



# Asia-Pacific Co-operative Development Conference

Building Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships on Sustainable Development

26 February – 1 March 2018 Colombo, Sri Lanka

## About the Conference

The Asia-Pacific Co-operative Development (APCD) Conference will be organized on the theme *Building Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships on Sustainable Development* at Hotel Galadari, Colombo (Sri Lanka) from **27-28 Feb 2018**. It is being co-organized by the International Co-operative Alliance - Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), ICA-EU Partnership<sup>i</sup> on Co-operatives in Development: People Centered Businesses in Action (#coops4dev<sup>ii</sup>) and the Sri Lankan co-operative movement led by the National Co-operative Council, Consumer Co-operative Federation, SANASA Federation, Kotikawatta Thrift & Credit Co-operative and National Institute of Co-operative Development.

The Conference is a **strategic dialogue** among stakeholders on development policy, which is aimed to create structured exchange and development partnerships among co-operatives and stakeholders in the pursuit of Sustainable Development<sup>ii</sup>. It will feature four thematic sessions on *Eradicating Poverty: Opportunity, Protection and Empowerment; Building a more Sustainable Food System: Hunger, Food Security and Livelihoods; Improving Access to Basic Goods & Services: Economic, Social and Cultural aspects; Protecting the Environment: Concern for Community* along with working sessions on the three Asia Pacific Strategic Development Priorities namely, *Sustainable Development Goals; Youth Inclusion and Exploring 'Work' and 'Ownership' Structures in Co-operatives*.

The conference will also host a **'development meeting'** of representatives of Alliance members and friends of the co-operative movement, who are currently engaged in and/or have the potential for international development<sup>iii</sup>, to explore creating a physical co-operative network with its primary focus on co-op led (sustainable) development, in Asia Pacific. The Alliance and the US Overseas Development Council jointly organized the global co-operative development meeting, under the mandate of the ICA-EU development partnership, on the theme: *Co-operatives and International Development: How can Co-operatives and Mutuals do more and better together?* The meeting was organized on the side-lines of the International Summit on Co-operatives in **October 2016 in Quebec, Canada**. The key areas of deliberation during the meeting were: *Acknowledging socio-economic and geopolitical global trends and challenges; Increasing our capacity to act – adapting to the new business reality; Expanding our economic power – sectoral challenges and business opportunities; Co-operatives in action to reach the SDGs*. The following recommendations have since then paved the way for international meetings on development, like the International Co-operative Development Platform Meeting that took place during the ICA Global Conference in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) which led to formation of the ICA Committee on Development with the ICA General Assembly adopting it at its session on 18 November 2017 in Kuala Lumpur.

<b>A. Knowledge Sharing</b>	<b>B. Joint Projects</b>	<b>C. Advocacy &amp; Donor Approach</b>
Create an Open Trusting Environment, Create an Online Development Database, and Establish Key Performance Indicators	Share Human & Financial Resources, Share Strategy and Vision, and Engage in Participative Decision Making	Engage in Political Dialogue with Multilateral Actors, Build Capacity to Access Funding, and Adopt a Bottom-Up and Top-Down Approach



*In the context of the Asia-Pacific region*, three sub-regional Co-operative Development Meetings (CDM) were organized in 2017, one each for the Middle East, South East Asia (ASEAN) and East Asia, with the aim to bring together important stakeholders for a joint co-operative development meeting in 2018.

