

NCUI host the 12th ICA-AP Regional Assembly 2016, Cooperative Forum and various thematic Committee Meetings & Events during 15-19 November 2016 at New Delhi – A Report

The 12th ICA-AP Regional Assembly, 9th Cooperative Forum and other related events were hosted by NCUI from Nov 15-19, 2016 at hotel Ashok, New Delhi. As many as 200 delegates from ICA Member organizations of Asia Pacific region viz. Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Maldives, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Palestine, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam etc. and more than 300 delegates from India participated in the Regional Assembly and other events. Besides, distinguished delegates from other countries Kirgizstan, Netherlands, Poland, Turkey, Uganda, USA etc. also participated in the annual meetings of various thematic committees of ICA organized in conjunction with the Regional Assembly. The five days event started with the meeting of ICA – AP Regional Board on 15th November 2016 followed by University / Campus Committee Meeting, Research Conference, meeting & seminar of Global ICAO, Meeting of HRD Committee of ICA – AP, meeting of Consumer Committee & seminar, Women Committee of ICA – AP meeting and Women Forum, Workshop on “Promotion of University / Campus Cooperatives in the SAARC Region”, Workshop on Industrial & Service Cooperatives etc.

The joint opening of 12th ICA-AP Regional Assembly & 9th Cooperative Forum held on 17th November 2016 which was inaugurated by Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and the Hon'ble Union Minister for Railways Shri Suresh Prabhu delivered the keynote address on the theme of the cooperative forum “*Cooperatives: the Power to Act for a Sustainable Future*”. At his inaugural address, the Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare said the Government wants to Indian Cooperative Model developed as a successful model for the Asia Pacific Region and there is a need to contribute by cooperatives in a proactive manner to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Sustainable Agenda for 2030. He described cooperatives as the best institution to breach the gap between rich and poor. Keeping in view of the big youth population in India, the involvement of youths in cooperative needs to be prioritized and emphasis is to be given to publicize success stories of cooperatives to the masses. At his keynote address, Hon'ble Union Minister for Railways said that Asian region will be a game changer in times to come and cooperatives having their strong sustainable character can play an important role in which the benefits of development can percolate down to the people. While, welcoming the delegates, Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President, NCUI mentioned that the event is hosted in India after two decades and also highlighted the achievements of cooperative movement in India. Dr. U.S. Awasthi, Managing Director of IFFCO highlighted the IFFCO model towards building a sustainable society. The valedictory address of the Cooperative Forum was delivered by Shri Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. He talked about the various successful cooperatives like AMUL, ULCC (Kerala) and mentioned the working of cooperatives on the principle “*Sabka Sath – Sabka Vikas*”, as often uttered

by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. He lauded the efforts of NCUI for professionally organizing such international conference in India.

As the world is dominated by big business where economic control is in the hands of a few and money is use to make more money with utter disregard to the dignity of people and integrity of environment, a paradigm shift has begun through cooperatives with a Power to Act for a Sustainable Future. The delegates of the Regional Assembly and Cooperative Forum fully understood that though the roadmap ahead will be long and climb will be steeped, but through oneness and commitment, the DNA of cooperatives will come of age which are member-owned, value based and sustainable enterprise.

The Regional Assembly of ICA discussed & deliberated in details on the growth and prospect of cooperative movement in the Asia Pacific Region followed by election of new Regional Board of ICA – AP for the next four years i.e. 2016-2020. Mr. Li Chunsheng, Vice-President of All China Federation of Supply & Marketing Federation was unanimously re-elected as President, ICA – AP. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President, NCUI re-elected as Vice-President, ICA – AP securing huge number of votes and Ms. Chitose Arai, Vice-President of Japanese Consumer Cooperative Union also elected as the Vice-Chairperson of ICA – AP. The other members of the Regional Board were the Cooperative Leaders from Indonesia, Iran, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

A study exposure visit to Radhasaomi Urban Cooperative Bank in Agra on 19th November 2016 was arranged by NCUI for the delegates of ICA-AP Regional Assembly. As many as 150 delegates from Asia Pacific Region participated in the study visit. The delegates were also taken to the world famous Taj Mahal - a place of National & historical interest.

NCUI with its professional manpower & commitment made all necessary logistic arrangements viz. visa facilitation, stay arrangements, felicitation on arrival at airport etc. for smooth organization of the prestigious event in India. The successful organization of the event not only made an image building of Indian cooperatives in the Asia Pacific region, but also provided a platform for the Indian participants to interact with the successful cooperators & professional CEOs of reputed cooperatives of other countries to exchange the knowledge of best practices. The forum also provided a platform to build-up networking through one of the cooperative principle – “cooperation among cooperatives”.
