

*"Every kind of peaceful cooperation on among men is primarily based on mutual trust and only secondarily on institutions such as courts of justice and police"*



– Einstein



*"Non-cooperation with evil is a sacred duty"* – Gandhi

*"Tell me, I will forget. Show me, I may remember. Involve me, I will understand"* – Ancient Asian Proverb (Page 14 )

## ITEMS

### Contributions

#### Country Features

1. Pakistan – Ahsan Ali Thakur
2. Thailand – Kobeb Kongnoi
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#### Technology Promotion

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#### Interview of the Issue

Jatropha Growers Co-operative, Thailand

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#### Important Messages and Lectures

### VOLUNTEERS AT MINISTERS 'CONFERENCE SHARING A LIGHT MOMENT



## "RECENT NEWS"

### -MINISTERS' CONFERENCE:

THE ICA PRESIDENT DAME PAULINE GREEN HAS NOW HANDED OVER USD 540,000 DONATED BY THESE CO-OPERATIVES AND INDIVIDUAL CO-OPERATORS WHO HAVE RESPONDED IN SOLIDARITY. THE ICA CAMPAIGN TO COLLECT RESOURCES FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI IN EARLY 2011 HAS SUCCESSFULLY CULMINATED INTO WHAT CAN BE REGARDED AS A CLASSIC CASE OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND THE UPHOLDING OF THE CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLE OF CONCERN FOR THE COMMUNITY. ICA-AP BOARD MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY THE CO-OPTED MEMBER OF THE BOARD WHO IS THE ICA-AP YOUTH CHAIRPERSON.

### -YOUTH WORKSHOP:

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CO-OPERATIVES WAS CELEBRATED ALL AROUND THE WORLD ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF JULY. THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENTS AROUND THE WORLD PURSUED THE CAUSE OF JOINTLY CELEBRATING 2ND JULY AS THE CO-OPERATIVE DAY WITH A COMMON THEME, YOUTH- THE FUTURE OF CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISE". THE THEME WAS WELCOMED ALL OVER ESPECIALLY SINCE AUGUST 2010- AUGUST 2011 WAS DECLARED AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF YOUTH. ICA ASIA PACIFIC CELEBRATED THE DAY BY JOINING THE FUNCTIONS AT THE INDIAN MOVEMENT AT NEW DELHI. (PICS. ON PG. )

### -ICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

A GLOBAL ARTISTIC COMPETITION DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE YOUTH TO CREATIVELY EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED TODAY BY THE ICA ON THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CO-OPERATIVES ON JULY 2.

### -SNCF YOUTH PROGRAM:

IN THE WAKE OF IMPORTANT TIMES AHEAD FOR THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMUNITY, AUSTRALIA AND SINGAPORE HAVE RELEASED COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CO-OPERATIVES. THIS WILL DEFINITELY HELP CREATING MORE AWARENESS AMONGST GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE YEAR AND THE CO-OPERATIVE CELEBRATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR.

### NEW MEMBERS:

CO-OPERATIVE INVESTMENT GUARANTEE FUND (CIGF) OF IRAN HAS BEEN INDUCTED AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER. CENTRAL UNION FOR COOPERATIVE INITIATIVE IN ISRAEL LTD AS A MEMBER

### -COOP LAW UPDATE:

LEGISLATORS AND POLICY MAKERS IN VIETNAM ARE HAVING MANY DISCUSSIONS AND DEBATES WITH THE VIETNAMESE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT TO AMEND THE VIETNAMESE CO-OPERATIVE LAW. THERE ARE ALMOST TEN DIFFERENT DRAFTS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED AND THE COUNTRY PLANS TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE MUTUALLY AGREED ENACTMENT THIS YEAR. AS MANY AS 10 COUNTRIES IN THE REGION ARE UNDERGOING A CO-OPERATIVE LAW-AMENDMENT PROCESS.

# COOP MINISTERS' DECLARE AND ADOPT FUTURE ACTION AT 9TH ASIA PACIFIC CO-OPERATIVE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE BANGKOK, 2012

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Youth Entrepreneurship PODCAST from ILO Asia Pacific (*Click Podcast to hear*)

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

*ICA AP Regional Assembly*

November 2012 in Kobe, Japan.

*ICA Expo and  
Extraordinary General Assembly*

October, Manchester, the UK.

## INDIAN PARLIAMENT PASSES HISTORIC COOPERATIVE BILL 2009

*AS Posted on 22 December 2011 by INDIAN COOPERATIVE*

History was created in the Lok Sabha on Thursday when it passed Constitution (111th) Bill, 2009 which made right to form cooperative societies as a fundamental right. The House also accorded right to set up a specialised agency on the lines of the Election Commission which can conduct election of the cooperative societies. A jubilant Sharad Pawar Union Cooperative and Agriculture Minister said that the bill would usher in an era of professionalization and democratization thereby strengthening the cooperative movement. It was Pawar who had moved the bill on Wednesday, discussion on which remained inconclusive till evening.

Thursday forenoon saw the passage of cooperative bill which put the right to form cooperative into the category of Fundamental Rights.

The other features of bill are yet to be known. The basic points filtering through so far could be summed up as

1. Right to form cooperatives is a fundamental right
2. Cooperatives could set up agency which would oversee election
3. Uniformity in the tenure of Cooperative Board of Directors
4. Provisions for incorporation, regulation and winding up of co-operative societies based on the principles of democratic member-control, member-economic participation and autonomous functioning;
5. Specifying the maximum number of directors of a co-operative society to be not exceeding twenty-one members;
6. Providing for a fixed term of five years from the date of election in respect of the elected members of the board and its office bearers;
7. Providing for a maximum time limit of six months during which a board of directors of co-operative society could be kept under supersession or suspension;
8. Providing for independent professional audit;
9. Providing for right of information to the members of the co-operative societies;
10. Empowering the State Governments to obtain periodic reports of activities and accounts of co-operative societies;
11. Providing for the reservation of one seat for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes and two seats for women on the board of every co-operative society, which have individuals as members from such categories;
12. Providing for offences relating to co-operative societies and penalties in respect of such offences.

