

# Young & Co-operating

ICYC - e-NewsMagazine

[March 8, 2016]

[Ed. IV]

## I. Elections at the ICA General Assembly

### Monique Leroux is Alliance President

*The Alliance General Assembly in 2015, elected Ms. Leroux as its 16th president. She is the chair of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of Desjardins Group, Canada and was elected among three other candidates from France, Brazil and Argentina.*

Four seasoned co-operators from strong cooperative movements pitched their vision for the co-operative decade and their candidacy for the leadership of the International Co-op Alliance. Cooperar from



Jean-Louis Bancel (France)



Eudes de Freitas-Aquino (Brazil)



Ariel Guarco (Argentina)



Monique Leroux (Canada)

Argentina, Credit Cooperatif Group from France, Unimed from Brazil and Desjardins Group, Canada fronted their representatives to contest the seat of Alliance President for the 2015-2017 term. Monique Leroux won with an overwhelming majority making her the only second woman Alliance president after Dame Pauline Green who retired last year and also won the Rochdale Pioneer award!

## Election of Youth Network Executive Committee

*The Alliance Global Youth Network elected its Executive Committee*

The GYN meeting in Antalya during the General Assembly,



## Contents

1. Elections at G.A 2015.
2. Step it Up for Gender Equality
3. News from ICYC members
4. ICYC Membership
5. Youth Summit, Bali, Indonesia - Save the Dates

## Contributors

1. Ahsan Ali Thakur
2. Indira Panta
3. Nikko Revita
4. Girish Sharma
5. Mumshad A. Khan
6. Ngawang Gyeltshen

## Secretariat

9, Aradhana  
Enclave, Sector 13  
RK Puram, New  
Delhi 110066

[santosh@icaroap.coop](mailto:santosh@icaroap.coop)

[www.youth-asiapacific.coop](http://www.youth-asiapacific.coop)

elected its Executive Committee. The EC represents the four Alliance regions and is represented by Chairperson Gabriela Anna Buffa (Argentina), regional committee chairpersons who officiate as GYN Vice Chairs and four members at large, one each from the regions. This was the first ever election conducted in the Global Youth Network (GYN), since its inception 2013. Dr. Sukesh Zamwar (Asia and Pacific) and Carlos Medrano (Americas) were confirmed as Vice Chairpersons. Emily Leopold Chenny (USA), Ahsan Ali Thakur (Pakistan) and Mattia Affini (Italy) were elected as members. Unfortunately, Alliance's African region did not find any representation in the executive committee, although it was represented by GYN member, Mr. K. Goodenough from South Africa.

## II. Stepping it Up for Gender Equality

### “Co-operation: Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity”

The International Day for Women is celebrated every year on March 8. Earlier, this commemorative day was called the working women's day. Co-operatives believe in self help help and mutual benefit. Echoing these values, ICA President released a [video message](#) to reach out to a large number of co-operators around the world. ICA Asia and Pacific recently concluded the Gender Conference in Philippines and the report can be [found here](#).

ICYC members Indana Saramita Rachman (**Indonesia**), Noor Shafeeza (**Malaysia**), Zolo Munkhsaikhan (**Mongolia**) Indira Panta (**Nepal**), Lasalette Gumban (**Philippines**), and Mrs. Savitri Singh, Programme Director, ICA-AP, send you greetings on this day to celebrate the indomitable spirit of women in and beyond co-operatives!



*“Behind Every successful man is a strong, wise and hardworking woman” - Indana Saramita, DEKOPIN, Indonesia. “The real drivers of the economy are women – as business leaders, employees, consumers, and entrepreneurs. Investing in women can yield a significant boost in economic growth, otherwise known as ‘the gender dividend’. When women are made the focus in business decisions, communities will thrive around them. So Recognize the ladies in your life, whether it is your secretary, your wife or your mother. Treat them to a day of respect and appreciation.”*



*“Happy Women's Day, Angels!” - Noor Shafeeza (right) , Lecturer International & Corporate Communication Center (InCC) Co-operative College of Malaysia. “The queen will never afraid to fail with various strategies in order to protect her king. Thus, I believe, women are the REAL architects of societies!”*



