

**REPORT ON ACTIVITIES
2006-07**

Contents

Message from the President, Asia Pacific	1
Message from the Regional Director	2
20th ICA-Japan Training Course concluded	3
1st ICA-Japan Training Course on "Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Women"	4
Training Project for "Capacity Building for Marketing – 2006"	5
ICA-AP's Fact-finding Mission to Afghanistan	6
ICA/NCUI Training Programme for Afghan Co-operators	7
International Co-operative Trade Fair and Symposium	8
Conference on "The Role of Co-operatives in Poverty Alleviation" ..	9
RCBA/ICBA/SANASA/People's Bank Symposium	10
12th APHCO meeting held in Vietnam	11
Workshop on Replication of Success Story of Saigon Co-operative to other regions of Vietnam	11
Post Tsunami ICA Interventions	12
ICA-AP/ICAO/IFAP Joint Workshop on the Impact of WTO Negotiations	13
ICA Regional Assembly and Co-op Forum held at Colombo	14
Fourth ICA Regional Research Conference held in Colombo	15
Training Programme for Managers of Consumer Co-ops in Asia-Pacific Region	16
ICA Regional Committees Meetings	17
3rd ICA Regional Youth Conference held in Colombo	20
Study Tour on Agricultural Co-ops in Korea	21
Special TICA Meeting held in Colombo	21
Training of Trainers for Leadership Development of Women	22
ICA AP-NCUI HIV/AIDS Awareness Project for Co-operatives	23
Regional Conference on Gender Integration in Co-operatives	23
ICA Membership	24



Message from the President, Asia Pacific

The ICA in Asia-Pacific was able to initiate and undertake a number of activities this year also, as in the past.

A number of important workshops and seminars were organized for agricultural co-operatives in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The ICA-AP has been able to organize a Training Course for "Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women and a training course for Capacity Building for Marketing co-operatives in Asia-Pacific, etc.

We were also able to hold a number of other activities, like a Co-operative Trade Fair in Tehran, Iran.

We have also been very effective in holding seminars and workshops on Networking of Global HRD Institutions, an effort which was undertaken by co-operative colleagues in National Co-operative Union of India.

Another milestone in our efforts was that we were able to establish a Regional Youth Committee for Youth Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific during August, 2006 at our Regional Assembly in Colombo. We also had organized a Regional Youth Conference, a Regional Co-operative Forum and also a Regional Research Conference.

We have been organizing meetings of Consumer, Health, Women's Committee, HRD, Banking, Agriculture and other sectors of co-operatives. It is expected that by the

time the Regional Assembly meets in Hanoi, Vietnam, we might even be able to set up a Committee on Co-operative Research for Asia and the Pacific.

HIV/AIDS has been another area, where the ICA-AP has been active and we have conducted a number of training courses in different states in India to sensitize the co-operative leadership and members on the effects of HIV/AIDs in our region.

Through the support of Agriterro, Netherlands, we have been able to set up some pilot projects on agricultural co-operatives in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam during the year. It is heartening to note that some of these countries have embarked on bringing out legislation on co-operatives.

I am happy to report that the Tsunami intervention of the ICA in Asia-Pacific has been a success in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. A number of organizations – Co-operatives UK, the NISPED and Israeli co-operative movement and the Singapore Red Cross have shown a lot of interest and provided support to help the poor tsunami victims of these countries. This year, we were able to finalise the first 2 phases of tsunami reconstruction efforts in India and you would find information on these on the ICA-AP web-site www.icaroap.coop

We were also able to hold a successful mission to Afghanistan and we are happy to report that the Afghanistan Government has come out with a Co-operative Law in tune with the ICA Principles of Co-operation. Similarly, we understand co-operative laws have been initiated in a number of countries in the region, and these

efforts would go a long way to make co-operatives as important change agents and engines of development of enterprises and co-operative efforts in our region.

We have been lucky enough to have a number of co-operative movements in our Region to come out to support the initiatives of ICA-AP and this has contributed to a large extent in effectively undertaking development initiatives in co-operatives in our Region. I am personally thankful to all the member organizations in the region in supporting ICA initiatives.

My former colleague Mr. Mu Li, as ICA President for Asia-Pacific, was involved with most of these initiatives. I took over as the President for ICA in Asia-Pacific at the Regional Assembly in Colombo, and I am happy that the ICA in our Region is moving in the right direction.

Li Chun Sheng
President,
ICA-Asia-Pacific.



Message from the Regional Director

The year 2006 was yet another good year for the ICA Asia-Pacific. We conducted a number of activities during the year, covering all sectors of co-operatives and have also carried out activities and programmes of sectoral importance. To add to it, the ICA was successful in collaborating with a number of development partners in providing support to the co-operative movements of Sri Lanka, India and Indonesia for the reconstruction and rehabilitation needs of the Tsunami affected co-operatives in these countries.

We continued our collaboration with AGRITERRA, Netherlands, to continue development activities for the agricultural sector in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

An International Conference on Role of Co-operatives in Poverty Allieviation was held in Hanoi, Vietnam in March 2006. A number of important workshops and seminars were organized for agricultural co-operatives in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The ICA-AP organized the First ICA-Japan Training Course on Enhancement of Farmers' Income and Poverty Reduction through Co-operatives, India-Thailand-Japan, from December 15, 2006 to April 22, 2007.

A Training Course for "Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Rural Women, Capacity Building for Marketing co-operatives in Asia-Pacific" was organised from 21 November to 15 December, 2006.

In order to promote co-operation amongst co-operatives, ICA-AP in collaboration with Iran Chamber of Co-

operatives, organised an International Co-operative Trade Fair in Tehran, Iran in October 2006.

We have also been very effective in holding seminars and workshops on Networking of Global HRD Institutions, an effort which was undertaken by co-operative colleagues in National Co-operative Union of India.

Another milestone in our efforts was that we were able to hold the Co-operative Forum session on Capacity Building - the pivotal issue before co-operatives in Colombo, Sri Lanka in August 2006 at the time of the ICA Regional Assembly. A Regional Youth Committee for Youth Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific was formed during August 2006 Regional Assembly in Colombo, where we also organized a Regional Youth Conference, a Regional Co-operative Forum and also a Regional Research Conference.

We successfully held the meetings of Consumer, Health, Women's Committee, HRD, Banking, Agriculture and other sectors of co-operatives. It is expected that by the time the Regional Assembly meets in Hanoi, Vietnam, we might even be able to set up a Committee on Co-operative Research for Asia and the Pacific.

HIV/AIDS has been another area, where the ICA-AP has been active and we have conducted a number of training courses in different provinces in India to sensitize the co-operative leadership and members on the effects of HIV/AIDs in our region.

I am happy to report that the Tsunami intervention of the ICA in Asia-Pacific has been a success in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. A number of organizations - Co-operatives UK, the NISPED and Israeli co-operative movement and the Singapore Red Cross have shown a lot of interest and provided support to help the poor tsunami victims of these countries. This year, we were able to finalise the first 2 phases of Tsunami Reconstruction efforts in India and you would find information

on these on the ICA-AP website: www.icaroop.coop

We also led a successful mission to Afghanistan and we are happy to report that the Afghan Government has come up with a Co-operative Law in tune with the ICA Principles of Co-operation. Similarly, we understand co-operative laws have been initiated in a number of countries in the Region, and these efforts would go a long way to make co-operatives as important change agents and engines of development of enterprises and co-operative efforts in our region.

We have been lucky enough to have a number of co-operative movements in our Region to come out and support the initiatives of ICA-AP and this has contributed to a large extent in effectively undertaking development initiatives in co-operatives in our Region. I would specially mention about the support of our member organizations, like the ACFSM, China; NACF, Korea; SNCF, Singapore; MAFF, JA-Zenchu, IDACA and JCCU, Japan; ANGKASA, Malaysia; CLT, Thailand; NCUI, India; ICC, Iran and others.

I would reiterate that our member organizations are our assets and we appreciate the support, co-operation and collaboration extended by them and look forward to receiving such sincere support from them in the future also.

We are fortunate that a few new co-operatives have joined us as our members and we wish to enroll more members in the Region. We would request co-operative organizations in the Region to join under the ICA umbrella for mutual benefits.

I would once again extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to our member organizations in this region and our development partners in supporting us during the year 2006, which we hope will continue in the years to come.