Youth is, after all, just a moment, but it is the moment, The spark, that you always carry in your heart". (Raisa M. Gorbachev) *Article Submitted by Ms. Heira Hardiyanti, Secy. Institute of Co-operative Development Studies (LSP2i) ; INDONESIA 2011 account of the International Co-operative Day*



Youth involvement in cooperatives movement is a necessity. There is no doubt that youth is a human capital asset for a nation. There was a proverb "Tell me, I will forget. Show me, I may remember. Involve me, I will understand." To involve young people in cooperative movement is a hope for our future cooperatives. On May 2, 2011, the Ministry of Cooperatives and SME's of the Republic of Indonesia held an event for youth, to get more involvement of students, especially for senior high school students through carrying out of one workshop "Improvement of the role of student cooperatives as a school economic laboratory". That event had two objectives of encouraging teachers and students to improve their knowledge and skill on cooperatives and inspiring them of how important it is in an education program. The participants were teachers and students who were joining in student cooperative at their school. The theme of event was in line with the theme of the International Day of Cooperatives 2011 "Youth, The Future of Cooperatives Enterprises" and the speakers of this workshop were Prof. DR. Arief Rachman (Executive Chairman of Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO), Mr. Untung Tri Basuki from Ministry of Cooperative and SME's and Mr. Totok Suprayitno, Ph.D from Ministry of National Education. They have agreed that student cooperatives is one of any alternative extra curriculum for raising entrepreneurship among youth. Consequently, we have to educate and motivate the student to be more realistic of running their future by joining cooperatives when they graduate from. Unemployment is the big issue in the entire world, so that cooperatives can be a way out for students who cannot continue their education to high level of formal education such as academy or university. Therefore, cooperatives could be a solution to reduce the number of unemployed people. High appreciation and attention have been given to this event. This could be a trigger to improve the appropriate program as an action plan for establishing student cooperative as a school economic laboratory in the school. Nowadays, Indonesian National Committee for commemorating International Year of Cooperatives 2012 in Indonesia has been formed. Many various activities of IYC 2012 commemoration are ready to be executed. It will start in January 2012 to make some announcement and advertorial on media such as national television and newspapers.

Objectives of these activities are: a. Increasing public awareness of cooperatives and the contribution to socio economic development and achieving of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) b. Promoting and growing cooperatives in the entire territory of The Republic of Indonesia c. Encouraging both national and local governments to establish policies, laws and regulations that are conducive to the formation, growth and cooperatives development throughout Indonesia

CONTD...



The activities or event will be conducted by the National Committee of IYC 2012 and these are the main activities:

1. Promotion and publication activities of IYC 2012, which consists of:
  - a. Producing brochures, leaflet, and pamphlet of IYC 2012
  - b. Promotion of IYC 2012 through outdoor media (banners, billboards)
  - c. Promotion of IYC 2012 through electronic media such as television and radio
2. Increasing Awareness of Cooperatives to society, which consists of:
  - a. IYC 2012 Stamp Design competition
  - b. Cooperatives jingle contest
  - c. Student Cooperatives competition
  - d. Indonesia Cooperatives go green program
3. International Year of Cooperatives 2012 Festival, which consists of:
  - a. International seminars and conferences
  - b. Cultural and Cooperative Exhibition
4. The Asian Youth Credit Union Gathering

All these activities will run from January to December 2012, so a whole year will be a full celebration of IYC 2012. The celebration will be not only in a national level, but the provincial or district areas are also encouraged to celebrate it with many activities.

# Developing Capacities of Co-operative Societies

An article Submitted by Sumith De Silva MBA (mkt.), B.Sc. (Mgt.) (sp), AMSLIM, HNDE Certified Professional Marketer (Asia) Specialist/Sector Manager –Business Development and Marketing Co-operative Capacity Development Project **National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka**

2008 was a year of transformation for me when I joined the Co-operative Capacity Development Project implemented by the National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka that was collaborated by the Swedish Co-operative Centre. Since the very beginning of the project we have been able to revolutionize the co-operative development initiative in the country as a successful model. We launched the development endeavour with the motto; 'Developing People - Developing Co-operatives'. We do believe the fact that cooperatives should be made competitive in the face of competition not by strengthening their physical capacities but developing the capacities of the people who are running the movement. Developing business and marketing capacities were given top priority over the years and a training model was developed in order to address major problems and issues faced by our clients. A number of practical training packages was developed and upgraded. Among them, Strategic Planning, Marketing, Customer Service, Project Management, Business Planning, Accounting for Decision Making and Productivity Development etc were highlighted. As a young man myself, I did not have any experience with regard to co-operative development and even working in the movement before I joined the project. It gave me a good opportunity as well as a challenge to undertake the responsibility in developing businesses. I realized the enormous potential the co-operative movement itself got and was motivated to impart my skills to the people and co-operatives those who were less privileged.

## Success Story

Eppawala Multi Purpose Co-operative Society Ltd.  
Eppawala MPCS is situated in the North Central part of the country, around 200 kilometers away from the capital, Colombo. About 70% of the area's population is employed in agriculture. Eppawala MPCS was founded in 1970 and had been performing quite exceptionally well for a decade. With the liberalization of the country's economy, it began to face the challenges from the private sector as all others did. Resources became redundant, employees were not updated with the technology, they were de-motivated and had no proper direction. We visited the co-operative in December, 2008 for the first time upon the request made by the Chairman Mr. Chandrasekara to carry out a feasibility study. Following the visit, we decided to give them training on strategic planning and prepare a proper long term plan for the co-operative first.



We have been working very closely with the organization and had more involvements in the development of the organization. For example, the co-operative rural bank which was not marketing oriented in 2008 looked new after two years time being more marketing oriented and attracting more members and customers. And also the co-operative society has been able to initiate new project to develop its existing medium scale supermarket into a large scale supermarket with the growing needs of its members in the area. We developed the business plan for the expansion which is supported by the government in providing financial assistance of eight million rupees. And the Co-op Supermarket became the best among the other super markets in the region was highly recognized by the government too. It was a great outcome for the project and we are very proud of the achievements made by the co-operative. It has set an example to the other co-operative societies in the country and we are continually developing other co-operatives who have become less efficient. We have also trained and developed a 'Para Professional' team on 'Co-operative Business Counseling' for the very first time in the history. The team comprises of 50 counselors from different ethnic groups representing every part of the country. These people were identified by the project experts when they worked with the co-operative societies and brought them and gave them an opportunity to blossom in their own lines. They were given a fulltime 15 days training on professional business counseling and they are now working with the lead technical experts in different subject areas. Now it has given us the opportunity to reach a number of co-operative societies and expand our services to every nook and cranny of the country. I do believe that the opportunity I got to join the co-operative development initiative of the National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka as a blessing in disguise for me.



