members and governments to get



*The Board Members*

feedback on output of the previous conference. Some members made suggestions on the conference agenda.

The Chairperson observed that the Ministers Conference is there for a long time. In order to get good advantage of the conference, members should send suggestions/ questions to the Regional Office for making agenda.

The ICA-AP Regional Assembly- 2012 and Related Events will be held from 26-30 November 2012 in Kobe, Japan. President of JCCU introduced KOBE - Regional Assembly preparations and extended invitations to all. He thanked to all the co-operative fraternity for helping and sending messages during the Tsunami disaster in March-2011. KOBE was divested by earthquakes but a beautiful city now .

The Chairperson thanked Japan Coop for outstanding

preparations and appealed to all the members to attend this Regional Assembly as elections will take place.

Regarding the celebrations of IYC-2012, Dr. Choi requested members to send their activities to be posted on the ICA-AP web for sharing. ICA - AP has prepared Tee shirts, stickers etc. for showing visibility and solidarity.

Several members informed about their activities and also offered suggestions.

The VCA, Vietnam invited suggestions on co-operative law revision. Dr. Choi

thanked Vietnam for the initiative and said that the main UN recommendation is to create enabling environment by introducing new law and policy. This IYC-2012 is a good opportunity to revise/upgrade the co-operative law in member countries.

The Chairperson suggested that it is important that through IYC-2012 , we would create awareness for general people, upscale lobbying with government and get resolved concerned legal and policy issues for co-operatives.

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on 26th February, 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand in conjunction with 9th Co-operative Ministers Conference-2012.

activities that will raise awareness and educate the public about the social value and impact of co-operatives.

## From the Region

### Singapore-SNCF

Minister for Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat, officially launched Singapore's program for the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives (IYC) celebrations on 4th December, 2011 at the 30th Anniversary Dinner of the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF), the apex body of Singapore's co-operatives. Joining the launch at Resorts World Sentosa, were Minister of State, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, Mdm Halimah Jacob, Advisor to the IYC National Committee and Member of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) Global Board, Mr Seah Kian Peng, Chairman of the SNCF Executive Council and Singapore's IYC National Committee, Mr Chan Tee Seng, Chairman of the Central Co-operative Fund Committee, Mr Chandra Das and more than 400 members and guests of the Singapore Co-operative Movement.

Led by SNCF, the IYC 2012 is poised to be the most significant milestone for the Singapore Co-operative Movement, as it brings together more than 12,000 members of various co-operatives who will be engaged in a year-long series of

### Korea-iCoop

ICOOP Korea has been playing a key role in the social movements for eco friendly and free school lunch, which promotes not only to deliver healthy foods for school students but also to support local agriculture, environment and economy of local communities. Since establishment of the Seoul Headquarter for Promotion Movement of Eco Friendly and Free School Lunch on Feb 18th 2010, campaign for petition of 7.5 million citizens and Social Agreement declaration for Eco friendly and Free School Lunch have been carried on. In April, iCOOP Korea held an event to celebrate the launch of the iCOOP Campaign Headquarters for Eco friendly Free School Meals; where it made a declaration that emphasised the importance of putting eco friendly free school meals into practice. This is only one example of ICOOP's many social activities to encourage ordinary people to get their hands on eco-friendly produce.

## New Zealand - NZ Co-op

The New Zealand Co-operative Association is organizing the first ever research conference on co-operatives to take place in June 21-23, 2012 at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. The newly founded, New Zealand Association for the Study of Co-operatives and Mutuals, is formally organizing this conference. The theme of the conference is "Building a Better World: The Role of Co-operatives and Mutuals in Society".

This will be an interdisciplinary conference and participants from around the world who have an interest in the study of co-operatives and mutuals are welcomed. conference website can be found at: <http://nzascm.coop>

## Bangladesh-BJSU



*Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the delegates*

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attended the function marking the 40th National Co-operatives Day at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on 19 Nov, 2011 in Dhaka.

The Prime Minister called upon the authorities concerned to work with utmost sincerity to gear up the co-operatives movement in the country to build a self-reliant and prosperous Bangladesh.

"If we can inspire people and put them on the right path providing them with all facilities and mechanism, Inshallah the economic scenario of the whole Bangladesh will be changed," she said.

The United Nations and the International Co-operative Alliance declared the year 2012 as the Co-operatives Year. Hasina said the co-operatives movement has to be integrated utilizing all potentials and available resources.

The PM expressed her hope that over 90,00,000 members of 1,77,000 co-operatives societies of the country could easily change the living standard of people if all work together.

Referring to the successes of co-operatives societies in various economic activities, including increasing agricultural production, marketing of products, cottage industry and insurance across the globe, the premier said the institutions run under co-operatives management in the country should be strengthened. She mentioned that her government waived the agriculture loan from each of the members of co-operatives society giving by funds in subsidies. She suggested the members to try to pay their loan timely.

