

Dates and Venue of 18th APRACA General Assembly and Regional Forum were fixed

New Homepage of APRACA Website with a full screen and enriched contents was introduced

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- APRACA has concluded to hold its 18th General Assembly and 61st Executive Committee Meeting on 31 May 2012 at Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Hotel in Siem Reap, Cambodia, hosted by the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC). In addition, the Regional Forum on “Strengthening the Resilience of Smallholder Farmers through Rural Financial Innovations” will be organized on 30 May. All these events will be conducted in commemoration of 35th Anniversary of APRACA that founded in 1977. Members are requested to register their participation in these events by 15 April 2012.

Dates of meetings: 30 May-1 June 2012

30 May	Grand Opening and Regional Forum
31 May	61 st Executive Committee Meeting and 18 th General Assembly
1 June	Field trip to an Agricultural Project and Angkor Wat

Venue: Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Hotel, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Host institution: The National Bank of Cambodia

Please refer to the attached Provisional Program for further information.

- With regard to the Regional Forum, three themes including Agricultural value chain finance, Green finance and Risk management at farm level were chosen in accordance with those of the Grant Concept Note submitted to IFAD on 31 January 2012. Three key speakers, one for each theme - Dr. Prasun Kumar Das, Professor of KIIT University, India, Dr. Jung-Sup Choi, Professor of Yeongnam University, Korea and Mr. Benedicto Bayaua, the former Secretary General of APRACA were also selected.

The Secretariat sent letters to APRACA members requesting nomination of speakers who can introduce empirical cases of either their own institutions or their countries on 16 February. In this regard, the Secretariat expects APRACA members to nominate at least one speaker from each country by 15 March.

❖ Mini-Consultation was held to prepare the Grand Concept Note for a Proposal of the Second Phase of IFAD FinPower Programme

- In preparation of the Grant Concept Note to be submitted to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) proposing a second phase of the five-year FinPower Programme that ended 2011, APRACA organized a Mini-Consultation meeting on 25-26 January at Amari Watergate Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. A total of 16 participants including 11 from four APRACA members, three from IFAD, and one from a University attended the two-day meeting.

- Dr. Jung-Sup Choi, Professor of Yeongnam University, Korea presented his first draft of the Concept Note and the comments and opinions collected from APRACA members and partners after the circulation of the first draft. Meetings followed with a view to gathering ideas and opinions helpful for the drawing up of most relevant proposal.
- The finally adopted six-page Grant Concept Note, titled “A Regional Programme for Strengthening the Resilience of Smallholder Farmers and Other Rural Poor People through Rural Financial Innovations”, was submitted to IFAD by APRACA Secretariat on 31 January with the supporting documents prepared by the Secretariat. IFAD is expected to review the Concept Note and decide to adopt/reject it within six months from its receipt.
- The proposed Programme: 1) contains three major themes to be addressed including agricultural value chain finance, green finance and risk management at farm level; 2) covers seven APRACA member countries as its target countries; 3) sets a performing period of four years (2013-2014); and 4) has the total budget of 1.5 million US dollars.
- A two-day field trip to Chiangmai was arranged by the local host institution, Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) on 27-28 January. Participants visited the Royal Flora Exposition in Chiang Mai, the Doi Suthep (a Buddhist Temple) and a Royal Summer Palace beautifully decorated with all kinds of roses.

❖ **New Homepage of APRACA Website with a full screen and enriched contents was introduced**

- APRACA has totally renovated the APRACA Website from December 2011 to February 2012 as part of the FinPower Programme. In order to renovate the Website, the Secretariat has employed a web-designer, Ourgreenfish.
- The Homepage of the website has changed into a full screen with more enriched contents. The new website consists of 1) About us (History, Vision and mission, Organization, Members), 2) About FinPower, 3) Speeches (Chairman’s message, Speeches), 4) News update, 5) Secretary General’s Report, 6) APRACA events (Secretariat, CENTRAB, ACS), 7) Photo gallery, 8) New figures of APRACA members, 9) Best practices/innovations, 10) E-Library, 11) Useful links.
- In particular, the Website newly accommodated an E-Library with a view to providing APRACA members, partners, and stakeholders with conveniences to search all the K-wealth materials (publications, papers, reports, etc.), that were produced and accumulated by APRACA during 2007-2011 as part of the activities of the FinPower Programme. Visitors can find papers they want through searches by the author, title, year, and keywords. APRACA plans to additionally upload all the publications and important papers and reports to be produced in the future.