## CO-OPERATIVES AMONG YOUTH IN THAILAND BY KOBEB KONGNOI

# Nepal

is undergoing political and social restructuring, and often termed as 'New Nepal' specially in the political sphere. After suffering a massive armed civil war, Monarchy of 240 years was abolished and country has been changed into democratic republic nation. Political forces have come into a peace agreement, and then general election was held for constitution assembly. 601 constitution assembly representatives are engaging to make new constitution. One of the remarkable phenomenon during the civil war period and onward (about 15 years period) was the tremendous growth of co-operatives in various sector. There are around 25000 cooperative organizations emerged within the period of 15 years. Several co-operative leaders and activists have made significant contributions to attain such a remarkable stage. Since, the short history of co-operative movement, some surd of mischief and plenty of violence of values can be observed. It may be considered as a basic practices and learning. Movement existing as a 'primitive stage', to scale up the movement is one of the major task even for the regional or International movement too. In Nepal first co-operative attempt was made by the government having establishment of the co-operative department in 1956, with the task to promote cooperatives, followed by first Co-operative Law in 1959. In so called 'special Nepali context', co-operatives was named as SAJHA (means common of each), then the law replaced by new law in 1986. Co-operatives were guided and controlled by politicians or bureaucrats. There were altogether 833 co-operative organizations, and co-operatives remained as a 'public enterprises'. In 1992 a new Co-operative Law was enacted and the spirit of this Law was closed coherence to the principles of Rochdale Pioneers and Raiffeesen Credit Movement. All previous organizations and structures were converted according to this law. After some years passing public temperament towards the co-operative movement has developed tremendously. New era of the co-operative movement was really began. According to recent Nepal government data 25000 cooperative organizations are there. Increased the nos. from 833 to 25000. In Nepal, National co-operative Federation is a umbrella organization, and it represents and leads the movement. One Co-operative Bank is established and working nationwide. More than a dozen central co-operative unions in the various sectors are already established. viz. Saving and Credit Co-operative Central Union, Milk Producers' Co-operative Central Union, Consumers' Co-operative Central Union, Agriculture Co-operative Central Union, Bee Keeping Co-operative Central Union, Junar Producers' Co-operative Central Union, Fruits & Vegetables Co-operative Central Union, Sugarcane Producers' Co-operative Central Union, Electricity Consumers' Co-operative Central Union, Communication Co-operative Central Union, Coffee Producers' Co-operative Central Union, Tea Producers' Co-operative Central Union, Health Co-operative Central Union and Multipurpose Co-operative Central Union. More than 200 District Co-operative Central Unions of various sectors are there. Even, such a big social and economic dynamics has created by the co-operative movement, almost half of the population have been involved, and there is no cooperative education in the schools and Universities at all. Not of enough space for co-operatives in mass media. One can observed these as dilemma, in the Co-

operative Movement in Nepal. In **Thailand** Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn realized that providing education of cooperative principles to children and youth from schools first would lead to collaborative efforts among students, including teachers and local people systematically and continuously. Additionally, it is effective to the concept of mutual assistance, the sake of common good and it creates a group combination in proceeding activities for a better life by focusing on the development of habits of self-help and mutual assistance by ideology. In the development plan for all children and young people in wildness areas, Phase 1, it gives the knowledge of cooperatives to teachers and students as well as arranging shop activities, savings events, and decorating the corners in the cooperatives in which students can practice working in the cooperative system. The results of that performance offer the students knowledge and understanding of the principles and procedures of the cooperatives. However, the previous operation is showed that some teachers who teach the subjects of cooperatives have not been trained in the cooperative courses so they are not able to handle teaching and practice efficiently. Students also lack the opportunity to apprentice by themselves in every step of the cooperative procedures. In the groups of senior youth, they have the training to learn, however, it doesn't promote the group integration to develop their own careers in accordance with the cooperative system. Therefore, the Cooperative League of Thailand has been pushing for the project to propose the cooperative courses to the Ministry of Education and it is in the process.



Nowadays, Thai young people from elementary to university level participate in the cooperatives both in knowledge about the cooperatives and in inheritance, develop agricultural in the cooperative sector, organize campaigns to educate younger youth learning and understanding in cooperatives, promote training scholarships about the cooperative subjects starting with the opportunity to receive scholarships for young people. On the other hand, in the term of participation of young Thais has no distinct pattern as expected. In the near future, the government will provide supports and encourage youth to partake and drive as well as the definitely more chances for agriculturists or young cooperative members involved in the management of cooperatives.

**MESSAGE FROM ILO DIRECTOR-GENERAL, JUAN SOMAVIA, ON  
THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
COOPERATIVES**

**STATEMENT | OCTOBER 31, 2011**

Your Excellencies Distinguished Guests Cooperative leaders Members of the UN Family

Dear Friends

My warmest greetings to you all!

The ILO is pleased to be associated with the International Year of Cooperatives.

Since 1919, the ILO has had a natural alliance with the cooperative movement. We meet on the common ground of solidarity and social justice in social and economic organization. Cooperative ideals mesh with the ILO's founding principle that "labour is not a commodity."

The launch of this International Cooperatives Year is timely. Today, vast numbers of women and men and their families in developed and developing countries are reeling from the fallout of the worst crisis the world has known since the 1930s. Yet, in fact, the crisis represents the logical outcome of severe imbalances in the prevailing patterns of growth. They have generated increasing inequality and inequity and a growing sense of exclusion. The real economy has been squeezed. Ordinary people are feeling the pinch. And many are experiencing this through the jobs deficit and the deficit of decent work which predate the crisis. The prevailing growth patterns have been unable to produce jobs in the quantity or quality needed. Globally, unemployment now stands at more than 200 million. Youth unemployment hovers just below 80 million, two to three times the adult rate. Already before the crisis, half of total employment outside agriculture was in the informal economy and two workers in five worldwide lived below the poverty threshold of \$2 per person per day. Typically, the cost of adjustment to economic problems has fallen on the weakest—whether workers, communities, companies or countries. And at a time when people are most vulnerable, the buffer of social protection which protects, empowers and helps to sustain demand is commonly under siege. For many, basic systems of social protection have simply been missing – for example, less than 10percent of the economically active population in LDCs have access to social protection. Widening income inequality as well as abrupt and socially costly austerity measures further checks the capacity for sustainable growth. As we know, people are protesting on the streets and elsewhere. They are reclaiming human dignity, demanding social justice, voice and freedom with widespread calls for a fair chance at a decent job. They wish to live in dignity in stable communities, cohesive societies. There are choices to be made: first – whether to ignore or heed the call. And if the call is heeded, the choice of policy direction must be decided.

Policies for fair, sustainable and balanced growth; systems and policies that support efficiency and effectiveness, productivity and competitiveness while upholding human dignity need to re-focus on the real economy with a real commitment to carving out central and meaningful policy space for action on jobs and social protection, with respect for rights, voice and dialogue. The fundamental changes needed call for coherent action. Cooperatives are an important channel for bridging market values and human values. Set within an agreed framework for inclusive growth, cooperative ideals and cooperative organization will be all the more effective in meeting their people-centred objectives. Deeply rooted in local communities, cooperatives are also part of a global movement representing one billion households worldwide. As business organizations, they contribute to economic development, are sources of jobs and livelihoods in their own communities generating over 100 million jobs and securing the livelihoods of nearly a quarter of the world's population. As social organizations they respond to the common good and are vehicles for empowerment. And cooperative organization brings strength, voice and influence at community, national, regional and global levels. Cooperatives offer a dynamic and flexible model of business – whether in production, marketing or service delivery from health care to housing, and education and training. As ethical organizations they are also well placed to advance environmental objectives. During this International Year, the voice of the cooperative movement will be important in calling for new frameworks for inclusive growth. This Year also provides a tremendous opportunity to take practical steps to reinforce the role of the cooperative movement and to strengthen cooperative action by:

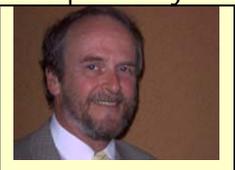
- Active advocacy of cooperative ideals and the potential of the cooperative model;
- Demonstrating with practical action what can be achieved through efficient cooperative organization;
- Integrating cooperative approaches in policy development;
- Providing cooperative education in school curricula and in entrepreneurship training;
- Exploring new avenues for cooperative development and drawing lessons that can strengthen this model; and by
- Ensuring that the national and international policy and legislative environment for cooperatives is enabling and not unintentionally restrictive to cooperative growth.

