



# 9<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference On Co-operative Legislation & Policy

27-29 February 2012  
United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok

"ENABLING CO-OPERATIVE LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT  
FOR SUFFICIENCY ECONOMY"

**IN ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CO-OPERATIVES - 2012**

## The Joint Declaration of Ministers & Recommendations of the Conference



**COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES BUILD A BETTER WORLD**







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9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference on Co-operative Legislation and Policy

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*H.E. Mr. Chumpol Silpa-Archa, Deputy PM - Thailand along with H.E. Mr. Theera Wongsamut, Minister of Agriculture - Thailand and Dame Pauline Green, President - International Cooperative Alliance. Mr. Li Chunsheng, President - ICA Asia Pacific delivering his appreciation address on 27 February 2012 at the United Nations Conference Center, Bangkok*



*H.E. Mr. Nattawut Saikur, Deputy Minister of Agriculture - Thailand and Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director - ICA Asia Pacific along with Dame Pauline Green and Mr. Li Chunsheng*



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# Contents

<b>Preface</b>	7
<b>Conference Report and Recommendations</b>	9
<b>Joint Declaration of the 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference</b>	13
<b>Summary Record of Proceedings</b>	16
<b>Annexures</b>	31-70
A. Concept Paper and Programme	31
B. Rules and Procedures of the Conference	48
C. List of Honourable Ministers and Government officials present	49
D. Members of the Drafting Committee	51
E. List of Participants	52
F. Follow-up letter of the Regional Director	69





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# Preface

It is my honour and privilege to present to you the Declaration and the Recommendations made at 9th Conference of Co-operative Ministers of Asia and Pacific Region of the International Co-operative Alliance and a summary record of the proceedings of the Conference held at UNCC at Bangkok on 27-29 February 2012 - the International Year of Co-operatives declared by UN.

First of all, on behalf of the Asia Pacific ICA family, I would like to express our thanks and deep sense of gratitude to His Excellency the King of Thailand for providing the inspiring conference theme- “Sufficiency Economy” and hosting the conference. The ICA shall remain grateful to H.E. Mr. Chumpol Silpa-Archa, the Deputy Prime Minister and H.E. Mr. Theera Wongsamut the Minister for Co-operatives, Royal Government of Thailand for addressing the Conference and setting thereby its course and perspectives and for making excellent arrangements and extending the most generous hospitality to all delegates and observers.

The Bangkok conference has assured a manifold significance for the co-operative movement in the Asia-Pacific region. First it has recognised the strategic role of co-operatives as a balancing sector in all market driven economics to facilitate growth of fair globalisation as the co-operatives are structured to protect the interests of common citizens by providing wide ranging services. Second, it underscored the urgent need to complete the task of reforming the co-operative laws and policies which is imperative to empower the co-operatives to play the desired dynamic role as the 4th Critical Study of Co-operative Laws and Policies carried out by the ICA-AP has established mis-matches between co-operative laws and policies and continuing deviations from the ICA Principles of Co-operatives identity in most countries of the region. Third, a consensus emerged that the future of the co-operatives lies in ‘expansion with consolidation’ with emphasis on developing large professionally managed multipurpose co-operatives and embracing Self Help Groups and similar socio-economic action groups within the ambit of co-operatives by suitable changes in laws and policies. The Declarations and Recommendations made at the conclusion of the conference are the outcome of intense deliberations at the conference. I take this opportunity to place on record our highest appreciation to the Honourable Co-operative Ministers, High Government Officials of Departments In Charge of co-operatives, representatives of ILO and FAO of the UN and Chief Functionaries of Federating and Specialised Bodies of co-operatives for their participation and valuable contributions

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which enabled the conference to crystallise thought and experiences to lay down a strategy for co-operatives to respond to challenges arising out of global economic slowdown since 2007 and hardships for masses.

In my view the outcome of the conference suggest a strong advocacy role for the ICA-AP in following up of the recommendations and I have therefore urged all governments and members of ICA-AP vide my letter dated 18 May 2012. (copy placed as Annexure F of this report) to initiate action and keep ICA-AP informed so that if need be, we could provide some support by way of training or experience sharing.

I conclude with the sincere hope that when the next ICA Conference of Co-operatives Ministers is held, we will be able to report significant progress in the direction set in the Bangkok Conclave.

**Dr. Chan Ho Choi**

*Regional Director*

*International Co-operative Alliance -Asia Pacific*

# The Conference Report

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 co-operatives 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

The representatives of FAO and ILO took an identical view on the larger issues of poverty and development in the Asia Pacific Region

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.

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 ses-

sions 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, Senior Consultant – ICA-AP

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 Diary 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.

**5.** 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. H.E. Mr. Shuji Yamada, 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.** Representing Nepal, Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal 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 sec-

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

The President of the Co-operative League of Thailand urged upon creation of a strong capital base needed by co-operatives of the region

tions. 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 level of over 1%.

**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.

- A. At the end of each session, the conference provided an open forum for the delegates to participate in the proceedings.
- B. 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.
- C. 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 Min-

ister of Agriculture and Co-operation of The Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. Mr. Nat-tawut Saikuar 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 under the aegis of the International Co-operative Alliance.

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# Joint Declaration

of the

## 9<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference

Adopted by The Conference on February 29, 2012

1. The 9th Conference of Ministers in charge of co-operatives in the Governments of Member countries of the Asia-Pacific Region of the International Co-operative Alliance,
2. Reaffirming that the last eight conferences of 'Co-operative Ministers' since 1990 have contributed to the development of co-operative movements in the Region through the platform for Ministers aiming to provide an enabling policy and legal environment embodied in the Declarations and Recommendations adopted jointly with co-operative movements in the Asia-Pacific Region, met at Bangkok from 27 February to 29 February 2012 and
3. Noting that several Governments of the Region have taken steps, on the recommendations made at the 8th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference, to create an enabling environment for the co-operatives to function as voluntary, autonomous, democratic and apolitical enterprises and Co-operative Movements have striven to raise their capacities in size and scope of business to compete with the businesses of commercial and multinational enterprises in the process of globalization and harmonization of domestic laws and rules to the international standards and
4. Taking Note of the views expressed on the multi dimensional impact of Globalization experienced in their respective countries in terms of volatile capital markets, rising prices and consequent hardships for the masses, shrinking employment opportunities in the process of capital intensive growth, increasing casualisation of labour and adverse terms of trade for agriculture and rural economy, and
5. Conscious of the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources for profits disregarding the irreversible environmental damages, commodification of public goods and privatization of public services, causing massive hardships and the positive role of Co-operatives in addressing these issues and their contribution to strengthen food security in the world and
6. Noting that the UN General Assembly Resolution no. A/RES/64/136 calling upon all

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Member States to take advantage of the year 2012 declared as the International Year of Co-operatives in recognition of the positive impact of co-operatives on poverty reduction, generation of employment and social inclusion and the goals set by the UN for the International Year of Co-operatives, do hereby resolve to make earnest efforts to increase public awareness about co-operatives and their contributions to socio-economic development and especially towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals, to promote the formation and growth of co-operatives, and to meet these objectives to encourage Governments to establish policies, laws and regulations to create an environment conducive to the formation, growth and stability of co-operatives, and

**7.** Recognizing that the vital role co-operatives in advancing towards a sufficiency economy based on sustainable development and our commitment to the co-operative movement, especially for those belonging to vulnerable groups, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, aged persons and indigenous peoples in order to fully participate, on a voluntary basis in co-operatives and to address their social and economic needs and

**8.** Reaffirming that the potential of co-operatives as a strategic sector balancing the forces operating in a market economy as being risk averse, stake holder welfare oriented form of enterprises has been overlooked and hence the need for a more dynamic set of laws and policies than what have been put in place so far We, the participants of the Conference

**9.** Urge upon the Governments to formulate a new policy and legal framework, on the basis of ICA Principles, by initiating a comprehensive review of co-operative laws and Policies, taking into account the recommendations made in the last Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference and the suggestion to enact a common co-operative code defining Government-Co-operative relationship and addressing the governance issues to enable the co-operatives to move to a high growth path and

**10.** Urge upon the Governments to expeditiously lay down a new policy and legal framework to provide a larger and durable space for the co-operatives in their economies by initiating an urgent review of the co-operative laws with a view to removing provisions which continue to impinge on the autonomy and self regulation in the management of co-operatives, introducing fair and transparent mechanisms for arbitration of disputes and redress of grievances and protecting the basic character of co-operatives by stricter legal provisions to prevent demutualization and to provide an effective supportive role for the Co-operative Unions and Federations in the functioning of the co-operatives essentially in capacity building and good governance for ensuring accountability and to review and restore various incentives earlier allowed to co-operatives such as exemptions from payment of certain taxes, in recognition of their crucial role in holding the price line, promotion of social welfare and sustainable employment and contribution to social and economic stability and

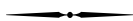


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**11.** Urge upon the Governments to make institutional arrangements like constitution of a National and Provincial Co-operative Development Fund with contribution from the state, the co-operatives and the Central Bank not only to rescue co-operatives facing difficulty but also to assist them in developing professional management, competitive edge and core competency in emerging areas and to enter into more diverse areas of cooperation like housing, energy, health, child and elderly cares, education and other social services to render services to the common people at affordable prices apart from strengthening its traditional activities in credit, distribution of consumer goods and essential supplies and

**12.** Call upon the co-operative movements to consider innovative measures to bring within its ambit the Self Help Groups, especially the women led SHGs and Microfinance Institutions and other social associations with features common to co-operatives and shared values and promote growth of large multipurpose societies and expand the base of co-operatives, and

**13.** Call upon international organizations and the specialized UN agencies, in collaboration with national and international co-operative organizations, to encourage growth of coherent synergy between the co-operatives and the civil society organizations in areas such as natural resource conservation and environment and mitigation of climate change, advocacy and welfare of disadvantaged sections and thereby contribute to the growth of social capital and to promote strategic alliances among co-operatives across the region and with appropriate public and private entities and promotion of greater sharing of experiences towards attainment of common objectives.



# Summary Record of Proceedings

**1.0** The theme of the conference attended by 300 delegates from member countries of the Asia Pacific region was “Enabling Co-operative Legal and Policy Environment for Sufficiency Economy” which underscored imperatives for co-operatives-the need to create an enabling legal and policy environment for formation, growth and development of co-operatives as strategic sector in the economy and society and the relevance of the philosophy of sufficiency economy propounded by His Excellency King of Thailand to co-operative movement as of now and future as it reflects the co-operative values and principles in the spirit of sustainable development.



**H.E. Mr. Chumpol Silpa-Archa**  
*Deputy Prime Minister- Thailand*

**1.1** The tone and tenor of the conference was set by the opening speech of his Excellency Chumpol Silpa- Archa, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and the keynote speech on ‘sufficiency economy and co-operatives by **H.E Mr. Theera Wongsamut**, Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives

Govt of Thailand and the address by Dame Pauline Green, President ICA. The inaugural and the keynote addresses laid emphasis on the 5 basic principles of sufficiency economy embodied in a New Theory of Social and Economic management in Thailand as follows:

- Moderation
- Reasonableness
- Self immunity or Risk
- Management
- Knowledge
- Virtue

Implicit in the tenets of sufficiency economy is manifold societal capacity building - in sustainable management of natural resources avoiding over exploitation, speculation and greed, utilisation of technology and modern knowledge and skills with a view to strengthen the



**H.E. Mr. Theera Wongsamut**  
*Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Thailand*

human side, and developing co-operatives as means of “assembling people and not for accumulation of capital for profit maximisation” but for grouping themselves for improving their capability and launching their production in business for creating self and societal immu-

nity from unforeseen risks and situations and a culture of moderate consumption and adoption of the middle path to development on moral foundation. It suggests prudential norms for management of economy and natural resources towards self-reliance and sustainable development. The key message was that using old standards for new policies would not help and hence in search for proper policies and legislations to meet the challenges before us. The honourable speakers felt the conference must begin with a trust in the capacity of a forward looking and creative new generation.

