



# Weekly Digest

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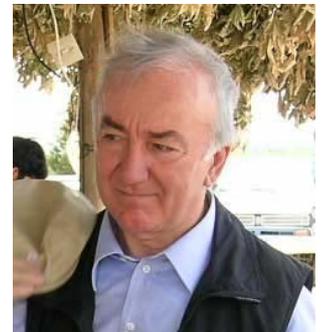
## Editorial

Welcome to the thirty-fifth issue of the Weekly Digest. This week we focus again, at length on the Asian tsunami. Since we first reported on the tragedy in [Weekly Digest 33](#), further developments have occurred. As you will see from reports this week, the international co-operative movement has responded very quickly and generously. The focus has now turned to reconstruction.

This issue is in three parts. Firstly, we report on the ICA’s response to the tsunami. Secondly, starting at page 4 we included reports from members and others on the situation in the affected countries. Finally, from page 9, we provide more details of the numerous appeals, donations and other activities co-operatives are undertaking to assist the victims of the tsunami. We hope you find this information useful.

## ICA President Congratulates Co-ops on Outstanding Display of Solidarity

Ivano Barberini, ICA President, (*photo opposite*) has congratulated the international co-operative movement on their response to the devastating Tsunami. “I made an appeal for international solidarity on 30 December,” he said. “Since then numerous co-operatives throughout the world have established relief and reconstruction funds to help the victims of the tsunami.



“I am not surprised by this generosity as the co-operative movement has a long history of global solidarity. I have also been impressed by how quickly and effectively ICA members in the affected countries have responded, for example in setting up national coordination mechanisms.

“I think the ICA has been right in taking a lead on this issue. We must however, now look to the future. This issue of the digest outlines our current activities with its emphasis on coordination and long-term reconstruction. I would encourage all our members and other co-operatives throughout the world to join with us in this next stage of assisting the victims of the tsunami.”

## ICA Focus - Coordination and Reconstruction

The ICA’s focus is now on coordinating information about the reconstruction in affected countries.

To ensure that co-operatives in such countries receive attention, Iain Macdonald, ICA Director-General has sent a letter to the 19 ICA member organisations in those countries asking for more information on their needs. “This is part of our commitment to ensuring that all our members are assisted in whatever way possible,” he said. *Photo courtesy of CHF shows CHF assessment teams in Sri Lanka)*



## Coordination at Global and Local Level

Since the tsunami struck the countries of Asia and Africa, the ICA has carried out the following activities on behalf of its members. It established a Global Tsunami Appeal, which will use funds raised to assist in the assessment of needs and towards sustainable reconstruction of affected co-operatives. The fund has now reached almost CHF 190,000 (*see separate item*). We also appointed Gabriella Sozanski, [sozanski@ica.coop](mailto:sozanski@ica.coop) (*see photo*) the ICA's Director of Knowledge Management, to coordinate our global relief efforts. Our co-ordination role involves the following activities:



- Collecting and maintaining a database of information in ICA Head Office of both affected countries and the large number of donor co-operatives
- Distributing this information regularly through the Weekly Digest
- Collating and analysing assessments of damage and reconstruction needs made by international co-operative organisations and other ICA stakeholders
- Helping to identify co-operatives which need assistance in affected countries
- Consultation with the national co-coordinating bodies of the affected countries
  - Proposing project ideas for longer-term reconstruction based on an overall assessment of needs



To help in these processes the ICA has engaged Dr Robby Tulus, (*see photo*) to be its on the ground coordinator in the affected countries. Robby Tulus is a former ICA Regional Director for Asia Pacific. He will be working closely with the ICA Regional Office and its Director, Shil Kwan Lee and our global Tsunami Coordinator, Gabriella Sozanski. Dr Tulus will specifically be working on developing and implementing a longer-term post-tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction programme.

## Coordination Key Theme of Joint Agencies Meetings

The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of co-op development agencies involved in development was held in Berlin on 19/20 January 2005. This was an important meeting because all participants agreed to pursue a common and coordinated approach to the relief and reconstruction efforts in countries affected by the tsunami. It is expected that this new, more co-operative approach will lead to greater collaboration generally among agencies on a range of co-operative development issues. *Photo shows Jo-Anne Fergusson, (CCA) and Lennart Hjalmarson, (SCC), co-chairs of the meeting.*

The meeting agreed on the following:

- To create a forum to collect and exchange information and promote collaboration for more effective impact and reach of reconstruction assistance in response to the Asian tsunami
- ICA to circulate information provided by agencies, among other agencies, or more widely if required
- SCC, CCA, Co-ops UK, ICMIF, ILO, FAO, IFAP, OCDC, to provide on-going information and to use this information in determining what and where to provide assistance for tsunami reconstruction
- ICA to undertake or coordinate needs assessment in the affected areas.
- In project design, agencies will include in-country collaboration, including sharing of lessons learned, co-op expertise and access, documentation of the impact of co-op assistance in reconstruction.



Contact Gabriella Sozanski, [sozanski@ica.coop](mailto:sozanski@ica.coop) or COPAC Coordinator Maria Elena Chávez Hertig [copac@coop.org](mailto:copac@coop.org) A more detailed report on the associated COPAC meeting will be in a future Digest.