*AS REPORTED BY*

*THEME: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CO-OPERATIVES*

At the International Co-operative Alliance's annual congress in Cancun in November, 2011, Sam Graham-Felsen suggested to more than 2,000 delegates that using "social media", i.e. connecting with people via telecommunications technologies, might help get the co-operative message out during this important year of 2012. Graham-Felsen gained global recognition as Barack Obama's "Chief Blogger" during the 2008 race to the White House and is part of the team that has been widely credited with helping Obama win the Presidential election, thus changing how electoral campaigns are run in the U.S. But these campaigns are designed to get millions of people to come out and vote for one person, on one day. To do this, voters are promised that this one person can make a huge difference in running the enormously complex government of an enormously complex country in an even more complex world, held hostage to a dysfunctional socio-economic system. This is the political equivalent of corporate ads that tell outright lies about their products with impunity (as every North American blueberry grower knows). No human being can possibly live up to such grandiose expectations as those made by Obama on the stump. Graham-Felsen even admits there has been a lot of disappointment on the part of people who volunteered as campaign workers in '08, and millions more who cast their ballot for "the next FDR." The co-op difference, once more diametrically opposite from this position are co-operatives, who do not wish to create impossible expectations. Co-operative education and marketing are grounded in the conveyance of useful and honest information from directors and managers to member owners and other users (eg customers). And the information flows both ways, because those at the bottom of the pyramid—in numbers and usually in day-to-day engagement with the co-op—are its owners. If Wikipedia can build the largest and most accurate encyclopedia in the world harnessing the efforts of 225,000 volunteers, then surely co-ops can devise ways of using it to plan and to engage members in shaping their co-operative enterprises. As always, the challenge remains: how to adapt social media to fit comfortably with our internationally recognized co-operative purpose, values and principles. One of Graham-Felsen's most emphatic messages in Cancun was the power of storytelling. Every co-op and credit union on the planet began as a group of people seeking to rebalance injustice or unfairness. The stories of co-operatives are stories of individual acts deliberately combined to produce something greater than the sum of the parts. We in the co-op/credit union world have incredible stories to tell. Stories about flourishing in the midst of a recession. Stories of hope, innovation, compassion, and entrepreneurial spirit. It follows, then, that our challenge—and opportunity—is to use social media to help humans regain faith in ourselves and our neighbours, from the local to the global village. This, by the way, will necessitate engaging young co-operators, who are creating the social media universe. We must relate how others have taken control of their own lives—tackling problems, meeting needs and creating wealth by working together, forming organizations they own and control democratically. It is no accident that "Self-help" is the first of the ten values listed in the International Statement of Co-operative Identity. Democratic ownership and control are at the heart of the motto for 2012, the International Year of Co-operatives: "Co-operative enterprises build a better world." If we are true to our co-operative purpose, values and principles, we can help the world meet its most urgent needs, and with lower risks than those of profit driven enterprises, as well as payoffs that will be both greater and longer lasting. We can create and use social media that help us build an economic system based on the conviction that humans will act in their community's best interests when they see that it coincides with their own interests. It is our job to tell them how the co-operative business model makes that possible, across the board. The co-operative message is more powerful than vote for me and I will save you. The co-operative message is your abilities and mine together can make a better world. Social media fit co-operation better than they fit the promotion of an individual saviour. Social media can do more for coops than they did for Obama, but only if we are determined to use them for the service of people and the planet, rather than to sell untruths or increase profits. Tom Webb is one of the creators of the MMCCU program and its first Program Manager. Working with the late Sid Pobihushchy and John Chamard, as well as Sonja Novkovic, Colin Dodd, and the founding members of the Co-operative Management Education Co-operative (CMEC), Webb created a home for the international program at the prestigious Sobey School of Business at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

As Reported by



Tom Webb (MA) is an Adjunct Professor at Saint Mary's University

Master of Management - Co-operatives and Credit Unions  
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902 624 9048 - Cottage Office - June-September

[www.mmccu.coop](http://www.mmccu.coop)

**KARACHI COOPERATIVE HOUSING**  
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**FIRST COMPLETE WORKSHOP ON INTRODUCTION TO CO-OPERATIVE**

By : AHSAN ALI THAKUR; Youth Representative KCHSU, Member of the ICA Committee on Youth Co-operation in Asia Pacific

Pakistan holds a great strategic importance in terms of location as well as important position in terms of population size, area and role in international relations in South Asia and global politics. There are few reasons due to which pace of Co-operative development has been slower in Pakistan. Youth have been struggling to grasp any opportunity available to get them on the track for better growth in Co-operatives but Prime reasons of this slow development of co-operatives structure is lack of proper support from Government and higher authorities. Co-operative Movement and co-operative information is developing in Pakistan with low pace if not at its height. Major reason for lagging behind in the co-operative is due to lack of information, co-operative knowledge, Governmental Support and legislation checks regarding co-operatives and most of all keeping co-operatives as the prime solution to economic stability. Briefly, it is in the phase of introducing the co-operative way of life to its people. Pakistan needs to go a lot further in order to aware its people. One of the best ways is to educate its youth in order to spread the co-operative way of life. Training the youth is one of the tool that we used to aware the Pakistan youngsters. This workshop is the first of its kind to be conducted in Pakistan to educate the youth about the co-operative model, message and its values. The workshop was conducted in Comsats Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) held on Thursday, 29th Dec 2011. The trainers were Ahsan Ali Thakur and Khalique-ur-Rehman and the event was arranged by Evoment, an event management company which provides its services to arrange the training programs and other events. The workshop began with the Introduction to Co-operative conducted by Ahsan Ali Thakur, breaking it down into its history, the current events and the organization involved in the co-operative movement in Pakistan. This workshop generated a new thinking among the students that there is another model to conduct a business and that is a co-operative way, "The people's business" as said by Johnston Birchall. Students were intrigued about the co-operative business success in Pakistan and how it has flourished in the country. The students were unaware of the co-operative and what it has achieved in the past decades. They were very pleased to know about the movement and were inquiring for further events. The training was not only about knowledge, it also focused on activities which helped to induce the minds of the students and which made this session more successful and think out of the box.





All work and no play make's jack a dull boy. After the 1st session lunch break was given just to refresh the students mind. It was helpful to see the picture more clearly and preciously. In the second session which was conducted by Khalique-ur-Rehman. This session focused on the Team Work and problems faced by the group or team.

