






NEDAC

 **Location:** Bangkok, Thailand
 **Date:** 4 Nov 2022 Thursday
 **Time:** 9.30 AM Bangkok Time

PROCEEDINGS

OF

GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

4 November 2022

9.30 AM, Bangkok Time

Novotel Bangkok Future Park Rangsit, Bangkok, Thailand



PROCEEDINGS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

4 November 2022 at 9.30 AM BANGKOK TIME
Novotel Bangkok Future Park Rangsit

Agenda GA2022.01

Call to order by Facilitator

A call to order of the General Assembly Session 2022 was made. The meeting notice, agenda, and detailed notes on the agenda had been circulated among all members and invitees well in advance through email by the NEDAC secretariat. Representatives from all member countries, except Bangladesh, China, Iran, and Kenya, were present in the session.

Agenda GA2022.02

Roll call

It was done. 16 members were present. The quorum was reported as complete. The list of member-attendees, invitees and observers is at [Annex GA2022-02](#). Permission to start the proceedings was given by Mr. K.B. Upreti, Vice-Chairman, NEDAC, who chaired the General Assembly, in the absence of Mr. Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Chairman.

Agenda GA2022.03

Introduction of participants

The introduction of participants was done. All the members agreed to take up the agenda circulated.

Agenda GA2022.04

Welcome address

Mr. K.B. Upreti, Vice-Chairman, NEDAC, who chaired in the absence of Mr. Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Chairman, addressed the session by appreciating the presence of the member countries; India, Nepal, the Philippines, and Thailand. He welcomed all the participants and executive members and thanked them for their visit and attendance. He placed on record the exemplary contribution made by the outgoing Chairman, particularly in terms of reviving NEDAC and taking it to great heights. He suggested that the General Assembly request Mr. Sundeep Kumar Nayak to be Emeritus Chair Senior Advisor to NEDAC. The Chair's suggestion on Mr. Nayak was greeted with oral applause of approval. Thereafter, he requested Honorary Director Dr K R Salin to go ahead with the agenda circulated.

Agenda GA2022.05

Confirmation of the minutes of the last General Assembly Session

The minutes of the previous GA session virtually held in October 2020 had been circulated among members immediately after it was held. The minutes were also hosted on the NEDAC website. No comments were received. The minutes were confirmed by the GA. The appointment of Dr P.S. Gahlaut as Honorary Secretary General in pursuance of the last GA decision was noted and confirmed.

Agenda GA2022.06

Noting of Proceedings of EXCOM meeting held after the last General Assembly Session

Two meetings of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of NEDAC were conducted after the last General Assembly Session. They were held in March 2021 and January 2022 in a virtual mode due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The minutes of the two meetings had been circulated among members immediately after they were held. The minutes were noted.

Agenda GA2022.07

Report of each Sub-Committee on Broad Thematic Areas (BTAs)

The GA appreciated the efforts. Each sub-committee on eight (8) BTAs were reported, as follows:

- (i) Strategic Communication and NEDAC website
- (ii) Capacity development/ training
- (iii) Experiential Learning and Study Visits
- (iv) Ideas to Action through exchange programs
- (v) Sustainable Development and the response of Cooperatives to Climate Change
- (vi) Complete Value Chain and Cooperative to Cooperative (C2C) trade platform
- (vii) International Cooperative Trade Fairs platform
- (viii) Advocacy and policy dialogues

From time to time, the Sub-Committees on BTAs have deliberated and taken steps. Considering the progress on the BTAs, the GA 2020 proposed to form different Committees as follows, with the responsibility of coordinating country member/s mentioned against each:

1. Committee on Agriculture Cooperatives and Food Security- IFFCO, India
2. Committee on Response to Pandemics by Cooperatives- FPSDC, Philippines
3. Committee on Mainstreaming Social and Solidarity Economy in Global Forums- CURACI, Iran
4. Committee on Climate Action and SDGs- NCBL, Nepal
5. Committee on International Trade and Agri Commodities- MARA, China
6. Committee on Emerging Technologies and Threats- KUSCCO, Kenya
7. Committee on Coastal Cooperatives- DCD, Sri Lanka
8. Committee on Fisheries Cooperatives- AIT, Thailand
9. Committee on Dairy Cooperatives- RDCD, Bangladesh
10. Committee on Livestock Cooperatives- Govt. of Uttarakhand, India
11. Committee on Cooperatives-Centered Communications- NEDAC Secretariat