*“The more I learn about co-operative concept, the more I feel like I barely know anything about co-operatives. - Zolo Munkhsaikhan, MNCA, Mongolia. I am witnessing that many women benefit from co-operative businesses as they are pooling their resources together. I am really seeing the value of the cooperation in Mongolia. What I know is co-operative has more power than we imagine today. Maybe you've heard that “Beauty will save the world” but I want to say “Cooperation will save the world”. Happy Women's Day!”*



*"Planet 50-50 by 2030; Step it up for Gender Equality" - Indira Panta, NACCFL & Independent Journalist, Nepal. "First of all I would like to congratulate all for the 106th international women's day. I wish the cooperatives women's movement would be successful and result oriented days to come ahead. I am really happy to share the joy of this occasion with you all cooperative networks and colleagues. Last but not the least,I also would request you all that we have to unite and more stronger for further struggle of women's movement in future."*



*"To all the cooperative women leaders, we salute you for your remarkable contributions in making this world a just, passionate, and happy place." Ma. Lasalette M. Gumban, Youth Program Officer III, NATCCO, Philippines. "In the history of cooperative development in the Philippines, women had always been in the forefront. The meaningful contribution of women in various cooperative roles had paved the way for the cooperative movement in the Philippines to grow and flourish. Every generation has its story of inspiring women leaders who made a dent not only in their respective organizations but also in the entire cooperative movement. My generation took pride on the contributions*

*of Sr. LeontinaCastillo, OSA, an Augustinian sister, a co-op educator, and a youth advocate. Sr. Leonie dedicated her life to make young people love and live the cooperative values. As the Executive Director of the former Cooperatives Education and Development Center, she authored four cooperative books for high school students and pioneered the implementation of the Laboratory Cooperative for Savings. In my high school years, we looked up to her as a passionate co-op educator who believes that co-op education should start early in life and would be effective if delivered in the school system. Years later, she became my boss, and her influence and example became the foundation for my work and advocacy in educating children and youth and making them meaningfully included in the co-op system. Sr. Leonie passed away in March of last year, and how apt was her passing through as the world celebrates the International Women's Month."*



**Savitri Singh, Programme Director - ICA Asia and Pacific**

*"Women and youth are crucial for continuity of the human race: women are the backbone and youth is the future.*

*This is very true for co-operative sector as well.*

*The co-operatives need women to sustain and youth to grow.*

*In agriculture dominant Asia-Pacific, most of food production is done by women.*

*They also form a large segment of workers in agriculture based and textile/garment industries.*

*They have proved themselves time and again in all spheres of life with their special abilities rather than superiority. The young should be attracted to gradually take over and lead with new vision and mission to achieve greater heights. Let's join hands in solidarity to promote inclusion of women and youth in co-operatives by creating enabling environment!"*

### III. News from ICYC

#### a.) ICA-AP Committees on University/Campus & Youth Co-operation Meet and Work on in Bangkok, Thailand 2015

*Meeting of the two Committees Written by Ahsan A. Thakur, Vice Chairperson, ICYC and Youth Rep. KCHSU, Pakistan*

ICA-AP Committees on University/Campus Co-operatives(ICUC) and Youth Co-operation (ICYC) are specialised groups working with young co-operators for many years. Their joint meeting became a reality after a gap of 8 years in Bangkok, Thailand during the Regional Workshop on **Role of Youth and University Cooperatives in moving towards sustainable growth and development in the cooperative decade**. (Full Report placed below). this meeting of minds lead to the single core understanding that ‘Youth’ is the future of the co-operative enterprise model and that play a considerable role in achieving global development goals, locally. Although the goals and objectives of the two committees may differ but the beneficiaries remain same. Sharing experience and knowledge between the two committees was the main goal of this reunion of sorts. This event was special as it brought out the students from different countries and cultures and reminded everyone that youth is the generation of today as much as it is of the future!



