

# Call for Applications

#coops4dev 

## ICAPAP 2.0

SOLVING PROBLEMS OF COOPERATIVES THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

29TH JANUARY, 2019 - NCUI, NEW DELHI - WWW.ICAPAP.COOP

### BACKGROUND

*“The Fourth Industrial Revolution, finally, will change not only what we do but also who we are. It will affect our identity and all the issues associated with it: our sense of privacy, our notions of ownership, our consumption patterns, the time we devote to work and leisure, and how we develop our careers, cultivate our skills, meet people, and nurture relationships.”*

*Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum*

The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) is changing how we live, work, and communicate.<sup>1</sup> It’s reshaping government, education, healthcare, and commerce—almost every aspect of life. Through increasingly powerful computing devices and networks, digital services, and mobile devices, access to quality education and information can become a reality for people around the world, including those in underdeveloped countries. Online shopping and delivery services—including by drone—are already redefining convenience and the retail experience. The ease of delivery can transform communities, even in remote places, and jumpstart the economies of small or rural areas. Digital technology can liberate workers from automatable tasks, freeing them to concentrate on addressing more complex business issues and giving them more autonomy. It can also provide workers with radically new tools and insights to design more creative solutions to previously insurmountable problems.

World leaders met in Davos in January, 2016 for the World Economic Forum, where co-operatives were represented by the International Co-operative Alliance. The theme of the Forum was ‘The Fourth Industrial Revolution’, inspired by a publication with the same title by Prof. Klaus Schwab. He describes a future that works for all “by putting people first and empowering them”. Today’s decision makers, he argues, are too often trapped in traditional, linear thinking and sometimes fail to think strategically about “the forces of disruption and innovation shaping our future”. A report<sup>2</sup> presented at the forum forecasts that 50% of today’s jobs could be lost as a result of artificial intelligence and robotics. Delegates also looked at how technological developments such as the sharing, collaborative economy create new notions of ownership.

#### The Role of Co-operatives

*“... a merging of the Platform organization and the Co-operative form of organization makes a lot of sense. The emerging sharing and gig economies have a lot of strengths.”*

*Nobel laureate Prof. Michael Spence, Stern School of Business at New York University*

<sup>1</sup><https://trailhead.salesforce.com/en/content/learn/modules/impacts-of-the-fourth-industrial-revolution/understand-the-impact-of-the-fourth-industrial-revolution-on-society-and-individuals>

<sup>2</sup>[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_Future\\_of\\_Jobs.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Future_of_Jobs.pdf)

Co-operative enterprise, with its unique take on governance and values, can contribute to putting people before profit in the Fourth Revolution. It can contribute to 4IR by helping to regulate work in the “gig economy”, an environment dominated by contracts between organisations and independent workers for short-term engagements. The gig economy includes crowd-work and work-on-demand via apps.

The challenges<sup>3</sup> are, for one – the workers become invisible. When we stream a movie online, the site will recommend another movie we may like. This recommendation is based on information supplied by workers who have hand-tagged TV shows and film for content, based on their knowledge. There is a worker behind the computer. The question is - is this person benefiting from prevailing labour laws? A second challenge is the misclassification of employment status. Many online platforms are quick to dismiss any responsibility as employers, categorising these workers as independent contractors. The rise in the number of disputes and litigations on this issue indicates the need for responses. Workers have little recourse if their work is rejected by the ‘client’, inviting wage theft. Workers are ‘unlisted’ (or in practice, dismissed). Offering work on the market within the frame of a co-operative formalises: the co-operative provides a legal basis, which is flexible enough to encourage entrepreneurs.

The co-operative statute allows to employ as well as to be employed. A co-operative statute also comes with a set of ethical obligations - of which giving back to community is one, fostering sustainable and socially responsible economic activity. 4IR will only succeed if people's rights are respected, thus creating greater equality. Co-operatives are part of the solution - technology can be the oil in the motor, but co-ops can truly drive the Fourth Revolution.