**1.2 Dame Pauline Green**, President ICA reminded the conference about the underplayed yet highly significant role of co-operatives in the global economy as a socio-economic force and that they contain 1 billion members whereas the total number of share holders of all companies listed in the stock exchange was only 327 million and the annual net worth of 300 globally successful co-operatives is about \$1.6 trillion. She regretted that the potential of co-operatives as an instrument for mitigation of climate change and conservation of environment is yet to be recognised in the Rio + 20 Preparatory meetings though ICA had campaigned for its inclusion in the agenda and would continue the effort. In this back-



*(L-R) Minister of Agriculture, Thailand; Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and the President of ICA*

ground, the deliberations of the Co-operative Ministers Conference has assumed a special importance in the International Year of the Co-operatives.

The succeeding paragraphs containing briefly, the important points of the addresses, discussions and the suggestions made by the distinguished delegates indicate that the aforesaid views were fully endorsed.

**2.0 Honourable Vice Minister, Mr. Shuji Yamada**, Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Forests, Japan informed the conference that the Government of Japan had been able to ensure that all food exports from Japan including processed foods, are totally sanitized and there was no cause for any apprehension about contamination from radioactivity



*H.E. Mr. Shuji Yamada, Vice Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan*

following the disaster at the Fukushima Nuclear Plant in 2011 and that, conditions in the Tsunami effected regions have improved. As regards co-operatives, he mentioned that Japanese Agricultural Co-operatives had been consolidated at about 700 large multipurpose and Farmers' service providing co-operatives with over 10 Million members, half of whom are farmers and the rest, associate members bound together by the common interest in advancement of rural economy. He stressed the strategic role of agriculture in providing

The honourable speakers felt conference must begin with a trust in the capacity of a forward looking and creative new generation

food security and the current value of agricultural output is about 53 Billion US Dollars. Food security, he felt is a major issue for all countries of the region and even Japan faces the problem of manpower for agriculture because of the aging society and the unwillingness of the rural youth to pursue agriculture as the main avocation. Thus the focus of Japan would be on food security by raising efficiency in agriculture towards sustainability and agriculture therefore deserves high priority. Thereafter, Mr. Takahisa Nishikawa, Head of Office of Consumers' Co-operative Societies Community welfare and Services Division etc. Ministry of Health, labour and Welfare gave an overview of the consumer co-operative societies of Japan and also the work of insurance co-operatives which were initially restricted to life insurance but now cover fire and pension insurance under a system geared to help the members especially the aged population. Mr. Akira Banzai, president JA-Zenchu, Japan, made a presentation on the broad charter of agricultural co-operatives and its extended activities in medical, community health, welfare and public services.

**2.1 H.E. Mr. Johnston Xavier Fernando,** Minister, Co-operatives *Sri Lanka* informed the conference about the country's century old tradition of co-operatives covering 1/3rd of the population, recent drive to enrol 300,000 members and expose 4 million strong school students to co-operative culture of savings, the exemplary work of the

co-operatives in providing essential supplies to the consumers in the long periods of civil conflict and in rendering invaluable services in Health, Medical, Education, Transport, Agricultural Credit, inputs, marketing and other



**H.E. Mr. Johnston Fernando**  
*Minister for co-operatives, Sri Lanka*

diversified activities. The government under the dynamic leadership of President Mahinda Rajapaksa, a leader of the co-operative movement himself, is committed to promote co-operatives as one of the pillars of the economy as embodied in his work Mahinda Chintanaya as quoted in the presentation of 4th Critical Study in the conference. Several policy and legal initiatives like establishment of a Co-operative Job Bank, Co-operative Network Link, proposals to amend the co-operative law have been taken in line with ICA Principles to expand the reach of co-operatives in Sri Lanka.

**2.2** The Honourable Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of *Vietnam*, **H.E. Mr. Nguyen Dang Khoa**, stressed the role of agriculture and rural economy in Vietnam as 70% of the population and 50% of the workforce live and work in the rural areas and by 2011 there are 9619 agricultural co-operatives with 6.2 million members



**H.E. Mr. Nguyen Dang Khoa**  
*Deputy Minister of Agriculture and  
 Rural Development, Vietnam*



**H.E. Dr. Phouang Parisak Pravongviengkham**  
*From the Ministry of Agriculture and  
 Forestry, Laos*

serving as instruments of mobilising people, savings, capital, credit and reducing costs of production and poverty with the advent of 'Commodity Agricultural Production' aiming at generation of surplus produce for markets-internal and external. There is need for generation of awareness among the co-operatives about food safety and quality standards which call for adoption of efficiency enhancing practices and capacity building of state and co-operative bodies by training in skills. While endorsing the concept of 'sufficiency economy' Vietnam would take initiatives to formulate a policy to encourage co-operatives by incentives in Tax, Credit & Trade Policies and cooperate with ICA in promoting growth of vibrant co-operatives and especially agricultural co-operatives.

**2.3 H.E. Dr. Phouang Parisak Pravongviengkham** Vice Minister, Agriculture, Forestry Laos PDR thanked ICA and the government of Thailand for organising the conference and stated that the development experience of *Laos PDR* suggests a crucial role for farmer groups and co-operatives in addressing three major concerns viz attainment of long term food security by stopping deforestation, miti-

gation of climate change and by gradual switch from high cost chemical inputs and water use dependant crops to intensive sustainable farming systems linked to organic farming, bio gas production and non tillage based conservation agriculture technology and promotion of small hydro power and solar energy. With this end, various Producers Associations have been organised to develop agro and forestry based small & medium enterprises. Laos has chosen this path to balanced agricultural development in its Seventh Five Year Plan (2010-2015). The practice of shifting (slash & burn) agriculture in hill areas has aggravated the deforestation and indirectly caused floods and natural disasters leading to recurring crop damages affecting about 50,000 ha and loss of irrigated lands. The government is committed to decentralisation of most development activities and has accorded high priority to growth of co-operatives in all sub sectors of rural economy.

**2.4** The Deputy Speaker of Parliament of *Mongolia*, **H.E. Mr. N. Enkhbold** mentioned the deep commitment of Mongolia to the role of co-operatives reflected in social development as it initiated the resolution in





**Mr. Enkbold Nyamaa**  
*Deputy Speaker and President :  
 Mongolian Parliament and NAMAC*

the UN General Assembly which led to the declaration of 2012 as the International Year of the Co-operatives. As 37.7% of people live in villages, the government has formulated policies and laws to promote co-operatives among herders managing livestock and society wise program for co-operative development and is conscious of the need to update the existing legal framework. It has recently approved the law on loan collateral to enable the co-operatives to access cheaper credit and decided to establish one model co-operative in every rural administrative unit and create a system for providing technical assistance to co-operatives and also to encourage the youth to form co-operatives. The formation of the Mongolian National Co-operative Association in 2008 is a step towards Private Public Partnership and collaboration with co-operatives in the region even at this nascent state, Mongolia has ensured formation of Women's Group to take up tree plantation successfully and the co-operatives are growing 2 million saplings annually. Mongolia would be keen to learn about the best international practices through the ICA.



*H.E. Mr. Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang kaya  
 Seri Utama Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar,  
 Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei*

**2.5 H.E. Mr. Pehin Dato Yahya Bakar**  
 Honourable Minister, Industry & Primary Resources, *Brunei* expressed concern about the looming food shortage projected by FAO, UN and fall in rice output globally which is going to adversely affect the whole of ASEAN region where rice is the staple food. Brunei is particularly concerned as domestic rice output meets only 3% of the demand and hence to reduce dependence on imported rice, the government has embarked on a program to raise domestic rice output to meet 60% of the annual demand by 2015 as a measure of food security and in this endeavour, the farmers co-operatives have been given the major role in motivating and assisting the farmers to raise productivity and generate employment for which the government is committed to provide all round support. As of December, 2010, there are 218 co-operatives covering 14% of population of Brunei and registered under the updated co-operative Act.

**2.6** Participating in the Conference on behalf of the Honourable Minister for Agriculture & Co-operatives of Nepal Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal Chairman, National Co-operative Federation, informed the conference

that the co-operatives sector has been accorded an important place in Nepal's 11th Five Year Plan and about 23,000 co-operatives operate presently in diverse fields like Agriculture, Dairy, Horticulture and Fruit Processing, Tea, Health, Multipurpose consumers co-operatives etc. However, lack of national and sectoral co-operative policies, adequate legal framework, monitoring and evaluation systems, professionalization and training facilities, weak governance and low member participation in management are acting as constraints on advancement of co-operatives. The government is keen to address these issues and would look forward to the support of ICA in these endeavours.

development services for income generation activities. The NGOs in Bangladesh have a vast network and have been funded by foreign donor agencies and because of a flexible charter, the NGOs have been able to mobilize self help groups, especially of women in the below poverty line segment and establish linkage with the banks. Consequently, these two movements launched by co-operatives and NGOs overlap operating under different laws and creating the need for co-ordination, presently lacking in the country. He therefore felt that the two movements could be integrated by a suitable legislation and administrative measures and it is therefore a matter that deserves ICA support.



**H. E. Syed Ashrafur Islam**  
*Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Bangladesh*



**H.E. Dr. Pema Gyamtsho**  
*Minister of Agriculture and Forestry-Kingdom of Bhutan*

**2.7 Honourable Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam**, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Government of Bangladesh gave an account on the current status of co-operatives in Bangladesh and diversified activities in housing, dairy and agriculture. He had drawn the attention to a special feature of rural credit in Bangladesh in the form of competing activities of NGOs and Co-operatives in providing micro credit and other

**2.8 H.E. Dr. Pema Gyamtsho**, the Honourable Minister, Agriculture and Forests, *Bhutan* began by expressing deep appreciation of ICA-AP for organising the conference and informed that enactment of the Co-operative Act in

Several transformation programs have been taken up to upgrade the co-operative retail sector especially in rural areas

2009 and establishment of the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Co-operatives in 2010 provided the legal & administrative framework of growth of co-operatives. Like the philosophy of sufficiency economy Bhutan has propounded the concept of Gross National Happiness as the basis of development measured in terms of moderation in behaviour and human development and not based only material factors as under GDP usually followed to assess a country's development. This led to adoption of happiness as the 9th Millennium Development Goal by the UN General Assembly in its 109th Plenary Session on 19.7.2011. Bhutan considers co-operatives as one of the means of achieving the goal of national happiness and therefore suggested addition of happiness to the ICA Principles of Co-operative Identity.



**H.E. Mr. Dato Sri Ismail Sabri Bin Yaakob**  
*Minister of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism*

**2.9 H.E. Mr. YB Dato Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob**, the Minister, Domestic Trade Co-operatives and Consumerism, *Malaysia* explained the government's objective of making Malaysia a developed country by 2020 and the strategy of attaining it by addressing 7 key areas/concerns and the criteria introduced in evaluating performance in the form of National Key

Performance Indicator. These include holding the Consumer price line in which the co-operatives have been assigned a strategic role and the Ministry seeks to transform co-operatives into high income, efficient businesses in wholesale & distributive business and modern financial services capable of supplying essential commodities and even branded articles at a much cheaper rate. Several transformation programs have been taken up to upgrade the co-operative retail sector especially in rural areas. Thus, the Second National Co-operative Policy (2011-2020) envisages a contribution of US\$ 7.67 billion from the co-operative sector to the GDP and to facilitate this high growth, co-operatives have been given autonomy to remove their weaknesses by capacity building to enable the sector to move into high value sector, competitive business ventures. The co-operative laws are being reviewed on regular basis and creation of Central Liquidity Fund and Co-operative Deposit Account would meet the long standing need of co-operatives for working and investment capital. These positive measures facilitated 3-fold increase in the registration of co-operatives during 2008-2011 and presently 20% of Malaysia's population is involved in co-operatives which command accumulated share capital of US\$ 3.1 billion, assets worth US\$ 30.05 billion and a turnover of US\$ 7 billion. Despite such progress, the co-operatives have to address the new challenges of membership control, finance and management.

