



Youth Letter/2013-Buldana/10001

August 12, 2013¹

From

The secretariat – ICA AP Committee on Youth Co-operation
9 Aradhana Enclave . Sector 13 RK Puram – New Delhi 110 066

To

All Members of the ICA AP Committee on Youth Co-operation (ICYC)²;
All ICA Member Organizations in Asia-Pacific Region;

Sub: 1. **Report on the ICA AP Youth Forum and,**
2. **Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the ICA A P Committee on Youth Co-operation-**
Organized at Buldana Maharashtra (India) on 18 and 19 July 2013

Dear Co-operators,

Greetings from the ICA Asia Pacific!

Today is the UN International Day of Youth (2013)³ and we wish that the young members and staff of co-operatives globally will find a platform for exchange that they can understand and relate to. The theme chosen by the UN Social Policy and Development Division for the IYD – 2013 is The theme chosen by the UN Social Policy and Development Division for the IYD – 2013 is **Youth Migration: Moving Development Forward**, with special focus on the struggles borne by Youth who in fact constitute 30% of the world's international migrants. A number of key UN-Reports and Programs will be launched today. The **International Co-operative Alliance** has strived for 50 years to specifically address the issue of youth development and promotion in co-operatives and the following actions have been part of its strategy in the last decade especially in the Asia Pacific region.

- 2000 - ICA Youth Network at the ICA Board Meeting, Bratislava
- 2001 - ICA Regional Co-operative Youth Seminar, Japan
- 2007 - ICA AP Co-operative Ministers' Conference – "Youth Involvement" presented by Chair-ICA AP YC
- 2009 - 3rd Meeting of the ICA AP Committee on Youth – Singapore
- 2010 - 4th Meeting of the ICA AP Committee on Youth – Beijing
- 2011 - 1st Online Meeting of the ICA AP Committee on Youth – ICA AP Office – New Delhi
- 2011 - ICA AP Youth Seminar – Kannur, Kerala
- 2012- 2nd Online Meeting of the ICA AP Committee on Youth – ICA Business Office – Singapore
- 2012- 5th Meeting of the ICA AP Committee on Youth – Kobe
- 2013- 6th Meeting of the ICA AP Committee on Youth – Buldana, Maharashtra

¹ International Youth Day - 2013

² Adopted at the 6th Meeting – 19 July 2013

³ 'Youth Migration: Moving Development Forward.' is the theme for 2013 IYD. The Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM), is chaired by ESCAP who in cooperation with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Asia-Pacific, jointly established in late 2012 the "**RCM/UNDG Asia-Pacific Thematic Working Group on Youth.**" The newly established group, comprising ESCAP and all other entities of the United Nations system, integrates the United Nations' regional policy and normative expertise with its operational capacity to ensure a stronger and more coherent regional youth agenda to support member States in the implementation of the internationally agreed commitments on youth and development. The RCM/UNDG Asia-Pacific Thematic Working Group on Youth will replace the Asia-Pacific Interagency Group on Youth. ESCAP and UNFPA are currently co-chairing the newly established RCM/UNDG group. To commemorate this year's IYD, the RCM/UNDG has compiled a short video slideshow to draw attention to the issues surrounding young migrants. You can watch the video by clicking on the following (Source :UNDP Climate Change Community –New Delhi)

link: <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B7cHYWvhTV4RRFpVaGIQYkdWWkU/edit> .

The main issues taken up during the afore mentioned meetings and events rely on certain identified indicators vis a vis⁴:

- a. 60 Million People between the age group of 15-24 seek sustainable employment.
- b. Majority of young people hail from developing countries.
- c. ICA should be a promoter facilitator and coordinator of activities at strengthening the participation of youth in co-operatives.
- d. Define 'Youth' in terms of age.
- e. Identify youth co-operatives that could potential members of the Youth Network.
- f. Draft Youth strategy for submission to Regional and Global ICA boards.
- g. Plan an International Co-operative Youth Conference
- h. Design a website and arrange for resources.