## What the Initial Assessments are Telling Us

On the following pages, we carry reports from Sri Lanka, Indonesia, India and Thailand. Some of these are first hand reports; others are from the websites of local co-operative organisations in the affected countries.

A clearer picture of the damage and loss suffered by co-operatives is beginning to emerge. However, detailed assessments are only now really starting to be made. A number of local co-operative organisations, such as SANASA have been able to reach most of their members and have a good idea of the general needs of their members. Information about other co-operatives in some countries is still harder to come by. A summary of the main details we are aware of is contained in the table below.

International co-operative organisations are also starting to make their own assessments, often working with local partners. Staff from the ICA Asia Pacific have already visited a number of affected countries, including India and Sri Lanka. Dr Tulus, on behalf of ICA is in Indonesia at present, he will be visiting other countries shortly. WOCCU also has experienced credit union representatives working with local partners in a number of affected countries to help assess the needs and formulate reconstruction programmes. The Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA), the Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC) and the US based Co-operative Housing Federation and Overseas Co-operative Development Council to name a few all have people in the affected countries. The ICA President and Director-General will be visiting Sri Lanka and Indonesia in mid April to review the situation and ensure reconstruction efforts are preceding.

### *Preliminary Estimates of Damage to Co-operatives/Credit Unions*

#### **Sri Lanka**

- Extensive damage to at least USD 10 Million of assets of co-op movement, including:
  - 200 credit unions destroyed, 500-600 damaged
  - 49 primary consumer societies severely affected
  - 180 fishing co-operatives affected
  - 30 agricultural co-operatives affected

#### **Indonesia**

- Extensive damage to credit unions and agricultural co-operatives particularly in Aceh and North Sumatra – detailed assessment only now commencing

#### **India**

- Most victims who died in Tamil Nadu belonged to 580 primary fishermen's co-operatives, 9 district federations of the primary fishermen's co-operatives, 480 primary agricultural co-operatives and 11 district co-operative banks.
- 20 primary level co-operatives severely affected in Tamil Nadu
- Central Tribal Co-operative, Andaman & Nicobar Islands severely affected

#### **Thailand**

- Estimate credit union losses of approximately USD 375,000 for 49 credit union members from three credit unions. Roughly, 90% of the losses are on properties used in the business activities of the members such as fishing boats, and equipment and business establishments.

#### **Other Affected Countries**

- No details yet of any damage to co-operatives in the other eight countries directly affected by tsunami.

## “Sri Lanka National Cooperative Disaster Fund”

*Co-op House, 455, Galle Road, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka*

### Members of The International Co-operative Community

Dear Co-operator,

### Unprecedented National Tsunami Disaster in Sri Lanka From

The Tsunamis of 26.12.2004 with epicenters off the coast of Sumatra had devastated 75% of the coastal regions of Sri Lanka, excepting half of the West Coast. This came in the wake of flooding of the Eastern Regions due to torrential rains. Regions of the North and East have now been flooded again after the Tsunamis.

Sri Lanka ranks second, after Indonesia, in the extent of damage to property and lives, with well over 40,000 dead, close to 1,000,000 rendered homeless and damage to assets being estimated in billions of US\$. There has been extensive damage to assets of Cooperatives (assessed at US\$10 Million) and to Cooperators in the areas affected.

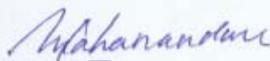
A National Committee has been appointed to assess the damage caused to the Cooperative Sector and relevant statistics and information are being collected. A Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Committee comprising officials and cooperators has been appointed and the process of preparing short term and long term plans for rehabilitation is under way.

As cooperators, we are making all attempts in the spirit of cooperation and in terms of cooperative values to reconstruct and rehabilitate the assets of the movement.

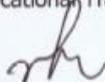
We appeal to the World Cooperative Family to rally around us in this our hour of need, by extending financial and moral support.

Remittances could be made to the “Sri Lanka National Cooperative Disaster Fund” of the National Cooperative Council of Sri Lanka for credit to Account No. 1 – 63 – 003877 – 8 at the Peoples’ Bank, Kollupitiya Branch, Sri Lanka.

Yours Faithfully,



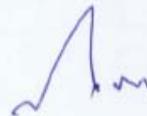
K. Mahanandan,  
Secretary,  
Ministry of Agricultural  
Marketing Development,  
Co-operative  
Development,  
Hindu Affairs,  
Assisting Education and  
Vocational Training,



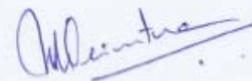
D.S. K. Pathirana,  
General Manager,  
Sri Lanka Consumer  
Co-operative Federation Ltd.



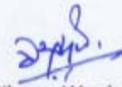
G.S.L. Fonseka,  
Commissioner of Co-operative  
Development and Registrar  
Of Co-operative Societies,  
Sri Lanka.



Bandupala Ranawake  
President,  
National Co-operative Council  
Of Sri Lanka.



Udaya Seneviratne,  
Director General,  
National Institute of  
Co-operative Development,  
Polgolla, Sri Lanka.



Nilame Wanigasekara,  
Chairman,  
Sri Lanka Thrift and  
Credit Co-operative  
Federation Ltd.