**2.10** Honourable Minister, Co-operatives, Labour & Social Welfare **H.E. Mr. Abdolreza Sheikholeslami**, *Islamic Republic of Iran* and **H.E. Mr. Seyed Nezamaldin Sajadi**, Deputy Minister-Jihad-e-Agriculture presented the status of co-operatives in Iran highlighting the



facts that *Iran* has 1,70,000 co-operatives and covering about one third of population within its fold and 50% members are women, and that co-operatives are involved in construction of 1.5 million buildings mainly dwelling houses and the role of Central Organisation of Rural Co-operatives in Iran (CORC), established in 1964 as the apex body and responsible for formation of 11,000 co-operatives covering 4.5 million agricultural users/producers supported by 30,000 stores and market centres serving about 6 million people. The reforms introduced in Iran in pursuance of Kuala Lumpur Declaration 2007 include formation of a surveillance union, transfer of major functions relating to co-operatives to CORC by the Ministry of Agriculture, restructuring of small co-operatives by a process of merger into specialised large sized co-operatives, revamped activities of 48 Investment Promotion Funds and Iranian Rural Cooperation Fund, priority accorded to agribusiness, processing of agricultural produce, consolidation of agricultural land and irrigation drainage network. As measures to further strengthen co-operatives in the Asia Pacific region, establishment of a joint regional agrop-crop market for co-operatives and an office under the supervision of ICA-AP in Iran to support co-operatives in South West Asia, Middle East and Central Asia are suggested.

**2.11 Mr. Li Chunsheng**, Vice President, ACFSMC, *China* and President, ICA-AP Board made a highly informative and thought provoking presentation on the concept of ‘circular economy’ developed and implemented in *China* with much success. He defined circular economy as an interlinked, manufacturing and service sector activity that seeks to harmonise management of economy for progress with conservation and environment friendly



**H.E. Mr. Abdolreza Sheikholeslami**  
*Minister of Co-operatives , Labour and Social Welfare, Islamic Republic of Iran*



**H.E. Mr. Seyed Nezamaldin Sajadi**  
*Deputy Minister-Jihad-e-Agriculture, Islamic Republic of Iran*



**Mr. Dariush Pakbin**  
*(Secretary General-Central Chamber of Cooperatives) with Mr. Babak. K*



**Mr. Li Chunsheng**  
*President- ICA Asia Pacific*

use of resources by a continuous process of exchange of materials and their reuse and recycle for production as well as consumption for achieving efficiency with low levels of resource waste and pollution. The concept makes environment central to development and seeks to resolve development vs environment debate by establishing the sustainable profitability of circular economy reflecting the validity of the co-operative principles and the scope of integrating renewable sources of energy in this model which has been adopted by the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives. It has 31 provincial federations, 343 prefecture federations, 2369 county federations and 21,602 primary co-operatives and ACFSMC system runs 760,000 business service outlets in 2011 and has a turn-

over of about US\$ 316 billion and a profit of US\$ 3.1 billion. It has set up a nationwide renewable resource recollection and reuse network including the China Recycling Development Company Ltd and organised

To move ahead, co-operatives must emphasise institution building, entrepreneurship development, technology and productivity enhancement

training courses on circular economy for about 10 countries. He urged fellow co-operators to adopt this innovative model of economic growth and informed enactment of Circular Economy Law of China in 2008 and recommended grant of legal and financial incentives to co-operatives to adopt high technology for optimising benefits from circular economy and offered assistance of ACFSMC to co-operatives in Asia Pacific region to adopt this model of eco-friendly development.

**2.12 H.E. Shri Harish Rawat**, Minister of State for Agriculture and Cooperation *India* traced the spurt in growth of co-operatives in India with the advent of planned economic development after attainment of independence in 1947 and informed that as of now there are 0.59 million co-operative societies engaged in diverse activities with a total membership of 248.20 million persons covering 97% of 600,000 villages of India and 71% of rural households—making India’s co-operative sector largest in the world and providing employment to 16.69 million people. He highlighted the role of dairy co-operatives in bringing about ‘White Revolution’ and turning



**H.E. Mr. Harish Rawat**  
*Minister Of Agriculture for State – India*



(l-r) H.E. Mr. Harish Rawat , Minister of State for Agriculture , India; Dr. Candrapal Singh Yadav, President NCUI, India ; Mr. Chan Tee Seng, SNCF, Singapore



**Dr. Dinesh**, Chief Executive  
*National Co-operative Union of India*

India into world's largest producer of milk and the vast network of Housing, Fisheries, Weavers, Labour and Consumer co-operatives. Despite these achievements, co-operatives have a long way to go in rural credit and agro services including processing for which the government initiated strong measures for restructuring the co-operative credit structure on professional basis and amended co-operative laws to incorporate ICA Principles enabling them to function as autonomous bodies and to acquire professional management capacity. He referred to the historic 97th amendment to the

constitution in 2011 making the right to form a co-operative a fundamental right for the citizens and other measures to free co-operatives from external interference. The address of the Honourable Minister was followed by a Joint presentation of Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, President. NCUI and Dr. Dinesh, Chief Executive, NCUI on the role of NCUI and a story of how ULCCF (The Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society Ltd.), a labour contract co-operative run by daily wage construction labourers succeeded in securing remunerative work for its members through mutual help and capacity to negotiate for better terms.



**H.E. Dr. Syarifuddin Hassan**  
*Minister of Co-operatives and SMEs-Indonesia*

**2.13 H.E. Dr. Syarifuddin Hassan**, Honourable State Minister for Co-operatives and SMEs, *Indonesia* pointed out that in the context of challenges and opportunities provided for globalisation today co-operatives need 'renewal' synthesising the conflicting tendencies of individualism and collectivism in the largest interest of a stable and dynamic society. He mentioned that even in the height of global economic meltdown, together, the co-operatives and the SMEs held 36% share of Indonesian GDP with the organisational strength of 158000 coops involving millions

of SMEs contributing greatly to economic development and reduction of poverty. To move ahead, co-operatives must emphasise institution building, entrepreneurship development, technology and productivity enhancement and are provided with financial support, market access and global networking. In helping the co-operatives in Indonesia and elsewhere to forge global linkages, he saw an important role for the ICA. He informed that as a matter of policy, Indonesia has been promoting growth of big size, multipurpose co-operatives to enable them to take part in global trade and such co-operatives need ICA support to reorient their structural functioning and management to enter into global capital market to mobilise resources as a part of an integrated co-operative networking. Keeping this perspective in view, the Government of Indonesia has initiated revision of the co-operative law no 25 of 1992 to ensure that the co-operative legal framework is capable of enabling the co-operatives to meet the above challenges.

**2.14 Mr. Lee Dae Joong**, Director, Ministry of Strategy and Finance, Government of Korea, made a presentation on the basic co-operative law in Korea and informed that at present there are sectoral laws for co-operatives engaged in diverse activities and that, the government is in the process of enacting the basic and comprehensive co-operative law which will be applicable to all co-operatives. According to him the success of Korean co-operatives has been mainly because of close partnership between the Government, co-operatives and the NGOs. This was followed by a presentation by Ms. Oh Mi-Yeh, Chairperson, iCOOP Korea on “Consumer Co-operatives build Organic Farm Clusters in Korea.” Established in 1998, iCOOP Korea commands



**H.E. Mr. Lee Dae Joong**  
*Director – Ministry of Strategy and Finance*



**Dr. Emmanuel M. Santiaguel**  
*Chairman, Co-operative Development Authority, Philippines*

630000 members at present and engaged in developing eco-friendly organic food clusters and has been able to overcome constraints of low profitability by innovative cost reduction in food processing and diversifying activities into green tourism, organisation of producers’ groups and thereby succeeded in developing iCOOP Korea food print on organic food related activities.

**2.15** Mohd. Sharif Bhaiji of Karachi HCSU, gave an account of the current status





**Ms. Mangahas Thetis**  
 Representative ILO



**Ms. Bernadette F.R. Puyat**  
 Undersecretary, Department of Agriculture,  
 Philippines



**Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma**  
 Regional Director-FAO

of co-operatives in Pakistan and highlighted the role of co-operatives in providing affordable housing to middle class people in urban areas especially in Karachi. He mentioned the efforts made by the co-operatives to draw youth to co-operative programmes to develop skills and to provide training and also mobilize savings. The women in particular had been active in the co-operative movement in Pakistan, especially the urban areas. He however felt that there is a need for intensification of activities of co-operatives by suitable policy and legislative changes.

**2.16** Under Secretary **Bernaditte Romulo Puyat**, Department of Agriculture, *Philippines* gave an overview of co-operatives in her country and mentioned that the main challenge has been to cluster small farmers co-operatives into better organised larger co-operatives by addressing the current insufficient levels of support services to co-operatives by improved systems, law and institutions. The Republic Act 9520, the Philippine Co-operative Code, 2008, Philippine Co-operative Development Plan 2011-2016 have the objects of providing an enabling environment to co-operatives as the vehicle for social transformation. Highlighting the activities of projects implemented by the Lana Baak Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) through Co-operative Banks Agri Lending Program (CBAP) and Co-operatives Agricultural Lending Programs (CALP) launched in 2011, the Under Secretary

Co-operatives should receive low interest loan to run their business and special incentives from the Government to encourage people to join co-operatives

stressed their roles in refinancing, providing risk coverage, employing a depository mode of credit delivery for activities prioritised by the departments usually in high value crops and processing activities including agri business. The Co-operative Development Plan on the other hand emphasises the social contract approach of the government on development by mobilising and upgrading the skills of the people and to this end National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development has been launched involving concerned departments to develop Local Agro Enterprise Clusters and to promote State-Private NGO/Civil Society Partnerships as the strategy to bring about coordination. Explaining two success stories of two co-operatives, he referred especially to the success of Lamac Multipurpose Co-operative in transforming itself from a 70 member co-operative to one with 51,000 strong membership and 18 branches as of now and engaged in multifarious activities with an asset base of over US\$13 million. He cited the successful growth story of Co-operative Bank of Misamis Oriental. Chairman CDA Prof. Emmanuel Santiaguero also made a presentation of the promotional role of CDA, the main point made was that to emerge as a strong balancing sector, the co-operatives should be assisted to get engaged in larger agro industrial and value added activities and formation of secondary and tertiary co-operatives must be encouraged as a matter of policy.

**3.0** The Conference was structured into five sessions, each chaired by a distinguished delegate to deliberate on the issues raised in the addresses and presentations made by representatives of the Government and Co-operative Leaders. The session on presentations made by representatives of the ILO and

the FAO was chaired by Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Former Regional Director, ICA Asia Pacific. As reported briefly in the Conference Report, Mr. H. Konuma, assistant Director General and FAO Regional Representative, FAO Asia and Pacific, brought to the notice of the conference the stark reality of poverty in the region despite fast economic growth in the last decade. He mentioned that in absolute terms, the number of 578 Million under nourished people in the world in 2010 living in the region constitute 62% of the total undernourished population of the world and 91% of these people, mostly women and children live in six countries of the region namely, India, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Philippines. It seems unlikely that the Millennium Development Goal of reducing the proportion of people suffering from extreme hunger by 50% would be realisable by the target year 2015 because of continuing incidence of high malnutrition. The root cause of poverty and hunger is low productivity of small agricultural holdings and our inability to assist the small farmers with necessary credit, inputs, technology, marketing and processing facilities for their produce and lack of security of land tenures. These could be addressed only through co-operatives by organising small farmers because only when organised, the small farmers could gain access to institutional facilities mentioned above. He also projected a real picture of slow growth of strong co-operatives in the region as only four of the three hundred biggest co-operatives by revenue mentioned by the President, ICA in her address are from developing countries of the region – two from India and one each from China and Malaysia though Japan is in the league of four countries – France, Japan, USA and Germany generating 60% of revenues by aforesaid three hun-

dred biggest co-operatives. This shows that to be viable, the co-operatives have to be large and multipurpose capable of generating profits from diversified activities in production of goods and services. He also referred to 180 FAO programs to strengthen farmers' organisations and FAO's emphasis on the role of agricultural co-operatives facilitating food security and rural development and to initiate inter UN agency collaboration to strengthen rural co-operatives as instruments of rural development and in particular eradication of hunger. The representative of ILO Ms. Mangahas Thetis endorsed the views of the FAO representative Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma on co-operatives and informed various ILO initiatives to promote co-operatives in all sectors particularly in Agriculture and Rural Economy including the inter UN Agency collaboration and concerns about insecure conditions of work of agricultural labour and especially women workers in hazardous conditions with low wages. The next session was chaired by the ICA-AP President and covered statements and addresses made by the Honourable Ministers and representatives of the Governments and co-operative leaders which have been summarised in preceding paragraph 2. Mr. Rangan Dutta, Senior Consultant ICA made a presentation of the 4th Critical Study of Co-operative Laws and Policies of the Asia Pacific Region and informed that the study covering 17 member countries showed that most cooperative laws are not ICA Principles compliant, with varying degrees of non compliance and mismatches between policies and laws. These anomalies need to be removed especially the wide powers of the government reducing the autonomy and member driven nature of the cooperatives as a part of restructuring to make the cooperatives dynamic, capable of playing

a strategic role in the economy balancing the corporate led market and societal needs of consumption and services based on fair trade and pricing, restraining speculative actions and ensuring protection of environment and people's participation in economic decision making. To achieve this, attaining viability of cooperative at the Primary level must be the prime objective which could be possible when these are made multipurpose 'one stop shop' facilities meeting all needs of the community especially credit and vital services. Incorporating the Self Help Groups (SHG) and Micro Finance Institutions (MFI) movements in the cooperative structure, the study recommended, is in the spirit of 'converging' social actions for common good and requires policy and legal initiatives by the governments and in positioning special institutions for assisting the cooperatives in accessing finance and technology support.