The **ICA AP Committee on Youth Cooperation (ICYC)** operates under its Constitution and the guidelines of the ICA Regional Assembly for the Asia Pacific region. While honouring its commitment to meet once a year and to draw up the committee plan for the period of 2013-2016, its members who were nominated by ICA members at the time of the 10th Regional Assembly of ICA Asia Pacific and others who were subsequently nominated through various ICA Members in Asia Pacific, met at Buldana, Maharashtra-India in 2013 for the ICA AP Youth Forum on '[Youth as a Strategic Group for Co-operative Development](#)' on 18 July 2013 and their 6th Committee Meeting on 19 July 2013. The Members elected the new Youth board comprising of Dr. Sukesh Zamwar as Chairperson [Nominated by ACCU] and Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur [Nominated by KCHSU] and Mr. Udaya Prabhath [Nominated by COOPFED] as the Vice Chairperson until the ICA AP Regional Assembly in 2016. Following this, the members and participants visited the co-operative community around the township of Buldhana and had a cultural exchange at the venue with the local youth.

We are pleased to share with you the Minutes from the 6th Meeting of the ICA AP Committee on Youth Co-operation that was conducted in conjunction with the ICA AP Youth Forum at Buldana Residency Club and Sahakar Vidya Mandir on 19 and 18 July 2013.



Agenda Diagram

⁴ Excerpts from various decisions taken during ICA Meetings and Events as indicated. True copies will be provided only on special request.

Members List as per nomination received (Those absent marked with @)

S.	Name	Age	Role	Organization	Country	Contact
1.	Dr. Sukesh Zamwar	35	Chairperson	Buldana Urban Co-	Int'l	kanishkasukesh@yahoo.c
2.	Mr. Udaya Prabath	30	Vice	Coopfed	Sri Lanka	coopfed@sol.lk
3.	Mr. Ashan Ali Thakur	26	Vice	Karachi Housing Co-	Pakistan	ahsanalithakur@yahoo.c
4.	Mr. Babak Koshnesivan	33	Member	ICC	Iran	babakkhoshnevisan@yah
5.	MrMorteza	35	Member	ICC	Iran	babakkhoshnevisan@yah
6.	Ms. Indana Saramita	26	Member	DEKPOIN (Kopwani)	Indonesia	Indana_saramita@gmail.
7.	Mr. Ilham Nasai@	33	Member	DEKOPIN	Indonesia	ilhamnasai@gmail.com
8.	Ms. Yuki Matsuoka @	36	Member	NFUCA	Japan	Matsuoka.yk2@univcoop
9.	Ms. Noor Shafeeza	35	Member	Co-operative College of	Malaysia	haslinda@mkm.edu.my
10	Ms. Noor Azlinn @	31	Member	ANGKASA	Malaysia	noor.azlinn@gmail.com
11	Mr. Jaipal Reddy	38	Member	District Co-operative	India	mogiligundla@gmail.co
12	Mr. Vishal Singh	27	Member	NCUI	India	vishal_23@hotmail.com
13	Mr. Mumshad Ahmed	28	Member	FISHCOPFED	India	mak.enviroengr@gmail.c
14	Mr. Amit Bajaj @	31	Member	NCLF	India	Amitbjj85@yahoo.co
15	Mr. Roshan De Silva @	30	Member	Coopfed	Sri Lanka	cooptravels@sol.lk
16	Ms. Lasalette M.	35	Member	NATCCO Represented by Ms.	The	higaanon@yahoo.com
17	Mr. Sangay Rinchen	34	Member	DAMC	Bhutan	yagnasx@gmail.com
18	Ms. Nguyen Hao @	35	Member	VCA	Vietnam	nguyenthuhao@yahoo.c
19	Mr. Li Xingwen		Member	ACFSMC	China	chinacoop@acfsmc.coop
20	Ms.XIAO Xue		Member	ACFSMC	China	chinacoop@acfsmc.coop
21	Ms. Maliha Tasnim @	19	Member	BJSU	Banglades	rafiq.bp@gmail.com
22	Ms. Indira Panta	34	Member	NACCFL	Nepal	indirapanta2011@gmail.
23	Ms. Zoljargal	26	Member	MCTIC	Mongolia	mctic@mongolia.coop
24	Ms. Munguntuya Bazar	29	Member	MNCA	Mongolia	mnca@mongolia.coop
A	Dr. Chan Ho Choi	59	Honorary	ICA Asia Pacific (Regional	n/a	choi@icaroap.coop
B	Mr. P. Santosh Kumar	27	Secretary	ICA Asia Pacific	n/a	Santosh@icaroap.coop

Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the ICA AP Committee on Youth Co-operation Buldana, India, 19 July 2013

On account of the absence of a board, the interim Chairperson of the committee under Article 8 (3) chaired the meeting.