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## Sri Lankan Co-op Movement Establishes National Coordinating Committee

As can be seen from the preceding statement the Sri Lankan co-operative movement has established a national coordinating framework for the reconstruction of affected co-operatives. This is an important initiative. It is also an obvious local coordinating point for the international co-operative movement as it seeks to assist Sri Lankan co-operative colleagues.

## Letter from Coopfed, Sri Lanka to Global Co-operators

D.S.K.Pathirana, General Manager of Coopfed in Sri Lanka has issued an appeal for support from co-operators throughout the world to help his member co-operatives rebuild.

In his letter Mr. Pathirana notes that at least 48 primary level co-operative members of Coopfed were damaged. These co-operatives were in the coastal belt and while a final estimate of the loss of life and damage is yet to be completed he has been able to provide preliminary estimates. The co-operatives have all suffered damaged to their retail outlets, their super stores, packing units, transport facilities and equipment. He estimates that the damage to these co-operatives will be at least Rs.1036.19 Million.

He notes that immediately after the Tsunami, Coopfed organised the distribution of dry rations and other food stuffs and medicines to the member co-operative societies and their operational staff. The next stage is to repair or replace damaged co-operative property and to provide employment opportunities. In addition, to construct their buildings and help co-operative members and staff reconstruct new houses.

In addition, over 180 fishing co-operative societies in northern and eastern provinces were badly affected, with 1160 motor boats suffering damaged amounting to SL Rs.787.53 millions. The loss of lives in the co-operative sector is estimated at 20 with one still missing. The fishing co-operatives office buildings were also damaged by the Tsunami. He estimates that this is to the value of SL Rs. 12.95 millions.

A programme of reconstruction of the co- operatives has been developed:

- During the first year, 16 retail outlets will be reconstructed. The estimated budget will be Rs 12 million.
- A two-year programme of constructing 500 new houses for co-operative members and co-operative personnel whose houses were destroyed or damaged. The total cost will be Rs.375 million.
- Capital will be needed to help co-operatives resume their business activities. It is estimated Rs 300 million will be required.
- To pay compensation to the loss of lives and missing will be at the range of Rs. 10.5 Million.

In total for the first stage reconstruction programme described above will be SL Rs. 22,950 million or approximately CHF 280,000.

Mr. Pathirana believes that the costs associated with this proposed reconstruction programme can be covered with the support of and financial assistance from the International Co-operative Alliance, affiliated co-operative organisations and non Governmental Organizations and from the Sri Lanka co-operative organisations and its members.

The Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union (JCCU) and the Miyagi Consumer Co-operative Union of Japan have already contributed towards this endeavour by Coopfed and Mr Pathirana requests other co-operative organisations around the world to contribute finances and equipment to this reconstruction effort by the co-operative federation. He concludes that your contribution and assistance to this effort will be highly appreciated by every co-operator. Please contact D.S.K.Pathirana, General Manager [coopfed@sol.lk](mailto:coopfed@sol.lk)

## The Affect on Agricultural Co-ops in Sri Lanka

ICA and IFAP member, the Sri Lanka Co-operative Marketing Federation, have provided the following information on the effect of the tsunami on agricultural co-operatives in Sri Lanka.

“Around 30 members’ co-operative societies have been affected, although we have not yet collected final details of damages, due to communication problems in some disaster areas. Most co-operatives in northern to southern costal areas were extensively damaged. Many of the co-operative societies lost buildings, vehicles, trading stock, machinery and equipment. Some of our employees and member co-operative societies, employees and board members lost their houses and family members.

As an apex co-operative organisation, we have taken action to provide emergency assistance including food, medicines and clothes. We did this with the assistance of government and other local donor agencies. Our next step is to rehabilitate and reconstruct damaged buildings of member co-operative societies. As well, we need to rebuild the houses of board members and employees of our member co-operatives.

For this purpose, we have established a special fund with contributions from both our employees and board of Directors. This fund is open for all co-operators and donors, locally and internationally. We would be extremely grateful if IFAP and its members could help us to strengthen our fund. This will enable us to do more reconstruction of the co-operative sector. Our target is to construct at least 100 buildings and houses. We will publicly provide details of all donations received. Contact: Mr. Dayanada, e-mail: [ugdayananda1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ugdayananda1@yahoo.co.uk) or [markfed@sltnet.lk](mailto:markfed@sltnet.lk) or [markfed@slcmail.scienceland.lk](mailto:markfed@slcmail.scienceland.lk)

## Report on Situation of Credit Unions in Sri Lanka

The following report is from WOCCU’s website. It vividly reports on the situation of credit unions in Sri Lanka.

“As Sri Lanka begins the long process of rebuilding after one of the worst natural disasters in history, many credit unions are beginning to comprehend the difficulty of the task ahead of them. According to Mr L.B. Dasanayake, general manager for SANASA, the Sri Lankan credit union federation, the extent of the damage in many regions is still not fully understood. Reports from regional managers continue to trickle in, says Mr Dasanayake, who expects a nationwide survey to be completed by early February. *Photo above shows A Sri Lankan credit union representative standings on the site of a coastal credit union completely destroyed by the tsunami.*



Currently, SANASA knows of over 200 credit unions that have been destroyed and another 500-600 damaged, a number that Dasanayake expects to rise as more information arrives from the remote Eastern region and Northern Tamil-controlled areas.