Shil Kwan Lee

Regional Director, ICA Asia-Pacific

20th ICA-Japan Training Course concluded



Mr. Prem Kumar, Program Advisor addressing the inaugural session at FMDI, India

The 20th Course was inaugurated by Mr. D.K. Bhatt, Marketing Director, IFFCO and the session was presided over by Mr. Shil-Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director, Asia-Pacific, New Delhi.

The 20th Course, which was the last course in the series, was attended by 12 senior/middle level managers of agricultural co-operatives from 8 Asian countries – China (2), India (2), Indonesia (1), Laos (1), Nepal (1), Sri Lanka (1), Thailand (2), and Vietnam (2).

Generous financial assistance was provided to the ICA by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [MAFF] of the Government of Japan to conduct the programme.

The India segment included three components [i] Review of Management of Agricultural Co-operatives in Asia and comparative Field Study Visits to national and primary level co-operative organisations in Delhi, Gurgaon area held at the Fertiliser Marketing Development Institute (FMDI) of Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Co-operative Limited (IFFCO) from January 15 to 31, 2006 [ii] Management Leadership Development Module at the Institute of Rural Management [IRMA] at Anand, from February 1 to March 2,

2006 and [iii] the wrap-up sessions held in New Delhi (March 3-4). The third segment was on comparative field study visits to agricultural co-operatives and related institutions in China, which was conducted from March 5 to 12, 2006 with the active support and collaboration of the All-China Federation of Supply & Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC).

The programme in Japan was held under the direction of Mr. Kazuo Tsukada, Executive Director of the IDACA. Mr. Toru Nakashima, Deputy Manager [Trgn], and Ms. Eiko Oshita, Co-ordinator, were designated by IDACA as Programme Co-ordinators for the Part-II of the course.

As a part of their studies, the participants produced 12 development project proposals during their Home Country Assignments. At IRMA, the participants were imparted training skills in developing project proposals.

The 2nd part of the programme held at IDACA, Japan, from March 13 to April 22 included extensive classroom work and study visits to agricultural co-operatives in and around Tokyo, Yamanashi and Kagoshima Prefectures. The participants got acquainted with a variety of national level co-operative federations and other institutions in Tokyo, and held discussions with leaders, members, managers and staff of agricultural co-operatives in Japan.

A continuous process of evaluation and appraisal has been followed throughout at the end of each component through evaluation forms and group discussions. An end-of-the-course evaluation was conducted at the conclusion of the Training Course wherein Certificates of Participation were awarded to the participants.

At the end of the Training Course, a total of 291 managers of agricultural co-operatives from 16 Asian countries had attended the training programmes and prepared a total of 288 project proposals on topical subjects.



Participants at the closing ceremony IDACA, Tokyo, Japan

1st ICA-Japan Training Course on “Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Women”



Group photo of the Course participants at IDACA, Japan

The ICA was earlier chosen by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Government of Japan to implement its Training Project on “Strengthening Women’s Agricultural Co-operatives in Rural Areas and Improvement of Farm Management and Rural Life” for the last 15 years. The overall objective of the training program under this Project was “to facilitate improvement of living standards of rural farm households through women’s participation in agricultural co-operative activity”. 100 women from 13 countries had successfully participated in these courses.

On the basis of these achievements, a Training Course on “Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Women” has now been developed and agreed upon for implementation through the ICA, with a view to generating employment and increasing income of rural women, based on discussions held between the International Co-operative Alliance [ICA], the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives

of Japan [JA-Zenchu]/IDACA and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [MAFF] of the Government of Japan.

Under this Project, the 1st Training Course on “Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises for Women” was held in the Philippines and Japan. Part-I of the

Training Course was held in the Philippines from 24th September to 3rd October and Part-II in Japan in collaboration with the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Co-operation in Asia (IDACA), Tokyo (Japan) from 4th to 31st October 2006. The program is being funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), of the Government of Japan and implemented by ICA.

Twelve (12) rural women leaders of agricultural co-operatives - two each from India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam attended the training course.



Participants during a study visit



Participants at Study Visit to prefectures

Training Project for “Capacity Building for Marketing – 2006”



Mr. A.K. Taneja, ICA Representative speaking at the session at IDACA, Japan

The 1st Training Project for “Capacity Building for Marketing-2006” was formally inaugurated on 21st November 2006 in the Conference Hall of IDACA by Mr. Kon-No Masahiro, General Manager, Agricultural Policy Department, Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (JA-Zenchu). Kazuo Tsukada, Executive Director, IDACA and Mr. A.K. Taneja, Program Officer, ICA-AP also addressed the inaugural session.

The programme is funded by the Government of Japan in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

The main objectives of the training project were :

- 1) To study marketing methods for farm products by theory and case study;
- 2) To study the methods for the rural development.

Fourteen participants – two each from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and one each from Brunei and Indonesia attended the Training Project.

The IDACA had developed a training

curriculum , which included classroom lectures on various aspects, handled by the IDACA faculty members and specially-invited guest lecturers, organised field study visits and arranged direct communication with farmers and leaders of agricultural co-operatives.

The field study visits were arranged to agricultural co-operatives in Shizuoka Prefecture of Japan. In Shizuoka Prefecture, it included the JA

Shizuoka Prefectural Union; JA Shizuoka Prefectural Economic Federation and its facilities; JA Enshu-chuoh and its facilities (Horticultural Products Distribution Center, etc.); JA Shizuoka-shi and observation of Farmers’ Market run by it.

The participants also held group discussions and prepared brief reports on the experiences gained by them. An end-of-the-Course Evaluation session was also held.

The emphasis during the Training Project was on the methods and techniques adopted by various organisations and JA group in distribution of agricultural products and marketing business in Japan.

Special topics of interest to the participants like “marketing methods for farm products by theory and case study”, “new methods for the rural development and green tourism”, “strategy for marketing of agricultural products”, etc. for future development were presented. During the study visits to agricultural co-operatives in Shizuoka Prefecture the participants were able to interact with farmer leaders and to observe their various activities as carried out by the JA’s.



Participants at a fruit processing unit

ICA-AP's Fact-finding Mission to Afghanistan



Mr. S.K. Lee, Regional Director, presenting a memento to the Afghan Minister.

On the invitation of Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food of Government of Afghanistan, ICA Asia-Pacific sponsored a two member mission to study the status of co-operatives in Afghanistan. The objective of mission was to identify the areas of interventions for strengthening co-operatives in Afganistan which has a good historical background of co-operative movement beset with 30 years of continuous wars and onslaughts of warlords during the then Soviet occupation and Taliban period. Even then co-operative system has survived, but in weakened shape. Agricultural co-operatives have been very important for agricultural development since long.

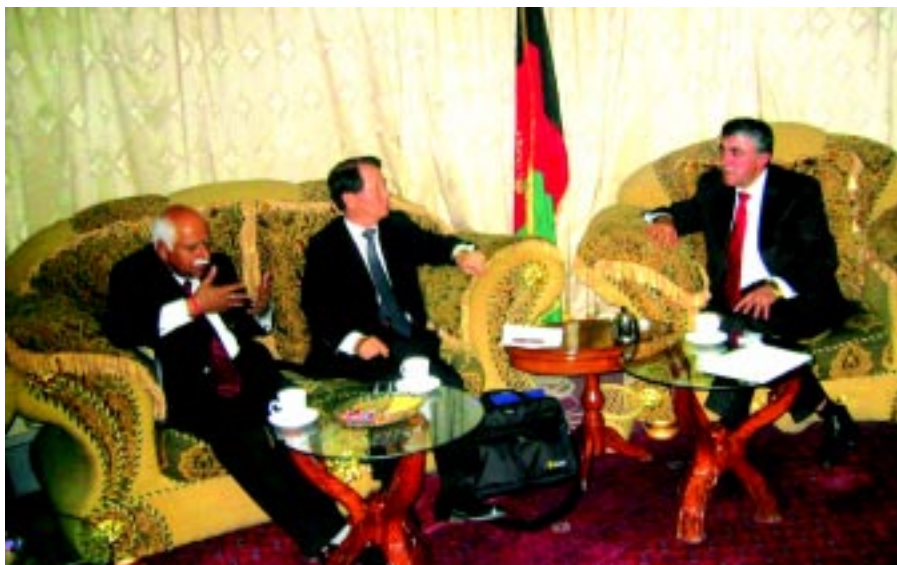
Now the government is serious to revive these co-operatives and in this context they want to solicit the support of ICA. So far 600 agricultural co-operatives have been registered in various provinces and the number is being increased to 4000 in

near future. The mission had extensive discussions with Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture Mr. Ramin, his two deputy ministers and all the senior officials of Ministry of Agriculture. The following areas of collaboration with ICA emerged during these discus-

sions: 1) Capacity building of government officials and Co-operative leaders. 2) Training of trainers. 3) Helping Ministry to reconstruct Co-operative Training Institute. 4) Facilitation of formulation of Co-operative Policy at national level. The Ministry has already drafted a co-operative legislation which has incorporated definition of co-operative and principles of co-operation as given in ICA Co-operative Identity Statement. It will shortly be submitted to Ministry of Justice and then be placed before parliament for enactment. The mission also visited two agricultural co-operatives which are located in grape growing areas. Co-operative leaders in the co-operatives were very much enlightened and possessed a good business sense.

