



September 27, 2011

TO: Chairman/CEO of All Member Organizations of ICA-Asia Pacific

SUB: 9<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference, Bangkok.2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware that UN has declared 2012 as the 'International year of cooperatives' in recognition of the role and lasting contributions made by the cooperatives to promote economic and social well being of the people and in particular the poorer and disadvantaged sections of the society. The ICA-AP is taking this opportunity to commemorate the year by organising the 9<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Cooperative Ministers Conference at Bangkok in Feb-March 2012. The conference will be co-hosted by the Government of Thailand to review measures taken in pursuance of the solemn Declarations and Recommendations made in the 8<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Cooperative Ministers Conference held at Kuala Lumpur on 12 March 2007.

This will also give us an opportunity to renew our commitment to all round development of cooperatives and to draw up a road map for creating an enabling legal and policy environment for cooperatives to function as truly member controlled democratic social and business enterprises.

This requires a 'Situation Assessment' by way of getting a feedback from ICA-AP Members and participating Governments about the developments and actions taken place in the member countries in the backdrop of the Declaration and Recommendations of the 8<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' conference held in 2007.

As part of this effort, two sets of questionnaire are annexed as Annex I & II. The Annex I contains seven leading questions framed on the basis of the common intents and purposes of the Declaration and are placed after the relevant statements in the Declarations briefly to help you to state your experience and views.

However, as the issues deliberated and resolved in the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference are wide ranging, complex and touch upon virtually all important aspects of not only functioning of cooperatives but also issues like economic and social impact of globalisation and WTO negotiations, we have framed 35 supplementary questions as listed at Annex II following from the aforesaid Declarations and Recommendations.

These questions are purely explanatory in nature a kind of guide to enable you to formulate your response on line for which space has been provided in the Questionnaire. Also questions at Annexure II relevant to the main questions at Annex I are also mentioned below each of the seven main questions for reference.

Considering the urgency of the matter and the time constraint, I request you to kindly send your replies on time before 31 October 2011. Appreciate your co-operation in enabling ICA-AP to serve you better by supporting our initiatives.

With Co-operative Greetings and Best Regards,

Dr. Chan Ho CHOI, Regional Director