The objective of the CDMs was to begin the conversation on SDGs and explore ways to highlight the role of co-operatives in achieving the global goals as well as devise mechanisms to measure the impact co-operatives create within the communities they operate in. These were organized in line with the commitment to create awareness on the SDGs, engage co-operatives with government and stakeholders in the pursuit of the global goals, and create a multi-stakeholder platform. The first sub-regional Co-operative Development Meeting was organized in February 2017 in collaboration with the Jordan Co-operative Corporation and the Economic and Social Development Centre of Palestine, the second sub-regional CDM was organized in Manila (The Philippines) for movements in ASEAN member States in collaboration with the Philippines Co-operative Centre, and the third in Ulan Bator (Mongolia) in October 2017 for movements in East Asia in collaboration with the National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Co-operatives and support from the Brazilian Co-operative movement . The three sub-regional meetings covered SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Well Being) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) in particular, and saw the participation of resource persons from Alliance membership, CSO umbrella organizations and International and Intergovernmental development agencies including representatives of the European Union Delegations.

**The overlapping outcomes of the sub-regional CDMs** include the need to *create a platform of co-operative actors to enhance concerted action on development regionally, create mechanisms to monitor policies and regulations on co-operatives and assess & measure the contribution of co-operatives to the 17 SDGs and the targets therein*. The Alliance as the global voice of the co-operative movement and custodian of the co-operative principles, is committed to enhancing the capacities of co-operative enterprises in implementing the SDGs, in collecting information about contribution of co-operatives, and better positioning co-operatives as partners in the development process.

### Conference Objectives

This conference has been planned to ***bring together stakeholders in development*** in furtherance of the sub regional CDMs as well as ICA's participation in the past, as a culmination point for regional co-operative actors to work together in a structured way in pursuit of international development and the SDGs.

ICA-AP aims to establish its ***position on its three strategic development priorities*** and open discussions on the policy and regulatory environment affecting co-operatives in development and devising mechanisms to monitor them, as well as bring together co-operative actors from this vast and diverse region to initiate the process of structured and concerted action on international development and the SDGs.

The organizers of this conference and the participants of previous meetings envision an ***Asia Pacific Co-operative Development Platform*** as the outcome of this networking exercise.

### Sustainable Development, Co-operatives and the Concern for Community

“That’s one small step for a man, and a giant leap for mankind” is famous as the line spoken by Neil Armstrong upon landing on the Moon, perhaps to assert the faith of our planet and its people on ‘progress’ and the universality of it! Ironically, the world at the time was at the peak of political polarization in the form of a *cold-war* between the two military and economic superpowers of the time. At the same time, the world also witnessed an evolving international community and its *sovereign-yet-united* agenda for a peaceful world that had already precipitated as the United

Nations Organization with the signing of the San Francisco Declaration in 1945. During the beginning of the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro, 1992) promulgated action for nations towards building a world that prioritized socio-economic and environmental needs of the future generation above development as such. The 1987 report of the Commission on Environment and Development (Chaired by Hon'ble Gro Harlem Brundtland) articulated the concept of *sustainable development* and the need for the nations to have a harmonious understanding of it in order to collectively address the challenges of extreme poverty, malnutrition, lack of education and vulnerable sections of our society including women. The report titled 'Our Common Future' was perhaps the first of the one of a kind multi-stakeholder call to accord importance to ecology while working on the economy. The report defined Sustainable Development as the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The Millennium Summit of the UN adopted the 8 Millennium Development Goals, set the tone for sustainable development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and were meant to be achieved by 2015. The MDGs, of which our governments and authorities were chief implementing partners, vitalized the civil society and as well as the private sector by initiating an environment that considered 'sustainable development' as a vehicle of achieving universal socio-economic progress and environmental sustainability. The Rio + 20 conference (Earth Summit 2012) was organized in Rio de Janeiro marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Earth Summit in 1992, with the objectives of securing renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assessing the progress and implementation gaps and addressing new and emerging challenges. 2016 marked the end of the MDG campaign, and the beginning of the global multi-stakeholder partnership among representatives of nations, civil society organizations, local authorities, private sector and the co-operative movement, in the form of the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development promulgated by the UN vide Resolution A/RES/70/1 of 25 September 2015 carrying 17 global goals. The Agenda lists 17 Global Goals and 169 Targets that are set to be achieved by the global community by 2030 through partnership and cooperation under the new UN campaign titled 'The Future We Want'.