The mission consisted of Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA-AP and Mr. B.D. Sharma, Senior Consultant, ICA Domus Trust.

The ICA-AP would be glad to solicit the support of ICA members and international community to participate in our task to rebuild the co-operative movement of Afghanistan.



Afghanistan Minister discussing with Mr. Shil Kwan Lee and Mr. B.D. Sharma

ICA/NCUI Training Programme for Afghan Co-operators



Delegates from Afghanistan with Late Dr. S.S. Sisodia at VAMNICOM, Pune.

On the request of Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food of Government of Afghanistan, ICA-AP, in collaboration with the National Co-operative Union of India, sponsored a 2-member study mission to Afghanistan – Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director and Mr. B.D. Sharma, Sr. Consultant, ICA Domus Trust from 14-18 February 2006.

Based on these discussions, the Minister, Senior Government Officials and Co-op leaders of the Mission felt that several issues need to be addressed for revitalization of co-operatives in Afghanistan.

Hence, ICA-AP decided to conduct a sensitization program for co-operative leaders and government officials in India in collaboration with National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI).

The program was held at Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management, Pune in India from 29th April to 6th May 2006. Ten

persons (8 government officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Animal Husbandry, Government of Afghanistan) and 2 co-op leaders attended the programme. Local costs



Participants visited a coop vegetable market

(boarding, lodging and local transportation) were borne by the NCUI and air travel cost of the participants was borne by the ICA Domus Trust.

Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, NCUI inaugurated the programme and Mr. B.D. Sharma, Senior Consultant, ICA Domus Trust, presided over the function. Dr. S. Siddhanti, Professor



Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, CEO, NCUI speaking at the event

at VAMNICOM was overall incharge of the programme. Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive, NCUI, delivered the Valedictory address and issued Certificates to the participants.

International Co-operative Trade Fair – Iran and Symposium on Ways and Means for Trade Networking among Co-operatives

It is with deep a sense of gratitude and appreciation for the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iran Central Chamber of Co-operatives that ICA wrote to the Iranian hosts and organizers to convey the sentiments and happiness of all the foreign participants from Canada, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Malaysia, Philippines and Sri Lanka on the successful holding of the Trade Fair and the Symposium in Tehran and the generous and kind hospitality extended by the Iranian fraternity.

ICA Asia-Pacific is particularly appreciative of the initiative and support extended by the Government and Co-operative Movement of Iran in positioning the potential, scope and advantage of international co-operative trade at the global level hitherto remained dormant due to communication and procedural complexities.

Iranian wisdom to capture the advantage of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Boundary Less Trade Regime post WTO negotiations would go a long way in motivating and reminding the millions of co-operators about the catalytic role played by the Government of Iran and Co-operative Movement of Iran for taking the timely stride in the present high risk and volatile market economy. The benefits of this difficult beginning would be reaped after two or three years when the co-operatives themselves would showcase small and modest successes to global co-op fraternity by vigorously following up the decisions and the lessons of the Trade Fair and Symposium documented by ICA Asia Pacific at the be-hest of Iranian support and encouragement.



Mr. Shil Kwan Lee and the Hon'ble Minister looking at co-operative facilities

ICA is happy to convey successful dialogue between the Indonesian and Iranian co-ops for the supply of palm oil from Indonesia to Iran and also the dried fish from Indonesia to Iran. ICA has also noted the right sectors to be supported in Iran with the supply of information to various co-ops in Iran about the suppliers of spare parts for bicycles, supply of technology on cotton processing and value chain mapping and hosiery and silk textile suppliers in Asia. The exhibition has certainly enlightened the international co-operators about the scope of trade with Iranian co-ops.

Following the encouraging response of trade exhibition in Iran by ICC, the ICA Asia-Pacific has decided to hold International Co-operative Trade Exhibition regularly at periodical intervals and incidentally for the year 2007, Indonesian Co-operative Movement has proposed and announced 12 July to 15 July 2007

as the dates for Co-op Trade Fair at Bali in Indonesia.

The Symposium on Ways and Means for Trade Networking Among Co-operatives has paved way for the future course of action required at the level of ICA Asia-Pacific and the member organizations of ICA.

ICA would be more than obliged to have uninterrupted support and guidance from all the stakeholders in this noble task of establishing effective trade networking for cooperatives.



Late Dr. S.S.Sisodia speaking at the Symposium

Conference on “The Role of Co-operatives in Poverty Alleviation”



Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President, Mr. Shil Kwan Lee and the Chairman of VCA and others at the Conference

Ninety delegates (45 from Vietnam and 45 from 11 countries - Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, U.K.) participated at the Conference on Poverty Alleviation.

The Conference was jointly hosted by Vietnam Co-operative Alliance and ICA-AP. Ms. Nguyen Thi Hang, Hon. Minister, Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs of Vietnam, inaugurated the Conference on 22nd March 2006.

The inaugural session was presided over by Ivano Barberini, ICA President. Mr. Nguyen Tien Quan, President of Vietnam Co-operative Alliance welcomed the delegates and Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA-AP presented the introductory remarks.

Six countries – Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and Vietnam presented PRSP papers for their respective countries.

Mr. Johnston Birchall, Sr. Lecturer in Public Policy, University of Stirling, Deptt. of Applied Social Science,

Scotland was invited by ICA-AP to present a special paper on “The Role of Co-operatives in Poverty Reduction”.

In addition, Ms. Rosemarie Greve, Director, ILO Office in Vietnam, also presented a paper on “An ILO Perspective on Poverty Reduction and Co-operatives”.

The Conference was anchored by Mr. Rajiv Mehta, Director - Development, ICA-AP. The deliberations resulted in pin-pointing the following lapses on part of the cooperative movement to tackle the menace of poverty:

1. Setting the focus on feasible

options to deal with poverty reduction through co-operatives - Feasibility Analysis Lacking.

2. Best practices followed in the country specific situation not linked with the lessons learned.
3. Role clarity between government and cooperative movement not defined.
4. Resources for the Co-operatives from Government and international donors/stakeholders to deal with problems of poverty not identified.
5. Road map to reach poverty free co-operatives as demonstrative tool to garner policy support of Governments and International stakeholders.

Accordingly the following strategy focus was echoed at the conclusion of the conference:

1. Identify the sectors to be covered under PRSP through Co-operatives - derive priorities from the WB, DFID and other doner’s budget lines.
2. Diagnostic studies.
3. Social impact analysis.
4. Participatory planning process.
5. Action oriented learning on governance.
6. Alternative approaches on Micro-credit and finance for the members of co-operatives as a tool for participatory governance.



Participants of the Conference

RCBA/ICBA/SANASA/People's Bank Symposium on Corporate Governance of Co-operative Banks



Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, Chair of RCBA, lighting the inaugural lamp

A Symposium on Corporate Governance of Co-operative Banks was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 25 February 2006. Seventy participants (21 [RCBA], 09 [ICBA] and 40 [SANASA/People's Bank of Sri Lanka]) attended the symposium. SANASA Development Bank and People's Bank of Sri Lanka hosted the symposium.

Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan, Chairman, RCBA chaired the inaugural session. Mr. Eugeniusz Laszkiewics, President of ICBA, presided over the function.

