

**ICA Committee on Consumer
Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific**

The Present Status of Consumer Co-operatives in Asia and the Pacific: 2012



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

Presented by:
**ICA Committee on Consumer
Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific
Kobe - November 2012**

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

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Study on the Consumer Co-operatives in Asia and the Pacific

Background and Introduction

1. An ad-hoc committee was constituted by the ICA Committee on Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter ICA-AP Consumer Committee) in its 43rd meeting held in Pune, India in December 2009. The Ad-hoc Committee was composed of Mr. Virendra Singh as the Chairman [Chairman of National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF, India)], a representative each from Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU, Japan) and NTUC Fairprice Co-operative Ltd. (Singapore) as members. The objectives of the Ad-hoc Committee were to collect information on the working of the consumer co-operatives in the Asia-Pacific region and prepare a status paper on the same for further study and action where needed.
2. In the next meeting of the ICA-AP Consumer Committee held at Beijing on 2nd September 2010, the terms of references and countries for the proposed study were identified as follows:

Main terms of reference/contents of study

- ✓ Structure & administrative set-up
- ✓ Membership details
- ✓ Governing laws
- ✓ Nature of activity
- ✓ Volume of business
- ✓ Problem areas/constraints
- ✓ Possible solutions to problems and work programme for future.
- ✓ Govt. policy/support to the Cons. Co-ops. etc

Countries Selected

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. India | 8. Myanmar |
| 2. Indonesia | 9. Philippines |
| 3. Iran | 10. Singapore |
| 4. Japan | 11. Sri Lanka |
| 5. Korea | 12. Thailand |
| 6. Kuwait | 13. Vietnam |
| 7. Malaysia | |

(Study on Kuwait was subsequently kept pending)

3. The purpose of the study was:
 - ✓ To use the inputs of successful countries to improve the working of the societies where they would need assistance.
 - ✓ To prepare suitable plan of action including short-term and long-term work programme for the consumer co-ops in different countries.
4. In the first meeting of the Ad-hoc committee held in Beijing on 2nd September 2010 it was decided that:
 - ✓ Mr. T.T. Adhikari ex-Managing Director NCCF, (India) and presently with the Delhi State Consumers Co-operative Federation Ltd, (India) will be the data analyst/editor for this assignment and he alongwith Ms. Kanako Miyazawa, Secretary of the ICA-AP Consumer Committee will conduct the studies and prepare the reports.
 - ✓ The collected data needed to be studied to analyse the present state of consumer co-operatives.
 - ✓ To breakdown the consumer co-operatives in Asia to some categories.
 - ✓ To analyse the strength and weaknesses of the consumer co-operatives
 - ✓ To make practical proposals to the committee for further development of consumer co-operatives in Asia.
5. In the 2nd meeting of the ad-hoc committee held at HCM city, Vietnam on the 8th September 2011 modalities of the study and preparation of reports were discussed and finalised.
6. The reports have been compiled based on the-spot-study visits, collection of data, information provided by the apex bodies of consumer cooperatives in the respective countries/co-operative organizations, annual reports, information available from the published materials and web-sites.

We are grateful to the concerned federations, societies and other co-operative organizations in different countries for their cooperation, assistance and support which were useful in compiling these reports.
7. This is rather a voluminous work undertaken within a limited period of time. We hope the compiled information will provide useful inputs for taking corrective steps where necessary and making future work programme for the consumer co-operatives in different countries.

Virendra Singh
 Chairman
 Adhoc Committee and Vice-Chairman
 ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation
 for Asia and the Pacific

Haruyoshi Amano
 Chairman
 ICA Committee on
 Consumer Cooperation
 for Asia and the Pacific

Acknowledgement



I am greatly pleased and grateful to publish this special study report –“The Present Status of Consumer Co-operatives in the Asia-Pacific”. Outcome of this report is indeed brilliant and meaningful because it was made by the collective efforts of the ICA-AP Consumer Committee members. It covers 12 countries namely, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. To this success, I would like to share my sincere appreciation with readers to the efforts of the Ad-hoc Committee members who conducted study on their own and visualized their actual status and activities as the Committee member organizations. I should not omit my thanks especially to Mr. Haruyoshi Amano the Chairperson of the ICA-AP Consumer Committee for their supports and leadership paid to this study project; and to Mr. T.T. Adhikari and Ms. Kanako Miyazawa for their diligent jobs taken in the survey, compilation, editing and in printing.

