

Call for Research Partners

Research on Exploring Work and Ownership Structures in Co-operatives in the Asia Pacific

March 2018 – February 2019

Background

The Asia Pacific Unit of the ICA-EU Partnership on Co-operatives in Development (People Centered Businesses in Action), has three main strategic priorities in implementation of the program. 1.) Youth Inclusion 2.) Participation of Co-operatives in SDGs and 3.) Work & Ownership in Co-operatives.

This Call is to seek interest from potential partners (organizations and experts), for the Asia Pacific Research on **Work & Ownership** in Co-operatives. The research publication is envisioned to be completed with the active participation and chapter contributions from (and not limited to) the stakeholders & participants from ICA-AP's consultations on worker co-operatives in 2016 in India ([August](#) & [November](#) 2016). The main goals of the research are to draw up the status of industrial and service co-operatives, and in the process map **Work** based co-operatives or industrial and service co-operatives (ISC) in Asia and Pacific and highlight the legal environment they operate in, as well as describe the various forms of prevailing co-operative **Ownership** structures. This dual exercise of *a.) Statistical evidence collection of ISC & analysis of their Legal Frames and, b.) Review of ownership structures, and rights & protections provided to workers members in such ISCs*. The publication will be carried in a collaborative manner with contributions sought in the form of on country/area specific reports authored by interested institutions and individuals.

Research Project Objectives

The research project aims at

- Identifying different forms of co-operatives in industrial and service sectors in the Asia-Pacific region
- Understanding different aspects of the co-operatives, particularly different forms of work and employment, and ownership and governance structures
- Understanding institutional settings and eco-systems around the co-operatives
- Identifying various issues around the co-operatives, such as contributions, difficulties, challenges and measures for development and promotion
- Producing a report which would propose a common conceptual framework allowing different forms of cooperatives in each country to be translated into an internationally agreed upon concepts

Research target

The main target of the present research project is **cooperatives in industrial and service sectors of which principal objective is to serve members' employment or business activities**. They are generally known with different names of types, such as worker co-operative, social co-operative, labour (contract) co-

operative, artisans' co-operative, self-employed producers' co-operative, enterprise co-operative etc.¹ They are also included in broader typologies defined with economic activities, such as transport cooperative, mining co-operative, health co-operative, education co-operative, industrial co-operative, service co-operative, and so forth. It is also possible that research targets would not have legal status of cooperatives according to national contexts.²

However, the purpose of research is not to translate different realities immediately into these existing concepts but to understand diversity of their realities in the Asia-Pacific region and to construct a common conceptual framework which would allow to translate them into more general concept without losing regional and national specificities. Therefore, the research project will start by identifying research targets in countries on which partners will work and develop analysis on them.

Main activities and deliverables

The project will be composed of four stages resulting in specific deliverables. For detailed methods in each stage, see the Methodology note.

Stage 1 – Call for partners and agreement on types of co-operatives to be studied

- Following the present call for partners, partners will join the project by submitting a general description on research targets in their country.
- The first deadline of submission is by 10 May 2018.
- Provisional synthesis of the identification of research target types will be presented during a meeting with partners who will attend the [International Conference on Co-operatives in the Changing World of Work](#).
- A synthesis report on the identification of research target types will be produced in mid-May.

Stage 2 – Context analysis and critical analysis on organizational models

- Some or all of agreed upon target types will be analysed with two analytical frameworks: context and organizational model. Questionnaires will be used for facilitating collaboration between research coordinators and partners.
- This stage of work will be conducted from May to June 2018.
- An intermediary report on national contexts and organizational models will be produced as the result of the second stage of project in August.

Stage 3 – Case studies

- Based on the results from stage 1 and 2, research coordinators and partners will make an agreement on cases to be studied. The cases will be varied. They might be a study on an individual co-operative, on specific legislation, on specific public policy etc. The number of cases will be also varied according to national contexts. The selection of cases and the way of writing case studies will be discussed before June 2018.

Stage 4 – Production of a final report

¹ In other words, they are not producer co-operatives in the primary sectors, such as agricultural cooperative, fishery cooperative. They are neither cooperatives serving members' individual consumption, such as financial cooperatives and consumer co-operatives.