The commission on Sustainable Development (that has now transformed into the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development with the advent of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) is now the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and it has a central role in the follow-up and review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The importance of co-operatives as delivery vehicles for achieving its 'Sustainable Development Goals' is recognized by an array of several important international instruments including the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (2016), Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015) that sets a new paradigm for implementation through effective use of financial and non-financial means, by placing domestic action and sound policies on the forefront, the Colombo Declaration on Youth (2014) which is the outcome document of the World Conference on Youth 2014, an event that marked the first-ever sitting together of UN member states and youth representatives toward a jointly negotiated single outcome and the European Consensus on Development (2017) which is the EU's response to the 2030 Agenda and is set to contribute to the achievements of the priorities of the EU Externa Action. In 2012 co-operatives were formally recognized as important civil society actors by the EU, covering areas such as social inclusion and economic empowerment.

**Co-operatives are active in every sector** of the global economy. A key distinguishing feature is that co-operatives create wealth for the many members of co-operatives who engage in co-operative businesses as service users, producers, independent business owners, consumers, and workers, not solely for the few who invest capital in investor-owned enterprises. Co-operatives help counterbalance the massive growth of inequality between the world's rich and poor;

an issue that, if not addressed, has major economic, social, cultural, environmental, and political consequences. The International Statement on Co-operative Identity identifies 'Concern for the Community' as the Seventh Co-operative Principles, that further reads that 'Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members'. The ICA Congress in Tokyo in 1992 discussed the issue of sustainable development as its main theme and passed a Declaration on the environment and Sustainable Development.

When the Alliance celebrated its Centennial Congress in 1995 in Manchester, concern for the environment had reached a significant global level of awareness both within and outside the co-operative movement. the Alliance Congress resolution on sustainable human development reaffirmed its view that co-operatives should ensure that both their institutional performance and their member education programmes gave environmental issues high priority. The Congress also adopted the Concern for Community Principle including environmental protection as a part of the ICA Statement on the Co-operative Identity. This 7th Principle of working for "the sustainable development of their communities" also requires that co-operatives accept responsibility for making a contribution to tackling poverty and wealth inequality, not only between developed and emerging economies, but also the growing wealth inequality in nation states and in the local communities within which co-operatives operate. Co-operatives can consider and develop the capacity they have to make a significant contribution to building civil society by the successful application of this 7th Principle. They do so by contributing to the sustainable development of their local communities and, more widely, to the sustainable development of the national, regional and global communities of which they are part. Engaging members from local communities in co-operative enterprises creates new, engaged and responsible activists who drive the development of the co-operative movement forward into the future but who also, become engaged in a much wider range of progressive organizations.

Co-operatives also have a long history and proud tradition of meeting social needs by delivering services such as health, housing, education, social services, integrating people who are socially disadvantaged into work, and helping community development. In particular, they often play a vital role to serve devastated or depopulating communities through delivering services and encouraging and supporting mutual help among residents. Co-operatives also respond positively to natural disasters, as the international response to the 2004 tsunami coordinated by the Alliance showed. Co-operatives and co-operators have a long tradition of being concerned about and working for peace and social justice. Like the ILO, co-operatives recognize that lasting peace can only be built on social justice and that lasting peace is the essential precondition for the sustainable development of communities locally, nationally, regionally and globally. there are many examples of the commitment of co-operatives and co-operators to peace and stability. Co-operatives should ensure that their commitment to work for the sustainable development of their communities includes a commitment to work for and promote peace and social justice. Co-operative enterprises were the first globally organized group of enterprises to endorse the Sustainable Development Goals. In doing so, they confirmed that the unique nature of their business model and their co-operative values put them in a position to transform the UN's sustainable development commitments into real action to the benefit all people. With more than 2.5 million enterprises and 1.5 billion members, the summit declared that **co-operatives represented more than 250 million jobs and played a key role as creators of quality employment.**

## Conference Structure

Each **thematic session** will feature five resource persons representing co-operatives, CSOs, Governments and International Agencies and the ICA-AP. The **following** working sessions [A., B. and C.] will complement the thematic sessions and will be facilitated by participants from ICA-AP initiatives on co-operatives in development from 2017 and one ICA-AP staff. Findings from the working sessions will be put together to arrive at the outcome document of the conference.