Agenda for the Meeting

1000 – 1600 Hrs Friday July 19, 2013			
1.	1000 – 1030	Opening and Minutes of the 5 th Meeting & Adoption of Agenda for 6 th Meeting	Secretariat
2.	1030 - 1130	Self Introduction of Members and Activity Plan for respective countries (5 Minutes each)	Members will specify if they will be contesting for the election.
3.	1130 – 1145	Tea Break	
4.	1145 – 1215	Agenda 1: Strategic Collaboration with partners to help build IT support for youth in Co-operatives.	Discussion on Role division within Committee

5.	1215 – 1300	Agenda 2 : Adopt the New Constitution for the ICYAP. Finance for the ICYAP and corresponding activities. Dialogue and Exchange on views and short-term/long-term plans. (UN Youth Congress - Sri Lanka 2014)	Facilitator – Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Honorary Member
6.	1300 – 1400	Lunch Break	
8.	1400 - 1430	Manifesto Speech by Members contesting to be elected to the Youth Board.	Candidates
9	1430 - 1500	Voting	
10.	1500-1520	Counting of Votes	
11.	1520 – 1540	Declaration of result and facilitation	Dr. Chan Ho Choi
12.	1540 - 1600	Closing and Group Picture	Secretariat

Background (based on the findings of the ICA AP Co-operative Youth Forum – 18/07/2013)
The Meeting had the Co-operative Youth Forum as the precursor for the impending discussions under the Agenda Items. The following presentations were made at the Technical session of the Cooperative Youth Forum that has had a direct implication on the decisions of the Committee on the day of the Meeting on 19 July 2013.

1. Dr. R.K. Jalan- The art of Knowledge sharing for the young and the co-operating Experience of Knowledge Platforms of the UN Community on Climate Change’.
2. Dr. Bhagwati Prasad - The Meaning , Definition and Scope of Youth in Co-operatives’
3. Mr. Sangay Rinchen - Experience of Setting up Bhutan’s first urban Co-operative – the Happy Green Co-operative.
4. Mrs. Pratibha Sharama- Experience from the Solid Waste Collection and Handling Co-operative (SWACH)
5. Mr. Babak Khoshnesivan- Iranian Experience of Co-operatives and general overview of co-operatives in the sub-region.

Minutes

I. Opening :

The Opening was made by the Secretary welcoming all the members and the observers who had to come to attend the 6th Meeting. A recapitulation of the minutes and the decisions of the 5th Meeting of the ICYC , Kobe was made for the sake of convenience of members who were not present there. The issues that were delved on at Kobe were 1.) Role of co-operatives in Natural disasters, 2.) Innovative ways to promote co-operative marketing 3.) Information Technology development for youth empowerment 4.) Discussions on the 6th and the 7th Principle of Co-operatives. It was also mentioned that due to the lack of the prescribed quorum, the committee deferred its board election to the next meeting. The election officer was Mr. Sangay Rinchen as he was the non member at the time and the chief officer was the Regional Director of ICA AP.

II. Self-introduction and country reports

The Members of the committee were allowed to make presentations remarking the situation of co-operative development in their countries and were to state the condition of the movement of youth in their respective nations.

The session began with Mr. Li Xingwen stating the nature of the co-operative movement in China. He mentioned how the Farmers Specialised co-operatives have marked a change in the attitude of the nation as far as the co-operative network was concerned. The New network project , an outcome of the mentioned change saw an array of new businesses being developed in China, Mr. Li Said. He further went on to mention that the youth were being actively promoted in the Chinese co-operative movement and a chance for their entrepreneurial skills to develop was being given a chance.

The next presentation was made by Mr. M.A.Khan of Fisheries Co-operative federation or the FISHCOPFED. He made statistical analysis of the fisheries business in India and mentioned the nature of the work profile he undertakes at his personal level. He was followed by Mr. Vishal Singh of the National Consumer Cooperative Federation and nominated by National co-operative Union of India made references to the 16th National Congress that took place in New Delhi in June 2013. He said that the youth in co-operatives must work towards strengthening their capacity. He said that co-operatives and youth can work fruitfully in the areas of consumer service. Dr. Sukesh Zamwar of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions made a presentation on his profile as the Managing Director of the Buldana Urban Credit Co-operative Society and the four pillar system they employ that financially sustains the business model. He said that the youth have immense potential only if the force can be networked and tapped.

