



News Alert

Report from CLT on the Flood Disaster



The Flood Victims needs food and drinking water

The flood has devastated the whole country including the capital city of Bangkok, Thailand. The estimated loss and damage to the most affected farming areas are at around 3,868,290 Acres which are 51,371 Acre of fish and shrimp ponds and 9.9 million of livestock. Transportation routes are totally damaged by 57 main high ways, 15 provincial main roads, and 162 rural roads in 33 provinces are not passable. All the north - bound routes of the railway are cancelled. Underground water resources of around 32,501 wells and 5,953 enclosed well were affected.

and consumer goods from some of our cooperative members in Bangkok area. We made the "Disaster Relief Packages" and gave away to the affected areas, as shown in the Photos. All majority of the flood victims in the affected area had already been evacuated but they are all wait for all water gone. For the long term rehabilitation program,CLT has launched the center as "CLT National Flood Relief Center" at CLT Central Offcie in Bangkok to provide emergency operation as a central point to help all cooperative members that affected from floods, storm, and landslide. The main aims of the center are to act as a central point and immediate



Drinking Water is the most needed

communication with the floods victims in cooperative sector, providing coordinating operational, and support needs of the cooperative members. It is also to assist in coordination and communication between donors and victims of the floods,



Disaster Relief Pakages for only one or two days

Within the cooperative itself have been totally damaged of 187 cooperatives societies and around 450,000 individual members are directly affected and remained badly. Our urgent relief for cooperative sector, we have mobile all fund

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“ Co-operative enterprises build a better world ”

From the Editor



Dear Readers,
The flood in Thailand has devastated the country and the co-operative community has suffered with huge

losses. The Co-operative League of Thailand, along with the Government and other agencies are trying to help as much as possible. Let's join hands with them to help in whatever way we can.

Other feature in this issue is the success story from Japan. It is incredible that the community is resilient and co-operatives survived the terrible tsunami and earth quake which happened only few months ago.

A number of capacity building programmes have been implemented in the region in collaboration with the member organisations during the months under report. A number of coop leaders, managers and members are the beneficiaries.

We reached out to the members and partnered for imparting knowledge and resources to promote sustainable and competitive coop enterprises which build a better world.

Please send your feedback and news to make this news letter useful.

Savitri Singh

Special Announcement

The 9th Asia- Pacific Co-operative Minister's Conference will be held at Bangkok on 27 Feb-1st March 2012. The Conference will be co-hosted by the Government of Thailand. For more details, please click on our website: www.ica-ap.coop

storm, and landslide as emergency response and recovery operations.

In order to achieve the needs and goals to relief and recovery the flood victims in cooperative sector, we are still needed to mobilize a huge amount of fund. Since CLT is membership based organization, all extra activities to be done are only relied on annual membership free. We may request for financial assistance and support from the national and international cooperative organizations. In case, you would like to assist or sponsor our plan to relief and recovery the floods victims in cooperatives sectors in Thailand, CLT has set up the "CLT Fund for Natural Disaster". Please directly contact with me. The details of the bank for remittance of the money are as followings;

Coop Story

JWCU-From Job Creation to Community Care

As we all face the unstable economy at a global level, job security is weaker than ever. We do not know if and when we would be fired. It could happen tomorrow. While the worker cooperative is a relatively small sector, particularly in Asia, its main goal is, indeed, to respond to this challenge: to create sustainable and fair vocational opportunities through democratic control and community services. More specifically, worker cooperative members work toward this goal by managing the business democratically, making economic contribution to the business and carrying out the work.

The following story from Japan Workers' Cooperative Union is about a group of worker cooperative members, who lost their jobs, created their own jobs and responded to the needs of their community.