The point of this session was to face all the difficulties in a group or a team. The students were given a scenario to work as a team and to find ways to improve their work and reach their task in



a limited time with their team mates. This activity proved to be helpful to students in looking at the future tasks. Our last session was about creative thinking conducted by Ahsan Ali Thakur; this session was about having a different point of view and thinking out of the box. The session was purely based on activities and students loved it. Some students were even asking to continue the session even though we had a very small amount of time left. The session was followed by a motivational speech which enables the students to ponder of what they have learned. At the end of the workshop a certificate distribution ceremony was conducted in which Mr. S. M. Junaid, Director of Faculty Development Academy of CIIT was invited as Chief Guest of Honor. Mr. S. M. Junaid disturbed the certificate amongst the student and gave them warm wishes for their future it's his ending speech. Mr. Junaid was presented with a shield in his honor and was thanked to spare some time from his busy schedule and for those momentous words who inspired us and all the participants. Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur was presented with a shield by the Comsats University of Information Technology and he accepted it on behalf of the Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union Ltd. as a representative of the organization. In the Conclusion entire workshop was a success and students were happy and surprised and co-operative movement was on its first step. Pakistan may have a bright future and it need a little work and attention.

# REPORT OF THE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

The 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference held on 27-29 February 2012 at UNCC in Bangkok, convened by ICA-AP and hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand was attended by 14 Ministers, Government Representatives, International Delegates and ICA members from the Asia Pacific Region. Exuding happiness at the excellent arrangements made and positive response of the governments and the ICA members, Dame Pauline Green, President ICA informed that this conference had about the largest ever participation of the ministers and ICA delegates (300 in all). Mr. Li Chunsheng, President ICA-AP, expressed deep appreciation for the support of the Royal Government of Thailand for hosting the conference and the warm hospitality extended to delegates. The conference Schedule began with an inaugural function in which the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency Mr. Chumpol Silpa- Archa, delivered the inaugural address and special address by Dame Pauline Green, President, ICA and the welcome address and the Key note address on the conference theme: "Sufficiency economy and co-operatives" were delivered by Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Government of Thailand. The deputy Prime Minister of Thailand highlighted the significance of co-operatives in the national economy and social stability and therefore the government is committed to support and promote growth of co-operatives. The concept of sufficiency economy developed by His Majesty the King of Thailand was taken up as the conference theme addressed by the Minister of Thailand who gave an ethical definition of sufficiency implying moderation in consumption and behaviour and capacity to create within the individual and social system, a degree of immunity from shortages and deficiencies by proactive action with the use of knowledge and perseverance as the moral foundation of the people. Dame Pauline Green, President ICA, highlighted facts to establish the unstated yet significant role of co-operatives in global economy as co-operatives command one billion members as compared to just 327 million share holders of companies listed in the stock markets and the net worth of 300 globally successful co-operatives published every year is about US \$ 1.6 trillion. She however regretted that the present role of cooperatives in environment and conservation and its future potential in this field were not noted in the Rio Conference and ICA has been trying to include Co-operatives as an item in the forthcoming Rio+20 conclave. The Conference Honoured Mr. Shill Kwan Lee for successfully organising three Co-operative Ministers' Conferences during his tenure as the Regional Director of ICA-AP from 2002-2009.



Indian Co-operative Minister of State Shaking hands with his Thai counterpart

The second segment took up the proposals of ICA-AP regarding conduct of the conference and the proposals of the Regional Director, ICA-AP in this regard were approved followed by three presentations from representatives of FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization), ILO (International Labour Organisation) and ACCU (Asian Confederation of Credit Unions). The representatives of FAO and ILO took an identical view on the larger issues of poverty and development in the Asia Pacific Region. They argued with statistics that despite fast economic growth in the last two decades, acute income poverty, chronic malnutrition and stagnation in agricultural yields of small farm holdings continue to be the redeeming features of most countries of Asia Pacific region. The shrinking employment in the organised sector, massive rise in inequality specially gender inequality have been obstructing prospects of inclusive

growth. In removing or mitigating these adversities both argued that co-operatives could play a positive role. The third presentation by ACCU explained how the functioning of the credit unions and co-operatives in Asia could be professionalized by adoption of a performance evaluation tool – Access Brand developed by ACCU. The proceedings also included a presentation on the Draft Joint Declaration for the Conference. From the afternoon of February 27, 2012 till the forenoon of February 29, 2012, four sessions were held in which fourteen Ministers represented the views of their governments on 'Enabling Co-operative Legal and Policy Environment for 'Sufficiency Economy' while Success Stories of the Co-operative enterprises from the Asia Pacific region were presented by ICA-AP members. The program also included a presentation on the 4th Critical Study on Co-operative Legislation and Policy reform by Mr. Rangan Dutta.

The important highlights of the statements made by the Honourable Ministers are as follows:

1. The Conference must express concerns about the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources for profits only and that commodification of public goods, rising prices, privatization of public services have been causing massive hardships for the common people and the co-operatives must step in to institutionally counter these adversities.
2. To expand the base of the co-operatives it is imperative that the activities of the SHGs, Micro Credit and Micro Finance Institutions, NGOs and Civil Society groups with shared values and methods of organisation are brought within the ambit of co-operatives.
3. Empowerment of women could be achieved by innovative programmes such as tree plantation in Mongolia and forming women led Dairy co-operatives as achieved in India, Bangladesh and elsewhere.
4. The Governments of Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Bhutan Iran Mongolia, Nepal and Sri Lanka reported policy, law and institutional changes made to create an environment conducive to co-operative development, while Philippines and Laos emphasised measures to make farms increasingly use organic methods through the co-operative mechanism with support from the Government to bring about balanced agriculture development. The Islamic Republic of Iran projected the present share of co-operatives in the GDP at 9% and a target of 25% to be achieved in five years due to the concerted efforts of the Government to strengthen and expand the co-operatives and suggested formation of a consortium of Governments to support co-operatives and a common chamber of co-operatives and regional and international unions for all co-operatives.
6. Japan, Korea and Vietnam informed the conference about new mechanism to promote ethical consumerism and co-operatives becoming an integral part of economic transformation programmes with emphasis on upgrading the capacities of co-operatives to take up larger business activities. The honourable minister in charge of Agriculture, forests and fisheries, Japan informed the exemplary work of Agricultural Co-operatives in providing relief to the victims of last year's devastating earthquake and highlighted their role in food security, sustainable development and diversified activities leading to diffusion of democracy. Considering the positive role of co-operatives, the National Planning Committee is engaged in the preparation of a comprehensive plan for co-operatives in Japan.
7. The Honourable Minister from India informed that the size of co-operative membership in India is about 240 Million- largest in the world and co-operatives are taking up a wide range of diverse activities and also informed about the legal and policy reforms undertaken by the government to reform the sector and in particular the credit sector.
8. The Honourable Minister of Bhutan stated that Bhutan has taken up a plan to promote co-operatives to achieve holistic human development inline with its development philosophy of Gross National Happiness which goes beyond GDP based on only material factors. The co-operative law 2009 has been enacted to provide the framework under which 170 co-operatives have been functioning. Bhutan supports the ICA Principles at this stage and is keen to actively participate in the UN and ICA work relating to co-operatives.
9. The President of the Co-operative League of Thailand urged upon creation of a strong capital base needed by co-operatives of the region. Hence special funding arrangements are to be created by the Governments to facilitate the growth of co-operatives.
10. The representative from Nepal stated that the co-operatives are to be the foundation of Nepal's economy based on multipurpose co-operatives, micro enterprises, diary co-operatives with emphasis on participation of women and disadvantaged sections. A new Co-operative Law in conformity with ICA Principles is under preparation. Reforms in co-operative Policy are being considered under a mission mode approach to achieve professionalization and efficiency to raise share of co-operatives in the GDP from the current 1 level of about 3.2%.
11. The representative from Kuwait states that the concept of co-operation is rooted in Kuwaiti tradition of community help which the Government has harnessed to develop co-operatives in different spheres.
12. At the end of each session, the conference provided an open forum for the delegates to participate in the proceedings.
13. Several governments argued for special funding mechanisms for the development of co-operatives by initiating a Special Co-operative Fund and submitted their presentation materials.
14. The proceedings of February 29, 2012 were concluded with the adoption of the Joint Declaration, consideration of the conference report and the concluding address by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Co-operation of The Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. Mr. Nattawut Saikuar, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operation and expression of deep appreciation and gratitude by Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director of ICA-AP of warm hospitality and all round support provided by the Government of Thailand.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1 The Conference noted the suggestion from the Government of Thailand for the constitution of a Regional Co-operative Development Fund for the Asia Pacific Region with contributions from governments and the co-operatives to promote the growth of co-operatives and considering the legal financial and other implications of creation of the Regional financial facility, recommended that the matter be examined in depth by the ICA. The representatives of Co-operatives in Iran endorsed the proposal and further suggested creation of a regional common market for co-operative products and services to achieve collaborative relationships among the co-operatives in the region.