"Every inch of fallow land in rural areas will be cultivated

under the One House: One Farm Programme and the producers of these farms would be marketed through co-operatives-based organizations," she said, describing the strategy of the co-operative movement.

The Prime Minister also suggested to co-operatives to venture into areas of food processing and export as demand and cost of processed food is high abroad.

Presided over by Co-operatives Division Secretary Dr Mihir Kanti Mazumder, the function was addressed also by LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam, State Minister Adv Jahangir Kabir Nanak, and Sk. Nadir Hossain Lipu, Chairman Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union.

Later, the premier inaugurated the Co-operatives Fairs organised at district and upa zila levels across the country as well as the fair organised on the premises of Co-operatives Building in the city simultaneously.

She also inaugurated the Online Co-operatives Bazar pressing a computer button and presented National Co-operatives Award 2009 and 2010 to 18 individuals and 20 co-operatives societies.

## India-FISHCOPFED

The FISHCOPFED is elected to the Executive Committee of Network for Development of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia (NEDAC) at its meeting held in Philippines.

NEDAC has representation from 12 countries in Asia. This was the first time that FISHCOPFED represented at NEDAC meeting and by getting elected to the Executive Committee, the Managing Director of FISHCOPFED feels that the Fishery Sector will be very well amalgamated into Agricultural Co-operatives in the Region.

## Member Services

## Training for Managers of Consumer Co-operatives



*The Participants*

ICA-JCCU Training Programme for Managers of Consumer Co-operatives was held from 22 Oct - 4 Nov, 2011 in Kobe, Japan.

The objective of the programme is to expose the participants to the professional management systems and practices of Japanese consumer co-operatives.

Initially ICA-AP planned to organize 2 courses with 8 trainees. Due to the earthquake in Japan, the plan was changed and only Co-op Kobe/Co-op Net course was conducted with 6 trainees from 4 countries; India, Singapore, Vietnam and Korea.

Main feature of the training were:

- Brief explanation on Japanese Consumer Co-operative Movement
- Lecture on store operation of Co-op Kobe/Co-op Net and visit to their stores
- Visit to JA Ohya and JA Tajima to hear about the direct transaction of organic vegetables between consumer co-operatives and agricultural co-operatives.
- Visit Food Festival organized by Co-op Tokyo
- Visit Co-op Net Eco-center (Recycling Center)

## Gender Mainstreaming



*Dr. Choi and Bandu Ranawaka with participants*

The Training of Trainers Programme on “Management Capacity Building of Women for Co-operative Development” for women and men co-operative leaders and managers was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 19-23 December, 2011 in collaboration with National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL).

The programme was inaugurated on 19th December by Mr. Priyantha Mayadunna, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives for the Internal Trade of Sri Lanka followed by speeches by Mr. Bandu Ranawaka, Chairman, NCCSL and Dr. Chan Ho CHOI Regional Director of ICA-AP. The officials of NCCSL, ICA-AP and Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives; Mr. Sunil Silva, General Manager, NCCSL, Mr. P H Annanda, Commissioner-Department of Co-operative Development of Sri Lanka, Ms. Savitri Singh, Advisor, Gender Programme and Communication and Mr. Rangan Dutta, Sr. Consultant of ICA-AP were also present.

25 co-operators (women and men) from all over the country attended the programme. Some participants from the Trincomalee districts were also present. It was informed that due to the long years of armed conflict going on in these areas, the co-operatives of this part of the country could not participate in the co-operative activities of NCCSL for a long

time. This was the first participation from these areas after a long time.

The main objective of the programme is to enhancing management skills of co-operative leaders and managers, specially women to handle the day to day management of their co-operatives and understanding the importance of women’s participation in coops.

The programme started with presentation of status paper on “Situation of co-operative movement and women’s participation in Sri Lanka” by National Co-operative council of Sri Lanka and discussion on various aspects facilitated by resource persons.



*The participants of the training*

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI took keen interest in the training and conducted a session on contribution of women for the development of the society wherein he shared his experience from Korea where women are very active in co-operatives.

Experts from UN, ILO, FAO and local institutions and Savitri Singh from ICA-AP delivered lecture on various topics. The discussion led to creating a road map for education and training on various skills crucial for quality participation of women and men in co-operative business and management. Besides, social and developmental issues like awareness on climate change and economic recession impacting co-operatives and members were also addressed during the course. However, main focus remained on developing skills on co-operative business development.