Few of the country’s credit unions are computerised, says Mr Dasanayake, making reconstruction an extremely difficult process. For some, such as Matara District Union, the process will be easier. The district office has long had a requirement that local credit unions send monthly summary data. This will ease the process of reconstructing records, even for those credit unions that have lost their books, according to Normunds Mitzis, WOCCU Uzbekistan project director and member of WOCCU’s Sri Lanka assessment team.

The Kaburugamawa Epitamulla Godakanola credit union building was completely destroyed by the tsunami, leaving little more than a pile of rubble on the beach. "We are asking families to bring in their passbooks, to attempt to rebuild our records," says the credit union’s manager. "But many do not have them because they were washed away." The manager believes that a partial record can be created from their 2004 audit report, but says that it may take months to accomplish this.

The loss of furniture, safes and cash is another challenge for credit unions attempting to rebuild after the tsunami. For many, their entire store of cash has been swept into the sea. So much cash has been lost by coastal credit unions, other financial institutions and individuals that the Central Bank of Sri Lanka has begun printing additional currency to compensate.

The greatest risk to fragile credit unions, however, may not be from the physical damage they have sustained. Already, local government officials and borrowers are asking the credit unions to completely forgive all loans to coastal residents.

"There is pressure to write everything off," says Nimal Martinus, regional director at a Norwegian NGO involved in relief efforts in Sri Lanka. This, says Martinus, would be extremely challenging to SANASA and other lenders in the area. "All institutions should be trying to restructure loans in response to the needs of their clients, but the loans should not be written off." For more information [www.woccu.org/](http://www.woccu.org/)

## Reports from Indonesia

The magnitude of the destruction of the tsunami in Indonesia, particularly Aceh is hard to comprehend. Latest estimates by the Ministry of Health, place the Indonesian death toll, including missing presumed dead as 232,945. Latest estimates place the total number killed or missing in the tragedy in all countries at now close to 286,000.

The following information on the tsunami's affect on co-operatives in Aceh is from LAPENKOP National website <http://www.lapenkop.coop/index.php?long=English%20Version>

Mr. Yusri Suhud, Director of Lapenkop is the coordinator for rehabilitation program of cooperatives in Aceh and Northern Sumatra. A joint coordinating office of LAPENKOP, JUK, DEKOPIN Wilayah and Special Institutions of DEKOPIN has been established.



Its key functions will be:

- To act as an information centre for the co-operative movement
- Coordination, support and distribution centre for co-operatives
- Inventory centre for staff, and facilitators of LAPENKOP, JUK, DEKOPIN Wilayah of NAD and special institutions of DEKOPIN.

It is hoped that the establishment of the co-operative office or "base camp" will make coordination among co-operatives easier, so that problems of relief and reconstruction can be dealt with quickly and effectively.

Yuzri Suhud together with Arifuddin (Head of LAPENKOP South Sulawesi Province) and Siswidodo (General Assistant of LAPENKOP Nasional) conducted an official visit to Banda Aceh from January 17 – 23, 2005. After discussions with a range of government and co-operative representatives from Banda Aceh, agreement has been reached on "The Main Steps in Rehabilitating Co-operative Movement of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD)".



The main points in the plan include the establishment of new offices and the information centre described above, payment of salaries for co-operative staff and refitting of offices with equipment. The plan also includes establishing low-priced markets in the location of traditional markets. It is proposed that this low-priced market will sell three commodities (for the first phase), sugar, chicken eggs, and frying oil. The operators will be JUK, LAPENKOP and facilitator of NAD Province. All goods will be sent from

Medan (JUK Wilayah of North Sumatra) and JUK Wilayah NAD will sell them. This step is very important, because all modern markets have been ruined. Only traditional markets survive.

The estimated budget to conduct all the above programmes is about IDR 352,000,000.00, approximately CHF 46,000. This however, is only the start of the reconstruction in Aceh.

## Further Reports from Indonesia

IFAP member, the Advocacy Centre for Indonesian Farmers (ACIF) advise that many family farmers in Aceh have suffered from the disaster. In Aceh Province, there are around 3,083 unit co-operatives and agricultural organisations with more than 500,000 members. Out of total figure, 191 unit co-operatives are agricultural based with the number of member 233,578 people, but the number of farmers is much greater. The magnitude of agricultural damage after the disaster is still being assessed.

## The Affect on Indian Co-operatives

The National Co-operative Union of India, (NCUI) the apex organisation of Indian co-operatives, along with the Institute of Co-operative Management (ICM) at Chennai and Madurai in Tamil Nadu have carried out an initial appraisal of the situation. Out of four affected states in India, Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar were the worst hit.