Keynote speech was delivered by Dr. (Mrs.) Rani Jayamaha, Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

Following presentations were made at the symposium:

- Corporate Governance: Concept, Co-operative Values and Principles as applied in Corporate

Governance of Co-operative Banks – Mr. P.V. Prabhu, Trustee Secretary, National Institute for Rural Banking.

- Co-operative Legislations vis-à-vis Corporate Governance of Co-operative Banks – Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive, NCU.
- Role of Board of Directors – Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, Chairman, People's Bank, Leader of SANASA Movement.
- How to protect interest of Stakeholders in Co-operative banks – Mr. P.V. Pathirana, Dy. General Manager, People's Bank of Sri Lanka.

All these presentations along with Key Note Speech of Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, are available on ICA's website: www.icaroop.coop



Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan and Mr. Eugeniusz Laszkiewics, Chairman of ICBA at the Conference

12th APHCO meeting held in Vietnam

The 12th Board meeting of Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organization (APHCO) was held in Vietnam on 4th and 5th May 2006. Twenty four health co-operators from India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Vietnam and Japan attended the meeting, hosted by Vietnam Co-operative Alliance (VCA).

The participants shared recent activities of each organization, and HCA-JCCU who had attended the Board meeting of International Health Co-operative Organization (IHCO), made a report on global situation of health co-operatives. Besides covering regular reports, the following proposals were made by HCA-JCCU and agreed by the participants:

1. Secretariat

Mr. Nobumasa Kitajima, HCA-JCCU staff took over from Mr. Tsubasa Nakamura, ICA-AP staff as Secretary



Delegates of the APHCO meeting in Vietnam

to APHCO. Mr. Kitajima suggested that APHCO will open its new office in Tokyo in co-operation with HCA-JCCU, and the office will be relocated in the future to another country.

2. Human Resource Exchange Programme

Existing bilateral exchange programs between HCA-JCCU and other Asian

countries should be expanded to multi-lateral ones.

In order to secure financing for these projects, APCHO will consider application for resources, such as Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Foreign Ministry of Japan.

Workshop on Replication of Success Story of Saigon Co-operative to other regions of Vietnam

A Consumer co-operative workshop on "Replication of success story of Saigon Co-operative to other regions of Vietnam", was held on 26-27 March 2006 at Hanoi.

There were 40 participants from five Northern provinces of Vietnam. Two Resource Persons were invited by ICA-AP - 1) Prof. S.C. Misra from India, and 2) Ms. Quyen of Saigon Co-operative.

Prof. Mishra explained the participants as to how to prepare a Project Report to start a Consumer Co-operative, while Mr. Quyen narrated factors that have contributed to the success of Saigon Coop. At the end of the workshop, the participants prepared an Action Plan to replicate the Saigon Co-operative experience.



Participants of the workshop pose for a photograph

Post Tsunami ICA interventions

One of the greatest challenges before the ICA Asia-Pacific in 2005 was to face the destruction caused by Tsunami in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka and ameliorate the condition of affected co-operatives by establishing a network with ICA Geneva and generous ICA member organizations desirous of extending interim financial support to the affected co-operatives.

The ICA-AP in collaboration with the national apex co-operative organizations in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka carried out in-depth study of the damages caused by tsunami and provided technical support in designing co-operative reconstruction and empowerment projects in India (co-operatives in Cuddalore and Vellupuram districts in Tamil Nadu and Nicobar

in Andaman Nicobar Islands with the financial support of Co-operatives UK and National Co-operative Union of India), Indonesia (co-operatives in NAD Province with the financial assistance of ICA Geneva funds raised by ICA Member Organisations and the Co-operatives UK) and Sri Lanka (co-operatives in Southern Province with the financial support of B'nai Brit World Centre and the American Jewish Committee through NISPED, Israel).

The one year project in India finally started in July 2005 after ascertaining the needs of the target co-ops in Tamil Nadu (need assessment jointly carried out by Mr Anil Singh, ICA Domus Trust, Dr Puyalvannan, Principal, ICM, Chennai in the leadership of Dr Kannan, Registrar of Co-operatives, Govt. of Tamil Nadu) and Nicobar Island (as advised by NCDC).

The focus was on reconstruction of co-

operative physical infrastructure so as to bring back the delivery of normal services of the identified seven co-operatives for their more than 15,000 affected members.

Details of the interventions were jointly monitored by Mr Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director ICA-AP and Mr Rajiv I.D. Mehta, Director, ICA-AP.

The ICA-AP shall ever remain

the activities under the project in collaboration with DEKOPINWIL NAD, like construction of houseboats, construction of ice plant, consumers goods and fishing material, drying equipments, vehicle (Truck). Working capital for women members to procure and process fish. The project activities are almost completed except that of capacity building part likely to be over by July 2007.

Sri Lanka

The devastation after tsunami in Sri Lanka was all along the northern, eastern, southern and part of western coastal areas. Many international agencies came with rescue and relief support. The problem of co-operatives was peculiar since the support had gone to individuals and not much emphasis was laid on the rebuilding of the co-operative institutions.

A pilot relief project in Southern Sri Lanka was launched through Isra Aid and the NISPED proposed to work with Southern Sri Lankan affected co-operatives to capitalize on the support extended by Isra Aid.

The objective of 300,000 USD project was to empower co-ops at the primary level to fetch desired institutional financial support through capacity building intervention. 19 MPCs for their 226 branches, 63 SANASA co-ops, 24 fisheries co-ops and 20 other co-ops in Galle, Matara and Hambantota districts in Southern Sri Lanka covering almost 16,635 tsunami affected members were identified as the target beneficiaries. In Sri Lanka the interventions under the project would yield positive results in terms of repositioning the co-operatives as high priority sector with the result of capacity building training programmes.



A newly constructed facility in Tamil Nadu after the Tsunami

indebted to the international co-operative fraternity for their act of exemplary solidarity.

Co-operative Reactivation Project in Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Three co-operatives have been supported under the 140,000 USD project supported by UK Co-op:

1. Fishery Co-operative "Bahri Karya", Pante Raja, Pidie Regency.
2. Bungong Jeumpa Co-operative
3. Lembah Lhok Seudu Co-operative and "Kami Sepakat" Women Credit Co-operative, Lhok Suedu, Aceh Besar.

The members are mostly tsunami widows and taking care of tsunami orphans and some are members also of "Bungong Jeumpa" Co-op, for the purpose of buying and processing (drying) fish from Bungong Jeumpa Co-op.

LSP2I, has been actively monitoring

ICA-AP/ICAO/IFAP Joint Workshop on the Impact of WTO Negotiations



Mr. Hae Dong, Director, Multilateral Agricultural Negotiations delivering the Key Note address

The ICA-AP, ICAO and IFAP jointly organized a workshop on the "Impact of WTO negotiations on agricultural co-operatives and family Farms in Asia-Pacific Region" on 15th May 2006, in conjunction with the IFAP World Farmers' Congress in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Fifty delegates from IFAP Agricultural Committee, ICAO and member organisations of ICA-AP participated at the workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to sensitise the agricultural co-operatives of Asia-Pacific Region about the likely impact of WTO negotiations on agricultural co-operatives and to work out practical steps to enhance their competitiveness to become sustainable in the market.

Dr. Raul Montemayor, President, IFAP Asian Agricultural Committee, moderated the deliberations of the workshop, while Mr. Jin-Hwan Song, Executive Vice President of NACF delivered the welcome address.

Mr. Hae Dong, SEO, Director, Multilateral Agricultural Negotiations Division, Ministry of Agriculture and

Forestry, Republic of Korea, gave the Key Note address during a brief opening ceremony. He presented perspective of the Republic of Korea and emphasized that strong co-operative institutional framework can be very effective to help farmers to have better access to the market in general and to protect family farms in particular.



Mr. B.D. Sharma speaking at the workshop

Dr. Kim, Jin-Kook, Agricultural Advisor, and ICA Geneva in his presentation 'WTO Negotiations and Co-operatives: A study of present status' drew the attention of co-operatives towards the potential dangers emerging from WTO negotiations. Important of these are (a) withdrawal of special treatment and benefits, e.g. tax benefits, loans and grants, procurement business by the government, (b) absence of understanding about special nature of co-operatives and services rendered by them, as WTO negotiations are based on the understanding that enterprises are capital-centered companies, and above all (c) lack of capability of co-operatives to adopt to modern means of trade in the market. Co-operatives should be aware of these dangers and take appropriate steps to face them.