The next three sessions were chaired by H.E. Pema Gyamtsho, H.E. Enkhbold Nyama Prof. Emanuel Santiaguél and that took up the main issues and statements made in session 1 and 2 on wide ranging subjects of the Conference Theme. The views expressed by the participants are summarised in the next paragraph.

**4.0** There is a need for wider application of co-operatives which suggests its expansion into sectors that affect the lives of the people to deal with the impact of globalisation as a kind of societal response to economic hardships and privations. For this, a comprehensive co-operative statute is required for which the initiative has to come from the co-operatives. In some countries co-operative laws do not differentiate between a co-operative and a small and medium enterprise. Though the co-operatives get tax exemptions, a question

was raised regarding the practicability of registration of SMES as co-operatives because they employ limited number of workers and could be owned and managed by members displaying features of a co-operative. There was also a suggestion that co-operatives should receive low interest loan to run their business and special incentives from the Government to encourage people to join co-operatives. The overlapping role of Self Help Groups, NGOs and co-operatives as mentioned in the critical study and the need to integrate the activities of SHGs and NGOS into the co-operatives by suitable changes in law and policy came up for a detailed discussion and received general endorsement. Establishment of a common market for sale of products and services of co-operatives by reducing obstructions to growth of such trade by special measures in the region was recommended and also expansion of the regional facilities for training.

While Ms. Tsendusuren, Director, NAMAC from Mongolia presented the success story of Ur Jims Cooperative demonstrating that

‘cooperative enterprises empower women’ and two papers exclusively focussed on women’s cooperatives were presented, only 4 women co-operators spoke in the conference. This reflects low participation of women in the cooperative leadership of Asia and the Pacific region and the need to take measures like Cooperative Leadership Development Training Program for women to ensure due representation of women in positions of authority in the cooperatives. The last session chaired by Dr. Emanuel Santiaguel, Chairman, CDA, Philippines reviewed the current status of co-operative laws and policies and stressed the social and ethical dimensions of the role of co-operatives in creating awareness and responsibility towards fellow citizens. The session ended with the Chairman quoting the Great Poet ‘Rabindranath Tagore’ from one of his inspiring poems in ‘Gitanjali’ as reproduced below and significantly, the year 2011 that ended was celebrated as the 150th Birth anniversary of the Poet whose thoughts and works have greatly influenced awakening of Asia

*“Where the mind is led forward by Thee into  
ever-widening thought and action into that  
heaven of freedom, my Father,  
let my country awake.”*





# Concept Paper and Programme



## THE 9TH ASIA-PACIFIC CO-OPERATIVE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE ON ENABLING CO-OPERATIVE LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

FOR 'SUFFICIENCY ECONOMY'

IN ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CO-OPERATIVES - 2012

### Concept Paper

#### Contribution of Cooperatives in Asia-Pacific

- **Large segments of the population are members of co-operatives.**

The Co-operative Movement brings together over 1 billion people around the world. The United Nations estimated in 1994 that the livelihood of nearly 3 billion people, or half of the world's population, was made secure by co-operative enterprise. These enterprises continue to play significant economic and social roles in their communities.

Founded in 1895, the International Co-operative Alliance is an independent,

non-governmental organisation which unites, represents and serves co-operatives worldwide. It is the largest non-governmental organisations in the world. ICA members are national and international co-operative organisations in all sectors of activity including agriculture, banking, fisheries, health, housing, industry, insurance, tourism and consumer co-operatives. Currently, ICA has 269 member organisations from 97 countries, representing approximately 1 billion individuals worldwide.

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) reached out to Asia and established the regional office in New Delhi, India in

1960. Since then co-operatives as well as ICA in the Asia-Pacific region (ICA-AP) have evolved a great deal and emerged as a major instrument of socio economic progress. At present, the ICA-AP serves more than 550 million cooperative members in 25 countries through 75 cooperative organizations operating in various sectors of economy and business. The co-operative business organizations are great survivors of more than a century. Co-operative enterprises have always emerged as a great force when nothing seemed to work and have pulled through major crisis.

In Asia-Pacific, 45.3 million people are members of a credit union. In Iran, there are over 130,000 co-operative societies with 23 million members or approximately 33% of the population. In Indonesia, 27.5% families representing approximately 80 million individuals are members of co-operatives. In Japan, 1 out of every 3 families is a member of a co-operative. In India, over 239 million people are members of co-operatives. In Malaysia, 6.78 million people or 27% of the total population are members of co-operatives. In Singapore, 50% of the population (1.6 million people) are members of a co-operative. In New Zealand, 40% of the adult population are members of co-operatives and mutuals.

- **Co-operatives are significant economic actors in national economies**

Iran co-operatives contribute 6% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The Japan agricultural co-operatives report outputs of USD 90 billion with 91% of all Japanese farmers are members of co-operatives. Korean agricultural co-operatives have a

membership of over 2 million farmers (90% of all farmers), and an output of USD 11 billion. The Korean fishery co-operatives also report a market share of 71%. The Kuwaiti Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies handled nearly 70% of the national retail trade in 2007. In New Zealand, 22% of the gross domestic product (GDP) is generated by co-operative enterprises. Co-operatives are responsible for 95% of the dairy market and 95% of the dairy export. They hold 70% of the meat market, 50% of the farm supply market, 70% of the fertilizer market, 75% of the wholesale pharmaceuticals, and 62% of the grocery market. Singapore consumer co-operatives hold 55% of the market in supermarket purchases. Vietnam, co-operatives contribute 8.6% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

- **Co-operatives create and maintain decent employment**

Co-operatives provide over 100 million jobs around the world, 20% more than multinational corporations. In Indonesia, co-operatives provide jobs to 288,589 individuals. In Iran, co-operatives have created and maintain 1.5 million jobs, for example.

- **Co-operatives have faced fierce competition in globalisation and open markets**

However, they have survived in the world economic recession and the financial slowdown. In the recent past, the collapse of major banks etc. drove the corporate sectors to the brink with huge losses and job cuts. However, there have been no reports of drastic adversities, economic conditions or job cuts in the cooperative sector in the world. Co-operatives are the biggest of employers and have major

shares in the economy of several countries in the world.

### **Cooperative Issues in Asia**

Notwithstanding the known strengths and contributions of co-operatives to the economy and their proven sustainable business model, it is however a fact that historically co-operative in Asia have largely been the offspring of the respective governments, and in reality many of them have been protected and controlled enough to become high maintenance non-performing assets.

It is also an open secret that the promotion and development of co-operative by the governments are heavily aligned with the agenda of party politics than the motive to empower people through resilient and autonomous co-operative business organizations.

The co-operative are expected to deliver and at the same time controlled to deliver under certain conditions. In spite of over hundred years of existence in most of the Asian countries, the excesses of support, protection and control of co-operative turned the co-operative into white elephants and put the Governments into a catch 22 situation.

Co-operative leadership on the other hand has enjoyed unbridled powers for long without accountability and maintaining the “status quo” serves their interest the best. In some cases where the cooperative law provides autonomy, the co-operative have ended up becoming the fiefdom of a few promoters/founders. In the name of pseudo-democracy, the elections are managed and same faces taking up leadership in rotation, and continue enjoying the benefits for years.

The co-operative on their part are so used to be taken care of by the restrictive guardians that by and large, they have lost their identity as self reliant entities. This vicious circle of “co-operative by the government for the unaccountable leadership of indifferent members” has left the real component- the member- far behind with no sense of belonging to the cooperative.

Even after more than 100 years of cooperative movement, the much has to be changed in the region. Most of the countries in the region are reeling under poverty, food scarcity, unemployment and inhuman living conditions. The co-operative could not help as expected.

Ratio of success in comparison of the huge number of co-operative and membership is astonishingly low. There is something amiss.

The best cooperative practices confined into pockets. Unprofessional staff and lack of leadership resulted into losses of business and trust of people. The government’s policies and legal frame work, political clout and lack of legal protection against oppressive situations have resulted into crisis.

In view of the prevailing situation, it is essential that the governments and federations should provide enabling legal and policy environment to co-operative to realize its full potential as powerful business model for the socio-economic development of the region.

The ICA-AP is well aware of the situation and understands that the success can be achieved only through productive collaboration between governments and co-operative. The

government should not only put in place enabling law and policy for operations but also appropriate judicial safeguard against any eventuality. Interestingly, some countries have been able to put in place the best legal system but the members lack capacity to utilize such system for want of awareness and often co-operative fall prey to the greed of democratically elected leadership.

### **The Co-operative Ministers' Conference**

Therefore, in order to address these issues, the ICA-AP introduced the Cooperative Ministers' Conference in 1990 as an instrument to mobilize governments, cooperative leadership and other stake holders for creating enabling legal and policy environment for co-operative in the region and since then the cooperative ministers' conference is being organized periodically. The 8th Ministers' Conference on Coop Legislation and Policy was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2007. 11 Co-operative Ministers and 314 delegates from governments and co-operative of 21 countries participated. The report of the conference along with Declarations and Recommendations of the Conference has been sent to all concerned.

The United Nations (UN) and International Labour organization (ILO), also acknowledged the importance of healthy relationship between co-operative and governments and recommended for creating supportive environment for development of co-operative.

The ILO recommendation No. 193 on the Promotion of the co-operative was adopted in 2002 and the guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of co-operative adopted by the

United Nations in 2001. UN Guidelines annexed to the 2001 Report of the United Nations Secretary General provide recommendations on policy regarding co-operative and the cooperative movement including the need for public recognition of co-operative, appropriate legal, judicial and administrative provisions, research, statistics and information, education on co-operative, the provision of public funds for support to co-operatives and the need for institutional arrangements.

### **The Legal Environment in and around Asia-Pacific**

The Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Co-operative (COPAC) reports about the following Policy and Legislation in Africa, Latin America and Europe.

- **Africa:** ACTE UNIFORME RELATIF AU DROIT DES SOCIETES CO-OPERATIVE: Adopté le 15 décembre 2010 à Lomé

This Uniform Act is applicable to 16 countries, 14 countries in the CFA zone plus Comores and Guinea Conakry.

- **Latin America:** Framework Law for Co-operative in Latin America-2009

The framework law for co-operative in Latin America is a guide to policy makers on general cooperative law covering all types of co-operative. It contains 102 articles and is organized into chapters, beginning with general provisions, statutes, members, economic set up, social bodies and cooperative integration as well as dissolution and liquidation. The framework also addresses specific chapters, public

authorities responsible for the oversight of co-operative as well as cooperative public policy. Originally drafted in 1998, the ICA Americas has updated the framework law. It was endorsed by co-operative in the region in 2008. Source: International Co-operative Alliance Regional Office for the Americas (ICA Americas).

- **Europe:** The Statute for a European Co-operative Society -2003: European Council (EC) Regulation No 1435/2003.

This Regulation establishes a legal statute for a European Cooperative Society (SCE). This statute guarantees equal terms of competition between cooperative societies and capital companies. It contributes to the development of the cross-border activities of cooperative societies. Permits the creation of a cooperative by persons residing in different European Union Member States or by legal entities established in different EU Member States.

- **Asia-Pacific:** There is no such uniform legal policy documents/guidelines drafted or agreed upon by the Asia and Pacific Region. The ICA-AP is conducting study on cooperative law and policies of the countries in the region from time to time and the co-operative dialogue are being held periodically. ICA-AP is also organizing national cooperative conferences in the member countries regularly to mobilize the cooperative community and bringing all the stake holders on a platform to discuss the law and other issues. We also facilitate and participate in the process of law making in the member countries. Iran, India, China and Vietnam are some

members who have reviewed there law in recent years for making the co-operative more vibrant.