² For example, worker co-operatives and workers' collectives in Japan, participatory enterprises in India, self-sufficiency enterprises in South Korea.

- The results of all stages of work will be synthesized in a form of final report. The draft written by research coordinators will be consulted with partners.
- The final report will be composed of 1) proposition of a common conceptual framework, 2) context analysis and 3) case studies. This report will be presented and discussed in November, during the Regional assembly of the ICA-AP. The final report will be officially published in reflecting discussions at the beginning of 2019.

Division of work and expected roles

Research coordinators

Hyungsik Eum (Data Analyst) CICOPA, and Mr. Mohit Dave (Research Officer) and Mr. P. Santosh Kumar (Program Manager) from ICA-AP will serve as coordinators to lead and facilitate the research project and collaboration with partners.

Partners

Although a priority will be put on ICA members, this project is also open to all kinds of stakeholders who have interest in promoting cooperatives in industrial and service sectors, particularly with the models of worker cooperative et social cooperative. The categories of potential partners are as followings.

- CICOPA members in Asia-Pacific – JWCU (Japan), KFWC (South Korea), ACFHIC, ICCIC (China), VCA (Vietnam), ULCCS and SEWA Coop federation (India)
- ICA AP members which are interested in promoting cooperatives in industrial and service sectors
- Research institutes and individual researchers
- Public authorities in charge of cooperatives
- Individual cooperatives, NGOs, consulting organizations and others.

Partners' participation will be on **voluntary basis**. All selected co-authors will be awarded a certificate of appreciation from the ICA-AP and the CICOPA. Remuneration for local costs (per actuals) like taxi and food incurred during research period may be considered for reimbursement.

Expected roles

Research coordinators will lead all research activities by

- Producing questionnaires and instructions
- Helping partners to produce information and data
- Animating exchanges with and/or among partners
- Analysing information and data provided by partners
- Writing synthesis texts
- Producing the final report

Partners will work with research coordinators by

- Producing information and data requested by research coordinators
- Answering questionnaires
- Participating actively in exchanges with RCs and other partners
- Examining synthesis texts and the final report produced by RCs

Time plan

	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Stage 1										
Call for partners										
Int. conference on coop and work										
Synthesis report on target types										
Stage 2										
Survey with questionnaires										
Analysis and production of synthesis report on context analysis and organizational models										
Stage 3										
Selection of cases										
Production of case studies										
Stage 4										
Production of final report										
ICA-AP regional assembly										
Publication of report										

Practical information

Interested institutions, organisations and individuals may please send a *general description* (can be found in the methodological note) on potential target types of co-operative in their countries by 10 May 2018 with the signed ToR (Annex 1) for research partnership to Mr. Hyungsik Eum, CICOPA eum@cocopa.coop. You may raise related queries to Mr. Mohit Dave, ICA-AP Mohit/Dave@icaap.coop or Mr. Santosh Kumar, ICA-AP Santosh.Kumar@icaap.coop.

Sample MoU for Partnership on ICA-AP/CICOPA Research on Exploring Work & Ownership in Co-operatives

“Cooperatives in Development – People-centred Businesses in Action”

Signed on _____

by ICA Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) through its Regional Director
and _____ through _____

1. The present MoU is in line with the Framework Partnership Agreement “Cooperatives in Development – People-centred Businesses in Action”, contract DCI-NSA/2015/371-375 between the International Co-operative Alliance and the European Commission, to which ICA Asia and Pacific (Called hereafter as “ICA-AP”) is co-signatory. The present MoU is signed by the ICA Asia and Pacific, New Delhi represented **AND** _____
2. This is an agreement between ICA-AP and the _____ for the latter to support the ICA-AP Unit of the ICA-EU Partnership on Co-operatives in Development, as a **Voluntary Co-operative Expert on the Research on Exploring Work & Ownership in Co-operatives in Asia and Pacific.**
3. In order to successfully participate in the process of contributing to the captioned research, _____ will
 - a) Producing information and data requested by research coordinators
 - b) Answering questionnaires
 - c) Participating actively in exchanges with Research Coordinators and other partners
 - d) Examining synthesis texts and the final report produced by RCs

Name
Date

Name
Date