Asia Pacific Co-operative Research Partnership

Reducing inequality and advancing regional integration and sustainable economic activity

Mainstreaming Co-operatives Across Asia
Foundation of Asia Pacific Co-operative Research Partnership

- Founded at a meeting in Bali at the International Co-operative Alliance Regional Conference 2014.

- Governing and Editorial Board:
  - Dr. Anthony Jensen. University of Newcastle. Australia. (Chair)
  - Professor Yashavantha Dongre. University of Mysore. India
  - Professor Akira Kurimoto. Hosei University. Japan
  - Professor Morris Altman. University of Newcastle. Australia
  - Professor Seungkwon Jang. Sungkonghoe University
  - Mr Robby Tulus. Karl Albrecht Foundation

- Founding member:
  - Mr. Bien Nito. University of Asia and the Pacific. Philippines

- Endorsement:
  - ICA Research Committee
Broad agreement on an Asia Pacific regionalism:

- The greater contribution of co-operatives across the Asia Pacific is hampered by a lack of research and data into their contribution to society and the solving of social and economic problems.

- Co-operatives are not visible in the Asian political, academic and business scene as governments lack statistics and case studies of successful co-operatives relating to the contribution of co-operatives to national economies.

- There is a need to explore the prospects for a uniquely Asian scholarship separate from the hegemony of European influence.

- Asian business systems cannot be understood through categories identified in the West. We find five major business systems in Asia. (Witt and Redding, 2013)
A PCRP research mission

- Contribute to the elimination of poverty in the Asia Pacific

Professor Yashavantha Dongre of Mysore University argued that the ICA Blueprint had provided critical insights and a new research agenda for Asia.

Professor Kurimoto outlined five key research objectives which are needed to build visible and viable co-operatives in the Asian region. These were adopted by the A PCRP:

- Solid basis of research and development activities at national and regional levels to overcome a lack of statistics and cultural barriers

- Map and showcase best practice case studies in the region - notwithstanding there are failures there are many positive examples

- Strengthen the liaison between institutions, subsectors at national and regional level

- Contribute to enabling ASEAN policy and legislative development in member countries
Research design

APCRP brought 11 universities together in 11 countries with 34 academics and advisors, connected by a Memorandum of Understanding to the University of Newcastle.

APCRP agreed to the comparative research of successful co-operatives across these 11 countries in the Asia Pacific Region. These would be compared as followa:

- **Finance Co-operatives** – Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Australia and Nepal
- **Consumer Co-operatives** – Japan, India, South Korea, Vietnam and Singapore
- **Agricultural** – India, South Korea, Nepal, Japan, China, Australia and Vietnam
- **Worker co-operatives** – Australia, South Korea, Philippines, India and Japan

APCRP chose a methodology which uses a theoretical explanatory model consisting of macro and micro factors that explain co-operative emergence and evolution, success and failure in different socio economic and political contexts.
Context - Varieties of Capitalism


- Post Socialist
  - China
  - Vietnam
  - Laos
  - India

- Advanced Cities
  - Hong Kong
  - Singapore

- Emerging South East Asia
  - Indonesia
  - Philippines
  - Thailand
  - Malaysia

- Advanced North East
  - Korea
  - Taiwan

- Co-ordinated Market Economy
  - Japan
  - Australia
### Part 1 Analytical Frameworks

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<tr>
<th>Introduction</th>
<th>Grasping the Potential of Asian Pacific co-operatives</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Policy, Performance potential, Historical perspective, Youth and Gender issues.</td>
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### Part 2 Case Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agriculture co-operatives</th>
<th>China, India, Vietnam, South Korea, Nepal, Japan and Australia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consumer cooperatives</td>
<td>India, Singapore, South Korea, Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit co-operatives</td>
<td>Australia, Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Nepal,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worker co-operatives</td>
<td>Philippines, India, Australia, South Korea and Japan</td>
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### Part 3 Integration

| Toward an Asian Scholarship on Co-operatives |

### Conclusion

| Lessons learnt and the way forward for Asian integration and prosperity through co-operation. |
Stage 2 - Research
APCRP Comparative research to support ASEAN Regional Integration.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASEAN</th>
<th>ASEAN + 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Australia</td>
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<td>Thailand</td>
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<td>Vietnam</td>
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<td>Laos</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
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<td>Brunei</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
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Conclusion

- The APCRP welcomes new members interested in comparative co-operative research.

- The APCRP plans a five year research project and is currently seeking to raise funds from a number of sources.

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  - University of Newcastle
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Co-operatives and Work in Transition

A participant action research project

Dr. Anthony Jensen. University of Newcastle
The Evolving Worker


- **Changing Work** – unitarist. Increasingly individualised, casualised, unregulated, femimised, part time. Flexability for employer

- **New Work** – big capital dominates – liberated from identity through work becomes – entrepreneurs of own business, portfolio worker, construct own career, architects of own destiny

Worker Co-operative Buyout
C-Mac Industries Co-operative Limited


- What happens when ownership is transferred. Staff replied:
  - More productive
  - More influence
  - Better place to work
  - Participate more
  - More stress

- What happens to work
  - See work as their career and
  - See work as a way of earning a living
  - Alienation overcome

- Jobs are satisfying – interest and control are about right

- Democracy is extended in the presence of conventional hierarchy.