Mr. David King, Secretary General of IFAP, in his congratulatory message to the workshop emphasized that in future the collaboration between IFAP and ICA will be further expended.

Mr. Sharma in his brief remarks during the opening ceremony highlighted various activities undertaken by the ICA in Asia-Pacific region to sensitise the co-operatives about the implications of WTO negotiations.

Consensus that emerged from the workshop focused on (a) increasing collaborations between IFAP Agricultural Committees and ICA in different regions of the world, (b) need for increased co-operation between farmers' organizations and co-operatives, (c) capacity building of leaders and managers of farmers' co-operatives, (d) building strong inter-co-operative relationships, (e) building strategic alliance with private sector based on members' interest, and (f) creation of favourable climate for co-operative development.

ICA Regional Assembly and Co-operative Forum held at Colombo, Sri Lanka



ICA President and others at the inauguration of the Regional Assembly in Colombo

The Fourth event of the ICA Regional Co-operative Forum was held at the Galadari Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 17 August, 2006, preceded by a joint inauguration of the Forum and the 7th ICA Regional Assembly in the evening of 16 August 2006 by H.E. Najeeb Abdul Majeed, Minister for Co-operatives and Co-operative Development, Sri Lanka, on behalf of H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksha, who could not participate due to some urgent engagements.

The Forum was marked by an overwhelming participation of more than 170 delegates and several observers from 19 countries. The theme of this event was "Capacity Building: The Priority for Co-operative Enterprises" centered around three sub-themes:

(i) Co-operative Values and Good Governance, (ii) The Co-operative Way of Management, and (iii) Strengthening HRD and Networking. Eminent co-operative researchers and practitioners constitute the Forum. The

Key Note speech for this event of the Forum was delivered by Mr. Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the President of Sri Lanka.

Mr. Isami Miyata, President of JA-Zenchu, Japan and Mr. Mervyn Wilson, Principal of the Co-operative College of U.K. talked on Co-



Hon. Najeeb Abdul Majeed, Minister for Co-operative Development, Govt. of Sri Lanka at the Regional Assembly

operative Values and Good Governance. Dato B. Sahadevan, CEO of Land Finance Co-operative, Malaysia, Mr. Lyu Keon-Won, General Manager, International Co-operation Office of NACF, Korea, Mr. Seah Kian Peng, Chairman of SNCF, Singapore and Member of Parliament, and Mr. Alex Wright, President of New Zealand Co-operatives Association presented papers on Co-operative Way of Management.

Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive of National Co-operative Union of India and Mr. T. Yamashita, Vice-President of JCCU, spoke on Strengthening of HRD and Networking in Co-operatives. Mr. Bhagwati Prasad had also talked about a global HRD Network, involving co-operative HRD institutions in the world and about an interactive web-site created by National Co-operative Union of India for this purpose.

While Mr. Akira Kurimoto from the Consumer Co-operative Institute of Japan presided over the session on Co-operative Values and Good Governance, the session on Co-operative Way of Management was chaired by Dr. Peter Davis of Leicester University, UK, and the session on Strengthening of HRD and Networking was chaired by Mr. Jan-Eirik Imbsen, Director Development of ICA, Geneva.

Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, ICA Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, Mr. Rajiv Mehta, Director, ICA-AP and Mr. P. Nair, Communication Officer, ICA-AP, co-ordinated the Forum.

The Forum proceedings and presentations were summarized by Robby Tulus, former Regional Director of ICA who presented a Report on the Forum to the Regional Assembly.

All relevant papers are available at www.icaroap.coop

Fourth ICA Regional Research Conference held in Colombo, Sri Lanka



Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Mr. M.V. Madane,(Late) and Mr. Akira Kurimoto at the Research Conference

The Fourth ICA Regional Research Conference was held at the Galadari Hotel, Colombo on 15-16 August, 2006. More than 25 researchers from 10 countries and a number of observers participated at the Conference.

The themes for discussions during this conference were:

- i. Role of Co-operative Leadership in Preservation of Co-operative Identity
- ii. Natural Disaster Preparedness and Rehabilitation initiatives through co-operatives.

The majority of the presenters were academicians with considerable research experience to their credit. Their papers reflected in-depth analysis of researched data and case studies. They brought out very important findings and revealed facts and figures for future planning.

In the papers on role of leadership in a variety of situations, the findings revealed pertinent factors indicative of

merits and weaknesses of individual leaders which shape the future of co-operatives. Some papers revealed weaknesses of co-operative leaders which have resulted in greater role of government officials in decision-making process. This has also reduced the role of co-operative



Dr. Rita Rhodes (UK) making her presentation at the Research Conference

members in shaping up the future of their co-operatives.

As to the natural disasters such as the Tsunami and Earthquakes, four papers were presented to show the co-operative initiatives for rehabilitating the damaged areas and preventing such casualties in the future.

Wide-ranging co-operative initiatives have helped in reducing hardships and sufferings of member families. Being nearer to member families, the co-operative help could reach them within the shortest possible time. The sessions discussing specific topics were chaired by different chairpersons.

The Fourth Conference was unique in terms of the level of participants, the quality of investigations, the contents of their papers and the analyses of data and circumstances. The credit for the success of this conference goes to the researchers who participated in the conference.

This time again, the Consumer Co-operative Institute of Japan (CCIJ) extended scholarships to encourage the participation of youth/female researchers.

(Late) Mr. M.V. Madane, former Chairperson of the Regional Research Forum and Mr. Akira Kurimoto, former chairperson of the Global Research Committee co-ordinated the presentations.

It was proposed to hold the next Regional Research Conference in conjunction with the next ICA Regional Assembly to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, during 2008.

There is also a proposal to set up a Regional Research Committee under the Regional Assembly and efforts to this end are being made at the moment.

Training Programme for Managers of Consumer Co-ops in Asia-Pacific Region

The 1st Training Course commenced on 7th September 2006 at the head office of Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU), Tokyo Japan.

In all, three courses were held this year in collaboration with JCCU and three consumer co-op societies in Japan, Miyagi Co-op, Co-op Tokyo and Co-op Kobe, in September, October and November respectively.

The courses were attended by 11 co-operators from 5 countries : Vietnam-3, Malaysia-2, Philippines-2, India-2 and Singapore-2.

The main objective of the training course was to expose the trainees to the professional management systems and practices based on Co-operative Values.

Besides, the program aimed at developing necessary skills of the participants to enable them to adopt such systems and practice them back at home.



Participants of the Training Programme in Singapore

The classroom session on overviews of consumer co-op movement in Japan were held at the head office of the Japanese Consumers' Co-

operative Union (JCCU) and practical training will be conducted in respective consumer co-operative societies.



Members of the Consumer Committee



Members at rapt attention at the Consumer Sub-committee meeting



A cultural presentation at the Regional Assembly and related meetings in Colombo

ICA Regional Committees Meetings

Consumer Committee

The 40th meeting of ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 16th August 2006, hosted by the Consumer Co-operative Federation (COOPFED) of Sri Lanka.

Forty participants (members and observers) from India, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Pakistan and Sri Lanka attended the meeting.

The participants were welcomed by Mr. Palitha Rohana, President of COOPFED and Mr. Takeyoshi Fujioka, Chairperson of ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia-Pacific.

Mr. A.H. Gamage, Secretary, Ministry



Mr. K. Srinivasa Gowda lighting the inaugural lamp.

of Co-operative and Co-operative Development delivered a special address on the occasion.

In addition to routine agenda, a Special Report on "The Centurial Plan –

Opening New Super Markets", was presented by Mr. D.S.K. Pathirana, General Manager, COOPFED.

Mr. Jiro Ito, Japan was elected Chairperson, while Mr. Poh Leong Sim, Singapore, and Mr. D.S.K. Pathirana, Sri Lanka - Vice-Chairpersons.

At the end, Mr. Takeyoshi Fujioka, outgoing Chairperson of the Committee, thanked the participants for their whole-hearted co-operation and support given to him during the tenure of his chairmanship.

The members also lauded the contribution of Mr. Fujioka to the consumer committee and the consumer sector of Asia-Pacific region during his Chairmanship.

Agricultural Committee

The 37th meeting of the ICA Committee on Agriculture was held on 26th August 2006 at Galadari Hotel, Colombo.