2. There has been a suggestion to promote co-operative to co-operative trading and a constitution of an International Co-operative Bank.



The United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok

## SUCCESS STORY OF THE ISSUE

*Kindly Follow the Picture to view a video presentation(online) on the Irula Snake Catchers' Industrial Co-operative Society.*



**ICA-AP YOUTH WORKSHOP ON “COOPERATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND GREEN INNOVATIONS” DURING 20-22 DECEMBER, 2011 AT ICM, KANNUR**

**A Brief Report**

A four-day Workshop on “Cooperative Entrepreneurship and Green Innovations” held at the Institute of Cooperative Management (ICM), Kannur under the joint auspices of the ICA- Asia Pacific and the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), New Delhi from 20th to 23rd December, 2011 in connection with the observation of 2011 as the International Youth Year by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA).

On 20/12/2011, the Workshop was inaugurated by Mr.P.K.Michael Tharakan, Vice Chancellor of Kannur University. Mr. P. Santosh Kumar, ICA-Asia Pacific, Program Officer and Youth Liaison presided over the function. Shri.M.V.Sasikumar, Director, ICM, Kannur welcomed the gathering. Dr.Y.Dongre, Co-Secretary, ICA University Campus Committee & Prof. of Co-operative Management and Mr.R.K.Menon, Director of ICM, Thiruvananthapuram gave felicitation. The Faculty Members of ICM, Thiruvananthapuram and Madurai participated in the inaugural function. Dr.M.Raman, Programme Coordinator delivered vote of thanks.

On 20/12/2011, Dr.Y.Dongre delivered a talk on ‘Cooperative Entrepreneurship in the Changing Times’.



On 21/12/2011 and 22/12/2011 Dr.Ramesh Jalan, Resource Person, UNDP delivered a talk on ‘Knowledge Platforms and networking with special focus on Solution Exchange and ‘What are green jobs and how can we achieve them’ respectively.

On 21/12/2011 and 22/12/2011 Dr.B.Niranjan Raj Urs, Dy.Director of ICM, Kannur handled the classes on ‘Management and Cooperative Law Policy’ and ‘Prevailing Co-operative Policy & Laws – Is there a need for change?’ respectively.

On 23/12/2011, discussion on International Year of Cooperatives were lead by Dr.Chan Ho Choi-Regional Director, ICA-AP, Dr.Ramesh Kumar Jalan, Mr.M.V.Sasikumar and Dr.B.Niranjn Raj Urs. As part of the Workshop, ICA organized ‘COOPATHON’ competitions which covered Art, Debate and Quiz contest for college students . Around 10 teams from various colleges participated in the competition. Cash awards and certificates for winners were distributed by Dr.Chan Ho Choi.

# CO-OPERATIVE LEGISLATION IN INDIA

A STUDY OF ITS EVOLUTION, STRUCTURE AND REFORMS.

Abstract

Co-ops are the most formal institutions among the organizations forming the Third Sector. Historically speaking, the co-op movement sought to provide an alternative both to capitalistic and socialistic systems. In reality however, co-op movement has not succeeded in graduating into an Independent economic system any where in the world. The farthest the co-op movement could progress is to emerge as a significant sub sector with in an overall capitalistic or socialistic economy. Consequently, the working of the co-ops including their legal system is guided by the overriding economic philosophy governing the country and this fact is born out clearly in the evolution of the co-op legal system in India. The colonial yet benevolent attitude of the British rulers, the liberal democracy of Nehruvian policies with its socialistic trappings, the trend towards over centralization witnessed in the 1970s, the shift towards economic liberalization in late 1980s and particularly in the 1990s, the traces of all the above developments can be seen in the evolution of co-op law in India. This talk attempts to discuss the evolving structure of co-op law in India. Since under the Indian Constitution co-operation is a state subject, the talk concentrates more on the state laws and Multi State Co-op Societies (MSCS) Act is discussed only incidentally.

On a closer examination of the evolving structure of co-op laws in India up to the 1990s reveal one sad fact i.e. the lack of confidence of policy makers in the ability of local groups to govern and manage their own institutions. This situation has contributed to the increasing concentration of powers in the hands of the Registrar. Policy of state partnership in co-ops, tendency to look at co-ops as instruments for implementing public policies, popular misconceptions that co-ops can bring about equity in society etc, have all contributed to the state tightening its strangulating control over co-ops. Co-op laws in the country have thus become increasingly rigid, procedure oriented and have failed to protect the co-operative character of the institutions. Even though the need for reforming the co-op laws was felt in the 1950s and 1960s , the reform movement however gathered momentum only during the 1990s. The policy of economic liberalization has contributed in good measure for this trend of reforming co-op laws. Three distinct trends of reforming co-op law are discernable. These include enactment of parallel laws by states giving autonomy and independence to only those co-ops who shun government participation in their equity, amendments to existing co-op laws by states incorporating some of the progressive features of the Model Bill 1991 and amendment of the Indian Companies Act providing for organization of Co-operative Producers' Companies.