❖ **Preparation of Joint Programs with UN FAO-RAP**

➤ **Regional Workshop on Smallholder Livestock Production, Marketing and Financing in Asia Region**

- APRACA has tentatively set up the outline of the Workshop in consultation with the Livestock Policy Officer, UN Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP).

- Dates of the Workshop: two days in the fourth week of August

- Venue: a Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand
- Three themes will be selected in due course
- Number of participants: 50 including 20 covered participants, 20 local participants, and 10 participants from international organizations

➤ **International Symposium on Marketing and Finance of the Organic Supply Chain**

- APRACA has tentatively settled the outline of the Symposium as below in consultation with Food and Agriculture Organization Regional office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP) and Agricultural and Food Marketing Association for Asia and the Pacific (AFMA)

Dates:	24-27 September 2012, three-day meeting and one-day field trip
Venue:	Seoul, Korea
Number of expected participants:	60 including speakers
Host organizations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) - Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA) - Agricultural and Food Marketing Association for Asia and the Pacific (AFMA) - National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of Korea (NACF)
Invited speakers:	25 including a Key-note speaker, 12 from finance sector and another 12 from marketing sector in principle
Condition of invitation of speakers:	economy round trip airfares and local expenses including accommodation, meals and transportation will be borne by APRACA/AFMA.
Selection of speakers:	Screening committee selects speakers after reviewing the abstracts submitted by applicants by 14 May. Applicants for speakers are expected to submit their paper abstracts to APRACA/AFMA by 30 April.
Invitation letters for the general participants will be sent to APRACA/AFMA members in mid-May.	

❖ Collaborative Activities with Partner Agencies

- APRACA is seeking a partnership with **Agence Francaise de Development (AFD)** in line with the submission of Grand Concept Note to IFAD for a new grant programme. Soon after the submission of the Grant Concept Note to IFAD on 31 January, the Secretariat sent AFD a copy of the Concept Note and supporting documents including APRACA's Annual Report of FinPower Programme 2011 and requested to review co-financing the Programme. AFD responded that they plan to review APRACA's proposal by the end of March.
- The **Agriculture Finance Support Facility (AgriFin)**, an initiative supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and managed by the World Bank, invited the Secretary General to AgriFin's first Annual Meeting, Financing Agriculture Forum 2012 to be held in Kampala, Uganda from 28 to 30 March 2012. The Secretary General plans to attend the Forum as a panelist of the first session of the Forum, titled "New World of Agriculture and the Opportunities for Finance". It will be a valuable momentum for APRACA to promote cooperation with agricultural credit institutions in the other continents as well as with diversified donor agencies.
- The Secretary General attended the **9th Asia-Pacific Cooperative Ministers' Conference** held on 27-29 February at United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand. The Conference has been organized by the **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)** and Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand in commemoration of the UN's declaration of 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives. A total of 300 delegates including 14 Ministers in charge of cooperative development attended the Conference from the governments and cooperative organizations in 21 countries.

❖ Member Relation Activities

- Secretary General visited APRACA Member Institutions in Thailand
 - The Secretary General paid a courtesy call on Mr. Luck Wajananawat, President of BAAC on 6 January as part of the visits for New Year greetings to APRACA members. At a meeting with him and his Officers, the Secretary General expressed his deep appreciation to BAAC for its lavish supports to the activities of APRACA during the previous year and asked for continuous collaboration with APRACA in the coming year. Mr. Luck Wajananawat responded that he and his staff would support APRACA as actively as before by joining various activities of APRACA. He also proposed APRACA to host a field trip to Chiang Mai in line with the conduct of Mini-Consultation scheduled on 25-26 January for drafting a Grant Concept Note for a next phase of FinPower Programme. His proposal became materialized and a total of nine participants of the Mini-Consultation benefited to enjoy two-day visit to Chiangmai. He also mentioned to consider sending a big delegation to the General Assembly of APRACA which will be held in the neighboring country, Cambodia.
 - The S-G visited the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) and met with its Executive Director, Dr. Suwichai Suparanon on 18 January. Dr. Suparanon appreciated APRACA's support for their international cooperative activities with overseas institutions. He also confirmed to join APRACA more actively than before responding to the S-G's request to strengthen mutual cooperation between two institutions. In addition, he proposed the CLT to send a big delegation to the General Assembly of APRACA to be held in Cambodia.
 - The S-G visited the Bank of Thailand (BOT) and met with its Deputy Governor, Dr. Kirik

Vanikkul on February 3, where he expressed his gratitude to BOT for its continuous support to APRACA. BOT has sent its delegates to APRACA meetings and provided technical supports for several FinPower Programme projects on top of the hosting a National Forum on microfinance. Dr. Vanikkul promised to give support to APRACA as much as possible when it is requested.