12. Committee on Capacity Development- NEDAC Secretariat

After the presentation, General Assembly agreed that as the world becomes more resilient to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Committee on *Response to Pandemics by Cooperatives* shall be replaced with a more progressive focus group discussion. For instance, in the Philippines, they will focus on the cooperative-to-cooperative trade among the NEDAC members. This was agreed.


Agenda GA2022.08

Report on NEDAC Activities in 2021 and 2022 (calendar years)

The GA appreciated the efforts. NEDAC activities in 2021 and 2022 were presented, as follows:

Major activities of NEDAC in 2021:

1. NEDAC - Executive Committee (EXCOM) was organised virtually on 27 March 2021.
2. NEDAC organised virtual events and meetings under the NEDAC committees as follows:
 - a. Keynote Coop Talk Series I: Welfare of Society and Cooperative Movement – 29 April 2021
 - b. Keynote Coop Talk Series II – Fish Feed Business: Updates on the Aquafeed industry in China –24 May 2021
 - c. Keynote Coop Talk Series III Collaborative Ecosystem: Building Competitive and Resilient Agri-Cooperatives – 29 July 2021
 - d. The first meeting of the NEDAC Committee on "Mainstreaming Solidarity Economy in Global Forums" chaired by CURACI, Iran – 27 December 2021
3. The programs jointly organised with LINAC-NCDC are as follows:
 - a. International webinar – entrepreneurship development on "Seaweed Business by Cooperatives" – 28 January 2021
 - b. Online training program on "Emerging Technologies in Agriculture and Allied Sectors for Cooperative" – 29-30 June 2021
 - c. Hybrid workshop on "Entrepreneurship Development in Coconut Oil Production, Processing and Marketing" – 30 October 2021
4. Celebrating the International Day of Cooperatives 2021, NEDAC organised a short technical session on "Cooperatives and Socio-environmental Changes: Experiences from Thailand" on 3 July 2021.
5. Joint organiser with National Co-operative Bank Limited (NCBL), Nepal organised an exclusive conference on "Microfinance on Cooperatives Society" during 3-4 August 2021.
6. Hosted the Global ICA meeting, partnering with NCDC in September 2021.
7. Visit by Nepal delegation at the NEDAC office in New Delhi, India in October 2021.
8. NEDAC participated in the LINAC-LIFIC Inauguration of the Fisheries Incubation Centre in New Delhi, India on 16 November 2021.

- 
9. Meeting with the new Chair of CDA, Philippines via Zoom Conference Platform on 1 December 2021. The meeting emphasised cooperative to cooperatives trade, field visits in the Philippines, and other collaborations to strengthen the close relationship between NEDAC and Philippines member institutions.
 10. NEDAC sponsored for NEDAC Rural Voice Award for Excellence at the Rural Voice Agriculture Conclave and Awards 2021 on 23 December 2021 in New Delhi, India.

Major activities of NEDAC in January 2022 up to September 2022:

1. NEDAC presented the NEDAC – Rural Voice Award for Excellence to Mr. Chab Kongmon, Executive Vice President of the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) at its headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand on 27 January 2022.
2. NEDAC – Executive Committee (EXCOM) was organised virtually on 31 January 2022.
3. NEDAC organised the following virtual mode meetings and symposiums under various NEDAC sub-committees:
 - a. The First Meeting of NEDAC Committee on Emerging Technologies and Threats – 26 February 2022
 - b. NEDAC Keynote Coop Talk Series IV: Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization: Opportunities for Agri-based Cooperatives. It was organised under "Agriculture Cooperatives Food Security Committee" – 26 March 2022
 - c. The First Meeting of NEDAC Committee on Fisheries Cooperatives – 30 April 2022
 - d. The First Meeting of NEDAC Committee on Livestock Cooperatives – 29 June 2022
4. International Symposium on "Innovative Technologies for the Sustainable Aquaculture Value Chain in Asia", jointly organised with Anhui Academy of Agricultural Sciences (AHAAS), China, and Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand –31 May 2022.
5. NEDAC office visit by IFFCO delegation led by Mr. Dileep Sanghani, Chairman of IFFCO, India.
6. Dr. K.R. Salin, Honorary Director of NEDAC attended the Asian Credit Union Forum 2022 as a Special Invitee on 29 August 2022
7. NEDAC website has been relaunched with substantial improvement in its design and content. The security audit was also completed, and the final report and Project Completion Certificate were issued.