## OBJECTIVES OF COOPATHON 2.0

The [pilot edition of Coopathon](#) in April 2018 saw over 100+ young students from across the southern Indian states compete at the country's premier institute - Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode.

With a vision to highlight the role of co-operatives in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, ICA Asia and Pacific is organising Coopathon 2.0 to source sustainable, innovative and technologically-enabled solutions to address various challenges in the co-operative sector. Coopathon 2.0 is a nationwide initiative in India to provide youth with a platform to solve some of pressing problems that co-operatives face in their daily operations, inculcate a culture of innovation and problem solving and in the process, expose them to the values-based form of enterprise model. At Coopathon 2.0, the participants would now have the opportunity to work on challenges faced by the national cooperative movement and create solutions for some of the top co-operatives in the region, thus helping the sector to hire the best minds from across the nation.

## INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

### Eligibility Criteria

- Individuals/organizations working with community organizations, social movements, lawyers, journalists, researchers, urban local bodies, government officials, research students, social workers, elected peoples' representatives working on issues and concerns pertaining to development are encouraged to apply.
- Participants are expected to be comfortable with communication in the English/Hindi language.
- Participants have to compulsorily stay in the provided facility for the entire duration of the Coopathon.

### Logistics

**Accommodation:** Will be arranged at the venue by the organizers on twin/triple sharing basis.

**Food:** Simple food will be provided to all participants.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ica.coop/en/media/news/world-economic-forum-special-co-ops-drive-4th-revolution>

**Costs:** Participants are expected to bring their own computing systems (laptops, tablets etc.) Boarding and lodging will be taken care of by the organizers, including overhead costs pertaining to the activity such as stationery, reading materials etc.

*Travel to the venue:* Participants are expected to take care of their travel from their respective locations to and from the venue. A few need-based travel scholarships are available. If you wish to avail of it, please state your reasons clearly in the application form. However, the organisers do not guarantee the scholarship for all applicants.

The jury will comprise the top policy-makers, incubators and co-operators focused on solutions for the Indian co-operative movement in the social and solidarity economy. The mentors and jury for the Coopathon include:

- Mr. G. V. Krishnagopal (Chief Executive Officer, ALC India)
- Dr. Harekrishna Misra (Board Member, National Council for Co-operative Training)
- Mr. Debashish Goswami (Vice President, National Payments Corporation of India)

The winners will be announced during the Closing Plenary of Young Development Professional's Meeting, which is to be organised by the ICA Asia and Pacific on January 30, 2019 at in New Delhi.

## Certificate of Participation

A "Certificate of Participation" will be awarded to all participants upon successful completion of the event

## APPLICATION PROCESS

**PLEASE FIND THE APPLICATION FORM AT THE END OF THIS CALL.**

You have to fill up the application form such that it reaches us latest by 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019, midnight IST.

For queries, contact:

Mr. Ivjyot Singh

Email: [ivjyot.singh@icaap.coop](mailto:ivjyot.singh@icaap.coop)

Mobile: +91 8360832149

## On behalf of the organizers,

			
			
			

## International Co-operative Alliance Asia and Pacific

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) is an independent, non-governmental organisation established in 1895 to unite, represent and serve co-operatives worldwide. It provides a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and co-ordinated action for and about co-operatives. ICA's members are international and national co-operative organisations from all sectors of the economy, including agriculture, banking,

consumer, fisheries, health, housing, insurance, and industry & services. It helps members develop business relationships and partnerships with members as well as convenes co-operative knowledge, information and guidance through capacity building programmes, technical exchange, and increasing access to co-operatives related information.

The ICA Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) was established in 1960 in New Delhi as the regional office and education centre. The ICA-AP serves 104 organizations from 32 countries (as of December 2018) in the region. In March 2016, the ICA entered into a partnership with the European Commission, ushering in a new phase of collaboration on strengthening the co-operative movement as development actors. The ICA-EU partnership 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.

**CLICK [HERE](#) FOR APPLICATION FORM**

**LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS | 20 JANUARY, 2019**