## "Catch them Young" : Youth Workshop

One of the core priorities of ICA is to encourage the younger generation to understand the co-operative values and principles to take up the rein of the movement in future. Therefore, ICA Committee on Youth Co-operation in Asia and Pacific organises various programmes focusing on induction of co-operative philosophy in youth through educational institutions.

The Youth Workshop on “CO-operative Entrepreneurship and Green Innovations” was held at Institute of Co-operative Management, Kannur in Kerala from December 20 -23, 2011. The program was jointly organized by ICA Committee on



*The Participants of the youth workshop with Dr. Choi*

Youth Co-operation in Asia Pacific and National Co-operative Union of India. The workshop was organized while observing the recently completed UN International Year of Youth to discuss the role of Youth in the UN International Year of Co-operatives.

The Workshop was inaugurated by Mr. P.K. Michael Tharakan, Vice Chancellor of Kannur University and Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, Youth Liaison for the committee presided over the function. Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director, ICA-Asia Pacific graced the workshop by joining the program on December 22, 2011. The workshop featured Sessions by specialist from the United Nations, Co-Secretary of the ICA University Campus Committee and the faculty of the institute. A delegation from the Ministry of Co-operatives and Small and Medium Enterprises comprising of two members, Mr. Henra and Mr. Roli Endravan also attended the workshop and gave an account of the Indonesian Co-operative movement during the workshop.

The members of the Youth Committee sent their video messages where they mentioned about the ICA General Assembly held in Cancun and the International year of Co-operatives.

The aim and objective of the workshop was to sensitise the youth involved in co-operatives on subjects such as co-operative entrepreneurship, green jobs and climate change. The idea of the workshop was to provide a platform for the young minds to interact with experts.

Topics like, What is Co-operation, Co-operative Entrepreneurship, Co-operative Law and Policy, Knowledge Platforms to share information, What are Green Jobs etc were discussed. Dr. Chan Ho CHOI addressed the topic "Youth in the Co-operatives" and also mention that Co-operatives do require the youth but the Youth also requires co-operatives for a secure future.

"COOPATHON" - A series of events such as Panel discussion, Art competition, Debate and Quiz contest for college students were also facilitated by Mr. P. Santosh Kumar and Ms. Payal Goswami. Around 10 teams from various colleges participated in the competition. Awards and certificates for winners were distributed by Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director, ICA-Asia Pacific.

As part of exposure to co-operatives, the delegates visited to RUBCO, AK Gopalan Co-operative Hospital, Dinesh Beedi and Foods and the Co-operative Handloom centre.

## **Development of Consumer Co-operatives**

ICA-AP Workshop on Development of Consumer Co-operatives in the Philippines was held at Quezon City, Philippines from 12-13 December, 2011. This Workshop was held by ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Co-operation, in collaboration with the National Confederation of Co-operatives (NATCCO), Philippines. 48 leaders and managers from co-operatives, including 24 foreign participants and one from the Philippine Co-operative Development Authority attended the Workshop.

The main objectives of the Workshop were 1) to establish a network of Philippine consumer co-operative through dialogue, 2) to strengthen partnership and develop strategic

alliances among Philippine consumer co-operatives so that they can work together and eventually unify the store format.

The Workshop started with the Welcome Speech of Ms. Sylvia Okinlay Paraguya, CEO of NATCCO. She welcomed the participants and expressed her expectations toward the Workshop. Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-AP made the Opening Remarks. Mr. Haruyoshi Amano, Chairperson of ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Co-operation made a Special Speech on "Introduction of ICA-AP Committee on Consumer Co-operatives". He introduced the structure of ICA, Consumer Committee's main objectives

## Highlights

### ROCHDALE Pioneers Award



*Mr. Jong-Koo Lee receiving the award from Dame Pauline Green and Charles Gould*

Mr. Jong-Koo Lee, Chairperson of International Co-operative Fisheries Organisation ( ICFO ) received the Rochdale Pioneer Award on 18 November, 2011 in Cancun, Mexico during the ICA General Assembly-2012.

In 2000, the ICA Board established the Rochdale Pioneers Award.

The purpose of this Award is to recognise a person or, under special circumstances a co-operative organisation, having contributed to innovative and financially sustainable co-operative activities that have significantly benefited their membership.

Mr. Lee became the chairman of ICFO in November, 2009. He established the World Fisheries Co-operative Day and held the 1st anniversary with "the Fisheries Co-operators' Pledge the Fishermen of the World" in Seoul, Korea. He realized the co-operative spirit by publishing the Korean Fisheries Co-operatives' Business Knowledge Sharing Program to share expertise and experiences of ICFO members which was highly appreciated by Mr. Charles Gould, Director-General of ICA.

He also donated personal computers and fishing equipment to ICFO members for the development of fisheries co-operatives.