ICA's Regional Office Asia Pacific along with NCUI advise that they are aware of the following damage to co-operatives in the above areas of India. Most of the victims in Tamil Nadu belonged to 580 primary fishermen's co-operatives, 9 district federations of the primary fishermen's co-operatives, 480 primary agricultural co-operatives and 11 district cooperative banks. It has been found that 19 Co-operative Societies in Cuddalore and Nagapattinam have remained marginalised due to geographical isolation and inaccessibility. In addition 17 villages in Nagapattinam district and 15 in Cuddalore have not received essential commodities due to the collapse of public distribution shops managed by the village primary agricultural co-operatives. Primary agricultural co-operatives in India are recognised agencies for the distribution of essential commodities by local governments.

In the Andaman & Nicobar Island, the maximum damage occurred in Car Nicobar, Katchal and Great Nicobar. Central Tribal Co-operative Society, a multi purpose co-operative, has suffered severe damage. The head office of the co-operative at Chukchucha (Car Nicobar) has been destroyed. All the co-operative's records, furniture, equipment and belongings have been washed away by the tsunami. The co-operative is trying to get long-term financial support from the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) of India, but urgently require support of USD 62,500 to restart its business operations and help its 7,900 members. For more details, please contact ICA Regional Director Asia Pacific Shil Kwan Lee, [sklee@icaroap.coop](mailto:sklee@icaroap.coop)

## Thai Credit Unions Affected

The Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions reports that the Credit Union League of Thailand, CULT has announced that the tsunami claimed the lives of three members of three credit unions. They estimate losses of approximately, USD 375,000 for 49 credit union members from three credit unions. Roughly, 90% of the losses are on properties used in the business activities of the members such as fishing boats, equipment and business establishments.

The local credit union movement had raised some funds for the immediate relief of the members. Sahaphon Sangmek, the General Manager of CULT says, "We are looking for a long-term solution. The plan is to provide a non-interest loan to members who lost their livelihoods. CULT could not afford to provide funding for what they have lost, but they can help the members to start a new business to meet their immediate needs".

## Update on Tsunami Appeals, Donations and Reconstruction Activities

Members and others have provided the following new information since our first tsunami issue of the Digest in mid January. We have not reproduced reports contained in the earlier edition of the Digest.

*International – WOCCU*

The World Council of Credit Unions, (WOCCU) has received initial reports from Indonesian and Sri Lankan credit unions affected by the Tsunami disaster. Reports from both countries indicate large-scale loss of life. In Indonesia, communities in Aceh and North Sumatra were devastated by the earthquake followed by the Tsunami.

The Indonesian Credit Union Federation, CUCO, is currently trying to assess the damage to credit unions and their members in those communities, especially in the Nias Island of North Sumatra. *Photo courtesy of WOCCU above shows workers clearing rubble from the former site of the Beruwela Credit Union in southern Sri Lanka.*



Normunds Mizis, former WOCCU-Sri Lanka project director, travelled to Sri Lanka on behalf of the World Council to assess the damage and assist SANASA in its efforts. He noted “that in Sri Lanka over 100 community credit unions and at least one district union have been destroyed. Many staff, primary society members and their families have died. Coastal residential areas are devastated or destroyed. Communities were not prepared to deal with this and for the first few days after the disaster, there were no coordinated rescue or relief efforts in remote areas. The Sri Lanka Credit Union Federation, SANASA, has attended to the communities affected to provide first aid as well as provide food, blankets and clothing.” WOCCU’s Worldwide Foundation has established a Disaster Relief Fund for the Tsunami Relief. For more information see [www.woccu.org/](http://www.woccu.org/)

*International – IFAP*

The [International Federation of Agricultural Producers](http://www.ifap.org/), (IFAP) have issued the following statement. “Farmers throughout the world, represented in IFAP, express their deepest sympathy to their farming colleagues, fisher folk and citizens in South Asia and East Africa whose families, homes and livelihoods have been devastated by the tsunami disaster of 26 December 2004. IFAP is working with its member farmers’ organizations in the worst affected areas of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and India to see what kind of relief and rehabilitation programs their organization could embark upon to rebuild farming and fishing communities, with assistance from IFAP and its affiliates. Many IFAP member organisations are already contributing to relief efforts to help their colleagues in affected countries.” IFAP is a member of COPAC. For further details contact Fabienne Derrien [FabienneDERRIEN@ifap.org](mailto:FabienneDERRIEN@ifap.org) The IFAP member contacts in the four most affected countries are:



- **Indonesia:** Advocacy Centre for Indonesian Farmers, [iwantono@indo.net.id](mailto:iwantono@indo.net.id)
- **Sri Lanka:** Sri Lanka Co-op. Marketing Federation Ltd, [markfed@slcmail.scienceland.lk](mailto:markfed@slcmail.scienceland.lk)
- **Thailand:** Co-operative League of Thailand, [green\\_coop@hotmail.com](mailto:green_coop@hotmail.com)
- **India:** National Institute of Agriculture, [saragopalan39@hotmail.com](mailto:saragopalan39@hotmail.com)

*Argentine*

Instituto Movilizador de Fondos Cooperativos (IMFC) from Argentine has donated USD 3,000 to the ICA’s Global Appeal.