Name of the Bank:

Bangkok Bank (Public Ltd.)
Address: 844-6 Samsen, Nakhonchisri, Dusit, Bangkok 10300 Thailand
Tel: +662-241-3191 Fax: +662-24-0999
Branch of the Bank: Sriyan
CLT Bank A/C: 110-0-92344-8
Beneficiary: The Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT Fund for Natural Disaster)
Swift Code: BKKBTHBK

Contact Person:

Mr. Phanuwat Wanraway
Director of International Affairs
The Cooperative League of Thailand
13 Pichai Road, Dusit, Bangkok 10300 Thailand
Tel: +66-2-669 3254 Ext 1001
Fax: +66-2-241 1228
Email: green.clt@gmail.com
Website: clt.or.th

Tofu Kobo

A group of 60 women, members of JWCU Center Jigyodan, had been working at a distribution center of a cooperative store since 1987 in Saitama Prefecture. However, in 1994, this job contract was terminated because of the merger. Losing their jobs, these members started to think, "If we are losing our jobs, why not make some new jobs on our own?"

The members agreed to go ahead and



The Co-operative Member

start their own business, but the question was, "What should we do?" They came up with some keywords such as "safety" and "community," but nothing particular reached their heart. That was when they heard about a group of housewives in a rural village of Nagano Prefecture, who had chipped in 10,000 yen each and were successfully doing a business in making and selling tofu to rebuild their village.

The full story is placed at www.ica-ap.coop

Reaching Out

Regional Director with Members

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director, International Co-operative Alliance-Asia and Pacific visited member organisation in China, Korea and Singapore during the implementation of following special project in the months of September-October:



Dr. Choi Addressing a meeting

The 3rd Business Seminar of ICA-SNCF for Cooperative Leaders on "Innovating Cooperative Business with Internet Technology" (Singapore)

The ICA-AP / NACF Joint Workshop for Cooperative Leaders in Asia-Pacific, (South Korea)

The 3rd ICA/CHINA Training Course on "Co-operative Management and Circular Economy Project Operations" (China)

In the course of his visits, he interacted with members from various co-operatives in the region and exchanged information about various programmes and the activities to be carried out to commemorate the the International Year of Co-operative 2012.

He also welcomed suggestions to spread awareness about IYC-2012 and efforts to increase the membership of ICA in future by generating awareness among people on the advantage of cooperatives.

Committee Meetings

University/Campus Co-operatives Committee

The ICA-AP Committee on University/Campus Co-operatives held its 3rd meeting in Manila, Philippines, on September 29 - October 1, 2011, in conjunction with the 2011 International Conference on Student Co-operativism in Asia.



Meeting in Progress

The highlight of the meeting was the planning of the 2012 Regional Workshop on University/Campus Co-operatives which will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on July 1-5, 2012. It will include the first exchange program for high school co-operatives, as well a study of the management of business and services of co-operatives in higher education.

Member Services

Strategic Business Alliances among Co-operatives

The Conference on Strategic Business Alliances among Co-operatives was held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on September 6-7, 2011. 27 foreign participants from India, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Singapore and INTERCOOP attended the conference, in addition to 23 participants from Vietnam.

The main objectives of the conference were:

- 1) To develop strategic business alliances between consumer co-ops and other type of coops;
- 2) To strengthen partnerships between consumers and producers.
- 3) To promote co-operative trade (including "Fair Trade") and ethical consumption in Asia and the Pacific region.

The Conference was inaugurated by Ms. Nguyen Thi Hanh, C.E.O., Saigon Co-op. She welcomed the participants and gave a detailed description of the Conference. She believed that a broad range of mutual benefits will be offered through



The Participant at the conference

this conference for not only enhancing solid relationships among international co-operatives but also gaining remarkable knowledge about strategic business alliances.

Coop. Brand Products were displayed at the venue of the Conference by Saigon Coop., FairPrice, Singapore, JCCU, Japan, iCOOP Korea and Intercoop.

In addition to the presentation, an open discussion on "Strategies and Future Perspectives of Coop. Brand Products" took place. The panelists were representative from Fair Price, Singapore and Saigon Coop.