Twenty-one participants from Sri Lanka, India, Israel, Nepal, Iran, Indonesia, Korea and Vietnam participated in the meeting.

The Chair, Mr Lyu Keun-Won opening the committee meeting, emphasized the importance of Asiatic variety and stressed that in the context of growing globalization it is very essential for us to exchange the information and experiences to better understand the regional and local matters concerning the challenges before us.

The Sri Lankan representative from NCC, COOPFED and MARKFED requested for ICA's support on market connectivity and value addition. They expressed the need for better coverage of agricultural co-operatives in Sri Lanka and sought the assistance of Indian dairy experience.

A special invitee from Norway referred to Cooptrade project of ICA and termed it as a premature demise. The cooptrade is truly valid now and ICA-AP must utilise it for effective networking using IT for vertical integration with market.

Regional Women's Committee

The Fifth meeting of ICA Regional Women's Committee was held on 15 August, 2006 in Hotel Galadari, Colombo in conjunction with ICA-AP Regional Assembly.

More than 30 persons attended the meeting besides committee members. The committee discussed the activities, performance and future plans and also amended its constitution to extend the term of the committee and terms of members and office bearers from 2 to 4 years.

Mrs. Savitri Singh, Secretary to the Committee co-ordinated the meeting, which was chaired by Ms. Go Ming

Dr. Kim, from ICA-Geneva, presented an impressive presentation on the impact of WTO negotiations on Co-ops and explained in detail the pros and cons of the negotiations. He suggested another event exclusively on the WTO regime after Dec. 2006.



Members of the Regional Women's Committee in Colombo

Hua, Vice-Chairperson, in the absence of Mdm. Rahiah Baharen, Chairperson of the committee.

Consumer Sub-Committee on University/College Co-operatives

The 12th meeting of the ICA Consumer Sub-Committee on University/College co-operatives met in Colombo on 14 August, 2006. Twenty-nine delegates from 7 countries and observers participated at the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Manabu Tanaka, Chairperson of the National Federation of University Co-operative Associations of Japan (NFUCA).

Dr. Manabu Tanaka said that the Committee has been in existence for the last 12 years and that it has, though not rapidly but steadily, acted for the development of university/college co-operatives in the Region.

Mr. Udaya Seneviratne, former Director General of NICD, Sri Lanka, one of the hosts of the meeting, welcomed Mr. Leslie Fonseka, Mr. Palitha Rohana, representatives of the Government of Sri Lanka, local and international delegates and observers to the meeting. Ms. Zenaida Diola, Vice-Chair, welcomed the members and observed and chaired the meeting.



Ms. Zenaida Diola, Vice chairperson of the sub-committee lighting the inaugural lamp. Also seen is Dr. Manabu Tanaka.

Mr. Tsubasa Nakamura, Secretary, requested the members to confirm the minutes of the meeting held in Tokyo, Japan, 05-06 November, 2005.



Participants of the sub-committee meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed unanimously.

He also presented the activity report since the last meeting. He reported that the Federation of Co-operatives in Educational Institutions (FCEI) conducted a National level workshop on university/college co-operatives, which was attended on behalf of the ICA and the Committee by Mr. P. Nair. In addition, he said that 5 co-operators from university co-operatives attended the management workshop for managers of consumer co-ops, which was held 10-12 July 2006 in Singapore. The meeting approved the activity report unanimously.

The meeting discussed about the future plans for the committee as a workshop. The major concerns of the workshop were the bilateral exchange visits by India, both Singapore and Malaysia and the meeting felt that this could be clubbed together.

There was a suggestion by Mr. Kuriki that the exchange visit be at bilateral level but they need to include managers, leaders and students. Student exchanges would be done bilaterally as well as regionally as the past seminars.

The workshop felt that the Sub-Committee newsletter should have write-ups by students to add value. They also felt that the newsletter need not be always quarterly.

The workshop considered what should be covered in the 3rd issue of the Newsletter. It was agreed that it should cover mid-term plans, Report, Preparations for the General Assembly 2007, etc.

Mr. Kuriki proposed the 4th issue to be distributed at the next meeting on the occasion of ICA General Assembly in Singapore in 2007.

HRD Committee

The 19th Meeting of ICA Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) for Asia and Pacific was held in the afternoon of 15th August at Galadari Hotel, Colombo.

Fifteen participants from five countries, namely, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom attended the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Vice-Chairman of the Committee in the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Leow Peng Kui. He welcomed the presence of the members and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

In the absence of Dr. Yehudah Paz who could not make it to Colombo, Mr. Bhagwati Prasad made a brief presentation on "Global Co-operative Learning Center". This project is being developed by Colombia Institute of Co-operative Studies and ILO Coop Branch.

Presentation of country reports on initiatives on HRD was made by members from Indonesia, Singapore and Sri Lanka. Mr. Mervyn Wilson, Principal, The Co-operative College of U.K made a presentation on the Co-operative College of UK.

The meeting was also informed about the details of Global HRD Networking (www.hrd.coop) developed and maintained by NCUI and VAMNICOM in collaboration with ICA.

The meeting unanimously elected Mr. Bhagwati Prasad from India and Mr. Zulkifli Mohammed from Singapore as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson respectively. The meeting decided to continue the seminars on HRD Best Practices in the coming years. Mr. Yuzri Suhud, Director of LAPENKOP (Co-operative Education and Training Development Institution) offered to host the next HRD seminar and

meeting in Indonesia sometime in July 2007. The meeting accepted the proposal and authorized the ICA-AP to decide about the theme and dates of the seminar in consultation with LAPENKOP.

The HRD Committee unanimously decided to extend the term of office of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to four years, as per the new rules of ICA.

Prior to the meeting, a seminar on New Trends in Cooperative Leadership Development was held at Galadari Hotel in the forenoon of 15th August.

The opening session was attended by Mr. Sunil Silva, General Secretary/General Manager of NCC; Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director of ICA-AP; and Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive of NCUI. About 50 participants attended the seminar.

Regional Co-operative Banking Association

The 8th meeting of RCBA was held on 14th August 2006 at Colombo, Sri Lanka, in conjunction with 7th ICA Regional Assembly and 4th ICA Regional Co-operative Forum.

The theme of the meeting was "Strategies of Co-operative Banks to sustain in Competitive Economy" on which specific inter-active discussion was organised, preceding the formal meeting of RCBA.

Mr. Ajith Niwad Cabral, Hon'ble Governor of Central Bank of Ceylon, inaugurated the meeting and delivered a Key Note address on the theme of the meeting.

He emphasised that important issues faced by any entrepreneur, including members of co-operative banks in a competitive economy, will be access to credit, technology, market and managerial skills. The co-operative

banks, therefore, will have to re-orient their policies and programmes centering around these issues.

The business session commenced with a special presentation by Dr. Sarath Delpachitra, International Co-operative Expert of ADB.



Dr. Sarath Delpachitra, Ajith Niwad, B.D. Sharma, Mr. Kiriwandeniya, Shil Kwan Lee and B.S. Vishwanathan at the inauguration

Dr. Sarath Delpachitra, in his address, covered changes in the nature of the financial services, impact of these changes on financial institutions and emergence of new competitors, particularly non-banking institutions. In view of this, the co-operative banks will face a number of external and internal pressures.

Mr. B.S. Vishwanathan from India was elected Chairman and Dr. Sawath from Thailand as Vice-Chairman for the next term.

Nearly sixty delegates (members and observers) from India, Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Thailand and Netherland participated in the meeting.

3rd ICA Regional Youth Conference held in Colombo, Sri Lanka



Participants at the University/Campus Sub-committee meeting

The 3rd ICA Regional Youth Conference was held at Bandaranayake Memorial International Conference Hall, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 15th August 2006.

Mr. Al Haj Najeeb Abdul Majeed, Minister of Co-operative and Co-operative Development of Sri Lanka inaugurated the conference.

Mr. Palitha Rohana, President of COOPFED in Sri Lanka, welcomed all participants to the conference. Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President, delivered introductory remarks and he mentioned that Asia and the Pacific region play a leading role in youth co-operative activities by the process of establishing the Youth Committee. and mentioned that Sri Lanka was privileged to have the memorable conference to coincide with the centenary celebrations of Sri Lankan Co-operative Movement.