#### A. Policy processes for Sustainable Development Goals

It is evident from the UN declaration of IYC 2012 that co-operatives have gained recognition and position of business model for sustainable development and various other events, studies and researches have proved the co-operative resilience. Co-operatives are recognised by the European Union Development agenda as Civil Society Organisation and the ICA-EU Partnership project-2016 is in force to position co-operatives as development partners in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially in eradicating hunger, inclusion of youth, gender equality and environmental protection and regeneration. Despite its 'legal' presence for over a hundred years, the co-operative model in the Asia Pacific region is yet to fully evolve as an independent, member owned competitive business force that can take on the market leaders and become a household name. The successful ones such as 'AMUL' of the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation in India is a household name, but is rarely known as a co-operative product. Co-operatives continue to struggle with challenging legal and policy environments and competition readiness, even as we are well within the 21<sup>st</sup> century! The ICA-AP is persistent in to facilitate the creation and preservation of an enabling environment for co-operative development, and has created platforms such as the Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers' Conference, Registrars' Conference, Co-operative Forum and others to establish regular policy dialogues and engage in policy processes with relevant stakeholders.

The SDGs have presented an opportunity for co-operatives to become **the** significant partner of all in achieving the SDGs. The ICA-EU Partnership provides additional resources to develop innovative approaches to reach out to the governments and international agencies, civil society and stakeholders to establish effective and a structured political dialogue on **co-operatives in development**. Co-operative movements' collective engagement in political dialogues on development, with clearly defined methodologies and outcomes, can amplify the concern for community principle in the direction of achieving the SDGs. It is equally important to start this by monitoring and participating in relevant policy processes at national, regional and supra –national institutions levels. The policy processes can include and relate to governance, legislations, bye-laws, regulations and operational issues affecting 'co-operative contribution' to the SDGs. **This working session** is designed to bring together all stakeholders to share knowledge, explore synergies and engage in collective advocacy, while working towards a physical platform for development. The working session will include the following policy & advocacy related processes that the ICA-AP is currently engaged to develop, unite and represent co-operatives:

1. European Union Delegation (EUD) country-wise Road Maps
2. Engagement with EUD in terms of sharing information and advocacy of EU development agenda
3. Developments in legal and policy environments affecting Alliance members with impact on co-ops
4. High Level Political Forum for the SDGs and the related National Voluntary Reviews
5. Implementation of the Hanoi Resolutions of the 10<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference (APCMC)-

2017, Hanoi, Vietnam.

6. Consolidation and taking forward the outcomes of 3 CDMs conducted in Jordan, Philippines and Mongolia, as well as other ICA-AP initiatives on development in 2017 as well as the Pledges made on [www.coopsfor2030.coop](http://www.coopsfor2030.coop)

### Session Objectives

- To share information and sensitise members on benefits of creating multi-stakeholder policy dialogues and participating in policy processes.
- Contribution of members and stakeholders in participating in continuous monitoring of policies, laws and regulations to create and sustain an enabling legal and policy environment, for development and growth of co-operatives as important stakeholders in the 21<sup>st</sup> century development process.

### Session Output

- Method to establish regular exchange of information and input from members and stakeholders on policy processes taking place in the region.
- Organising policy related events by members to create policy dialogue and monitoring processes at national and local level.

