

The Asia Pacific Co-operative Youth Statement 2016

Road to 2030: Co-operatives for Sustainable Development

Adopted on 23 September 2016 in Bali (Indonesia)

Preamble

We, the participant-representatives of youth and co-operative movements from 17 countries and 5 continents in particular, and the International Co-operative Alliance in general, having met at the Zizz Convention Hotel, Bali, Indonesia on 23 September 2016 for the Youth Panel on Co-operative policy under the aegis of the ICA Asia and Pacific and the EU Project on Co-operatives in Development;

While taking note of the discussions during the Asia Pacific Co-operative Youth Summit from 19-22 September 2016 in Bali, Indonesia on Youth, co-operatives and the power of innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as the mention of co-operatives as an alternative model of enterprise to be promoted for youth mainstreaming in the post 2015 agenda by the Colombo Declaration on Youth 2014 adopted on 10 May 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka;

Realize that youth, comprising of half of the global population worldwide with Asia Pacific containing 60% of the global youth population, has to play a defining role in the development of co-operatives in the 21st century and,

Recognize the power of co-operatives to act towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals passed by the UN General Assembly in September 2015 by 2030 with support from various stakeholders of the co-operative movement in line with the ICA Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade, adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance in 2012-2013.

In this regard, we the participant-representatives adopt this statement for action, as the instrument that shall guide our actions towards youth and co-operative development until the next co-operative youth summit.

Statement for Action

We, the youth participant-representatives from Asia and Pacific,

Urge various stakeholders of the co-operative movement including co-operative federations and unions, individual and institutional co-operative members and governments of various countries and their agencies concerned with youth and co-operative enterprises to:



1. Enhance youth engagement in co-operatives and further the awareness of youth on the co-operative enterprise model by mainstreaming youth in co-operative movements worldwide.
2. Ensure youth become advocates for gender equality in and outside the co-operative movements to build an equitable society.
3. Create an enabling employment environment for youth to be engaged in work driven by passion and empathy towards others as well as co-operative values and principles, rather than competition and profiteering.
4. Increase the participation of youth in co-operative management and leadership boards to affect inclusion and to prepare youth for the future of co-operatives that have sustainable development at their core.
5. Encourage
 - a. Youth to carry out research on co-operatives and like organizations to build a stronger and resilient co-operative economy globally and document the same,
 - b. The formation of school and university co-operatives to include young persons in the co-operative fraternity from an early age to build robust co-operative movements,
 - c. Youth to re-educate others on the values and principles that drive co-operative enterprises and further encourage youth to identify and spread the message about the co-operative difference.
6. Advocate For
 - a. International, regional, national and local youth development programmes through co-operatives to sensitize youth on skills and ethical and value based entrepreneurship along with exchange programmes and apprenticeship for youth,
 - b. Efficient use of technology and resources to help spread the message of co-operatives and the co-operative identity to a wider section of the society at large,
 - c. Essential education through co-operatives on the following
 - (i) Life under water and on land,
 - (ii) Rights of young persons,
 - (iii) Sexual education especially for the vulnerable section of the society ,
 - (iv) Responsible consumerism by youth,
 - d. Inclusion of indigenous persons in the co-operative fraternity by setting up specialised incubators managed by youth at a local level.
 - e. Partnerships among organizations working in the interest of youth and co-operatives globally,



- f. A just and peaceful society by implementation and practice of values and principles of co-operation.

end