News Report: Over a hundred youth participants representing twelve nations gathered to work and strategise on moving towards a sustainable Growth and Development in the co-operative decade #coops2020 , by organising the **ASIA PACIFIC WORKSHOP ON YOUTH & CAMPUS COOPERATIVES**, graciously hosted by the Co-operative League of Thailand in association with the Thailand Consumer Cooperative Federation in Universities. The regional workshop was jointly convened by the members of the ICA-AP Committee of University (campus) cooperatives and the ICA-AP Committee on Youth Cooperation. It was held at the CLT during 17-19 September 2015. The international committees conducted their annual meetings at the workshop venue on separate dates.



The workshop saw student members of university cooperatives from Japan, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, India, Philippines, Thailand and a delegation of youth officers/managers of credit cooperatives in Nepal work in small groups on the three main topics discussed in the workshop which are to determine the Role of university cooperatives in a.) Ethical Consumption b.) Career Development c.) Financial literacy for youth cooperation; the group discussions and the thematic lectures delivered by international resource persons, including Mr. Matthieu Cognac, Youth employment specialist from the ILO (Bangkok office) who made the key note address. The participants shared experiences and finally adopted a Resolution on **Role of Youth and University Cooperatives in moving towards sustainable growth and development in the cooperative decade**(Bangkok) on 19 September 2015. The Regional Director of the ICA Asia and Pacific shared the commitment of the ICA to highlight youth movements in cooperatives at the right global platforms. He encouraged participants to engage with the ICA Asia and Pacific by sharing ideas and information on their experience and challenges in the cooperative sector. Mr. Aditya Yadav, the youngest member of ICA's Global Board graced the workshop with his presence at the Inauguration and affirmed the ideas of articulating the goals of sustainable development and growth for cooperatives that the workshop had set out to achieve. He gave his own example while talking about promotion of youth in management boards of cooperatives. He is 27 years old and elected to the ICA Board in Canada in 2014.

A Special session was conducted by Prof. Yashvantha Dongre, Dean (Commerce) Mysore University (India) on the Guidance notes issued by the ICA in April, 2015. The workshop opened on 17 September 2015 in the presence of the Dr. Kouk Donsumran, Chairman, CLT, Prof. Motoo Furtua (NFUCA) and Dr. Sukesh Zamwar (BUCCS), Chairpersons of ICA AP Committees on University/Campus Cooperatives (ICUC) and Youth Cooperation (ICYC) respectively, and closed on 19 September after a brief feedback session. Participants voiced on increasing group activity and engagement. Participants were taken for an exposure visit to the campus cooperatives at the Chulalongkorn and Kasetsart University during the workshop. Pictures and Videos can be found on [Youth Coop on Facebook](#).

Prior to the commencement of the workshop, the two ICA AP Committees conducted their 8th Annual ICYC and 7th Annual ICUC meetings. Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan were represented at the ICYC meeting and India, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea and Thailand were represented at the ICUC annual meeting.



*Participants outside the venue in Bangkok, Thailand.*



## b.) Bhutan’s first ‘social co-operative’ owned and led by youth

*Written by Ngawang Gyeltshen, CEO Youth Social Coop and Member, ICYC*

12th January, 2015: More than 150 youths in Bhutan gathered in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan, to participate in the national youth seminar, “Youth Cooperation for young, by the young”. The seminar exhibited one quintessential thing needed in making democracy work, cooperation. The event was supported by ICA-AP office in Delhi and the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives, MoAF. The event was coordinated by youth leaders and Sangay Rinchen, founder and CEO of happy green cooperative. Sangay Rinchen, a retired civil servant turned farmer is a pioneer in Bhutan. He is widely respected for his innovative

ideas and humility. The participating youths, numbering in hundreds, learned how the cooperative principles could help Bhutan in her quest for Gross National Happiness, a developmental idea founded by the Fourth King of Bhutan. The seminar was a creative workshop of creativity, innovation and a glaring example of how ‘Youth is NOT wasted on the young’. But perhaps the highlight of the seminar was the birth of Bhutan’s first social youth cooperative called Youth Social Cooperative, Y Co-Op. Y Co-Op aims to inspire, unite and strengthen the youth of Bhutan; to bring out the best in the youth in realizing the dream of Gross National Happiness. The main motto being ‘Innovate. Inspire’.