The General Assembly expressed their appreciation to the NEDAC Secretariat for conducting several activities despite the pandemic disruptions. They suggested further that more activities should be conducted in person. Mr. Joseph B. Encabo, Chairman of the Cooperative Development Authority, Philippines, added that NEDAC should ensure more participation of women because now it is time to gear towards a more progressive and resilient organisation.

Agenda GA2022.09

Discussion on NEDAC Strategic Work plan (SWP) 2023 and 2024 (two calendar years) and finalisation/ adoption of the work plan

The international travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic are currently being eased. Hence, Strategic Work Plan (SWP) for calendar years 2023 and 2024 may involve mostly face-to-face activities, as broadly presented below. NEDAC Work Plan for 2023 and 2024 was approved by GA. The GA desired that the overall budget may be increased or decreased by EXCOM or Chairman NEDAC. Continuation of NEDAC personnel/staff, Honorary Director and Honorary Secretary General for a further period of two years (2023 and 2024), was approved. CA audited accounts of NEDAC for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 August 2022 report was noted and accepted.

Sl No	Strategic Objective as per adopted SWP	Activities under the Strategic Objective, as per SWP	The budget mentioned in SWP in US\$	Budget proposed in US\$	Remarks
1	Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition	a. International training programs of 1-week duration at NEDAC Training Centre Bangkok (NTCB) or in Member countries.	10,000	5000	To be held in Bangkok on payment basis, NTCB may have Branch Training Centre in other countries with approval by Chairman.
		b. One-day country-specific workshops would be organised: - Thailand - Philippines - Kenya - Nepal - China - India - Sri Lanka - Bangladesh	3000 3000 3000 3000 3000 3000 3000 3000	1000 1500 1500 1500 1500 1500 1500	In NTCB By FPSDC By KUSCCO By NCBL By MARA By NCDC By Coop Dep By RDCD
2	Make agriculture, forestry, and fisheries more	a. Study Visits to Fisheries / Livestock / Agro-Forestry Projects- International visits	10,000	0000	To be done on a payment basis. Coord by NEDAC Sectt

	productive and sustainable	<p>b. Four country specific study visits to be organised by members, for example, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kenya, 3000 - Japan, 3000 - Thailand, 3000 - China, 3000 - Philippines, 3000 			
		c. Study of pilot projects in member countries	5000	2000	Self-financing basis
3	Reduce rural poverty	a) Promote Cooperatives to Cooperatives Trade through the organisation of Trade Fairs	0000	0000	Explore the possibility of holding an International Coop Trade Fair in a Member Country
		b) Workshop by apex cooperatives with policymakers - in countries	5000	0000	Funding by non-NEDAC sources
		c) Online learning systems - virtual mode	5000	5000	By NEDAC Training Centre Bangkok in partnership with others
4	Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems	a) International training programs for 20 participants of 1-week duration at NEDAC Training Centre Bangkok	40000	0000	To be held at Bangkok in partnership with other Institutions, on a payment basis. International resource persons on a payment basis.
		b) Dynamic website to be operated & maintenance	3000	2000	By NEDAC Sectt