According to the ICA Global 300 Report (2010), the total revenue of consumer cooperatives included in the list was summed as US\$354 billion, which shares 21.7% of the total revenue of the Global 300 co-operatives. This figure itself reveals that consumer sector is an imperative part of global cooperative movement alongside with cooperatives in other sectors of economy like agriculture, fisheries, forestry and credit-banking cooperatives.

It has been self-evident in the region’s history that the crucial roles and contribution of consumer cooperatives have been vital in the Region. They have supported and secured largely the livelihoods of billions of people while safeguarding the sustainability of their own communities. The Region now holds approximately 4.2 billion people, a 60% of the world's current human population, and the population was nearly quadrupled during the 20th century.

Therefore, continuous growths and long-term sustainability of consumer cooperatives should be the first-lined objectives of ICA-AP for the coming years. Greatly, the Consumer Committee being chaired and supported by the Japan Consumer Cooperatives Union (JCCU) has been the most proactive Committees in ICA-AP. Taking this opportunity again, I wish to note my sincere gratitude to JCCU for their financial contributions provided to ICA-AP yearly for the implementation of workshops and training programs by that development of consumer cooperative has been anchored largely in the Region.

I wish that this kind of practical knowledge and thus the importance of consumer cooperative movement shall be more publicized and promoted continuously in the region. Let me happily share this informative report with you, all cooperators and stake holders in this commemorative International Year of Cooperatives.

Dr. Chan Ho Choi
Regional Director

Message



I am very proud to present the report on The Present Status of Consumer Co-operatives in Asia-Pacific Region in this commemorative International year of Cooperatives.

The ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation for Asia and the Pacific decided to conduct this study at its 43rd meeting of the Committee, held in Pune, India, in 2009. An Ad-hoc Committee was formed to dedicate in the study.

It was our first challenge to make a comprehensive study of our member organizations. The study was targeted to the Committee member organizations, and on-the-spot studies were carried on in Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, in addition to the gathering of the information from annual reports and Web sites.

I believe that with the compilation of this report, we have fulfilled our objectives of the study which is to visualize the actual situation of the Committee members.

Our next step will be to analyze and take necessary actions to meet the needs of our members to achieve our final goal that is to establish consumer cooperation and promote consumer based cooperatives where the members are the owners, users and administrators of cooperatives.

Haruyoshi Amano

Chairman

ICA Committee on Consumer Cooperation

for Asia and the Pacific



National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd.



Message

It gives me much pleasure to present this compilation of comprehensive reports on the working of consumer cooperatives in 12 select countries in the Asia-Pacific region based on the study conducted by the team of ad-hoc committee constituted by the ICA committee on consumer cooperation-AP in the meeting held on the 2nd September 2010 at Beijing.

2. The reports contain details of the structure and administrative set-up, memberships, governing laws, nature of activity, volume of business, strength and constraints etc. in the operation/working of the consumer cooperatives.
3. I am sure, analysis of collected information/data will be very useful in bringing in improvement in the working of the consumer cooperatives where needed, especially in our country, for formulating short-term and long-term work programme.
4. I feel that there is a scope and usefulness to remain associated with such functions and related activities like organizing seminars/conferences and conducting training programme for the functionaries of the consumer co-ops in the region, for which the ICA committee on consumer co-operation may continue to provide support and assistance.
5. During deliberations on international year of co-operatives, it is accepted that co-op model is viable and sustainable economic model. Co-operatives are part of solution to world's economic and financial crisis. I strongly support the views of the Minister for Agriculture and Co-operation of India that unless the co-operatives develop their internal strength in the form of professional management, enlightened and active membership, inspiring leadership and innovative vision, it will be difficult for co-operatives to protect and maintain their identity.
6. Lastly, I place on record my sincere thanks and appreciation for the efforts made by ex-Managing Director of NCCF, New Delhi Mr. T.T. Adhikari and Secretary of ICA committee on consumer co-operation-AP, Ms. Kanako Miyazawa for collection of information, compilation, editing and publication of these very informative reports.

Dated
New Delhi
The 17th Oct 2012

Virendra Singh
Chairman
Ad-hoc Committee of ICA
Committee on Consumer Cooperation -AP

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