Y Co-Op’s first two projects were collaborations between various Non-governmental organizations and private enterprises. Script Weavers, the first project, was an oral history documentation project with Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy. The project involved members from the cooperative documenting oral histories of people aged above 60, in attempt to preserve their life tales and help bridge a growing divide among the young and the old. The documented stories will soon be published for the general public. The second project was making of a short youth movie to generate awareness among the general public about the growing youth issues. The

entire movie-crew consisted of the youths. Both the projects were featured in Bhutan’s first newspaper.

## c.) Fish on Wheel A Success Story from FISHCOPFED, India

*Written by Mumshad A. Khan, Program Officer, FISHCOPFED, India and Member ICYC*



FISHCOPFED, India submitted a project proposal for four mobile fish parlors to National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad. At the outset, NFDB sanctioned two mobile fish parlors and subject to the cost to be borne between NFDB and FISHCOPFED would be



shared on 75:25 bases. The said project proposal was formulated by Mr. M.A. Khan, Program Officer, FISHCOPFED as per the guidelines of NFDB under the supervision of Shri B.K. Mishra, MD, FISHCOPFED. After the sanction from NFDB, a project team was constituted comprising of Director, Deputy Directors, and Mr. M.A. Khan, Program Officer from FISHCOPFED to execute the project under the supervision and control of Mr. B.K. Mishra, Managing Director, FISHCOPFED.

The design and layout of the vehicle was devised in such a way so that de-gutted raw fish could be preserved at or below 50°C temperature inside the vehicle in refrigeration unit, it could be processed and washed inside the vehicle and ready to eat fish items too could be cooked inside the vehicle without compromising any kind of food and vehicle safety. The model of vehicles, design and layout and list of equipment etc. were furnished to NFDB also with proposal. On approval of project by NFDB, the execution of project was done in strict compliance to the furnished



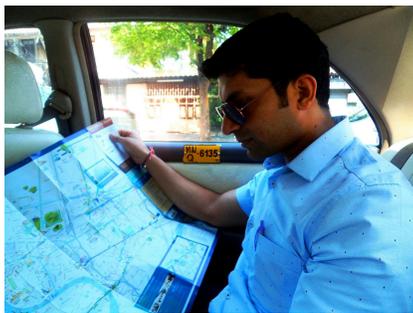
design and layout and list of equipment etc. The overall project has been a great success as most of the components of the fish parlors were finalized after a long exercise and exposure visits to kitchen lobby trucks being operated for other food sectors. The project is closed now and is in operational form for the marketing of fish and fishery products like fish tikka, fried fish, fish cutlets etc. in National Capital Region (NCR) of India and is making good profit besides providing employment to local people.

FISHCOPFED is very much passionate about the replication of project in various parts of country as day by day the number of customers demanding the fish items are increasing. FISHCOPFED is planning for 10 more mobile fish parlors for all its units and regional offices. The provincial governments are also requesting FISHCOPFED to operate such fish mobile units in their provinces for raw fish & fish products marketing, ornamental fish marketing and marketing of fish seeds etc. It can be concluded that in non-maritime states like Delhi and U.P., the project can go a long way in supplying of fish and fish products at doorsteps. Additionally, the project will help in promoting the fish & fishery products more than any fishery exhibition through the movement of the mobile fish vans plying inside the city and will strengthen cooperative fish marketing.