5	Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises	a) Focused Workshop of Member Cooperative Leaders - in Member countries	5000	3000	By NEDAC Training Centre Bangkok in partnership with others
		b) Technical support for study of best practices in NEDAC geographic areas of eligible countries and technical support to Focus Groups	10,000	5000	Through NEDAC Sectt
		c) Capacity development workshop of Apex cooperative organisation leaders	5000	3000	NEDAC Sectt to facilitate study visits and workshops for leaders
6	Coordinated Action Among NEDAC Members Through Fully Functional NEDAC Secretariat	a) Meetings-EXCOM, GA	22,000	10,000	NEDAC Staff to be continued
		b) Monthly Staff Salaries, emeritus-related expenses, official travel Sectt / Chairman	60,000	150,000	
		c) Auditors' fees	0000	1000	
		d) Consultancy-registration, study, etc.	0000	5000	
		e) Maintenance and upkeep of Bangkok office and Delhi local office	0000	12,000	Start Contingency
		f) Internship Program	0000	12,000	
		g) Unforeseen expenses	0000	6000	
		GRAND TOTAL	262,800	232,500	Meet through NEDAC funds

The SWP was approved. The overall SWP budget may be revised by EXCOM or Chairman, as the actual expenses will be more apparent after a few in-person events are organised. The budget heads may be re-appropriated based on operational requirements by the Honorary Secretary General.

The General Assembly suggested several ways to increase NEDAC income and membership, as follows:

- NEDAC shall provide more services to add more sources of funds.
- The membership base should be expanded to increase the income of NEDAC.

- Inviting more countries in the ASEAN region as a member will help the organisation generate more income and visibility.
- A concrete plan should be created to increase the number of members and revenue.
- When the host country organises events/activities, they shall invite prospective organisations and cooperatives in their country to join NEDAC. Discounts can be given to member countries for enrolment in every such event to promote more participation.
- Designing a specific program to engage non-members from other countries.

NEDAC will offer an annual subscription on its website to advertise various events by member countries. The GA agreed that each member shall pay a fee of US\$ 500 annually for website maintenance, posting event advertisements, and linking individual member webpages to the NEDAC website.

Agenda GA2022.10

Election of NEDAC Executive Committee (EXCOM) Office Bearers (Chairman, Co-Chairman, Two Vice-Chairmen, and Members)

The General Assembly unanimously elected Mr. Pankaj Kumar Bansal, Managing Director of NCDC, India, as Chairman of NEDAC for the term of 2023 and 2024.

The General Assembly also elected Mr. Joseph B. Encabo of CDA, Philippines, as Co-chairman for the term of 2023 and 2024, as the Philippines would host the next General Assembly Session in 2024.

The General Assembly unanimously approved Mr. K.B. Upreti, NCBL, Nepal, to continue to be one of the Vice-Chairmen for the term of 2023 and 2024. The other position of the Vice-Chairman will remain vacant until the EXCOM makes a decision. The General Assembly also selected the Executive Committee members and constituted the EXCOM for the years 2023 and 2024. The complete list of the office bearers is given in Annex GA2022-01.

The General Assembly commended the outgoing Chairman, Mr. Sundeep Kumar Nayak, for his excellent leadership in reviving NEDAC over the past few years and through the pandemic disruptions. The General Assembly also agreed to continue availing Mr. Sundeep Kumar Nayak's services as an Emeritus Chair Senior Advisor to NEDAC.

The GA proceedings up to this agenda item are approved by Mr. K.B. Upreti, Vice-Chairman, NEDAC, who chaired in the absence of the outgoing Chairman:

Signature as approval by Mr. KB Upreti: _____



Agenda GA2022.11

Speech by New Chair, NEDAC

Mr. Pankaj Kumar Bansal, the newly elected Chairman of NEDAC, shared his experiences in NCDC and the prospects for NEDAC to play a more proactive role in the cooperative sector. With his new position, Mr. Bansal solicited every member's support in taking forward the activities of NEDAC with renewed vigour. He expressed his optimism that despite difficulties, NEDAC will succeed in all of its endeavours with the cooperation and support of everyone.

Agenda GA2022.12

Venue and Host of Next General Assembly

As the COVID-19 situation is improving and most travel restrictions are currently eased, it was decided that the next General Assembly in 2024 shall be organised as a face-to-face event, hosted by the CDA, Philippines.

Agenda GA2022.13

Closing of General Assembly

On completion of the agenda and the proceeding, the General Assembly was closed with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Agenda GA2022.11 onwards approved by the new Chair, Mr. Pankaj Kumar Bansal:_____