He always asserts that the best way to raise fishermen's welfare is education. In order to realize his belief, he invited 12 fisheries co-operators and fishermen from the Philippines in 2011. They had a chance to learn about the experiences of the Korean fisheries co-operatives and fishing industry.

This prize means that ICA recognized his accomplishments and efforts for the co-operatives around the world. It will surely strengthen his contribution to ICFO.

and presented the 2010-2011 Activity Report. He also summarized "How to better serve to the members (consumers)", explaining the types of consumer co-operatives in the region.

The Workshop had four resource speakers with the following title of presentations:

- 1) Mr. Emmanuel Santiaguél, Ph.D., Chairperson of Co-operative Development Authority "Current Status of Consumer Co-operatives in the Philippines and their Challenges"
- 2) Ms. Cecilia M. dela Cruz, Development Officer, NATCCO "Development of Coop Mart Stores in the Philippines and Challenges"
- 3) Ms. Oh Mi-yea, Chairperson, iCOOP Association of Consumer Co-operatives "iCOOP KOREA's Store Business Strategy and Store Operation Policy"
- 4) Mr. Budi Prasetyo, Retail Specialist for Co-op Mart Indonesia, LAPENKOP , "Development of Consumer Co-operative in Indonesia through Co-op Mart Project"

His speech was supported by comments of Ms. Anneli Leina, Country Director, Swedish Co-operative Center (SCC) - Philippines.



*The participants with Dr. Choi*

The Workshop ended with the Closing Remarks by Mr. Raul M. Calayan Jr., Chief Operating Officer of NATCCO.

Participants from the Philippine co-operatives were very much motivated by the workshop presentations and decided to organize a Forum to discuss future business collaborations beneficial to the consumer co-operative sector.

## Reaching Out

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI visited to Philippines, Sri Lanka and Kannur, India to meet with the co-operative members, leaders and government official in order to keep abreast with the happening in co-operative movement of the members and share concerns.

He also participated in ICA General Assembly in Cancun.

## New ICA Board member from the region

Mr. Abolhassan Khalili, Chairperson of the Iran Oilseeds & Vegetable Oil Processing Co-operative (Farda Co-op) has been elected the Board Member of the ICA Global Board from the Asia-Pacific Region in Cancun General Assembly, November 2011.

## New Member

National Federation of Rural Co-operatives (Induk KUD) from Indonesia joined ICA family from the region as an Associate Member.

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## Farewell

Ms. Archana Gupta, Librarian cum Information Officer has bid farewell to ICA- AP and moved forward in career for better growth prospects. She worked for ICA-AP from year 2003-2011. The ICA family wishes her all the success in her future endeavor.

## Philippines

In Philippines he attended the ICA Consumer workshop and there after met with the officials of Co-operative Development Authority (CDA) of Philippines. He also met with Mr. Emmanuel M. Santiagué, Chairperson of CDA and Mr. FE D. Caingles Director, Institutional Development Department.

## Sri Lanka

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI visited Sri Lanka to attend the ICA-AP-NCCS Training on "Management Capacity Building of Women for Co-operative Development" and met with the officials of ministry of co-operatives and leaders of co-operative movement-SANASA, NCCS, COOPFED and NICD. He discussed with senior officials about legal and policy support of co-operatives and also about the 9th co-operative Ministers' Conference to be held in February 2012.

## Cancun

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director attended the ICA General Assembly in Cancun in November, 2011 and participated in various events. He made presentation on the topic "Co-operative Development Funding Opportunities" and touched upon the following vital areas in his presentation:

1. Role of ICA in Development
2. Why ICA does not have sufficient Funds
3. Means to support the ICA-Asia and Pacific

He explained why ICA does not have much financial support from external sources because

- ICA is being understood as self helping development organisation
- ICA defines itself as 'coordinator' knowledge network and not much involved in the projects for capacity building.

## Tell Your Story !

ICY-2012 is an opportunity to tell and share your cooperative stories. Please tell your stories at [stories.coop](http://stories.coop).

The <http://www.stories.coop/> is a partnership between Euricse, the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises, based in Trento, Italy and the apex organization for cooperatives worldwide, the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA).

Please visit the website and follow the guidelines to upload your stories. Stories.coop also accepts slide show stories made directly from [www.Prezi.com](http://www.Prezi.com). Pictures tell a thousand words. Use pictures as much as possible to illustrate the story you want to tell.

Short, sharp statements as opposed to long paragraphs get across a story. See here for more detailed instructions on how to use [prezi www.prezi.com](http://www.prezi.com)

Please contact [info@stories.coop](mailto:info@stories.coop) if you need assistance with this.

Take a look at some of these stories to get a feel for how to tell a story well: Argan Tree, Keta Sandlanders, People's Food Co-op

**“Co-operative enterprises build a better world”**