Prof. J. M. Gunadasa, Professor of National Institute of Co-operative Development in Sri Lanka delivered the keynote address and underlined that

co-operative movement is one of the useful instruments which help the youth find solutions to their problems/challenges.

After the inaugural session, Mr. Teo Say Hong, Youth Representative of ICA-AP, presented a background report of the youth in Asia and the Pacific region. He explained that ICA-

AP has a decade history since Regional Campus/Youth Co-operative Seminar was held in 1996.

Reports from selected persons on four themes, 'Youth Employment', 'Mainstreaming of Youth in Co-operative Movement', 'Leadership and Skills Development of Youth' and 'Self-help and Mutual-help through Entrepreneurship' were presented.

Mr. Juan Carlos Meija, Youth member on the ICA Board, made a presentation on 'Global Situation of Youth'.

Discussions were held by participants who were divided into four groups and were asked to share their problems/challenges based on themes. They arrived at the conclusion that they provide more information about co-operatives through seminars, workshops, trainings and exchange programs in order for more youth to understand what co-operatives really are as well as to get involved in co-operative movement.

At the plenary, all delegates were presented Certificates of the Conference by Mr. Ivano Barberini, ICA President.



Youth Conference delegates discussing important points

Study Tour on Agricultural Co-ops in Korea

The ICA-AP, in collaboration with its member organizations of agricultural co-operatives, is consistently making efforts to enhance management capability of agricultural co-operatives in the region. In view of this, a Study Tour on Agricultural Co-ops in Korea was organized by ICA-AP from September 18 to 22, 2006. 15 participants from six countries – Bangladesh, China, India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam participated. The National Agricultural Co-operative Federation (NACF) of Korea hosted the event.

The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Song, Jin-Hwan, Executive Vice-President of NACF at the NACF headquarters in Seoul on 19th September 2006. Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director, ICA-AP, presided.



Members of the delegation on Study Tour with Mr. S.K. Lee, Regional Director and NACF officials

Special TICA meeting held in Colombo



Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Mr. Ivano Barberini and Mr. M. Davolio at the TICA meeting

A special meeting of TICA was held at the Hilton Hotel in Colombo on 14 August, 2006, for the ICA Asia-Pacific member organizations.

The meeting discussed on the role of TICA Global in mobilizing tourism agenda through co-operatives, sensitizing the Asia-Pacific Co-operative organisations on the scope on tourism co-operatives,

brainstorming on the modalities to convene a committee on tourism for the region and for identifying the stakeholders in promoting the tourism agenda through the global co-operative network.

A number of member organizations in the region, Co-opFed, Sri Lanka, Director of Tourism Development Board, Sri Lanka, the Commissioner

of Co-operatives Sri Lanka, primary multi-purpose co-operatives from the South, West and Central regions of Sri Lanka, the Singapore National Co-operative Federation, the Singapore Telecom and Tourism Co-operative, the National Co-operative Union of India, Indian Farmers' Fertilizer Co-operative, India, Lapenkop, Indonesia, Railco-op Malaysia, Housing Foundation of Malaysia, Co-operative Union of Malaysia, the National Co-operative Federation of Nepal and the Vietnam Co-operative Alliance.

The meeting was chaired by Rajiv Mehta, Director, ICA Asia-Pacific, while key note address was presented by the Co-ordinator of TICA. Presentations of the situation in their respective countries were made by many participants.

Discussions were held on the possibility of establishing a co-operative tourism Committee in Asia-Pacific and it is expected that another seminar/meeting may be held in Singapore during 2007.

Training of Trainers (TOT) for Leadership Development of Women in Cooperatives held in Hanoi, Vietnam



Trainers and Resource persons at the TOT workshop in Vietnam

The ILO-Coop Net and ICA-AP have developed a Training Manual for leadership development of women in co-operatives in the Asia Pacific region. The manual is being used for training of trainers of co-operatives who in turn will train the women co-operative leaders. The ICA-AP is conducting trainings for women and men trainers of primary, secondary and tertiary co-operatives whose role and task is to conduct training activities on gender sensitivity and accountability and on leadership capacity building of women in cooperatives.

During past 4 years, the ICA-AP have conducted 4 Regional TOT in 4 different countries in the region and trained over 100 trainers.

The objective of the TOT is to multiply trainers so that a team of trainers could be generated who in turn train the women co-operative leaders at grass-root/primary level.

Therefore, it was decided that after Regional TOT, national TOT should be conducted in the ICA-AP member

countries who have already participated in Regional TOT. Therefore, the first National TOT in Sri

Lanka was held last year and 30 trainers were trained.

This year the national TOT was held in Vietnam hosted by the VCA at the Vietnam Institute for Small Enterprise and Co-operatives (VISEC). Twenty local trainers, both men and women from different part of Vietnam co-operatives attended the training.

The ICA-AP provided technical support and resource person to coordinate and conduct the training.

At the end of the training sessions, the participants were asked to prepare a plan that how they plan to make their own coop gender responsive and how they will utilize these training skills in their own trainings.



Mrs. Savitri Singh and Mr. Paul Sinnappan at the TOT workshop

ICA AP-NCUI HIV/AIDS Awareness Project for Co-operatives in India

The ICA-AP along with NCUI in collaboration with RCSHA/DFID has implemented an HIV/AIDS Awareness Project for Co-operatives in 4 states of India targeting 210 leaders and 250 co-operative trainers. Leaders have been sensitized for acceptance building and trainers are being trained for spreading awareness at grass root levels. The TOT for Women Co-operative Trainers of state of Bihar has been conducted from 27 November-2nd December, in Patna.

Thirty women co-operative trainers, co-operative officers and lady mobilisers attended the programme and have been taught the skills for imparting correct and complete information about various aspects of HIV/AIDS. The training was designed for 5 days class room and one day study/



Participants of the ICS/NCUI HIV/AIDS Awareness Training Programme

exposure visit to a HIV/AIDS care and treatment centre. The 5 days curriculum covered issues like, Why HIV/AIDS is an issue for co-operatives? Environment building, HIV and AIDS: General scenario, HIV/AIDS: basic knowl-

edge, addressing concerns of HIV/AIDS and training skills. Three women trainers who are specialized in training on the subject conducted the training.

Regional Conference on Gender Integration in Co-operatives: 10 Years Before and After

The theme of the conference was Empowerment and Development of Women in Co-operatives. Speakers from ILO, FAO, ICA GEC and Co-operative Development Board of Philippines deliberated upon the themes and sub-themes.

The speakers shared how the efforts of co-ops in poverty reduction are strengthened and made even more possible by involving the women, by helping them in their empowerment and development. The conscious inclusion of women and their concerns in the various processes of co-op management, including decision-making and leadership, is tapping half the potential, talent, strength, and experience pool of the co-operatives that are needed for their growth and progress, and effective and timely