However, unlike the other continents, this region is economically-socially, culturally and politically hugely diverse. Therefore, for better understanding of the cooperative system operations, a deep discussion should be held among the representatives from all the diverse regions such as Pacific, Far East, South East, South and Middle East and an agreeable Code of Practice could be arrived at covering broader fundamental issues such as 1) Democracy, 2) Establishment of Enabling Legal and Policy Environment, and 3) Support by governments with greater accountability on the part of co-operative.

## Objectives

- **General**

The general objective of the conference is to bring together Governments, co-operative and other stake holders on a platform to discuss and resolve issues being faced by the co-operative which prevent this unique business model to realize its full potential.

- **Specific objectives are:**

1. Reiterate the fact that co-operative are the agents of social cohesion and have great potential for socio-economic development in diversity
2. Facilitate the governments and co-operative in Asia Pacific countries to integrate resources for developing and implementing enabling legal and

policy environment and also introducing the instrument of judiciary for safeguarding the interest of the co-operative.

3. Facilitate exchange of information and contribute to mainstream cooperative affairs with socio-economic agenda of the governments

- **Expected results**

To arrive at an agreeable “Uniform Code of Practice” for the governments and co-operative in the region covering broader fundamental issues such as 1) Democracy, 2) Establishing Enabling Legal and Policy Environment and 3) Support by governments with greater accountability on the part of co-operative.

### **Goals of the UN International Year of Co-operatives**

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives, highlighting the contribution of cooperatives to socio-economic development, in particular recognizing their impact on poverty reduction, employment generation and social integration.

The United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/64/136 encourages all member States, the United Nations and all relevant stakeholders to take advantage of the IYC to promote cooperatives and raise awareness of their contribution to social and economic development and promote the formation and growth of cooperatives. The resolution A/RES/64/136 - Proclamation of 2012 as International Year of Cooperatives is available in all UN six official languages.

The United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/184 Invites all Member States to consider taking action towards establishing national mechanisms, such as national committees, to prepare for, observe and follow up on the International Year of Cooperatives, in particular for the purpose of planning, stimulating and harmonizing the activities of the governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations concerned with the preparations for and observance of the Year.

### **Goals of the International Year of Cooperatives**

- Increase public awareness about cooperatives and their contributions to socio-economic development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- Promote the formation and growth of cooperatives
- Encourage Governments to establish policies, laws and regulations conducive to the formation, growth and stability of cooperatives

### **The Theme of the 9th Asia-Pacific Co-operative Ministers’ Conference**

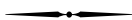
A specific theme is recommended to provide the Conference with mission, focus and guidance. The theme “Enabling Co-operative Legal and Policy Environment for Sufficiency Economy” has been suggested as the outcome of the deliberation of the coop dialogue 2010 and suggestions received from the host country, Royal Government of Thailand.

“**Sufficiency Economy**” is the philosophy initiated by His Majesty the King of Thailand

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since 1974. It is a philosophy that suggests the guideline for the populace how to lead their life in proper way by means of “moderation, reasonableness and risk management.” His Majesty has called upon the countrymen to practice sufficiency economy in their lives

to fulfil basic needs and use it as a tool to get through the economic crisis due to globalization and various changes. Such a practice could be used to strengthen the efficiency in running the co-operative businesses.



## Conference Programme

**Theme:** Enabling Legal and Policy Environment for ‘Sufficiency Economy’ in Achieving the Goals of the UN International Year of Co-operatives-2012

### 26 February (Sun) - Day 0

Arrival of Honourable Ministers, Cooperative Leaders and International Delegates

14:00 – 18:00 Registration of participants at the designated conference hotels.

### 27 February (Mon) - Day 1

08:00-09:00 Registration of participants at UNCC

#### 09:00 – 10:00 Inauguration of the Conference

- Welcome Address: Honourable Minister Theera Wongsamut, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kingdom of Thailand
- Appreciation: Mr. Li Chunsheng, President of the ICA for Asia- Pacific
- Special Address: Dame Pauline Green, President of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)
- Inaugural Address: His Excellency Chumpol Silpa-Archa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism and Sports, Kingdom of Thailand

#### 10:00 – 10:30 Key-note Speech

- Keynote Speech on the Theme of ‘Sufficiency Economy and Cooperatives’ -by Honourable Minister Theera Wongsamut, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kingdom of Thailand

10:30 – 10:50 Tea/Coffee Break

#### 10:50 – 11:30 Statutory Proceedings (Agenda)

1. Election of Conference Chairperson(s)
2. Adoption of Rules and Procedures
3. Election of Drafting Committee for the Joint Declaration & Recommendation
4. Report on the Conference: Dr. Chan Ho Choi, ICA Regional Director
5. Award Presentation to Mr. Shil-Kwan Lee, former Regional Director of ICA Asia-Pacific
6. Presentation of the Draft Joint Declaration

#### 11:30 – 12:30 Speeches by International Agencies

- FAO – “Relevance of Cooperative Institution for Agricultural Development and Social Inclusion” by Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and Regional



Representative, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok

- ILO – “How to Achieve the Objectives of the UN International Year of Co-operatives” by Ms. Thetis Mangahas , Regional Deputy Director, ILO, Bangkok
- Presentation by Ranjith Hettiarachchi on ‘ACCESS Brand: Preserving the Distinctive Value of Credit Unions/co-operatives in Asia’

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

### **14:00 – 18:00 Ministers’ Statements and Cooperative Stories - Session 1**

- Statements by Honourable Ministers on ‘Enabling Legal and Policy Environment for the Formation and Growth of Cooperatives’
  - Presentation of Success Stories by Cooperatives - ( 15 minutes each)
1. Statement by Honourable Vice Minister Mr. Shuji Yamada, Ministry of agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan
  2. Statement by Mr. Enkhbold Nyamaa, Deputy Speaker of the Mongolian Parliament and President of National Association of Mongolian Cooperatives
  3. Presentation of Success Story “the Ur Jims Cooperative - “Cooperative Enterprises Empower Women” by Ms. Tsendsuren, Director, NAMAC, Mongolia
  4. Statement by Honourable Mr. Harish Rawat, Minister of State for Agriculture, India
  5. Presentation by Dr.CPS Yadav, President of the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) on the “ Role of NCUI and presentation of case study on successful cooperatives in India”
  6. Presentation by Mr. Chan Tee Seng, Chairman of the Singapore National Cooperative Federation Ltd. (SNCF) on “ The Cooperative Movement in Singapore and IYC Celebrations -2012”

(15:30 – 15:50 Tea/ Coffee Break )

7. Statement by Honourable Minister Reza Sheykholeslam, Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, Islamic Republic of Iran
8. Statement by Mr. Yang Berhomat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya Bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Hon’ble Minister of Industry & Primary Resources, Brunei
9. Speech on “Japanese consumer co-op movement” by Mr. Takahisa Nishikawa, Head of Office of Consumers’ Cooperative Societies, Community Welfare and Services Division, Social Welfare and War Victims’ Relief Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan
10. Presentation on “The Charter of Co-operatives” by Mr. Akira Banzai, President of JA-Zenchu, Japan

11. Presentation on ‘The basic cooperative Law in Korea’ by Mr.Lee Dae Joong, Director, Ministry of Strategy and Finance, Govt. of Korea

17:35 – 18:00 Open Forum - (25 minutes)

19:00 – Welcome Dinner Hosted by Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Royal Thai Government at Plaza Athenee Bangkok A Royal Meridien, Lumpini, Pathumwan

## **28 February (Tue) - Day 2**

**09:00 – 09:30 Presentation :** “The 4th Critical Study on Co-operative Legislation and Policy Reforms” by Mr. Rangan Dutta, Sr. Consultant, ICA-AP

### **09:30 – 12:30 Ministers’ Statement and Cooperative Stories - Session 2**

12. Statement of Honourable Minister Dato’ Sri Ismail Sabri Bin Yaakob, Minister of Domestic Trade, Co-operative and Consumerism, Government of Malaysia

13. Statement by Honourable Minister Theera Wongsamut, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kingdom of Thailand

14. Mr. Si-Hyung Jo , Assistant General Manager, NACF, Korea

15. Statement by H.E. Dr. Phouangparisak Pravongviengkham Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, MAF, Government of Laos

16. Presentation of Success Story by Ms. Oh Mi-yea, Chairperson of the iCoop Korea on “Consumer Cooperatives build Organic Farm Clusters in Korea”

(10:30 – 10:50 Tea/ Coffee Break)

17. Statement by Honourable Minister Syarifuddin Hasan, SE, MM, MBA , Ministry of Cooperatives & SMEs, Indonesia

18. Statement by Honourable Syed Asraf Islam, Minister for local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Bangladesh

19. Statement by Honourable Minister Mr. Johnston Fernando, Ministry of Co-operatives and Internal Trade Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka

20. Presentation of Success Story by Dr. Sunil Silva, CEO, National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka (NCC) on “Youth and Women Empowerment by Co-operatives”

21. Presentation by Mr. Zhangwangshu of the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC) on the ‘Circular Economy Business’

12:05 – 12:30 Open Forum - (25 minutes)

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

### **14:00 – 18:00 Ministers’ Statements and Cooperative Stories - Session 3**

22. Presentation by Mr. Encik Ngadi Bin Robin, the Cooperative College of Malaysia on “Cooperative Training and Education in Malaysia”
23. Country Statement by Ms. Bernadette Puyat, Undersecretary, Dept. of Agriculture, Government of Philippines
24. Presentation of Success Story by Mr. Emmanuel M. Santiagucl, Chairman of the Co-Operative Development Authority (CDA), Philippines on “Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Cooperatives in Mindanao, Philippines”
25. Presentation of Success Story by Mr. Mohammed Sharif Bhajji, President of The Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union Ltd., Pakistan

(15:30 – 15:50 Tea/ Coffee Break)

26. Statement by Honourable Mr. Seyed Nezamaldin Sajadi, Deputy of Jihad-e- Agriculture Minister, Islamic Republic of Iran
27. Presentation of Success Story of the Iran Oilseeds & Vegetable Oil Processing Co-operative (FARDA) by Mr. Abolhassan Khalil, Managing Director
28. Statement by Honourable Deputy Minister Mr. Nguyen Dang Khoa Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Government of Vietnam
29. Presentation of Success Story of the “Rach Gam Cooperative in Serving Transportations in Vietnam” by Mr. Nguyen Van Bien, Vice Standing President of Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA)

17:35 – 18:00 Open Forum - (25 minutes)

19:00 – Reception Dinner Hosted by Cooperative Promotion Department and Cooperative League of Thailand at Lebua at State Tower Hotel, Silom, Sathorn

### **29 February (Wed) - Day 3**

#### **09:00 – 10: 30 Ministers’ Statements and Cooperative Stories - Session 4**

30. Statement by Honourable Minister Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Royal Government of Bhutan
31. Presentation by Dr. Jasem Mohammed Ashkaran, Assistant Under Secretary, Cooperatives, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Government of Kuwait
32. Presentation by Mr. Vitoon Naewpanitthe, President, Cooperative League of Thailand ( CLT) on “ Development and Advancement of Co-operative Movement in Thailand: Uniform Code of Practice”.
33. Presentation by Mr. Badal, Chairman of National Cooperative Federation of Nepal

10:00-10:30 Open Forum (30 minutes)

(10:30 – 11:00 Tea/ Coffee Break )

### **11:00 – 12:30 Concluding Session**

- Report of the Drafting Committee
- Adoption of the report of the conference
- Adoption of the Joint Declaration and Recommendation
- Closing speech by Deputy Minister, MOAC, Thailand
- Vote of thanks by Dr. Chan Ho CHOI

19:00 – Farewell Dinner Hosted by Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives at Royal Thai Navy Convention Hall, Bangkok Noi

### **1st March (Thu) - Day 4**

- Field Visits organised by Co-operative Promotion Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Co- operatives, Thailand to co-operatives in Petchaburi Province.
- 10.00 – 11.30 hr. - Tayang Agricultural Cooperative, Ltd.
- 13.30 – 15.30 hr. – Co-operative Demonstration Center, Hubkrapong Royal Project

### **2nd March (Fri) - Departure**

#### **Venue & Hotel**

#### **Ministers' Conference Organizers**

The Conference has been organized by the ICA-Asia and Pacific in collaboration with member organizations. The Cooperative Promotion Department (CPD) of Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives (MOAC), Kingdom of Thailand has kindly agreed to host the conference.