#### d.) Effort Towards Transforming Rural India

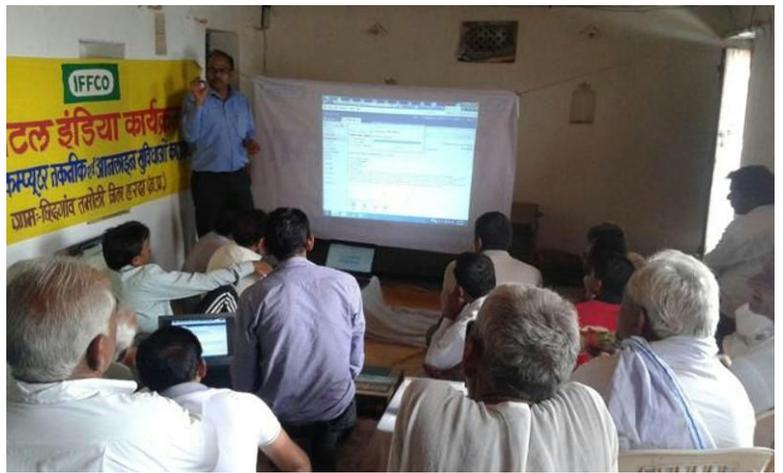
*Hooked to the internet: Residents of this remote village in Madhya Pradesh address each other by their Email IDs. Written by Girish Chandra Sharma, Deputy Manager, Co-operative Relations, IFFCO, India and Member ICYC*



Have you heard people calling each other by their email ids or suffixing ‘.com’ to their names? People of Chhindgaon Tamoli village located in the heart of India, Madhya Pradesh address each other with their email ids or by suffixing ‘.com’ to each other names example Aditya.com. When people living in villages of India have a hard time receiving compensation for crop failures due to lack of documentation or problems with passbooks, the net savvy people of Chhindgaon are shining bright with their active participation on social sites, use of net banking for their money transactions and not to forget nameplates bearing their

names with their phone numbers and email addresses. Most of the villager’s email id have the word ‘coop’ short for cooperation eg- [coop.balramkewda@gmail.com](mailto:coop.balramkewda@gmail.com).

Mr. Ashok Gurjar, an enthusiastic villager of Chhindgaon created a group, the Gramin Vikas Sahkari Sakh Samiti Maryadit to train fellow villagers on how to use internet with a nominal fee of Re 1 per hour in return. As a result of this initiative, almost 300 families of the village today know how to use internet with at least one family member having an email address. Mr. Gurjar also trained them to convert documents into e-documents to help them in keeping their records safe. It all started with the attempt of villagers to get Railtel Communication Limited mobile tower installed in the village which is powered by solar energy.



A 24/7 wifi enabled room was constructed with computers installed to impart training on how to use internet. IFFCO always encourages such initiatives to improve the participation of farmers living in rural areas and provide assistance in their farming activities to improve their economic conditions. Our efforts have borne fruit and has received widespread media coverage from leading dailies like Hindustan Times and Times of India.

## e.) Vocational Training of School Cooperative Teachers

*Written by Ahsan A. Thakur, Vice Chairperson ICYC*



The workshop was organized by Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union Ltd. (K.C.H.S.U. Ltd.) social program Youth Co-operative Wing of Pakistan (YCWP) and Women Wing (WW) on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015 in Karachi, Pakistan. The workshop audience comprised of co-operative school teachers of C.P. Berar High School for Girls and C.P. Star Montessori, Primary & Secondary School and the workshop was titled “Road Map of Modern Teaching”. It was designed to articulate 3 points, The Learning Scale, Basic introduction to IT and Application used today in modern teaching. The

workshop was planned for about 2 hours and exceeded for half an hour more, so the total duration of workshop was for 2.5 hours. Initial analysis was effective to select the topic of the teachers for workshop which was helpful for the teachers to learn. Outputs obtained from the workshop are as follows:-

- ★ Better understanding of the technology and application available.
- ★ Using of free resources and updating of information.
- ★ Thinking of new possibility and new barriers. Self-motivation to think out of the box.

The workshop was helpful to put the thinking caps on the teachers and think out of the routine to make their school system a better one. Imparting knowledge is most effective when it is applied in the environment.



## f.) CDA Region 2 Holds Cooperative Youth Congress



*Written by Nikko Revita, Youth Representative , NATCCO, Philippines and Member ICYC*

“100 Years of Cooperatives, 100% Cooperative movement and more than 100 Participants in the Regional Cooperative Youth Summit in Isabela Province, Philippines.”