### B. The Future of Co-operatives is Young

The Asia-Pacific region contains 60 per cent of the world's youth population, or 750 million young persons aged 15 to 24 years. Despite benefitting from the region's progress in social and economic indicators, the Asia-Pacific youth face significant struggles in the transition period from education to gainful employment.<sup>1</sup> Dips in the economies as well as their slow recovery has further damaged employment options for the youth.

It is the need of the hour to harness the energies, ideas and sense of enterprise which the youth bring to the table. Despite national and international initiatives, the youth struggle to find their voice, decent employment options, as well as means to empower themselves and those around them. Co-operatives have displayed a long-standing proof of stability and entrepreneurship in the world of work. Guided by the seven principles, co-operatives offer a unique solution for the youth, which can help them earn a respectable livelihood, convert their business ideas into reality, and contribute to the welfare of their communities. Campus co-operatives that usually function as consumer stores or multi-purpose co-ops within the campuses of schools, colleges and universities have students, teachers and staff as members and are a unique feature of the co-operative movement of many countries around the world. These students led and faculty guided co-operative enterprises serve the needs of the campus community, facilitate student support, provide educational guidance to students and importantly, make ethical entrepreneurs of the young people.

The ICA-AP has included youth as an important focal group to work with, through initiatives like the Committee on Youth Co-operation, the AP Co-operative Youth Summit, Workshops on Campus Co-

---

<sup>1</sup><http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-regional-escap.pdf>

operatives etc. The ICA Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade, specifically addresses the need to directly focus on youth, and to explore mechanisms for forming and maintaining relationships. It recognizes the need to offer a genuine welcome to youth within the co-operative movement. Additionally, ICA emphasized the need for 'inclusion of youth for inter-generational sustainability' during the 9<sup>th</sup> ICA-AP Co-operative Forum, held during the 2016 ICA-AP Regional Assembly in New Delhi, India.

#### Session Objectives

- Enhance youth engagement in co-operatives, support it with favorable policies, and further the awareness of youth on the co-operative enterprise model by mainstreaming youth in co-operatives.
- Provide youth the means to quality employment and entrepreneurship.
- Encourage youth to carry out research on co-operatives, form school and university co-operatives, and educate others on the values and principles that drive co-operative enterprises.

#### Session Outputs

- Highlight the current presence of youth in the co-operative movement in Asia-Pacific.
- Suggest how youth can be mainstreamed in co-operatives
- Providing a road-map for better coordination between multi-stakeholders to influence national and international policies that highlight co-operatives as a vehicle for youth empowerment

#### C. Exploring work and ownership structure in co-operatives

The emergence of the knowledge economy in the recent years, fueled by innovations in technology and communications, also paved way for increasing the integration of economies across the world. The reducing trade barriers that emanated from the liberalization of economies and the emergence of trade treaties helped large scale producers to effectively exploit the demand in the local markets which were conventionally served by the local domestic production units. The gold rush to realize the fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid, also created new products and services affordable to the masses with limited income levels. While this process has enhanced the choices for consumers, it also threatened the many domestic industries which do not enjoy such economies of scale. Hence it is necessary to develop new innovative strategies to ensure growth and development of production units which provide large scale employment and form the backbone of many of the developing economies.

The need for revisiting the concept of co-operatives which promotes self-governing social production mechanism as a viable alternative to private production houses becomes relevant in this context. During the last 170<sup>2</sup> years, co-operatives across the world have evolved to address the challenge. Through collective pooling of resources co-operatives provide a viable mechanism not only to enhance the scale of production but also to create viable marketing channels which can appropriately position the products and services from the decentralized units which enjoy economies of scope. Conventionally, co-operatives focused on creating joint enterprises that could

---

<sup>2</sup> Even though co-operatives existed even in 15th century, the beginning of modern co-operative movement is considered to be from 1844, when Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers established Rochdale Principles as the basis for growth and development

compete with large scale production units by pooling the efforts of their members. However, with globalization the competition is becoming intense, questioning the viability of such collaborative units. To survive and grow in this market, it is necessary that the joint production units should focus on moving further up in the value chain by getting involved in financing, marketing and brand development activities. The collective movement as a viable form of alternative business model for sustainability and growth of economies needs to be explored in depth. This forms the context for exploring work and ownership structure in co-operatives.