Mr. Babak Koshnesivan of the Iranian Chamber of Co-operatives stated how the ICC functions under the National Constitutional mandate of achieving 25% of the GDP through co-operatives. He mentioned Iran as a country has had challenges in actively promoting the youth. He further mentioned that the situation in co-operatives was a bit different and amiable relations remained amongst all age groups. He further added that while it remained a bit volatile, the middle eastern region is diverse and is capable of many fold youth-cooperative development with the right policy environment.

Ms. Noor Shafeeza from the Co-operative College of Malaysia showed a film that was on the subject of the co-operative training courses being offered at the CCM. She stated the situation of co-operatives in Malaysia in brief and that the college's next batch of its flagship scholarship programme is scheduled for the coming September.

Ms. Munguntuya Bazar from the Mongolian Co-operative Alliance laid down the national and geographical characteristic of her country. She talked about the youth and women involvement in the Co-operative movement and that the change in the forms of government is reflected in the change in the co-operative outlook in the past 20 years.

Ms. Indira Panta from the National Agriculture Co-operative Federation Limited gave her presentation where she mentioned her primary job as a journalist in the Nepalese Media and that she kept the co-operative movement close to her heart. She mentioned that the Nepalese federations are doing substantial work in taking the co-operative movement forward. The youth she said in Nepal were many in number and the right ideas if implemented can harness the growth of the society as a whole.

Ms. Divine Divina Gracia from NATCCO 's youth club was representing the member nominated who was not present at the meeting. She gave an account of her extensive work as the President of the

Youth club and gave a detailed account in form of a film presentation about AFLATOON – the youth oriented co-operative programme supported by NATCCO and CDA.

Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur, nominated from KCHSU, Pakistan stated the continued achievements of the youth wing of KCHSU and the camps and training activities organized by the KCHSU. Mr. Thakur said that Regular blood donation camps were still being organized. He further mentioned that a series of programs would be organized by his organization to sensitize youth with the philosophy of co-operatives. He said that his job as the interim chairperson has been short but fruitful.

Mr. Udaya Prabath of COOPFED Sri Lanka gave an account of the history of his country and the brief history of the co-operative movement. He talked about a peaceful post civil war Sri Lanka and the Co-operative Marketing Federation is surviving on co-operative principles with every day challenges from the other private sector. He talked about reduced government support for cooperatives in Sri Lanka. He also said that the UN Youth Conference is slated to be held in Colombo in 2014 and he would pursue the matter of having co-operative representation at the event.

Agenda Item No. 1

Strategic Collaboration with partners to help build IT support for youth in Co-operatives

The Agenda was discussed in Kobe and was further discussed in [Buldana](#). The [Kobe](#) discussion was on the marketing service that could be provided by way of advertisement and client servicing to co-operatives. A pilot radio jingle was played for the prospective client for any such initiative that being popular Brand - Cassatta (Italian ice cream) of the Gujarat Co-operative Marketing Federation in India. The discussions at Buldana delved more on how to get the media or an interface working in order to open a communication and marketing intercourse for the co-operatives in the Asia Pacific. Dr. Sukesh Zamwar put to the members that he will be able to provide backhand support to a website that can be owned, run and managed by the committee, as this was a full time work. Mr. Vishal Singh added to the fact that consumer co-operatives may benefit largely by the youth venturing into communication and marketing for cooperative through the website and also carry out its own strategic objectives. The members were mindful of the [ICA Buleprint](#) for the co-operative decade as their governing document and asserted the need for cross national co-operatives. This was particularly mooted by Ms Ms. Zoljargal Munkhsaikhan of Mongolian International centre for Co-operative Training. As an economist, she mentioned that cross national co-operatives can ease a lot of tension amongst nations at the WTO. A parallel was drawn during the Kobe discussions where the Secretary and Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur mooted the notion of [achieving peace through Co-operation amongst co-operatives](#). The working plan in its basic form involves identifying consumer goods that are of staple use and promote two different co-operatives across international borders to jointly produce the same, where after help the co-ops market it at relevant and premium markets. Examples of pickles, jams, marmalades, ground spices etc were cited. Mr. Babak Koshnesivan of ICC reiterated the importance of the website and it was decided to manage a separate website with its hyperlink within the ICA Asia Pacific website for easy access to cooperative apex organisations. The secretary displayed the electronic newsletter – Young and Cooperating – issue III and the committee’s Social networking page that had attracted over a six hundred co-operatives from Asia and Latin America.