ILAGAN City,  
ISABELA – On

October 7, 2015 almost a thousand (1,000) youth cooperators coming from the different areas of Region 2 attended the Regional Youth Summit organized by the NATCCO Youth Team and the Cooperative Development Authority-Region 2 ; it’s theme being : “Koooperatiba para sa Kabataan: Sandigan at Pag-asa ng Kinabukasan”.

The event started with the updates regarding guidelines for the creation, organization, supervision and monitoring of Laboratory presented by Ms. Florida Tallud, the Acting Senior Development Specialist of CDA. NATCCO Youth Board Nikko Revita, gave an inspirational message emphasizing the value of the youth to the following:

1. the development of our community



2. succession planning
3. and to mold fellow youth to become positive change agents.



The youth participants learned values of Co-operative:

- C-Competence,
- O-Optimism,
- O-Openness,
- P-Passion.

It also serves as their guide in achieving

the goals of the cooperative movement. The youth empowerment, Leadership and Succession planning through aflatoun program and Laboratory Coop shared by the NATCCO Youth Program Officer II Ms. Hazel Ann Mangaya also delighted the participants. They were amazed at how a single peso turned into millions in the savings advocacy program of NATCCO and how children also become good savers and leaders. When issues regarding education and savings were brought up, the solution presented was to combine the educational and financial access similar to the Aflatoun program. Children are taught and included in the financial sector through Child Friendly Banking. They were also presentations and sharing of inspiring stories from other Coop's Youth Programs.



Mr. Rodante Aque of Mother Rita MPC, Mr. Sherwin Celestino of St. Martin and Tours Credit & Dev. Coop and Mr. Nikko Revita from

Tagum Cooperative shared how they manage and conduct youth activities in their areas with NATCCO, CDA and other organizations.



## IV. YOUTH SUMMIT - BALI , INDONESIA - SAVE THE DATES!



International  
Co-operative  
Alliance  
Asia and Pacific

### YOUTH SUMMIT 2016

19 – 24 September, Bali, Indonesia



***“Youth, Co-operatives and the Power of  
Entrepreneurship and Innovation”***

[#COOPYOUTH](https://twitter.com/COOPYOUTH)

[ICA Asia and Pacific](#) will organise the *Youth Summit 2016* in collaboration with the [Kubu Gunung Credit Union](#), and co-operatives in Indonesia on the theme:

***“Youth, Co-operatives and the Power of Entrepreneurship and Innovation”***

This experiential event will combine **Action** to experience outdoor activities such as rafting, canoeing, hiking, and cycling and **Reflection** to imbibe the real life situation vis-a-vis co-operative values to comprehend the Co-operative model as a superior one wherein **Youth** can practice economic democracy and social justice. Issues such as decent & self employment for youth and technology & entrepreneurship for co-operatives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be addressed. **Participants will get to experience the world-renowned Balinese Culture through the activities of the Summit.**

*REGISTRATION opens on 19 March, 2016*

#### Who can participate?

**Youth**, representatives and employees of co-operatives and university/campus co-operatives. Private stakeholders and public authorities who want to partner with youth and co-operatives **Exhibition space** to be provided to co-operatives/ethical enterprises [Contact-youthsummit@icaroap.coop](mailto:Contact-youthsummit@icaroap.coop)



Pictures for representation only. Courtesy: istockphotos.com

## VI. ENDNOTE - Agenda and Minutes of the Last Electronic Meeting

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

*AS RECORDED BY P. SANTOSH KUMAR, SECRETARY*

New Delhi, 1 February 2016, 11:25 am

Members present through GoToMeeting Platform

1. Dr. Sukesh Zamwar - India
2. Ahsan Ali Thakur - Pakistan
3. Udaya Prabath – Sri Lanka
4. Girish Sharma - India
5. Mumshad Ali Khan - India
6. Zolo M. – Mongolia

Members with constant access to the meeting via Whatsapp group

1. Indana Saramita Rachman - Indonesia
2. Noor Shafeeza - Malaysia
3. Indira Panta - Nepal

### **MINUTES**

The meeting began with a 20 minutes delay and started at 1145 hrs and ended at 1320 hrs (India Time).