### Session Objective & Output

There exists a desperate need to classify, identify and map various co-operative actors in the region that work or can work under the global understanding of platforms, free-lancers, employee-owned, industrial, artisanal and service-provider co-operatives and that on workers and social co-operatives. In the same vein, democracies around the developing region of Asia and Pacific can learn from the experiences of European (Italian Social Co-operatives), Japanese and Korean (Rep.) social co-operatives and from the workers movements in Latin America such as the ones in Argentina, among others, to really build a better world. There are several success stories of viable co-operatives across the globe.

This session makes an attempt to assimilate the learnings from many of them. The papers presented in these proceedings shall provide a rich mix of theoretical and practitioner perspectives on the challenges faced by the co-operative movement in the new world order and provide a panorama of international experiences. The ensuing discussions will focus on the idea, evolution, challenges and innovations in the co-operative movement and world of work over the last 200 years.

### Asia Pacific Development Meeting

The Asia Pacific Development Meeting will be organized as part of the Asia Pacific Development Conference in Sri Lanka, Colombo, in two legs on 27 and 28 February 2018.

The main objective of the meeting is to get together the findings of the conference and its working sessions and provide a platform for development-stakeholders, especially Alliance members from the Asia Pacific region to join efforts in building a secure, sustainable and resilient society, by creating a network of like-minded representatives of organizations. In other words, to promote concerted action of co-operatives towards international development through collective action and research. The major outcome expected from the APDM is to foster institutional development-partnership among Alliance members, and friends of the co-operative movement, and to create a platform for the committed-members to identify development needs, prepare responses and implement solutions based interventions and projects in the Asia Pacific region while complementing the global effort by the ICA on international development.

The roots of Co-operative Development Meetings can be traced to the International Summit of Co-operatives in 2016 in Quebec, Canada. The ICA and the US Overseas Development Council jointly organized the global co-operative development meeting, under the mandate of the development partnership, on the theme: Co-operatives and International Development: How can Co-operatives and mutuals do more and better together? The key areas of deliberation during the meeting were:

Acknowledging socio-economic and geopolitical global trends and challenges; Increasing our capacity to act – adapting to the new business reality; Expanding our economic power – sectoral challenges and business opportunities; Co-operatives in action to reach the SDGs. The meeting representatives are expected to commit to furthering the concept of co-operatives in development with support from the ICA-AP.

### About the Organizers

#### **ICA Asia and Pacific and the EU partnership**

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA, Alliance), established in 1895 and currently headquartered in Brussels (Belgium) is the global umbrella organization that represents, unites and develops co-operatives across diverse sectors of economy influencing 1 in every almost 7 humans on this planet. The ICA represents 300 plus apex level federations and leading sectoral co-operative enterprises from over 100 countries. ICA Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), the regional arm of the Alliance was established in 1960 in New Delhi (India), services 98 Alliance members from 30 countries in Asia and the Pacific. The ICA-AP regional board comprises of 11 elected members nominated by national co-operative movements across the region, and 1 co-opted member each from the Asia-Pacific Committees on Youth, and on Women. ICA is the custodian of the International Co-operative Identity Statement (Definition of Co-operatives, Values and the 7 Principles). In March 2016, the ICA and the European Union signed a [Framework Partnership Agreement](#) to implement a development programme aimed at benefitting and advancing co-operatives worldwide. The ICA-AP implements the programme in collaboration with Alliance members and partnerships with co-operative actors in the region. The ICA-EU partnership is envisioned to strengthen the institutional aspects of the Alliance viz. members and movements across the world.