## Venue of the Ministers' Conference

United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Rajdamnern-Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand: <http://www.unescap.org/uncc>

## Hotels

The following hotels have been engaged with special rates for the stay of the Delegates/ Participants of the Conference. The Delegates /Participants can directly make room reservations online.

### 1. Siam Kempinski Hotel

991/9 Rama 1 Rd., Bangkok 10330,  
Thailand Tel: 662-162 9000 Fax: 662-162 9009  
Website: [www.kempinski.com/bangkok](http://www.kempinski.com/bangkok)  
Reservations [pirom@kempinski.com](mailto:pirom@kempinski.com)



### 2. Four Seasons Hotel

155 Rajadamri Rd., Bangkok 10330, Thailand  
Tel: 662-126 8866 Fax: 662-253 9195  
Website: [www.fourseasons.com/bangkok](http://www.fourseasons.com/bangkok)  
Reservation: [sarochinee.napawong@fourseasons.com](mailto:sarochinee.napawong@fourseasons.com)



### 3. Siam City Hotel

477 Si Ayutthaya Rd., Pathumwan,  
Bangkok 10330, Thailand  
Tel: 662-247 0123 Fax: 662-247 0165  
Website: [www.siamhotels.com](http://www.siamhotels.com)  
Reservation : [sadanith@siamhotels.com](mailto:sadanith@siamhotels.com)



### 4. Royal Princess

269 Larn Luang Rd., Pomprab,  
Bangkok 10110, Thailand  
Tel: 662-281 3088 Fax: 662-280 1314  
Website: [RoyalPrincessLarnLuang.com](http://RoyalPrincessLarnLuang.com)  
Reservation: [benjarat@royalprincessslarnluang.com](mailto:benjarat@royalprincessslarnluang.com)



## The Official Website of the 9th Ministers' Conference

It also gives all the relevant information on registration and booking of the hotels: <http://www.cpd.go.th/cpd/cmconference/>.

## Participants and Observers

The Co-operative Ministers of the Asia-Pacific countries, Senior Government officials,

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International Agencies, Stakeholders, Leaders of the cooperative movements and observers from all ICA member countries in the Region.

**Contact Persons:**

In case you have any query or enquiry to make, please feel free to contact,

1. Dr. Chan Ho CHOI  
Regional Director, ICA-Asia and Pacific  
9, Aradhana Enclave, RK Puram Sector – 13  
New Delhi 110 066  
Ph: +91 11 26888250 ; Fax: +91 11 26888267, Email: [choi@icaroap.coop](mailto:choi@icaroap.coop)
2. Ms. Savitri Singh  
Advisor, Gender Programmes, ICA-Asia and Pacific  
9, Aradhana Enclave, RK Puram Sector – 13  
New Delhi 110 066  
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Email: [savitrisingh@icaroap.coop](mailto:savitrisingh@icaroap.coop), [savitrisingh2003@yahoo.co.in](mailto:savitrisingh2003@yahoo.co.in)





*Mr. Nattawut Saikuar, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Kingdom of Thailand with the President and Regional Director, ICA Asia Pacific*



*Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Former Regional Director, ICA-Asia Pacific with Ms. Thetis Mangahas, ILO*



*FARDA Co-operative, Iran*



*Mr. Ranjith Hettiarachchi, Chief Executive Officer, Asian Confederation of Credit Unions*



*Mr. Somachai Charnnarongkul, Director General, CPD - Thailand*



*Mr. Nguyen Van Bien from VCA, Vietnam*



*Ms. Tsenduren Deleg from Urs Jims Co-operative, Mongolia*



*Regional Director ICA-AP*

*President ICA-AP*





*Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal, Chairman , National Co-operative Federation, Nepal*



*Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director-ICA AP*



*Mr. Rangan Dutta, Senior Consultant-ICA-AP*



*Mr. Zhang Wangshu, Deputy Director, International Affairs, All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives*



*HJ Idris Ismail, CCM Malaysia*



*Delegates with Mr. Srisena, Registrar of Co-operatives in Sri Lanka*





*Mr. Theera Wongsumut, Mr. Chumpol Silpa Archa and Dame Pauline Green*



*Mr. Muhammad Sharif Bhajji, Karachi Co-operative Housing Societies Union Ltd., Pakistan*



*Ms. Oh Mi-Yea, Chairperson-iCOOP Korea*



*Mr. Somchai Charnnarongkul, Director General, Co-operative Promotion Department*



*Mr. Akira Banzai, President-JA-Zenchu*



*Dame Pauline Green, President –ICA, Mr. Li Chunsheng (background), President ICA-AP; Mr. Chumpol Silpa- Archa, Deputy Prime Minister, Kingdom of Thailand, Mr. Nattawut Saikuar (Background), Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Thailand and Mr. Theera Wongsumat, Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Thailand*





## Annexure B

# Rules & Procedures for the Conduct of the Conference

Adopted by the Conference on 27 February, 2012

**1.0** The duration of the 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference (herein after 'Conference') organised by the International Co-operative Alliance – Asia Pacific (herein after ICA-AP) is THREE days from February 27, 2012 to February 29, 2012.

**2.0** English shall be the official language of the Conference, and all discourse whereupon will take place in the same language. Participants requiring translation-services at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok shall request the organisers prior to their statement/presentation.

**3.0** Each working day of the Conference will be divided into a Morning Session and an Afternoon Session. There will be an 'Open Forum' for 25 Minutes after each session that shall invite comments and queries to the speaker.

**4.0** The Conference will be chaired by the elected Conference Chairperson and each session will be chaired by a Session-Chair nominated by the Chairperson of the Conference.

**5.0** A Committee will be constituted to draft the Joint Declaration along with Conference Report for presentation at the Concluding Session on February 29, 2012 for adoption.

**6.0** The invited speakers are listed in the conference program along with the subject of their address and will be allotted a time limit of 15 minutes, any request to amend this will have to be taken up with the Session Chair who will keep the time.

**7.0** During Statements/Presentations, the speaker may use documents, slides, Audio/Video and other reading material in order to effectively communicate. The said material shall be prepared by the speakers in advance and provided to the conference organisers.

**8.0** The Statements/Presentations will be uploaded in the Conference Website and will be deemed to be in public domain.

**9.0** All participants are expected to maintain decorum and extend their co-operation.

# List of the Honourable **Ministers** and **Government Officials** the 9th Cooperative Ministers Conference 27-29 February, 2012, Bangkok Thailand

- H.E. Mr. Syed Ashraful Islam**  
Honourable Minister for Local Government  
Rural Development and Cooperatives Secretariat Building  
RDCD, Dhaka-1000  
Bangladesh
- H.E. Dr. Lyonpo Pema Gyamtsho**  
Honourable Minister of Agriculture  
Royal Government of Bhutan  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests  
PO.Box/PIN: 929, Thimpu  
Bhutan
- H.E. Mr. Pehin Dato Yahya Haji Bakar**  
Honourable Minister, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources  
Old Airport Road, BerakasBandar  
Seri Begawan  
BB3510 Brunei Darussalam  
Brunei
- H.E. Mr. Harish Rawat**  
Honourable Minister of State of Agriculture  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Government of India  
Krishi Bhawan,  
New Delhi-110001
- H.E. Mr. Syarfudin Hasan**  
Minister of Cooperatives SMEs  
Government of Republic of Indonesia  
Jl Rasuna Said Kav 3-5 Kuningan  
Jakarta 12940, Indonesia
- H.E. Dr. Abdolreza Sheikholeslami**  
Minister of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare  
Government of Islamic Republic of Iran  
Tehran, Iran
- H.E. Seyed Nezamaldin Sajadi**  
Deputy Minister of Jihad-e-Agriculture  
Government of Islamic Republic of Iran  
Tehran, Iran
- H.E. Mr. Shuji Yamada**  
Honourable Vice Minister for International Affairs  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Government of Japan

Tokyo, Japan

9. **Mr. Lee Dae Joong**  
Director Cooperative TF  
Ministry of Strategy and Finance  
Government of Korea  
Seoul, Korea
10. **H.E. Dr. Phouang Parisak**  
Pravongviengkham  
Vice Minister of Agriculture and  
Forestry  
Government of Laos  
Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
11. **Dato Sri Ismail Sabri Bin Yaakob**  
Honourable Minister of Domestic  
Trade, Cooperatives and  
Consumerism  
Government of Malaysia  
No.13 Persiaran Perdana,  
Presint 2,62623  
Putrajaya, Malaysia
12. **H.E. Mr. Enkhbold Nyamaa,**  
Deputy Speaker,  
Mongolian Parliament  
President, National Association of  
Mongolian Cooperatives  
Ulaanbaatar.  
Mongolia
13. **H.E. Ms. Berndette Puyat**  
Under Secretary  
Department of Agriculture  
Government of Philippines  
Philippines
14. **H.E. Mr. Johnston Fernando**  
Minister of Cooperatives and  
Internal Trade  
Ministry of Cooperatives and  
Internal Trade Affairs  
Government of Sri Lanka  
Sathosa Secretary Building,  
8th Floor, 27 Vauxhall Street  
Colombo 012,

Sri Lanka

15. **H.E. Mr. Chumpol Silpa-Archa**  
Deputy Prime Minister -  
Kingdom of Thailand  
Bangkok,  
Thailand
16. **H.E. Mr. Theera Wongsamut**  
Minister of Agriculture and  
Co-operatives  
Bangkok,  
Thailand
17. **H.E. Mr Nattawut Saikuar**  
Deputy Minister of Agriculture and  
Cooperatives  
Kingdom of Thailand  
Bangkok,  
Thailand
18. **H.E. Nguyen Dang Khoa**  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural  
Development  
Government of Vietnam  
Hanoi,  
Vietnam
19. **Mr. Hiroyuki Kanuma**  
Assistant Director General and  
Regional Representative  
FAO Regional Officer for Asia and  
the Pacific  
Bangkok,  
Thailand
20. **Ms. Sachiko Yamamoto**  
Regional Director for Asia and the  
Pacific  
ILO Bangkok  
Thailand

# List of 9<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific **Co-operative Ministers** Conference Drafting Committee

1. **Mr. Hj Idris Ismail**  
Chief Director of the Cooperative  
College of Malaysia
2. **Mr. Somchai Charnnarongkol**  
Director General, Cooperative  
Promotion Department, Thailand
3. **Mr. Emmanuel M Santiaguel**  
Chairperson, Cooperative  
Development Authority, Philippines
4. **Dr. Dinesh**  
CEO National Cooperative Union of  
India
5. **Mr. Zhangwangshu**  
All China Federation of Supply and  
Marketing Cooperatives, China
6. **Mr. Dariush Pakbin**  
Secretary General, ICC Iran
7. **Dr. Chan Ho CHOI**  
Regional Director, ICA Asia and  
Pacific

## **Secretariat**

1. **Mr. Rangan Dutta**  
Senior Consultant, ICA Asia and  
Pacific
2. **Mrs. Savitri Singh**  
Advisor, ICA Asia and Pacific

## Annexure E

# List of the Participants

*(Based on the list of registered participants provided by the CPD at the time of the Conference)*

No.	Name	Organization	Country
1	H.E. Syed Ashraf Islam (Minister)	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives	Bangladesh
2	Abul Haseeb Khan	Resource Integration Centre	Bangladesh
3	Al-Haj Nazrul Islam Babu	Embassy of Bangladesh	Bangladesh
4	Shahakhtervzzaman	Embassy of Bangladesh	Bangladesh
5	Md Nazrul Islam	Embassy of Bangladesh	Bangladesh
6	Mr. Kazi Imtiaz Hossain	Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	Bangladesh
7	Mr. Md. Abdullah Al Masud Chowdhury	Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	Bangladesh
8	H.E. Dr. Lyonpo Pema Gyamtsho (Minister)	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Bhutan
9	Mr. Dorji Dhradhul	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Bhutan
10	Ms. Sonam Wangmo	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Bhutan
11	Mr. Kuenzang Dechen	Royal Bhutanese Embassy	Bhutan
12	H.E. Yang Berhomat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya Bin Begawan	Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources	Brunei