#### ITEM a.

#### ***Introduction and Welcome, Approval of Agenda, Election of Meeting Chair***

Dr. Sukesh, chairperson, adopted the circulated agenda after the approval of members. Members unanimously agreed to nominate the committee chairperson to chair the e-meeting as well. The chairperson welcomed members present at the online meeting and those present via Whatsapp group that included other ICYC members. The chair also urged members to get more engaged through the ICYC whatsapp group to get instant communication and general information via the secretariat and other members. He further added that the committee suffered from a steady and sharp decline in the active participation of members in the past 3 years and that, the attendance at the meetings was not as it was expected to be of an international committee on youth cooperation. The chairperson added that the members ought to collaborate more effectively, especially with Alliance Global Youth Network's recent efforts in active engagement and development work. Dr. Sukesh extended a congratulatory message on behalf of the committee to Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur , Vice Chairperson, to have been elected as an Executive Committee member of the GYN at Antalya in 2015 during the ICA Global Assembly.

ITEM b.

***Update on Alliance Global Youth Network [GYN]***

Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur thanked the Chair and proceeded to express satisfaction at representing the committee at the GYN along with Dr. Sukesh Zamwar and said he was pleased to be attending the regular electronic committee meetings. He added that the main task of the GYN is to increase youth participation. The GYN, he added, had been discussing ideas for social gathering of young co-operators through social media and that, that was one of the ways to increase participation of youth and their engagements with cooperatives. He further added that constitutional changes pertaining to a greater inclusion of youth were also discussed at the GYN meeting in 2015 in Antalya. He explained that the GYN is a network of youth representatives of cooperatives and convened at the Alliance platforms via a Chairperson (Gabriela Anna Buffa, Argentina) followed by four vice chairpersons (one each from the four Alliance regions – Dr. Sukesh Zamwar from Asia Pacific) and four Members at large, comprising a nine member democratic board or the executive committee of the GYN. He added that the opportunities provided through these networks must be availed by the youth to surge the cooperative movement ahead. Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur informed the meeting about the next GYN meeting being planned to coincide with the [International Summit of Cooperatives in Quebec](#) , Canada in October, this year. He mentioned that the Young Leaders' Programme organised alongside the International Summit 2016 was also to be seen as an opportunity for the regional youth to take. He added that the General Assembly of the Alliance saw the change in Alliance leadership with Monique F. Leroux from Canada elected as the President of the Alliance and that Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia would host the 2017 Alliance General Assembly.

ITEM c.

Q/A – No Questions asked or comments made.

ITEM d.

***Youth Summit by Cooperatives***

Members were informed about the ICA-AP planned activity of organising an Asia Pacific Youth Summit in Bali, Indonesia , tentatively in the month of September 2016. It was informed by the secretariat that the Summit was being designed to be powered by cooperatives, meaning, cooperatives providing a platform for youth representing various sectors to convene and discuss cooperative entrepreneurship along with discussions on the Colombo Declaration and the role played by cooperatives in achieving internationally relevant development goals. The secretary informed the meeting that the committee would receive details of the Summit via a separate email. The Chairperson committed a sum of USD 10000/- to USD 20000/- in prizes for participating youth through a specifically designed competitions within the Summit. Mr. Ahsan enquired if the meeting was open to all youth and how the ICA-AP planned to raise funds for the organisation of the summit. The secretariat informed that the Summit was being planned as an event with a registration fee and that the funds must be raised by participation. It was also informed that the local tourism cooperatives in Bali were being approached for local support. The members were apprised of the summit to involve them from an early phase, if they so wished to help in over organisation.

#### ITEM e.

##### ***Update from ICYC Pilot Projects***

The Secretariat informed that Mr. Ngwang Gyeltshen from Bhutan and Mrs. Indira Panta from Nepal were not able to attend the meeting due to unavoidable circumstances. The secretary further added that a delegation of Nepalese credit unions led by Mrs. Indira Panta (Member, Nepal) visited Bulanda Urban credit cooperative in India in January 2016. The visiting delegation, mainly of managers and chief officers, had partnered with the ICYC pilot initiatives in Nepal by forming youth saving clubs over the course of 2015. The secretary reported that the Youth Social Cooperative, registered in Thimpu, Bhutan planned to organise a national level meeting of all stakeholders to help it and the youth movement in Bhutan to move forward in tandem with the ICYC objectives and desired results. Further, the committee was informed about the Working Party comprising of students from Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi University, to research and act on registering a cooperative in Delhi to kick start the ICYC pilot initiatives in India.