#### **Kotikawatta Thrift and Credit Coop Society Ltd (KTCCS)**

KTCCS was launched during the year 1992 with 11 members and an initial capital of Rs. 6,500.00. During initial stage, KTCCS was a small micro credit and savings program. Later they started with microloans to impoverished borrowers. Currently KTCCS is a multiple service provider for the members in particular and the community in general establishing a number of non-banking services in areas of education, leisure and recreation, real estate, food & catering services.

#### **Federation of Thrift & Credit Co-operative Societies Ltd. [SANASA]**

SANASA is the Sinhala acronym for the movement of Thrift and Credit Cooperative Societies in Sri Lanka. SANASA is the only micro finance cooperative net work in Sri Lanka covering all provinces with 8,424 primary societies. The core services of a SANASA Primary Societies are: promotion of thrift habit among the membership; enhancement of productivity and reduction of unemployment; use of funds mobilized, for mainly micro credit; preparation of the SANASA primary societies to adopt IT technology and appropriate techniques; developing human capacity at grass root level; and partner in National Development.

#### **National Institute of Co-operative Development [NICD]**

The School of Cooperation, which existed for 55 years until the dawn of the new millennium was restructured as the National Institute of Cooperative Development with the objectives of providing a new educational approach, enriched with new strategies and methodology with potentiality to face globalization by being deviated from the traditional system of cooperative education prevailed till then.

The National Institute of Cooperative Development was established by Act No.01 of 2001 to function as far as institution free from obligations to the state maintaining its autonomy so that the cooperative movement and cooperative education can face the challenges of globalization.

#### **National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka [NCCSL]**

The National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka [NCC/SL] is the apex cooperative organisation and is an umbrella organisation of the entire Movement. As a member of the ICA, the NCC/SL acts as the spokesman of the Movement both within and outside the country. The NCC carries out education and training activities through its district councils, education centres and regional training centres. The National Institute of Cooperative Development, Polgolla, a government institution, has been incorporated with International Co-operative Training Institute and Centre for Human Resources Development as an institute for education and training. The NCC offers mainly two training programmes – Co-operative General Certificate Course and Co-operative National Higher Course.

#### **Consumer Co-operative Societies Federation of Sri Lanka Ltd. [Coopfed]**

The Sri Lanka Consumer Cooperative Societies Federation Ltd was registered on 15 September 1989 as the apex Federation of the Consumer Cooperative Movement in Sri Lanka and commenced its business operations on 7 March 1990. The need for an organization at the center to assist the Consumer Cooperative Societies was felt and establish the Cooperative Federation with the contribution of the state. Its main purpose is to supply the consumer requirements of the member Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies throughout in Sri Lanka. The COOPFED has gone further by setting up of opening self-service shops in urban & rural areas and welfare shops in government offices and schools.

---

<sup>i</sup> In March 2016, the ICA and the EU signed a Global Framework Partnership Agreement to implement a multi country development project titled – Co-operatives in Development (People Centered Businesses in Action) or #coops4dev🌐 in social media. The project is to run until 31 August 2020 and aims to bring the co-operative model to the next level within international development policies and programs. It is built around activities focused on increasing visibility, enhancing advocacy, sharing capacity building, strengthening co-operative development networking, and supporting all these with evidence from exhaustive research. Acting as partners, the regional and global offices of the ICA are driving the actions, in collaboration with members, civil society organizations, international institutions and the EU.

<sup>ii</sup> Gro Harlem Brundtland, 1987 [Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future](#), "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

<sup>iii</sup> Virginia Greigman, 2011 [Guide on International Development: Public Service Careers and Opportunities](#), www.Harvard.edu "International Development...encompasses a broad range of disciplines and endeavours to improve the quality of life of people around the world. It includes both economic and social development and encompasses many issues such as humanitarian and foreign aid, poverty alleviation, the rule of law and governance, food and water security, capacity building, healthcare and education, women and children's rights, disaster preparedness, infrastructure, and sustainability."