No.	Name	Organization	Country
	Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar (Minister)		
13	Mr. Mohd Riza Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Yunos	Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources	Brunei
14	Ms. Hajah Noor Izrina Abdullah	Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources	Brunei
15	Ms. Masni Binti Haji Mohsin	Brunei Industrial Development Authority	Brunei
16	Mr. MD Serudin Bin Haji Tuah	Brunei Industrial Development Authority	Brunei
17	Dato Kamis Tamin	Brunei Industrial Development Authority	Brunei
18	Mr. Li Chunsheng (Vice president)	All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives	China
19	Mr. Chen Jingbo	All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives	China
20	Mr. Jing Zesheng	All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives	China
21	Mr. Liu Xiaohao	All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives	China
22	Ms. Long Wen	All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives	China
23	Ms. Ma Jihong	All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives	China
24	Mr. Ma Qi	All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives	China
25	Mr. Rong Chengfa	All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives	China
26	Ms. Sun Yijun	All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives	China
27	Ms. Wang Jinzhi	All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives	China

No.	Name	Organization	Country
28	Mr. Zhang Jin	All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives	China
29	Mr. Zhang Wangshu	All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives	China
30	Mr. Zhen Xiaobing	All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives	China
31	Mr. Jiang Bichun	Yunnan Provincial Supply and Marketing Cooperative	China
32	Mr. Jiang Jihua	Jiangxi Provincial Supply and Marketing Cooperative	China
33	Mr. Zhong Jiyue	Jiangxi Provincial Supply and Marketing Cooperative	China
34	Mr. Cao Hengbiao	Jingsu Provincial Supply and Marketing Cooperative	China
35	Mr. Jiao Jinmiao	Henan Provincial Supply and Marketing Cooperative	China
36	Mr. Wang Yuan	Xinjiang Provincial Supply and Marketing Cooperative	China
37	Mr. Xia Shilong	Zhengzhou Fenghe Ostrich Farming Cooperative	China
38	Mr. Zhang Baolong	Henan Provincial Agriculture Association	China
39	Mr. Li Shuqing	Inner Mongolia Provincial Supply and Marketing Cooperative	China
40	Ms. Lin Ying	Hainan Provincial Supply and Marketing Cooperative	China
41	Ms. Liu Naiyi	Tianjin Provincial Supply and Marketing Cooperative	China
42	Mr. Ma Zhongxiao	Qinghai Provincial Supply and Marketing Cooperative	China
43	Mr. Zhang Dawei	n.a.	China
44	Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav (President)	National Cooperative Union of India	India
45	Dr. Dinesh	National Cooperative Union of India	India

No.	Name	Organization	Country
46	Mr. Siva Prasad Devireddy	National Cooperative Union of India	India
47	Mr. Patel Kanubhai Manilal	National Co-operative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd.	India
48	Mr. Patel Chimanlal	National Co-operative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd.	India
49	Mr. Kesava Pillai Sivadasan Nair	National Co-operative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd.	India
50	Mr. Kochazhikalayil Krishnan Ravindran	National Co-operative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd.	India
51	Mr. Chaudhari Vishnubhai Motibhai	National Co-operative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd.	India
52	Mr. Suresh Kumar	National Co-operative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd.	India
53	Mr. Gurbir Singh	National Co-operative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd.	India
54	Mr. Marar Sukhdarshan Singh	National Co-operative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd.	India
55	Ms. Roshan Warjri	National Co-operative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks' Federation Ltd.	India
56	Dr. Bijender Singh	National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Ltd.,	India

No.	Name	Organization	Country
57	Mr. Yadavalli Vijayender Reddy	National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Ltd.,	India
58	Sukhbir Singh Panwar	National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Ltd.,	India
59	Singh Sukhbir	National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Ltd.,	India
60	Aggarwal Luxmi Narain	National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Ltd.,	India
61	Tyagi Brij Kishor	National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Ltd.,	India
62	Balkrishan	National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Ltd.,	India
63	Maheswari Meera	National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Ltd.,	India
64	Gupta Raj Kumar	National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Ltd.,	India
65	Mr. Bhima Subrahmanyam	National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Ltd.,	India
66	Shridhar Ganapathi Hegde	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
67	G.T. Devegowda	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
68	R.T. Dyavegowda	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
69	Hanumanthegowda	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
70	Bapugowda D. Patil	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
71	B.G. Venkategowda	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
72	N.M.J.B. Aradya	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
73	B.C. Lokappagowda	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India

No.	Name	Organization	Country
74	Kishan Hegde	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
75	Madivalappa	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
76	Jagadish Mallikarjun Swamy Kavatagimath	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
77	Kumaraswami Sadaradhyamath	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
78	Lingannagouda Malakajappa Gouda Patil	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
79	Shekharagouda Malipatil	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
80	R.M. Manjunath Gowda	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
81	Shakuntala Beladale	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
82	Latha Byrappa	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
83	Shivayogiswamy N. Hiremath	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
84	Mohan Doddamani	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
85	Poornima Prateek	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
86	Vishwanath C. Hiremath	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
87	Shivanagowda S. Biradar	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
88	H. Jayadeva	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
89	K.S. Naveen	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
90	V. Umesh	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India
91	Tejur Rudrappa Shiva Kumar	Karnataka State Coop. Federation Ltd. Bangalore	India

No.	Name	Organization	Country
92	Viveka Nand Singh	Cooperative Housing Building & Finance Corporation Ltd.	India
93	Mr. Drarmendra Pratap Singh	Cooperative Housing Building & Finance Corporation Ltd.	India
94	H.E. Mr. Anil Wadhwa (Ambassador)	Embassy of India	India
95	Mr. Aditya Vats	Embassy of India	India
96	Ms. Nagma M. Mallick	Embassy of India	India
97	Mr. Prashant Agrawal	Embassy of India	India
98	H.E. Harish Rawat (Minister)	Minister of State for Agriculture	India
99	Mr. Mohammad Shahid	Minister of State for Agriculture	India
100	Mr. P. Sampath	Minister of State for Agriculture	India
101	Mr. Chimanbhai Manilal Patel	Kribco	India
102	W.R. Boda Kribco	Kribco	India
103	H.E. Dr. Sjarifuddin Hasan (Minister)	Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs	Indonesia
104	H.E. Untung Tri Basuki (Deputy Minister)	Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs	Indonesia
105	Mr. Hasan Jauhari	Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs	Indonesia
106	Mr. Bagus Rachman	Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs	Indonesia
107	Mr. M. Aswad Bandie	Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs	Indonesia
108	Ms. Dahliya Herawati	Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs	Indonesia
109	Mr. Yusuf Budi Sartono	Indonesian Youth Cooperative (KOPINDO)	Indonesia
110	Yusuf Budi	Cooperative (KOPINDO)	Indonesia

No.	Name	Organization	Country
111	Teguh Boediyana	Cooperative (KOPINDO)	Indonesia
112	Ms. Sharmila Bahya Zoini	Cooperative (KOPINDO)	Indonesia
113	Mr. Wasono	Cooperative (KOPINDO)	Indonesia
114	Mr. Nurdin Khalid	Cooperative (KOPINDO)	Indonesia
115	Mr. Lutfi Rauf (Ambassador)	Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia	Indonesia
116	Mr. M. Primanto Hendrasgoro	Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia	Indonesia
117	Ms. Nana Yuliana	Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia	Indonesia
118	Mr. Wasana Adi Nugraha	Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia	Indonesia
119	H.E. Abdolreza Sheikholeslami (Minister)	Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare	Iran
120	H.E. Gholamhossein Hosseininia (Deputy Minister)	Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare	Iran
121	Mr. Ramin Behzad	Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare	Iran
122	Mr. Alireza Motameni	Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare	Iran
123	Mr. Hossein Amirkhah	Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare	Iran
124	Ms. Marjaneh Soltani	Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare	Iran
125	Mr. Mashaallah Azimi	Cooperative Development Bank	Iran
126	Mr. Homayoun Rroustaiee	n.a.	Iran
127	Mr. Dariush Pakbin (Secretary General)	Islamic Republic of Iran Central Chamber of Cooperatives	Iran



No.	Name	Organization	Country
128	Mr. Seyed Javad Razavian Rad	Islamic Republic of Iran Central Chamber of Cooperatives	Iran
129	Mr. Mohammad Reza Daghighi	Islamic Republic of Iran Central Chamber of Cooperatives	Iran
130	Mr. Babak Khoshnevisan	Islamic Republic of Iran Central Chamber of Cooperatives	Iran
131	Mr. Habibollah Bahrami	Islamic Republic of Iran Central Chamber of Cooperatives	Iran
132	H.E. Seyed Nezamaldin Sajadi (Deputy Minister)	Ministry of Agriculture	Iran
133	Mr. Seyed Abbas Heidary	Ministry of Agriculture	Iran
134	Omid Gilanpour	Farda Cooperative	Iran
135	Mr. Meisam Shamohammadi	n.a.	Iran
136	Mr. Majid Bizmark	Embassy of Iran	Iran
137	Mr. Mohammad Reza Bagheripour	Embassy of Iran	Iran
138	Mr. Mohammad Ali Zarizare	Embassy of Iran	Iran
139	Mr. Mojtaba Zahedi Anaraki	Embassy of Iran	Iran
140	Mr. Hamid Ahmadiye	Embassy of Iran	Iran
141	H.E. Mr. Shuji Yamada (Vice- Minister)	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Japan
142	Mr. Eiichi Miyajima	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Japan
143	Mr. Tomoyuki Suzuki	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Japan
144	Mr. Kazuhiro Shimane	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Japan
145	Mr. Kento Kobayashi	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Japan

No.	Name	Organization	Country
146	Mr. Toyoaki Yokoyama	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Japan
147	Mr. Takeshi Mizoguchi	Embassy of Japan in Thailand	Japan
148	Mr. Tetsuya Murakami	Embassy of Japan in Thailand	Japan
149	Mr. Akira Banzai (President)	Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan	Japan
150	Mr. Masahiro Matsuda	Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan	Japan
151	Mr. Yasuhiro Takayama	Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan	Japan
152	Mr. Hajime Yaguchi	Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan	Japan
153	Ms. Yuri Sunaba	Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan	Japan
154	Ms. Shiho Kawamura	Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan	Japan
155	Ms. Tamami Sekine	Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan	Japan
156	Mr. Takahisa Nishikawa	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	Japan
157	Ms. Hitomi Tanaka	Japanese Consumer' Co-operative Union	Japan
158	Mr. Yutaka Aqtake	Japanese Consumer' Co-operative Union	Japan
159	Mr. Masahiro Maeda	Japanese Consumer' Co-operative Union	Japan
160	Mr. Haruyoshi Amano	Japanese Consumer' Co-operative Union	Japan
161	Mr. Kouzou Hikage	Japan Agricultural News	Japan
162	Mr. Eichi honda	Consumers Cooperative Kobe	Japan
163	Mr. katsuya Kida	Consumers Cooperative Kobe	Japan

No.	Name	Organization	Country
164	Mr. Nagato Yuzo	Japan Workers' Cooperative Union	Japan
165	Mr. Yoshiko Yamada	Japan Workers' Cooperative Union	Japan
166	Mr. Takako Tsuchiya	Japan Workers' Cooperative Union	Japan
167	Mr. Honda Machiko	Japan Workers' Cooperative Union	Japan
168	Mr. Toru Fujita	Japan Workers' Cooperative Union	Japan
169	Mr. Mr. Katsumi Asada	Japan Consumers' Cooperative Union	Japan
170	Mr. Shimamura Hiroshi, LL.D	Japan Institute of Cooperative Research	Japan
171	Mr. Michihiro Higuchi	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Japan
172	Mr. Hiroshi Sasaki	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Japan
173	Mr. Lee Dae Joong (Director)	Ministry of Strategy and Finance	Korea
174	Mr. Lee Youn Jung	Ministry of Strategy and Finance	Korea
175	Mr. Hong Gwang Seog	National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF)	Korea
176	Mr. Kim Jong Gul	Hanyang University	Korea
177	Mr. Oh Mi-Yea (Chairperson)	ICOOP Korea	Korea
178	Mr. Kim Dae Hoon	ICOOP Korea	Korea
179	Ms. Lee Ju Hee	ICOOP Korea	Korea
180	Si Hyung Jo	NACF	Korea
181	Dr. Jasem Mohammed Ushkanar	Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor	Kuwait
182	Mr. Majed Ali Abdulaali Al Mutairi	Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor	Kuwait

