

June 22, 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

Warm Cooperative Greetings!

I am writing to formally express my candidacy for the position of Executive Committee Member At Large for the Asia Pacific Region. As the Youth Program Staff of MASS-SPECC Cooperative Development Center, the oldest and largest regional co-op federation in Mindanao, Philippines, and as a cooperator for almost eight (8) years, I am eager to bring on my insights and experiences, as well as my passion in the global level.

MASS-SPECC represents over 368 member cooperatives and approximately 3.4 M individual members. Thus, to ensure visibility of youth in co-op governance and sustainability of cooperatives, MASS-SPECC created Co-op Youth Parliament (CYP) as one of its advocacy programs. My role is to supervise and lead activities for the youth together with CYP Board of Trustees. We conducted training to enhance their leadership skills, mainstream the youth program at the primary level, and proposed resolutions necessary for them to grow and become the leaders in their respective cooperatives.

Since 2018, I have been actively involved in the cooperative movement. A former MASS-SPECC Board of Director representing the Youth Sector and the President of Co-op Youth Parliament for four years (2020-2024). These roles made me see the pressing issue of leadership transition, as seasoned leaders retire and fewer young people are being prepared to assume leadership roles. It's by engaging them early that we can erase their misconceptions about cooperatives, lead them to being financially literate, and soon become responsible cooperative/community leaders.

I became a member of the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation in 2022 and since then, my view expanded. Though joining the activities, contributing to meetings and discussions, my cooperative understanding deepened. The passion and desire to create meaningful programs and formulate policies to increase youth engagement grows even more.

My work allowed me to contribute fully on youth development across the cooperatives, participate in national and international dialogues, and benchmark on best practices. I believed that the knowledge and experiences gained all throughout those years are meant to be shared. Running for the Executive Committee is my way of giving back to the organization who nurtured me in my leadership journey. I am confident that my federation and I have unique insights to offer in strengthening global youth representation.

Guided by the cooperative principle of "Cooperation among cooperatives", joining the Executive Committee will foster collaboration among the young cooperative leaders worldwide. I am open to new learning which I could bring back to the Philippines and Asia-Pacific region, and all the more ready to contribute meaningful ideas, that would benefit the youth and society as a whole.

Cooperatively yours,



CHERRY ANN P. ADAYO
MASS-SPECC Youth Program Staff