Despite the above efforts to reform co-op laws the mainstream of co-op laws in the country have changed very little. The structure and underlying spirit of these laws have remained more or less intact. Reforms made in recent years are grudging and are not the result of any change of heart on the part of governments. The co-operators themselves are not enamoured much by the reforms as is evident by the very small number of co-ops migrating to the self reliant co-op Act in states where such parallel legislation was introduced. Co-operators in the country should start believing in themselves and then only reforms to co-op laws will gather momentum and permanency. The 111th Constitutional Amendment introduced recently, conferring Constitutional Status to Co-operatives, is more the result of good intentioned policy makers at the top than due to the felt need of Co-operators.

BY

Dr.B.NIRANJAN RAJ URS  
Deputy Director  
ICM Kannur

## COOPERATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE CHANGING TIMES

**Dr.Y. Dongre**

**Co-Secretary ICA- University Campus Committee & Prof. of Co-op Management**

The recent developments in the financial markets in the developed countries have exposed the limitations of high profit seeking behaviour of business firms and their vulnerability to the market forces. The recession in the developed countries seems to be gradually affecting less developed countries. As a consequence of the troubles in the financial markets, there is surge in unemployment. Increasingly workers are laid off. There prevails a great amount uncertainty for the youth.

In the changing economic scenario at the global and national level, the concept of cooperative entrepreneurship holds high promise for the educated youth and young people in different economic environments. It is imperative that youth must be inculcated the values of relationship among individuals in their tender age. The cooperatives provide avenue for individuals to innovate and to practice freedom. The certain human values are nourished through cooperative way of life. By developing the students' cooperatives in every school, students will come to know the values of freedom, democracy, voluntarism, participation, entrepreneurship, management and business practices and challenges. The inculcation and practice of these values in school cooperatives enable and prepare the students for future participation in the larger society.

A business operation requires some amount of capital. But an individual lacks capital. As a result, he is not able to venture into business. But cooperative organization does not depend on capital alone. It depends on labors, voluntarism and relationship. The youth can pool their energy and skill and form cooperative to overcome their limitation of capital inadequacy to be successful. The different types of service cooperatives are being successfully run in the Scandinavian countries and in Asian countries. The notable examples of service cooperatives are Catering Cooperatives, Rag Pickers Cooperatives, and Creech Cooperatives for the children whose parents are employed, Auto –Drivers Cooperatives, etc. The youth must learn the good practice of management and try to adept certain good practices in running the cooperative enterprises. With technical skill, youth can combine their resources and organize their business on cooperative lines. Agriculture provides an ample opportunity for the youth to form cooperatives to deliver services to the people. The need of the hour is to develop cooperatives in marketing, processing and in distribution.

Entrepreneurship cannot come automatically. Youth has to identify the needs of the people. He has to change according to the requirements of the people. Entrepreneurship requires risk taking attitude. The entrepreneurship is ever keen to know, search and identify the potential demand and latent demand for the products by the public. With cooperative entrepreneurship, inherent defects associated with individual entrepreneurship, youth can collectively undertake businesses and scale up their business operations in their mutual interest and in the interests of the public. Knowledge Platforms and Networking with Special Focus on Solution Exchange Dr.Ramesh Kumar Jalan, Resource Person UNDP. (You may register and vote for Solution Exchange here [www.nrmcindia.co.in/announce.php](http://www.nrmcindia.co.in/announce.php) and [www.in.undp.org](http://www.in.undp.org))

The global leaders, scientists and public across the countries all over the world are extremely concerned about the environmental issues. The world is experiencing the severe environmental problems such as air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, ozone layer depletion, green house gases, global warming, and climate change, soil erosion, depletion of non-renewable resources and so on. All these are the outcome of the developmental process in developed and in developing countries in order to raise their respective countries people's economic well beings. At the same time there is an emerging trend and widespread awareness that these environmental problems can be solved through adopting environment friendly technologies in the world.

The rapid technological advancement in the mass communication and in media brings together people living in different parts of globe in nexus in no time. The technological improvement breaks down the distance barrier. The cultural barrier which is divided people once is reduced. The technological advancement made communication among the people living in different countries is easy and practicable. Now days, people communicate directly with one another by developing certain knowledge platforms such as Face book, e-mail, you tube etc. These knowledge platforms though useful for sharing some information they may also provide some distortion on information. In brief, these knowledge platforms sometimes may not be providing right information. The reason being that all people may enter and communicate their views, though information may not be accurate and scientific. The authentic information may be difficult to obtain. Given this disadvantage, what we require is knowledge platform in the true sense that people with similar aptitude and knowledge can come together and form an exclusive group to share the knowledge on various themes affecting the society. The ideas and knowledge must be meaningful. Knowledge platform must act as information sharing on the best practices about the organization, climate, environment, people, culture, politics etc. They must be meaningful and practicable to the people and organization.

Though the global warming is the technical subject involving carbon emissions and green house gases, adverse effects of the global warming on the general public can be communicated to them by pamphlets , Facebook, e-mail, you tube etc . It may cost heavily in the beginning for establishing centers in remote areas. But long-term gains are substantial which are worth undertaking.

The factors that contribute to global warming in developing economies are power consumption based on fossil fuels, automobile emissions, and deforestation for construction activities. Dr. Jalan noted high potential for utilization of solar energy in rural and urban areas in India. He noted that western countries, people are gradually shifting towards solar energy in order to save non-renewable resources. It is high priority among the policy makers around the world. Similarly one can harness the wind energy. One can obtain tidal energy from seas cost effectively.

Youth and policy makers should form groups and share knowledge about the best practices in their regions. These groups can involve in activities such as in reforestation, exhibition of green products and benefits of reducing global warming.

Eco-friendly cultivation practices in India will restore depletion of the soil. At present too much use of fertilizer in agriculture operations lead to erosion of fertility of the soil. The use of bio-fertilizer will reduce environmental pollution and provide remunerative prices to the farmers.

Consumer and youth can take oath that they can avoid use of plastic product like plastic bags. Given the numerical strength of cooperatives in India and their linkage with ICA, cooperatives can act as a catalyst for the dissemination of information on various aspects of society. The best practices in the world in regard to management can be communicated through the knowledge platform. Youth being receptive to the modern ideas and in touch with technological advancement play significant are expected play significant role in the knowledge platform.



ADD  on FACEBOOK!!!



Participants at the Youth Workshop



Awards being received for Second best Team at COOPATHON



BEST SPEAKER AT COOPATHON



# INTERVIEW OF THE ISSUE



*Ms. Duangduen Katiyanate, MANAGER, Wiangsa Agricultural Co-operative Limited, THAILAND*

ICA-AP: Good Evening! It is a pleasure to meet you and thank you for sparing us your precious time from the Program you are attending.

Ms. Duangduen Katiyanate: It is my pleasure.

ICA-AP: Where were you raised and educated?

Ms. D.K.: I grew up in Nan Province and was educated in Chiangmai Province. I hold two bachelor certificates in Human Resource Development and Community Development and also was awarded MBA in Public Administration.

ICA-AP: And what about co-operatives? When did you first hear about co-operatives?

Ms. D.K.: It was in 1982. I like the works related to community development so I decided to apply for a job in the agriculture sector. My first job was at the Banluang Agricultural CO-operative Limited in Nan Province. Now of course I work and manage the Wiangsa Agricultural Co-operative.