*Australia – CUFA*

The Credit Union Foundation of Australia, CUFA, the credit union development arm of the Credit Union Services Corporation of Australia, CUSCAL, has launched a fundraising appeal



on behalf of CARE Australia for general relief activities. CUFA will be working closely with WOCCU, ACCU, CCA and others to help coordinate their credit union reconstruction efforts in affected countries. For more details see [www.cu.net.au/](http://www.cu.net.au/) or contact Grahame Mehrten [gmehrten@cuscal.com.au](mailto:gmehrten@cuscal.com.au)

### *Belgium – P&V Group*



The P&V Group has donated approximately CHF 380,000 to tsunami relief and reconstruction. This initiative is part of P&V's structural support to projects in the Third World, where they collaborate with the FOS (Fonds voor OntwikkelingsSamenwerking) and the FCD (Fonds de Coopération au Développement). One third of this sum will be directly transferred to ALMAO in Sri Lanka. This mutual insurance company, a member of ICMIF, was created by SANASA, the most important social movement in Sri Lanka. The remaining two thirds will be allotted to the FOS and the FCD for medium term projects in the affected areas, in agreement with the local partners.

### *Canada*



See below for a slightly abridged version of a recent media release from CCA. “Credit Union Central of Canada (Canadian Central) and the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) were immediately supportive of the appeal by the Canadian Red Cross to give as generously as possible to relief efforts. While final contribution figures have not yet been tallied, credit unions have reported that support of this relief appeal has been generous. Conservative estimates put the member and customer donation figure at over CAN \$1 million.

In addition, CCA and Co-operative Development Foundation (CDF) have raised over \$150,000 from credit unions, co-operatives and individuals to support relief and reconstruction efforts in Asia, with a particular focus on Sri Lanka and Indonesia. CDF has already transferred \$75,000 to SANASA to help them provide temporary shelter units, cooking utensils and support for children who have been orphaned by the disaster. CCA is now focusing on reconstruction efforts. To help in this effort, Mr. Jim Barr, Senior Vice President of the CUMIS group and a former President of both CCA and the CDF will lead a small mission to Sri Lanka in early February to assess reconstruction needs and develop an action plan with SANASA.

On January 27, in another move to coordinate relief efforts between Canadian Central and CCA, Canadian Central's Board of Directors endorsed a resolution submitted by CCA/CDF on their Asia Reconstruction Campaign. The special campaign will run for at least two years and have a fundraising goal of at least \$500,000 per year. Donations will fund a project that is being developed in partnership with SANASA and Credit Union Co-ordination of Indonesia, CCA's credit union partner in Indonesia. It will likely include the following elements:

- Rebuilding credit unions
- Recapitalization of loan funds so that members can borrow to rebuild homes and businesses
- Training credit union staff and elected leaders – many staff and leaders were lost.

In a truly international approach, CCA is working with the World Council of Credit Unions and credit union organizations from the UK, Sweden, Germany and Australia to ensure that reconstruction money is used efficiently and that there is no duplication. Any individuals or organizations wishing to contribute to the Asia Reconstruction Campaign should contact Ms. Lee Seymour, CDF Manager, at (613) 238-6711 ext. 215 or by going to [www.coopscanada.coop](http://www.coopscanada.coop)

### *Czech Republic*

The Co-operative Association of Czech Republic donated CHF 5,100 to the ICA Global Appeal. The Union of Czech and Moravian Producers' Co-operatives has donated approximately CHF 3,000 to COOPFED's appeal account.

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*Colombia*

SaludCoop, the next host of the ICA General Assembly, to be held in Colombia in September this year has donated approximately CHF 3,500 to the ICA Global Appeal.

*France - Crédit Coopératif*

Crédit Coopératif and its employees are showing solidarity with the victims of the tsunami. It has decided to "help the helpers" by combining individual and collective solidarity. In response to the emergency, Crédit Coopératif distributed its employees' contributions equally to its partners active in the area, Action Contre la Faim et Solidarités (projects in the field of water), Médecins du Monde and Handicap International (projects in the medical field), CCFD and Secours Catholique (general humanitarian action) Its work's council has also decided to transfer 1€ per employee to these associations



At the same time, Crédit Coopératif assesses with its associative clients concerned their requirements for banking assistance in order to facilitate the completion of their missions. It will also be making contact with partner micro-credit institutions in the areas affected by the disaster to estimate their needs for the reconstruction. Subject to its members' decision at the next general assemblies part of its profits will be assigned to the following areas, the reconstruction of the affected area, support to local social economy enterprises. This assistance will be facilitated through the setting up of a co-operative development fund with the Crédit Coopératif Foundation., see [www.banque-solidarites.com/](http://www.banque-solidarites.com/)

*France – Crédit Mutuel*

Crédit Mutuel of Brittany showed its solidarity to the affected populations in South East Asia. It has given €100,000 through the association Ouest-France Solidarité. The list of the main humanitarian organisations to which the monies have been donated is available on [www.arkea.com/](http://www.arkea.com/)

*France – FNCC*

Fédération Nationale des Coopératives de Consommateurs have donated approximately CHF 7,800 towards tsunami relief and reconstruction.

*Italy*

Legacoop advise that they are continuing fund raising with its members. Their target is 500,000 Euros, approximately CHF 780,000. They have set up a national coordinating committee, and have invited the ICA President Ivano Barberini to participate. Legacoop have also translated and circulated widely the ICA Weekly Digest 33, which contained a lot of initial information on the tsunami.