#### ITEM f.

##### ***Membership Mobilization Drive; COOP Identity Point Persons***

The secretary continued to the agenda item to discuss the much wanted surge in member participation in the youth committee. It was reported that a gradual decrease in member participation from 2013 had become a cause of concern. The secretary invited members to ideate and suggest means to increase membership and members' participation in the ICYC. It was decided by the intervention of the Chairperson to include membership forms along with the details on the ICA-AP Youth Summit when the latter would be sent to Alliance members. Individual members were also requested to engage with fellow members to get them on board with the committee plans for 2016.

The secretary also mentioned that the COOP Identity tools such as the COOP Marque available free of cost for cooperatives and the dot.COOP domain names available free for the first year can be made useful to primary cooperatives with the help of members of the committee. An increase in the region's application of the free marquee and the dot.coop domain will ensure a stronger online presence of cooperatives. Members were urged to contact Mr. P. Santosh Kumar to become partners and point persons in this initiative of the ICA-AP,

#### ITEM g.

##### ***Newsletter & Media***

The vice chairperson moderated this item on the agenda by introducing the draft of the fourth volume of the Committee newsletter – *Young and Cooperating*. The contents were shared by the vice chair and more content was invited from members. The newsletter was decided to be released during the middle of February 2016. The secretary mentioned the need to decentralise the ICA-AP Facebook page and allow members to directly post as page admin with prior permission sought by members through Whatsapp or via email to the secretariat. The aim, as explained by the secretary was to display the democratic management of content on the FB page, that, at a later stage could be complemented with related investment via committee funds. Mr. Thakur further added that the newsletter that started in 2011 must be a platform for young voices from the cooperative movement to utilise to

share stories from their countries. It was also reported the youth website [www.youth-asiapacific.coop](http://www.youth-asiapacific.coop) would also feature the previous and the 2016 edition of the newsletter.

At this point, Mr. Udaya Prabath, vice chairperson, mentioned that the activities of the Sri Lanka Consumer Cooperative Federation (COOPFED) in increasing youth involvement. He mentioned that COOPFED had established a national youth committee in 2012 following which one of their members, Ms. P. Vishwani made it to the Youth Parliament of Sri Lanka and that, she along with Mr. Prabath can take forward the planning level activities with the National Youth Council of Sri Lanka, the main organisers of the WCY2014, Colombo, for the preparation for the ICA-AP Youth Summit in Bali, later this year.

#### ITEM h.

#### *Any Other Item*

The chairperson apprised the meeting about the next annual meeting scheduled to be held in November 2016 during the ICA-AP regional assembly in New Delhi. He added that since the incumbent youth committee board would serve till 2017, finishing its four-year term and that, Mrs. Indira Panta had proposed to host and organise the next meeting, in 2017 in Nepal, where the elections would be held. Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur reported that the Alliance General Assembly was also scheduled to be held in Malaysia in 2017 and that, the committee could meet there on the sidelines and organise its election meeting. The members agreed to put this matter to vote and decide that most favourable meeting venue in the coming months.

#### ITEM i.

#### *Closing*

The Chairperson summarised the various items discussed during the meeting and announced that the NEXT online meeting would be tentatively held in a month's time and that, he was with everyone in wishing for an enhanced participation from the ICYC members.



**International  
Co-operative  
Alliance**  
Asia and Pacific  
Youth Committee

C/O International Co-operative Alliance Asia and Pacific

No.9 ; Aradhana Enclave, Sector 13, RK Puram, New Delhi 110066, India

Tel 26888250 (107) . [santosh.kumar@icaap.coop](mailto:santosh.kumar@icaap.coop)

---

end