ICA/SNCF Business Seminar



Participants with Dr. Choi and Dolly Goh

The 3rd ICA/SNCF Business Seminar for Cooperative Leaders, subtitled "Innovating Cooperative Business with Internet Technology", was held in RELC International Hotel in Singapore, from 5th to 7th October. This seminar was held in collaboration with the Singapore National Cooperative Federation (SNCF). The main objectives of the seminar were (a) to offer cooperative leaders and chief executive officers an ample opportunity to learn about new area of e-commerce for cooperative business; (b) to share about various models of e-commerce among chief executive officers; and (c) to share the best applications in the use of

'social media' for branding cooperative and service products. 19 participants from 5 countries (India, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore) attended the seminar. The seminar opened with the welcome speech by Ms. Dolly Goh, CEO of SNCF and the opening remarks by Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-AP. Ms. Dolly Goh emphasized in her speech that there is a rise of IT technology, and it will transform and give impact to the global business. SNCF's site provides educational videos and information on the co-operative movement. In addition, she introduced SNCF's 2 IYC programs which involve Internet Technology, i.e. the

Highlights

New Member:

The Mongolian National Cooperators' Association (MNCA) joined ICA family from the region. The Membership Committee of the ICA Board agreed to admit the organisation as a Member of the ICA.

Contact details are:

Mongolian National Cooperators' Association (MNCA) Room 603, Government building 11, Chingeltei district Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Contact Person:

Ms Oyunchimeg Togoodorj,
Executive director

Email: oyunchimeg@mongolia.coop;
mnca@mongolia.coop

Upcoming Events

1. ICA Regional Board Meeting and ICA domus Trust Meeting, Cancun, November 2011
2. Management Capacity Building of Women for Co-operative Development Sri Lanka, December 2011
3. ICA-AP Youth Committee Workshop on "Co-operative Entrepreneurship", India, December 2011

Children's Storybook Series on Co-op Values, adopted into mobile applications and the Viral Photography competition on Co-op Principles, helped on Facebook.

Mr. Nobuhisa Mogi, Manager of IT Business Planning Division, Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union, made a presentation on "E-Commerce and Social Network of Japanese Consumer Co-ops". He enlightened the participants by introducing the unique "home delivery business" of Japanese consumer co-ops, and its online shopping sites that include also mobile sites. Ms. Tan Huey Ling, Operation

Manager, NTUC Fairprice Co-operative Limited, made a presentation on the "Sales and strategy of Fairprice's Online Shopping Site". She also explained that Fairprice has to overcome several challenges, i.e.

- 1) increasing operational costs,
- 2) high logistic cost,
- 3) tight labor market and retention of staff,
- 4) keeping up with the advancement in the social, internet and mobile media.

The participants enjoyed visiting Fairprice's supermarket and hypermarket on the third day.

Revitalization of Local Community by Rural Women



The Participants at Saga Prefecture

In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan, the 1st Training Course on "Revitalization of Local Community by Rural Women" was held in Thailand and Japan from 18th September to 20th October 2011.

Seventeen women participants from 13 countries, namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam attended the Training Course.

The main objective of the Training Course was to assist fostering women coordinators who play important roles to activate women in agricultural sector and rural community which will

contribute in income-generation and poverty reduction in the Least Developed Countries of Mekong River countries and the South-Asian countries.

The part-I of the program - field study visits with a focus on observation of the activities of cooperatives and social institutions - was held in Thailand from 18th to 24th September in collaboration with the Cooperative League of Thailand [CLT], a member organization of ICA.

The part-II of the program held at IDACA from 25th September to 20th October 2011 included extensive classroom work and study visits to agricultural cooperatives in Saga Prefecture of Japan.

A Certificate of Participation was awarded to each participant at the concluding session held at IDACA in Tokyo on 19th October. The concluding session was attended by Mr. Kenichi Tanimoto, Chief of International Cooperation Division,

International Affairs Department of MAFF; Mr. Keiji Hiraoka, Executive Director of IDACA; Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan, Manager-Planning & Membership, ICA-Asia and Pacific; and other senior officers of IDACA.

Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives



Mr. Taneja & Mr. Hiraoka

The 1st Training Course on "Fostering Core Leaders of Agricultural Co-operatives-2011(I)" was held in India and Japan. Part-I of the Training Course was held at New Delhi/IRMA, Gujarat from 23 September 2011 to 22 October 2011. Part-II of the Training Course is being held in Japan in collaboration with the Institute for the Development of

Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) from 23rd October to 17th November 2011. The program is being funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan, and implemented by ICA.

12 participants from 7 countries namely Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Nepal and Vietnam attended the program. Some of the key subjects covered are - various aspects in the development of

agricultural cooperatives in Japan, i.e., farm guidance, joint collection and shipment, business management method of agricultural cooperatives. Moreover, the participants are expected to finalize the action plans in Japan for improvement, based on the experience and the knowledge gained during the training course in India and Japan.

Agricultural Co-operative System in Korea

The ICA-AP / NACF Joint Workshop for Cooperative Leaders in Asia-Pacific was held from October 10-15, 2011 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The participants represented seven countries of the Asia Pacific region. The Workshop was inaugurated by the on the 11th October, 2011 at the NACF Headquarters with the opening speech of Mr. Joon-Ho Kim, Executive Vice President, NACF thereafter Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director, ICA-AP made his congratulatory speech and officially declared the workshop open.

The officials of NACF made presentations on "Korean Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperative", "NACF's Extension Services for Members' Benefit", The Agricultural Machinery Banks and Agricultural Finance in Korea. Post the technical sessions, participants were required to make country reports introducing their country and their respective co-operative movements.

The participants were given a good over-view of the development history of the Korean Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives at the Agricultural Museum in



The Participants with Santosh Kumar and NACF staff

NACF which is a famous place for students of all walks to visit. The field visit organised by NACF to Farm-stay Village at Kanghwado was pleasantly met with the harvest season and the participants gained knowledge about harvesting paddy and prepared traditional rice cakes and tofu with the help of the staff at the Farm-Stay Village at Kanghwado. The participants also visited the NH Group's then visited the Hanaro Club which is the NACF Marketing Super Center at Yangjae, Seoul. The participants departed from Korea on the 15 October 2011.

Reduce Reuse- Recycle



Dr. Choi & Mr. Li Chunsheng with the Participants

The 3rd ICA/CHINA Training Course on “Co-operative Management and Circular Economy Project Operations” was held from October 17 - 26, 2011 in Beijing, Changzhou and Shanghai under the aegis of All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC). The Training Course was attended by twenty five participants who represented eleven countries of the Asia Pacific Region. The extensive week long training carried lectures by experts from Co-operative Guidance Department of ACFSMC, National Development and Reform Commission, China Resource Recycling and Utilization Association and professors and academicians from Beijing University, Renmin University. The Opening Ceremony was graced by Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director of ICA-AP and Mr. Li Chunsheng, Vice President of ACFSMC and President of the ICA-AP Board along with Mr. Zhang Wangshu of the International Co-operative Department of ACFSMC and other delegates from its subsidiary recycling companies. The special resource person for the course was Mr. Huseyin Polat who retired from the

International Labour Organisation and has worked closely with COPAC and ICA in his tenure. ICA-AP was represented by Mr. P. Santosh Kumar.

The participants were to make country-reports introducing their countries and their respective co-operative movements along with presenting a project proposal that involves wholesome development and utilizes the concept of Circular Economy. Mr. Polat educated the participants co-operators about preparing large scale and effective project proposals. ICA-AP along with ACFSMC are to help the participants in the follow-up initiatives post the Course. The participants were then taken for field visits to the Beijing Hua Jing Yuan Renewable Resource Recycling Market Ltd and to Changzhou Recycling Resource Industry Pilot Park at Changzhou in the Jiangsu province, where they witnessed the creation of synthetic cloth with the help of processing waste like plastic bottles apart from recycling of Steel and water. The Course concluded with distribution of certificates and congratulatory remarks by the guests at the valedictory.