Moreover, in order to coordinate their efforts they are collecting information about the projects and action, which individual co-operatives or other Legacoop structures at local level are involved in. Funds collected will firstly be sent to Sri Lanka, "where the co-operative movement was strongly affected, also in connection with the choice made by the European Union which asked Italian authorities to devote special attention to this country. The funds will be specifically used for projects targeted at rebuilding productive structures, providing job opportunities and training, on the basis of the local needs stressed by the co-operative organisations.

In this first stage, Legacoop action will be implemented in collaboration with two Italian Non-Governmental Organisations, which operate in Sri Lanka and with which they have traditionally worked. These NGOs have already met with local co-operative organisations for advice about priority projects. Legacoop, beyond the emergency requirements of the local population, is oriented toward a medium-long term reconstruction effort in support of local co-operative organisations. For more information, please contact Stefania Marcone [s.marcone@legacoop.coop](mailto:s.marcone@legacoop.coop)

### *Japan*

On behalf of the Japanese co-operative movement, the Japan Joint Committee of Co-operatives, (JJC) (which includes the 12 ICA Japanese members) would like to express sincere condolences and solidarity with all the victims of the devastating Tsunami that hit Asia on Sunday, 26 December 2004, as Japan has experienced many natural disasters such as earthquake, tidal wave and typhoon.

To respond to the ICA Global Appeal, JJC member organisations have discussed assistance for the co-operatives and co-operators in the affected countries and have decided to donate 3 million yen to ICA Fund for the victims of the Tsunami disaster. They have received many requests of assistance from many organizations in the affected area and will continue to contribute reconstruction and rehabilitation of the affected co-operatives.

In addition, support actions by JJC member organizations are as follows:

- Japan Agricultural Co-operative (JA) Group, (which includes six JJC members) has started a fund-raising campaign and called on its executives and staff members throughout Japan to contribute to the fund. The collected donation will be forwarded directly to the concerned agricultural co-operatives and farmers groups in the affected countries. JA includes the following ICA members:
  - Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (JA-ZENCHU)
  - National Federation of Agricultural Co-operative Associations (ZEN-NOH)
  - National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Co-operative (ZENKYOREN)
  - The Norinchukin Bank
  - IE-NO-HIKARI Association
  - The Japan Agricultural News
- National Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations (JF-ZENGYOREN) will conduct a fund-raising campaign targeting staff and individual members of JF Group from 1 February to 31 March. Expected minimum amount is 10 million yen.
- The National Federation of University Co-operative Associations (NFUCA) has decided to donate 2 million yen through ICA to contribute mainly to campus co-operatives and educational institutions. Each member co-operative of NFUCA and its individual membership including international students have started fund-raising activities to contribute through UNICEF.
- Japan Workers' Co-operative Union (JWCU) proposes fund-raising from its member co-operatives. JWCU will then add 500,000 yen to the fund and transfer it, to the ICA account. In addition, they are going to try fund raising from individual members throughout Japan.
- ZENROSAI (National Federation of Workers and Consumers Insurance Co-operatives) will provide donations for assisting ICA & ICMIF members. Details will be announced shortly.
- As was reported in [Weekly Digest 33](#) the Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) has already donated 6 million yen to co-operative organisations in affected countries. .

In addition to the above Japanese activities, further initiatives are underway. These include:

- 118 member societies of JCCU's Health Co-operative Association (HCA-JCCU) have organized donation campaigns to aide the victims of the Tsunami. HCA-JCCU's donation campaign aims to raise 15 million yen. From these funds, they will donate 10 million yen to the affected member organizations of the Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organizations (APHCO) and 5 million yen to rebuild and provide medical equipment for the Co-op Hospitals in the affected areas.
- Doctor Hioki of Health Co-op Kobe arrived at Galle, southern province of Sri Lanka, on 6th of January, 2005 in order to support Co-ops in the region affected by the Tusnami. *Photo shows Doctor Hioki, left, giving medical items to the Co-op Hospital in Galle*
- Co-op Kobe (Affected by the Hanshin-Awaji Big Earthquake in 1995 --membership of 1,216,000) has contributed 1 million yen through the Hanshin Region-based NGO Emergency Aid Fund of Co-op Kobe, which was established in 1999 to quickly respond to natural disasters. Since then Co-op Kobe has contributed a total of 14 million yen to 19 devastated areas, both nationally and internationally.
- Miyagi Co-op (Membership 510,000) has contributed 1 million yen to Sri Lanka Consumer Co-operative Society's Federation (COOPFED).
- There are many more examples throughout Japan.



### **Kenya**

The Co-operative Bank of Kenya has donated \$ 1,000 (US) to the ICA Global Appeal. For more details, please contact Gideon Muriuki, Managing Director [md@co-opbank.co.ke](mailto:md@co-opbank.co.ke)



### **Korea**

NACF has made a contribution of CHF 488,000 towards assisting the victims of the tsunami. They have contributed USD 100,000, approximately CHF 122,000 to the ICA's Asian Disaster Fund, to be used in the following manner.



