ICA-AP Committee on Women

A NEWS BULLETIN OF THE ICA-ASIA & PACIFIC COMMITTEE ON WOMEN



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Meeting of the Regional Women's Committee-2012



Meeting in progress

From The Editor....

Pleased to present the concluding issue of the newsletter for IYC-2012. The year was special and the cooperative fraternity have put best foot forward to maximise the opportunity. We organised the Regional Women Committee Meeting and Regional Women Forum along with other regular activities of capacity building and lobbying. In order to provide useful services, the existing TOT manual was reviewed and we commissioned writing of the advanced guide to address the training requirement of co-operators, especially the women leaders in the region. The committee also adopted the Model Constitution of the ICA-AP and the election was held. According to the new constitution now the Regional Women Committee will be known as "ICA-AP Committee on Women". We welcome the new committee consisting of new members and office bearers and hope to do our best towards achieving the goal of gender mainstreaming in the region.

With best wishes for New Year-2013, Savitri Singh.

The meeting of the committee was held on 26th November, 2012 in Kobe city of Japan. Out of 11 members, 8were present and besides usual business of the committee, following main agendas were taken up:

Membership position:

There are 11 members from 9 countries. Ms. Vandana Verma, Director, Sahkari Awas Nirman Evam Vit Nigam,Lucknow, UP, India has joined the committee as new member.

Following new members replaced the old members from their respective coops:

1. Ms. Shizuka Sera replaced Ms. Akiko SATO, Chair Person JA-Zenchu, Japan
2. Ms. RISEKO OKAMOTO replaced Ms. Suzuo UTO
3. Ms. Divina Cabunoc Quemi replaced Ms. Emma Neiva

Election of the Committee

The existing committee was elected in 2008 and has completed it's 4 years term in the office. Therefore, election was held. Ms. Hitomi Tanaka from JCCU, Japan and Ms. Divina from NATCCO, Philippines were re-elected for the post of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson respectively.

Writing of the Resource Guide



Dr. CHOI addressing the Women Committee

The committee commissioned writing of "Resource guide for advanced training of co-operatives on entrepreneurship development of women and gender equality". The consultant presented the outline of the first draft.

Work plan -2013 was approved.

Amendment of Constitution

Constitution of the RWC was amended according to the Model Constitution approved by the ICA-AP Regional Board at its meeting held in Beijing on 12th June 2012.

Adoption of Model Constitution

The committee agreed to Adopt the Model Constitution for ICA-AP Committees with amendments.

The new constitution will have following important changes according to the model constitution to which the members agreed:

1. Name of the Committee will be changed to "ICA Committee on Women for Asia and the Pacific" in short ICA-AP Women's Committee.
2. There will be one Chairperson and one Vice Chairperson
3. The position of second chairperson will be eliminated
4. Each ICA member from the Asia Pacific region should be entitled to nominate maximum two persons to the committee. Earlier it was "one person from one ICA member".
5. The committee shall continue it's relation with the ICA Global Gender Equality Committee and the Chair of the ICA-AP Committee on women will be the member of the ICA Gender Equality Committee."

Regional Women Forum-2012

The 7th ICA-AP Regional Women Forum was held on 26th November. The theme of the forum was:

"Women in Co-operatives Build a Secured Society"



Delegates at the Forum

38 Women and men co-operators from 11 countries from the region were present.

5 papers were presented by expert resource persons and member of the committee. The forum discussed about positive action policy, work life balance, childcare, program for women on income generation, capacity building, policy and initiatives for women empowerment etc.

Recommendation of the Women Forum



Ms. Hitomi Tanaka presenting the report

We women and men from 11 countries from ICA Asia Pacific Region who participated in the regional women forum on this day 26th November, 2012 deliberated upon the theme "Women in Co-operatives Build a Secured Society" recommend the following points to be implemented by ICA-AP as well as it's member co-operatives for the empowerment of women and gender equality in co-operatives:

1. Assessment of the women empowerment and gender equality policy and strategy
2. Impact assessment of work done in last decade on gender issues and progress of status on participation of women at all levels in co-operatives.
3. Should re-affirm their commitment towards environment safety and food security to reduce burden on women as they carry the responsibility of food production and home care.
4. To implement our all time recommendations for reservation of 30% seats for women at all levels of the co-operatives.
5. Must allocate budget for carrying out the above recommendations

Ms. Hitomi Tanaka, Chairperson of the Women's Committee presented the report of the committee meeting and women forum at the regional assembly on 29th November,2012.