ICA-AP: Do you think that the co-operative you work at has been successful in your endeavours?

Ms. D.K.: Yes. Very much so. Just recently, my co-operative got an award from the Co-operative Promotion Department of Thailand and is considered to be the base model co-operative. I mean it has been recognised internationally.

ICA-AP: That is great! But what are the reasons for this achievement? Can you please explain?

Ms. D.K.: Sure. My co-operative functions in an open and a transparent manner. Not only transparent but everyone is actively involved in the process. I think these are just the factors required for a co-operatives success.

ICA-AP: When was the co-operative established?

Ms. D.K.: in 1970

ICA-AP: Chief Business activity?

Ms. D.K.: Credit and savings; Purchasing/Collecting of agricultural products from members, Petrol Station.

ICA-AP: Why did your co-operative get the King's Award?

Ms. D.K.: It was because of the network we developed of not only co-operatives but also the private sector and the government. Also, the innovation on Bio-Diesel for the country's cause reflects on Sufficiency Economy as the King has famously declared.

ICA-AP: So can you say a few things about jatropha?

Ms. D.K. Jatropha is an alternative for energy. Oil that is extracted from is used to power tractors and generators on the field. It does not pollute and has no smell. No black smoke.

ICA-AP: Wow! So where did you find out about this?

Ms. D.K. Actually, Jatropha has been around in Thailand for many years. People just are unaware of its importance and use. Three years ago Cooperative promotion Department of the Ministry and Co-operative League of Thailand gave training and knowledge for using and making bio-diesel. There were twenty co-operatives that received the training, and only ours emerged successful.

ICA-AP: That means there is a lot required than just training and knowledge to be successful.

Ms. D.K. Yes. Of course!

ICA-AP: So why only one successful co-operative?

Ms. D.K. Members and staff are our main strengths. The board of directors has a wider vision and to support this, we have a good management. So success was just a matter of time.

ICA-AP: So, what else is Jatropha used for?

Ms. D.K. Only oil, from the fruit. Even in ancient times, it was used to light auspicious oil lamps etc. Even now people use it on their face as moisturiser, on their hair... used just like coconut oil in India.

The peels can be used to make organic fertilizer and the leaf as manure. The stem burns like coal and is used to wade off pests.

ICA-AP: Any other countries that grow jatropha?

Ms. D.K. Japanese growers are trying their hand at it.

ICA-AP: Did the government ask you to help?

Ms. D.K. Yes many times. We have also tendered our help in spreading awareness and local wisdom. But it is much more complicated than that. Members of many co-operative societies gave it up as it requires too much hard work and too much patience. The farmers won't be able to see the results in a short time like some other cash crops. Sometimes, this takes ten years. Then the financial support is itself from given by the government on a big scale upon considerable success.

ICA-AP: How many members grow Jatropha in your co-operative?

Ms. D.K. 2000 individuals in total. The needs are sometimes based on income and some for fuel. But this is not the main occupation of anyone. This is just to support the ongoing profession of the members.

ICA-AP: What are your future plans and views on the IYC 2012?

Ms. D.K. Our future plan is simple and we want to create awareness, training and knowledge environment. 2012 is not another year. We in Thailand have had many opportunities to showcase our produce and services internationally. Thanks to CLT and CPD.

ICA-AP: Have you heard of the ICA Expo?

Ms. D.K. Yes. I think, I will participate this year!

ICA-AP: Thank you so much Ma'am for talking to Young and Co-operating.

Ms. D.K. You are welcome!

# BUSINESS IDEA OF THE ISSUE



Every word that we use and every thought that perpetrates in our mind is a trivial consequence of a system. A system, that we most naturally adopt and develop by our own actions over time.

The concept of 'freedom' is as dubious to the 'citizen' as is 'monsoon' for the Indian farmer. Hence, he believed in self-help and co-operation. He was a man with limited means and the reputation of India as an "agrarian economy" was to be maintained. The principles of Self-help and co-operation took over his 'system' and gave birth to the successful cooperative enterprise system, within the existing system.

However, this system did fall prey to individual desires and how! With the success of enterprises alone and the failure of distributing economic returns to farmers, it became evident that the biggest issue people have in this world is – people's management and managing people. All the people in this world are prospective issues and sources of unrequited problems. The consequence stares at a grim scene where people, individuals have, mostly become parasites and suck the offerings of another human being. Whether masked or otherwise, the golden principle-purpose of business is profit. More recently it has evolved as - more profits at any cost. Entities with a sadist past may enjoy a sense of pride and accomplishment at the failure of their own employees.

This, perceived by me as a Neanderthal-ic approach to what clearly is not LIFE... It could be an existence that simply exists to work for an employer. The Youth today better not feel as people of India did during the otherwise golden times of liberalisation.

A co-operative is started by people with limited economic means. The co-operative is managed by the members who also own it and thereafter, render goods, services or both. Famous co-operative enterprises are AMUL, Mother Dairy, IFFCO, Coop-tex, Ijjat papad, Nafed etc... These seem to me as irreplaceable brands.

The clan of people that fits this bill perfectly is the student community of India.

They come from various towns to the cities to pursue their education and are blessed to be born in a country that has respectfully kept the language (the English language!) and also nurtured it and included it as the medium of education.

A cooperative Press be initiated by the students in the universities of cities, where they collect 'tabloid-worthy' campus news and views on our system from the youth around and include other valuable stake holders depending on the congruence of all minds. This could feebly yet definitely translate as empowering youth with the freedom of thought, expressed.

They could print this on newsprint and sell it for the bare minimum price and have guaranteed readership with students as they paper is about them and their fellow mates. The cooperative could

Generate revenue through advertisements and other sources that a tabloid thrives on, but the youth would get the idea of independence, responsibility and power.

## COMPILERS' NOTE



That's Sivakumar Dangi. He is on top on the world, Quite literally.

Talk about courage and co-operators scale a different height at the time when most desired. Nepal Information and Communication Central Co-operative Union (NICCU) is lucky to have this Gentleman and his ten member expedition team to reach the top of the tallest mountain in the world on May 27 at 6.00am. Now why would the General Secretary of NICCU have to climb 29,029 feet? I believe co-operatives are of few words and infinite actions. There has been an excellent display of solidarity over the last century by co-operative enterprises throughout the world. This has once again culminated into the free world recognizing institutionalization of democracy, self help and solidarity, by recommending the ILO 193 document and declaring 2012 as the one dedicated to co-operatives. The last outing of co-operatives in this big stadium of ideas and action was in 1965. That was a time where free markets were rare and the co-operation level between the east and the west was not as glorified as it is now.

At the advent of the new century and especially when international agreements have reached a mature stage with Rio+20 coming up, it is our social responsibility and a justiciable duty to scream out loud or whisper in the ears of those who are unaware of the co-operative option or are uneducated whilst in it. As it is said 'an informed decision is justice rendered at the cause', the world might just become *a better place for the future.*



### COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

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