- Advocacy Centre for Indonesian Farmers (ACIF) : USD 40,000
- Sri Lanka Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd. (MARKFED) : USD 30,000
- National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) : USD 20,000
- Co-operative League of Thailand (CLT) : USD 10,000

They have also donated USD 300,000 approximately CHF 366,000 to the Republic of Korea National Red Cross relief fund. For more information, please contact LYU Keun-Won, General Manager, NACF, [nacfico@nonghyup.com](mailto:nacfico@nonghyup.com)

### **Lithuania**

The Co-operative Union of Lithuania donated CHF 7,800 to the ICA Global Appeal.

### **Poland**

The National Co-operative Council of Poland has donated approximately CHF 1,200 towards tsunami relief and reconstruction.

**Portugal**

FENACOOOP, the Portuguese Consumer Co-op Federation circulated an appeal to their members referring to the ICA appeal. They also circulated the letter received from Coopfed, Sri Lanka, the consumer co-op organisation. The collected fund from their members will be transferred to the ICA Account. For more information see [www.p-coopconsumo.pt](http://www.p-coopconsumo.pt)

**Romania**

The Romanian National Association of Handicraft and Production Cooperatives (UCECOM) is supporting the ICA global appeal and has asked its members for a quick and effective contribution to help the victims of the Tsunami. UCECOM expects to transfer funds shortly to the ICA appeal account. For more information contact Iulian Ruginã [ucecom@digicom.ro](mailto:ucecom@digicom.ro) or <http://www.digicom.ro/ucecom/>

**Slovakia**

Member organisations of the Co-operative Union of the Slovak Republic – Slovak Union of Producer's Co-operatives, Slovak Union of Housing Co-operatives, COOP Jednota Slovakia /consumer co-operatives and the Union of Agricultural Co-operatives and Trade Societies have assigned the amount of 500 thousands SKK, approximately CHF 20,000 as financial and material support for the tsunami victims and also to help people affected in recent storms in the Tatras area of Slovakia.

**Sweden**

The co-operative movement in Sweden channel their contributions through the [Swedish Cooperative Centre](http://www.scc.se) (SCC). As at 20 January 2005 around 4.5 million SEK, approximately CHF 787,000 have been collected, both from the co-operative organisations and individuals. Emergency relief money has been transferred to the Sri Lankan Co-operative Tsunami Relief Fund, for the co-operative hospitals in Galle and Matara; to SWEAT (Society for Welfare Education and Awareness Training) for help to victims in Batticaloa area, Sri Lanka; to Lapenkop, Indonesia for emergency relief in Aceh Province; to the International Red Cross Committee and to the ICA Tsunami Appeal Fund in Geneva.



A team from the SCC visited Sri Lanka at the end of January for discussions with the National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka and others on support for the reconstruction programmes for the victims of the tsunami. Information in Swedish on [www.utangranser.se](http://www.utangranser.se), or via email [info@swecoop.se](mailto:info@swecoop.se)

**USA – CDF**

Credit : AP/AFP/Reuters Photos

[TsunamiRecovery.coop](http://www.tsunamirecovery.coop)

The Co-operative Development Foundation (CDF) has launched the Tsunami Cooperative Recovery Fund [www.tsunamirecovery.coop/](http://www.tsunamirecovery.coop/). The CDF appeal is the main one being supported by the US co-operatives. CDF note on their website that “co-operative development organisations from the United States have been working in the region for decades and we hope to provide them and existing cooperatives in the region with additional cooperative development resources to assist in the recovery from this massive disaster. 100% of your tax-deductible contribution to this CDF Fund will be used where it is most

needed...for cooperative rebuilding and development to enable the social and economic recovery of South Asia. “

### *USA - National Farmers Union of the United States*

IFAP reports that its US member the National Farmers Union of the United States made a contribution to five farm organizations in Asia to aid farmers who suffered losses due to the Dec. 26 tsunami. Donations will be targeted to the Advocacy Centre for Indonesian Farmers, Sri Lanka Co-op Marketing Federation, Ltd., Co-operative League of Thailand, the National Institute of Agriculture in India, and Farmers Forum of India. For more information see [www.nfu.org/](http://www.nfu.org/) or contact Clay Pedersen, e-mail [clay.pederson@nfu.org](mailto:clay.pederson@nfu.org)

## **ILO Publications on Role of Co-operatives in Crises Resolution and Reconstruction**

Two ILO publications address the unique role co-operatives can play in helping communities rebuild after being ravaged by either natural disasters or conflict.

The ILO booklet *Co-operatives restoring livelihoods and communities* notes that some of the most destructive crises strike among the poorest people in the world. After the first mobilisation, tackling the emergency, populations are often left alone to cope with their plight. The ILO notes that this is exactly when the co-operative option is most appropriate.

The second book is entitled *The Role of Co-operatives and other Self-Help Organisations in Crisis Resolution and Socio-Economic Recovery* by Edgar Parnell. This 60 page book is a very practical guide to when and how co-operatives can help communities in crisis. Both titles are available from the ILO Co-operative branch, contact Jürgen Schwettmann, Chief, Coop Branch [schwettmann@ilo.org](mailto:schwettmann@ilo.org)



Copies of the Weekly Digest are archived on the ICA's website [www.ica.coop](http://www.ica.coop)