Enhancing the Role of Women in Cooperative Business



Mrs. Savitri Singh with the Participants

The ICA- AP Workshop on “Enhancing the Role of Women in Cooperative Business” was held in Jakarta, Indonesia in collaboration with DEKOPIN, Indonesia from 18-20 October 2011.

The 3 days programme included one day workshop followed by 2 days study visits to a few successful cooperative businesses in the country. The consultations during the workshop focused upon cooperative endeavour to promote women’s interests for gender mainstreaming in cooperatives.

The total number of 13 participants (10 women and 3 men) from 6 ICA member countries in Asia and 20 local participants from Indonesia including- Ministry of Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Department

and various cooperative attended the workshop to have an exposure of gender focused best practices in Indonesian cooperatives.

Mr. Ilhamnasai, Board Member of DEKOPIN and Chairperson of the Youth Committee of ICA opened the workshop with Inaugural speech. Mrs. Savitri Singh of ICA-AP extended warm welcome to participants on behalf of ICA and gave a brief introduction of the programme. All the participants made presentations and shared experiences about their Cooperatives during the business session.

Ms. Dina Latifah Chairperson of the DEKOPIN committee of women empowerment made presentation on the theme "Enhancing Women's Role in Cooperative Business". Mrs. Savitri Singh shared information about the "Gender Integration and Situation of Women in Cooperatives in Asia and Pacific".

Ms. Lilis Solehati, Chairperson of BKWK (Badan Komunikasi Wanita Koperasi) also made a presentation and shared some

interesting data.

Participants from following countries/ organisation shared and exchanged information:

ACFSMC - China, NATCOO and VICTO - Philippines, NCUI - India, NCC - Sri Lanka, NCF - Nepal, ANGKASA - Malaysia

The Workshop concluded with a panel discussion and open form.

During the second and third day of the program the participants visited to following cooperatives and exchanged information

- Indonesian Institute of Cooperative Management
- KOPWANTERA, Jakarta
- KOPPAS KRANGGAN, Jakarta

Certificate of participation was awarded to all the participants.

From the Region

ICFO shows the cooperative spirit



ICFO Chairman Presenting the fishing net

ICFO donated 10 personal computers and 10 printers to 2 fisheries cooperatives of 2 countries for helping the computerization of their works late August in 2011. ICFO chairman thinks that the lack of high-quality information is one of the reasons why the livelihood of fishermen is below the average even though they have an important role in the food security. In order to overcome this problem, ICFO contributed 20 personal computers and 6 printers to 4 ICFO members last year. National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Ltd.(FISHCOPFED), India and The Cooperative League of Thailand(CLT) received 5 personal computers and 5 printers respectively this year.

In addition, ICFO also donated fishing equipment worth USD20,000 such as fishing nets, generators, small fishing boats to Vietnam Cooperative Alliance(VCA) on 29 August,

2011 with the support from Korea National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives. The main purpose of the donations is not only to improve the cooperatives of ICFO members, but also to realize the cooperative spirit to help each other. Lee Jong-koo, ICFO chairman, said that the close cooperation among ICFO members is crucial to overcome pending issues such as fishery resource preservation and fishery management systems facing the world fisheries.

Iran:

Managers of areas of industrial, cooperatives and entrepreneurs met the Leader of Islamic Republic of Iran In this meeting which was held on 17/August/2011, Mr. Abolhassan Khalili , Directing Manager of Iran Oil Seeds & Vegetable Oil Processing Factories Cooperative, made speech. He expressed the improved role of Iran`s



Managing Director addressing the meeting

cooperative sector from 6 percent to 25 percent in Iran`s economy. He also added the necessity of more consideration on cooperative field.