No.	Name	Organization	Country
183	Dr. Hussain Ali Alduwaihees	Kuwait Union Coop	Kuwait
184	H.E. Dr. Phouang Parisak Pravongviengkham (Vice Minister)	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Laos
185	Dr. Somnuck Thirasack	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Laos
186	Mr. Thongphat Vongmany	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Laos
187	Mr. Xaypladeth Choulamany	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Laos
188	Dr. Linkham Douangsavanh	National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute	Laos
189	Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Bin Yaakob (Minister)	Ministry of Domestic Trade, Cooperatives & Consumerism	Malaysia
190	Y. Bhg Dato' Ruhaidini Binti Abd Kadir	Ministry of Domestic Trade, Cooperatives & Consumerism	Malaysia
191	Mr. Lim An Tong	Ministry of Domestic Trade, Cooperatives & Consumerism	Malaysia
192	Datuk Hj. Md. Yusof Bin Hj. Samsudin	Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission	Malaysia
193	Mr. Zaidi Bin Mohd Said	Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission	Malaysia
194	Mr. Mat Deris B. Jusoh	Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission	Malaysia
195	Ms. Meriam Bt. Mat Nor	Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission	Malaysia
196	Mr. Azam Bin Sulaiman	Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission	Malaysia
197	Mr. Efendee OP Andu	Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission	Malaysia
198	Yang Berhormat Dato' Haji Ismail Bin Haji Abd Muttalib	Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission	Malaysia
199	Mr. Abd Razak Bin Yatim	Koperasi Telekom Malaysia Berhad	Malaysia

No.	Name	Organization	Country
200	Dato' Dr. Mohd Ali Baharom	Malaysian National Co-operative Movement	Malaysia
201	Mr. Mutadho Bahri	Malaysian National Co-operative Movement	Malaysia
202	Mr. Hj Idris Ismail	Cooperative College of Malaysia	Malaysia
203	Mr. Ngadi Bin Robin	Cooperative College of Malaysia	Malaysia
204	Mr. Hj. Ramlan Bin Kamsin	Cooperative College of Malaysia	Malaysia
205	Ms. Fenny Nuli (Minister Counsellor)	Embassy of Malaysia	Malaysia
206	Mr. Edi Fazlul Zainuddin	Embassy of Malaysia	Malaysia
207	H.E. Mr. Enkhbold Nyamaa (Deputy Speaker/President)	Mongolian Parliament/ National Association of Mongolian Cooperatives	Mongolia
208	Bayarmagnai Myagmarsuren	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry	Mongolia
209	Tsolmon Dorjpalam	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry	Mongolia
210	Ms. Tsendsuren Deleg	National Association of Mongolia Agricultural Cooperatives	Mongolia
211	Mr. Dondogdorj Mendbayar	Government Implementing Agency for small and Medium sized Enterprises	Mongolia
212	Mr. Khin Maung Aye (Chairman)	Central Co-operative Society Ltd.	Myanmar
213	Mr. Kyaw Mya Khine	Central Co-operative Society Ltd.	Myanmar
214	Mr. Soe Myint Aung	Central Co-operative Society Ltd.	Myanmar
215	Mr. Bo Aung	Central Co-operative Society Ltd.	Myanmar

No.	Name	Organization	Country
216	Mr. Saw Andrew Pan	Central Co-operative Society Ltd.	Myanmar
217	Mr. Min Lwin	Central Co-operative Society Ltd.	Myanmar
218	Mr. Vijoy Kuma Mallick	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives	Nepal
219	Mr. Saroj Kumar Sharma	National Cooperative Development Board	Nepal
220	Mr. Netra Prasad Neupane	National Cooperative Development Board	Nepal
221	Mr. Keshav Prasad Badal	National Cooperative Federation of Nepal	Nepal
222	Ms. Om Devi Joshi	National Cooperative Federation of Nepal	Nepal
223	Mr. Muhammad Sharif Bhaiji (President)	Karachi Cooperative Housing Societies Union Ltd.,	Pakistan
224	Mr. Ahsan Ali Thakur	Karachi Cooperative Housing Societies Union Ltd.,	Pakistan
225	Mr. Suresh Kumar Wadhvani	Karachi Cooperative Housing Societies Union Ltd.,	Pakistan
226	Ms. Bernadette F. R. Puyat (Undersecretary)	Department of Agriculture	Philippines
227	Mr. Emmanuel M. Santiagucl (Chairman)	Cooperative Development Authority	Philippines
228	Mr. Orlando R. Ravanera	Cooperative Development Authority	Philippines
229	Ms. Amneris G. Gabriel	National Confederation of Cooperatives	Philippines
230	Ms. Ana Abejuela	Embassy of the Philippines	Philippines
231	H.E. Johnston Xaviour Fernando (Minister)	Ministry of Cooperatives and Internal Trade	Sri Lanka
232	D.V. Rohana Priya Upul	Ministry of Cooperatives and Internal Trade	Sri Lanka
233	Mr. Illyas Mohamed Mohamed Rizly	Ministry of Cooperatives and Internal Trade	Sri Lanka

No.	Name	Organization	Country
234	Mr. Amerasinghe Jerome Norman	Ministry of Cooperatives and Internal Trade	Sri Lanka
235	Mr. Chryshantha Theavore Kapuwatta	Ministry of Cooperatives and Internal Trade	Sri Lanka
236	Mr. Zakir Kahja Mohideen Mohamed	Ministry of Cooperatives and Internal Trade	Sri Lanka
237	Mr. Wijerathna Haluge Karunaratne	Ministry of Cooperatives and Internal Trade	Sri Lanka
238	Mr. Ranawaka Bandupala	National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
239	Dr. Maduwilla Gamarachchige Senaviratna Silva	National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
240	DSK Pathirana	COOPFED	Sri Lanka
241	Mr. K. M M Zakir	National Institute of Co-operative Development (NICD)	Sri Lanka
242	A.L.A. Asoca Sirwardana	n.a.	Sri Lanka
243	Mr. Chan Tee Seng (Chairman)	Singapore National Cooperative Federation Ltd.	Singapore
244	H.E. Mr. Chumpol Silpa-Archa (Deputy Prime Minister)	Royal Government of Thailand	Thailand
245	H.E. Theera Wongsamut (Minister)	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives	Thailand
246	H.E. Nattawut Saikuar (Deputy Minister)	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives	Thailand
247	Ms. Supatra Thanaseniwat	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives	Thailand
248	Mr. Soopachai Barnpubtong	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives	Thailand
249	Mr. Chalong Tepwitakkit	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives	Thailand
250	Ms. Sirilak Suwanrangsi	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives	Thailand



No.	Name	Organization	Country
251	Mr. Somchai Charnnarongkul	Cooperative Promotion Department	Thailand
252	Mr. Chakgree Sutjarittam	Cooperative Auditing Department	Thailand
253	Mr. Jittaragorn Sampradish	Cooperative Promotion Department	Thailand
254	Mr. Sakchai In-ochanont	Cooperative Promotion Department	Thailand
255	Mr. Surapol Pongmaetreeaphichai	Cooperative Promotion Department	Thailand
256	Mr. Panuwat Na Nakornpanom	Cooperative Promotion Department	Thailand
257	Mr. Preecha Wongsakulkiat	Cooperative Promotion Department	Thailand
258	Ms. Wiparat Morida	Cooperative Promotion Department	Thailand
259	Mr. Kanvee Boonyapan	Cooperative Promotion Department	Thailand
260	Dr. Suwichai Suparanon	Cooperative League of Thailand	Thailand
261	Mr. Vitoon Naewpanitthe (Chairman)	Cooperative League of Thailand	Thailand
262	H.E. Nguyen Dang Khoa (Deputy Minister)	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Vietnam
263	Mr. Ngo The Hien	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Vietnam
264	Ms. Pham Thi Thanh Ha	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Vietnam
265	Ms. Hoang Thi Dung	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Vietnam
266	Mr. Tran Dinh Dung	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Vietnam
267	Mr. Dinh Pham Hien	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Vietnam

No.	Name	Organization	Country
268	Mr. Nguyen Van Bien (Vice President)	Vietnam Cooperative Alliance	Vietnam
269	Mr. Hoang Van Long	Vietnam Cooperative Alliance	Vietnam
270	Lien Ngo Thi	n.a.	Vietnam
271	Dame Pauline Green (President)	ICA	
272	Dr. Chan Ho Choi (Regional Director)	ICA-AP	
273	Mr. Shi-Kwan Lee (Former Regional Director)	ICA-AP	
274	Mr. Rangan Dutta	ICA-AP	
275	Ms. Savitri Singh	ICA-AP	
276	Mr. Kulbhushan Kukreja	ICA-AP	
277	Mr. K. Sethu Madhavan	ICA-AP	
278	Mr. P. Santosh Kumar	ICA-AP	
279	Kanako Miyazawa	ICA-AP	
280	Dr. Hiroyuki Konuma	FAO	
281	Rakawin Leechanavanichpan	ILO	
282	Mr. Ranjith Hettiarachchi	ACCU	

## Annexure F



**INTERNATIONAL  
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11/05/2012

Honourable Minister,

Greetings from ICA Asia Pacific !

First of all, allow me to congratulate you on behalf of International Co-operative Alliance for the decisive success of the 9th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers Conference held in Bangkok earlier this year at the UNCC.

I am writing this to reaffirm ICA's commitment to the Conference through the Joint Declaration pursuant to its theme: "Enabling Co-operative Legal and Policy Environment for Sufficiency Economy". One of the highlighting submissions of the Conference was made by ICA President, Dame Pauline Green that pertained to the forthcoming G20 meeting in Mexico and the RIO +20 or the UNCSD in Brazil in June this year. As you are kindly aware, Rio+20 is being eagerly awaited because of the ongoing success of the first meeting in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. However, the recent socio-economic trends in the world have indicated with evidence, that the world policy requires some serious rethinking in matters of creating a sustainable economy. Honourable Minister Sir, time is of the essence and we are conscious of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) that are to be achieved by the year 2015. A successful achievement will to the least, instil the hope of a better world and a future amongst the peoples of the world. I have taken the liberty to write this to you envisaging the possible benefits to the co-operative movement through Governments and policy makers such as your esteemed self in the International Year of Co-operatives.

Madam Dame Pauline Green reminded the Conference about the appropriate policy intervention that Governments could undertake at Rio+20 and at the G20 Meeting while reiterating the UN General Assembly's unanimous vote of 2009 that proclaimed 2012 as the International Year of Co-operatives and in that resolution called on Member states and she quoted:

***"to promote the growth of cooperatives as businesses that can contribute to sustainable development, the eradication of poverty, and provide livelihoods in various economic***

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***sectors in urban and rural areas, provide support for the creation of cooperatives in new & emerging areas".***

She also quoted that one can no longer depend on one dominant model of business and that the global economy needs a greater diversity of corporate structure to ensure a better-balanced and more sustainable economic model. Through her address she reaffirmed ICA's Official Submission to the Rio+20 Conference that the language above used in that UN General Assembly approved IYC document in support of co-operative enterprises be integrated into the guidance for moving towards a green economy and the advancement of sustainable development. Sir, as you are aware, the Objectives of the Conferences are to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development and assessing the progress to date and remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges.

The co-operative movement realises the political and social influence Rio+20 and the G20 will have in the coming years, especially in developing countries, many of which are covered under the Asia Pacific region. The Social impact that co-operatives brought about and the strategic role of co-operatives as a balancing sector in market driven economics were made evident by Case Studies presented by invited co-operators from the region at the Ministers' Conference. Your Excellency, at times as strategic as these, I respectfully urge your Government to provide supportive action to the co-operative movement while recognising UN General Assembly's Document of "Improved institutions are crucial to the favourable social outcomes of green economy policies"; and the belief that, in seeking to improve these institutions it is vital that co-operatives business models are used integral to development and accorded an expanding and deeper role because co-operatives being essentially member, and society led are ideally equipped to pursue the green agenda in all sectors of the economy as successfully demonstrated by co-operatives in several countries in 'recycling' and organic farming.

Yours Sincerely

**Dr. Chan Ho CHOI**

Regional Director



The Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Thailand ; The Regional Director of ICA Asia Pacific and The Director General of Cooperative Promotion Department, Thailand flanked by delegates and staff of the Conference.





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