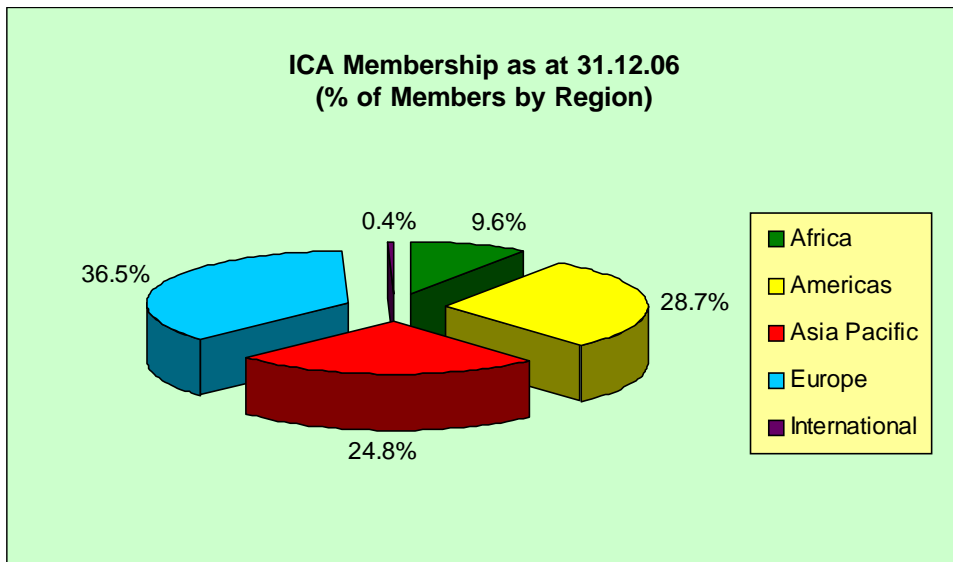
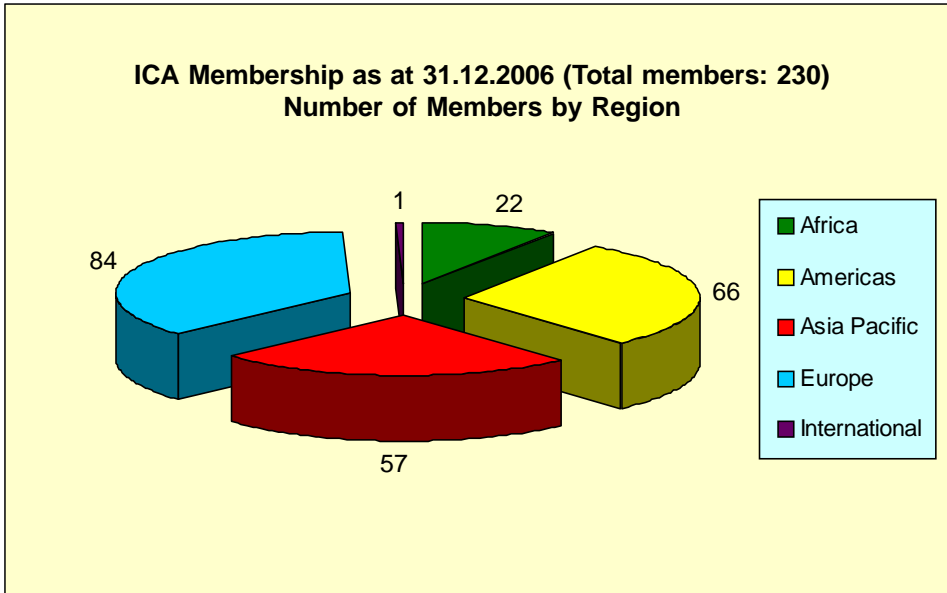
implementation of programs and services for the members and the community as a whole. In addition to the six strategies adopted at the Tagaytay-

97, the Conference adopted the Declaration and the ensuing Platform of Action that will further define the strategies identified herein.



The delegates at the Tagatay Conference pose for a photograph

ICA Membership



ICA Member Organisations in Asia and the Pacific

1. Capricorn Society Ltd., Western Australia
 2. Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union (BJSU), Dhaka, Bangladesh.
 3. All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC), Beijing, China.
 4. National Co-operative Union of India, New Delhi, India.
 5. National Co-operative Consumers' Federation (NCCF), New Delhi, India.
 6. Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Co-operative Ltd, (IFFCO), New Delhi, India.
 7. National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation (NAFED), New Delhi, India.
 8. National Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation, Mumbai, India.
 9. National Federation of State Co-operative Banks Ltd., Mumbai, India.
 10. Krishak Bharati Co-operative Ltd. (KRIBHCO), NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh, India.
 11. National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies, New Delhi, India.
 12. Dewan Koperasi Indonesia (DEKOPIN), Jakarta, Indonesia
 13. Central Organisation for Rural Co-operatives of Iran, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.
 14. Central Union of Rural Agricultural Co-operatives of Iran, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.
 15. Iran Chamber of Co-operatives (ICC), Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.
 16. Mollah Al-Movhedin credit Co-operative (MAMCC) Ltd., Iran
 17. Central Union of Co-operative Societies in Israel, Tel Aviv, Israel.
 18. Co-op Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel
 19. The Kibutz Movement, Tel Aviv, Israel
 20. Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives, (JA-ZENCHU), Tokyo, Japan.
 21. Japanese Consumers Co-operative Union (JCCU), Tokyo, Japan.
 22. National Federation of Fisheries' Co-operatives, Associations (Zengyoren), Tokyo, Japan.
 23. National Federation of Forest Owners' Co-operative, Associations (Zemori-ren), Tokyo Japan.
 24. The Norinchukin Bank (Central Co-op Bank for Agriculture & Forestry), Tokyo, Japan.
 25. National Federation of Agricultural Co-op. Associations (Zen-Noh), Tokyo, Japan.
 26. IE-NO-HIKARI ASSOCIATION (Association for Education & Publications on Agricultural Co-ops), Tokyo, Japan.
 27. National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Co-operatives (ZENKYOREN), Tokyo, Japan.
 28. The Japan Agricultural News, Tokyo, Japan.
 29. Japanese Workers' Co-operative Union (JIGYODAN), Tokyo, Japan.
 30. The National Federation of University Co-operative Associations (NAFUCA) Tokyo, Japan.
 31. National Federation of Workers and Consumers Insurance Co-operatives (ZENROSAI), Tokyo, Japan.
 32. Union of Consumer Societies, Almaty, Kazakhstan.
 33. National Agricultural Co-operative Federation, Seoul, Republic of Korea.
 34. National Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations, Seoul, Republic of Korea.
 35. Korean Federation of Community Credit Co-operatives (KFCCC), Seoul, Republic of Korea.
 36. National Credit Union Federation of Korea, (NACUFOK), Seoul, Republic of Korea
 37. National Forestry Co-operatives Federation (NFCF) Seoul, Republic of Korea.
 38. Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies, Safat, Kuwait.
 39. National Co-operative Organisation of Malaysia, (ANGKASA), Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
 40. National Land Finance Co-operative Society Ltd., Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
 41. Central Co-operative Society, Yangon, Myanmar.
 42. National Co-operative Federation of Nepal Ltd. (NCF) Kathmandu, Nepal.
 43. New Zealand Co-operatives Association, Inc., Wellington, New Zealand
 44. National Co-operative Union of Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan.
 45. The Agricultural Co-operative Union, Palestine. (Via Israel).
 46. National Confederation of Co-operatives Inc. (NATCCO) Quezon City, Philippines.
 47. Singapore National Co-op Federation Ltd., Singapore
 48. National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
 49. Federation of Thrift & Credit Co-op Societies Ltd. (SANASA), Colombo, Sri Lanka.
 50. Consumer Co-operative Societies' Federation (Sri Lanka), Colombo, Sri Lanka.
 51. National Institute of Co-operative Development, Polgolla, Kandy, Sri Lanka.
 52. Co-operative League of Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand.
 53. Vietnam Co-operatives Alliance (VCA), Hanoi, Vietnam.
- ## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
1. National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC), New Delhi, India.
 2. Institute for Indonesian Co-operative Development, Studies (LSP 21), Jakarta, Indonesia.
 3. Co-operative College of Malaysia, Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia
- ## INTERNATIONAL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS
1. Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions, (ACCU), Bangkok, Thailand.

STATEMENT ON THE NEW COOPERATIVE IDENTITY

Definition

A Co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

Values

Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, Co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

Principles

The Principles of Co-operation are guidelines by which Co-operatives put their values into practice.

First Principle: Voluntary and Open Membership: Co-operatives are voluntary organisations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

Second Principle: Democratic Member Control: Co-operatives are democratic organisations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women, serving as elected representatives, are accountable to the membership. In primary Co-operatives, members have equal voting rights [one member one vote], and Co-operatives at other levels are also organised in a democratic manner.

Third Principle: Member Economic Participation: Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their Co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the Co-operative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their Co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the Co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Fourth Principle: Autonomy and Independence: Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their Co-operative autonomy.

Fifth Principle: Education, Training and Information: Co-operative provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees, so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their Co-operatives. They inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of Co-operation.

Sixth Principle: Co-operation among Co-operatives: Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the Co-operative Movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Seventh Principle: Concern for the Community: Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

ICA-ASIA & PACIFIC: REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 2006

Published by the ICA-Asia & Pacific, 9 Aradhana Enclave, R.K. Puram, Sector-13, New Delhi-110066

Edited by P. Nair, Communication Officer, ICA-Asia & Pacific. Email: nair@icaroap.coop

Designed and printed at Diamond Offset, New Delhi 110048, India

Tel.: +91-11-29232836, +91-9811172786, Email : amin_zaidi@yahoo.com