Study Visit and Exchange Program



The R&D Centre

Ms. Hitomi Tanaka organised a study visit and exchange program in Hyogo Consumers' Co-operative Union, Kobe for the participants of women committee and forum. She delivered welcome address and Mr. Kohei Miyake, Managing Director of Hyogo Consumers' Co-operative Union gave an Introduction of Japanese co-operative movement and Hyogo-ken Joint Committee of Co-operatives.

2 experts gave introduction of co-operative sector in Hyogo Pref covering following sectors:

- Forest Owners Co-operative
- Fisheries Co-operative
- Agricultural Co-operative
- Consumers' Co-operative

After the initial introductory session, the participants moved to visit the Consumer Co-operative Kobe Inspection Laboratory.



Japanese Tea Ceremony

There was a Cultural exchange event organized for the international participants facilitated by members of Consumer Co-operative Kobe which included Kimono Dressing Class and Tea Ceremony. At the end of the program at Coop Kobe, Mr. Masao Hata, Executive Director of Co-op Kobe delivered the closing address.

The participants also visited "Seer", Co-op Department Store for shopping.



Japanese delegates singing at the opening of the Exchange Program

Enhancing the Role of Women in Co-operative Business



Workshop in progress

The ICA-Asia and Pacific Workshop on "Enhancing the Role of Women in Agriculture Co-operative Bbusiness" was held from 17-19 December, 2012 in Vientiane City, Lao PDR in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Government of Lao PDR. Six participants from four countries namely China, India, Indonesia and Malaysia attended the workshop along with participants from MAF, Lao.

The opening ceremony was held on 17th December, 2012 wherein Mr. Chantha Thipphavongphanh, DG of DAF-VC of MAF delivered welcome address.

Dr. Chan Ho Choi, Regional Director of ICA-AP delivered special address and inaugurated the workshop, Ms. Savitri Singh, Advisor-Gender Program & Communication of ICA-AP introduced the program and informed about background and objectives of the workshop. Ms. Sisomphet Souvanthalisith, Head of Advancement of Women Division, Permanent Secretary, Office of MAF also addressed the participants at the opening.

After a formal opening, business session commenced. The session started with introductory presentation on the topic by host organisations, ICA-AP and MAF, Lao. Mrs. Savitri Singh initiated business proceedings by making a presentation on "Gender Integration and Situation of Women in Co-operatives in Asia -Pacific." Ms. Sisomphet Souvanthalisith made presentation on the theme of the workshop "Enhancing Role of Women in Agriculture Co-operative Business in LAO PDR".

Following the introduction with the situation of women participation in Asia-Pacific as well as in Lao, the participants also made presentation of country reports and shared information with each other followed by discussions and question-answer sessions.

Study visit to Lao Women Union



With Lao Women Union

After the workshop, participants went on study visit to Lao Women Union and met Chairperson of the Union.

Visit to Organic Vegetable Production Group



Participants with the farmers

The participants also visited Organic Vegetable Production Group and Nikone Handicraft Centre.

Organic Agricultural group in Vientiane Capital have been established from year 2005 by PROFIL Project (Promotion of Organic Farming and Marketing in Laos PDR) of Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry cooperation with Department of Agriculture and Forestry of Vientiane Capital.

Upcoming Events

Meeting of the Office Bearers of Women's Committee and one day TOT Workshop Will be held in Japan,February,2013.

Important Announcement

Membership of the ICA-AP Committee on Women is open. Please ask for Nomination Form to savitrisingh@icaroap.coop. Each ICA member from Asia Pacific is entitled to send maximum two nominations to the committee.

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Edited by : Ms. Savitri Singh, Advisor, Gender Program.
Contact : savitrisingh@icaroap.coop Tel: 6888250, Extn. 109 Fax: 26888067