Agenda Item No. 2

2.1 Formal adoption the New Constitution for the ICYAP.

This item was agenda no.7 at the Kobe Meeting and the Model Constitution was discussed suggestions were received. The formal adoption was awaiting more number of members. The amendments⁵ are:

1. Article 1. The name of the Committee shall be '**ICA-AP Committee on Youth Co-operation**'.
2. Article 3.1. The Committee shall consist of persons working in the field of specialized functioning of the Committee in the member organizations of the ICA in the Region. Each member organization of the ICA-AP is entitled to nominate a maximum of two persons in the Committee in the age group of **18 - 40 years**.
3. Article 4.11 To create awareness on cooperatives among the youth in the region.
4. Article 6.1 The Committee shall convene at least one meeting in person and two Electronic Meetings (Internet). The members are expected to attend at least one meeting out of the possible three meetings in a year. At the time of the Regional Assembly, the Committee shall hold a meeting/seminar and provide a report.
5. Article 9.3 If needed, the committee may raise funds for its activities.

As discussed at Kobe, the Committee has formally adopted the constitution and wishes to report it to all ICA AP Member organisations with a copy of the same.

2.2 Finance and Budgetary framework for the ICYC activities and corresponding workshops.

The Secretary informed the house on the fact the Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union have earmarked USD 2500/- for the works of the committee with focus on the travel of the chairperson and organization of meetings. The Budget is within the ambit of the Gender Project as a separate activity under code '23456'.

Mr. Udaya Prabath of COOPFED and Mr. M.A.Khan reminded the house that the amendment to the Article 9.3 that newer ways to sustain the members' interest and the financial sustainability of the committee were to be explored. Mr. Khan volunteered to part take coordination activities of the Committee if required.

The date of next meeting and the related workshop were decided to be decided by way of an online meeting in the month of August.

The agenda primary will consist of 1.)ICA Global Conference in Cape Town and Asia Pacific representation there, 2.) Progress on the website development, 3.) Update on the Commonwealth Youth Conference in September 2013, 4.) Date of the next meeting.

⁵ Unanimously passed by Members present

2.2 Dialogue and Exchange on views and short-term/long-term plans.

The committee was introduced to the United Nations Youth Conference scheduled in Sri Lanka in 2014 by Mr. Udaya Prabath. The conference will attract many young persons from across the globe and it was agreed that the committee may liaise with the Sri Lanka Youth Council through the office bearers to provide a platform for the youth representing co-operatives to make a statement on behalf of the global co-operative movement. Dr. Sukesh Zamwar added by saying that it must be brought to the notice of the global board. Mr. Udaya Prabath added that COOPFED will carry out a co-operative youth seminar parallel to the UN Conference. Ms. Indira Panta made the point that members must provide

Election Session

The session began at 1600 Hours suffering a delay in the decided time. The session began with the secretary and the Honorary member opting for Mr. Sangay Rinchen of Bhutan (a non-member at the time) as the chairperson of the election session as it would be fair and reasonable. The members agreed. The secretary laid down the accepted norms and Rules of the election. A query on online voting and another on proxy voting was made. Online voting was disallowed by majority members in a vote and the proxy voting, as has been the tradition in case of an absentee member was allowed through a representative of the same country present. The committee did receive three votes through internet but those were not allowed.

Ms. Indira Panta of Nepal raised the issue that women will not be represented in the youth board as all nominations were from men to which it was understood that the last date to file nominations with the consent of the Apex organization was pertinent if not cardinal a principle in the works of the committee and that no new nominations should be allowed.

Nominations were received for all posts from ACCU , ACFSMC-China, KCHSU- Pakistan, ICC- Iran, COOPFED- Sri Lanka. The representative from China withdrew his nomination at the beginning of the session. The other nominees, Dr. Sukesh Zamwar, Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur, Mr. Udaya Prabath and Mr. Babak Koshnesivan read their manifesto speeches and concurred on a stronger and vibrant youth in co-operative development as a motto. Votes were cast and the secretary along with Mr. Sangay Rinchen and Dr. Chan Ho Choi counted the votes and declared the result. The members and the new office bearers posed for pictures and ended the day with congratulating each other.

Addendum

Along with the study visits organised to the rural area of Buldana, members also witnessed the working of Smoke Free Chullahs, Micro-Spinning mills, modern schools and dormitories run by co-operative support. The members were treated to a cultural night at the Sahakar Vidya Mandir, a school run under the auspices of the Urban Credit Co-operative and they also visited the Ajanta Caves that are a historical site of Buddhist paintings made 2500-3000 years ago.



P. Santosh Kumar, Secretary
August 12, 2013