

Press Release

Asia Pacific Co-operative Youth Summit 2.0

August 18-21, 2018 | Cebu, The Philippines

17 August 2018, Cebu, The Philippines: ICA Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) and its members in the Philippines¹, with support from the ICA-EU Partnership², are organizing the second edition of the Asia Pacific Co-operative Youth Summit (#CoopYouthSummit) from August 18-21, 2018 in Cebu, the Philippines. The theme of the Second Summit is, 'Creative Skills, Co-operative Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development.' The Summit has been envisioned to be a combination of talks by youth leaders & *cooperators* in and outside the Asia-Pacific region; experiential Learning & outdoor activities to promote spirit of solidarity midst the participating youth and an ideas-contest called Coop-Pitch. The Co-operative/Coop Pitch is a unique co-operative enterprise ideas competition, where young & aspiring co-operative entrepreneurs pitch their dream co-operative enterprise ideas, and are judged on the basis of viability, sustainability and innovation of the enterprise and their alignment with co-operative principles and values. Shortlisted teams have been connected with young experts who will mentor and help the teams pitch to the panel of judges!

The first youth summit was organized in collaboration with co-operatives in Indonesia in Bali, on the theme Youth, Co-operatives and the Power of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and witnessed the participation of around 100 young persons from 17 countries. An exciting point to note for this year's Summit is that the first venue, Lamac Multipurpose Co-operative, is home to the winners of the first Coop Pitch; Justine Limocon & Kevin Palson for their idea of Youth Engagement in Organic Farm Tourism. A symbolic gesture to inspire our young delegates with a concrete example of dreams turning to reality!

The Second Summit will witness participation by 140+ delegates coming from 16 countries. The keynote address will be delivered by the 11 year old Zoe Clavel who studies at the SPED Integrated School for Exceptional Children, Iloilo, The Philippines and is also a member of the NATCCO-Aflatoun Network, an inspiring partnership that instills valuable financial skills and literacy amongst children.

Our line-up of Speakers this year is equally enthusing where we have Cebu's Chocolate Queen, Ms. Raquel Choa, and one of India's pioneers in co-operative Bee-keeping, Ms. Kanupriya Saigal, who trains rural and economically weak women through her socially conscious start-up, Bee Positive, amongst other young, vibrant co-operators from Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Bhutan, France, Kenya and others who will be sharing their awe-inspiring journeys of entrepreneurship & leadership and efforts to popularize the co-operative enterprise model. We're also delighted to share that the delegates will be graciously hosted by the Mayor of Pinamungajan, Hon. Glenn F. Baricuatro as part of the Welcome Dinner on August 17, and by the Cebu City Governor, Hon. Hilario Davide on August 20, and will be graced by the presence of Mr. Balasubramian Iyer, ICA Regional Director (Asia and Pacific)

The happenings at the Summit can be tracked through ICA-AP's social media channels by following the hashtags #YouthSummit, #CoopYouthSummit and #coops4dev.

The ICA Asia and Pacific, established in 1960 and seated in New Delhi (India) is the regional representative of the ICA global confederation of co-operatives established in 1895 and currently headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. In March 2016, the ICA and the European Union signed a

¹ Philippines Cooperative Center, National Confederation of Co-operatives, VICTO National, AIM COOP, Union of Legitimate Service Co-operatives, MASS-SPEC, FPSDC, Cooperative Development Authority,

² ICA-EU Partnership on Co-operatives in Development: People-centred Businesses in Action

partnership agreement to implement a 54 month project on co-operatives in development: people centered businesses in action or #coops4dev on social media.