➤ **Membership Promotion**

- APRACA has addressed the need to increase membership of APRACA by sending letters in recent months to financial institutions in the region with a high potentiality of being members of APRACA. It has sent invitation letters for APRACA membership to four Indonesian banks/financial institutions including Lembaga Pengembangan Perbankan Indonesia (LPPI), Yayasan Pengembangan Perbankan Indonesia (YPPI), PT Bank Tabungan Pensiunan Nasional Tbk, and PT Bank Danamon Tbk by the recommendation of Bank Indonesia. Out of them, LPPI submitted an application for APRACA Membership to the Secretariat on 12 January.

In addition, APRACA has invited three Indian banks for APRACA membership upon receiving recommendations from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development of India (NABARD). Those three banks are Indian Overseas Bank, Dena Bank, and Corporation Bank.

Since the Secretariat received the Membership Application from XacBank in Mongolia last August, APRACA will have at least two new members by the approval of the Executive Committee meeting in May.

❖ **APRACA Consultancy Services (ACS) newly started with the New Management System**

- **Establishment of New ACS**

- On 10 January 2012, Yayasan Pengembangan Perbankan Indonesia (YPPI) or Indonesian Banking Development Foundation (IBDF) has established “Yayasan Konsultasi APRACA (YKA)” as a new ACS. The purpose of the establishment of this new ACS is to transfer the ownership of Bank Indonesia on ACS to YPPI which came into effect on 30 January 30 2012 as per the resolution of general meeting of ACS founders.

- **General Meeting of ACS Founders**

- APRACA Consultancy Services (ACS), as the consulting agency of APRACA was established as per the decision of the 8th APRACA General Assembly Meeting held in Jakarta and Denpasar, Indonesia on 5-9 December 1990. ACS Secretariat is located in the premises of Bank Indonesia Head Office in Jakarta, Indonesia as per the decision of the Executive Committee of APRACA.
- Bank Indonesia (BI), Bank Rakyat Indonesia (BRI), and Bank Bukopin as the APRACA member institutions in Indonesia, founded ACS according to the Indonesian law. ACS was registered on 19 June, 1992 as a non-profit foundation (known as “Yayasan” in Indonesian language) namely “Yayasan Lembaga Konsultasi APRACA”. Since then, ACS is owned by BI, BRI, and Bank Bukopin.
- In connection with the new enforcement of the law on Yayasan and the new regulations of Bank Indonesia, the ownership of BI on ACS should be transferred to another

institution. Hence, on 30 January 2012 ACS held a general meeting of its founders that produced the following resolutions:

- a. Dissolution of “Yayasan Lembaga Konsultansi APRACA”
- b. Designation of officers from BI, BRI, and Bank Bukopin as a team of liquidation upon the dissolution of “Yayasan Lembaga Konsultansi APRACA”
- c. The liquidation assets of “Yayasan Lembaga Konsultansi APRACA “is transferred to the new ACS (Yayasan Konsultasi APRACA)
- d. The ownership of Bank Indonesia on ACS is transferred to YPPI.
- e. The function of ACS as the consulting agency of APRACA is conducted by “Yayasan Konsultasi APRACA (YKA)”
- f. The organs of new ACS (YKA) are Pembina (Board of Developers or Patrons), Pengawas (Board of Supervisors) and Pengurus (Board of Management) as the following office bearers:

Board of Developers:

Chairman	Dr. Halim Alamsyah, Deputy Governor of Bank Indonesia
Members	1. Mr. Abdul Aziz, Chairman Board of Management of YPPI 2. Mr. Sofyan Basir, President and CEO of BRI 3. Mr. Glen Glenardi, President of Bank Bukopin

Board of Supervisors:

Chairman	Mr. Edy Setiadi, Director of Bank Indonesia
Members	1. Mr. Djarot Kusumayakti, Director of BRI 2. Mr. Sulistyohadi, Director of Bank Bukopin

Board of Management:

Chairman	Mr. Agus Gunawan (act as Managing Director)
Secretary	Ms. Dian Permatasari
Treasurer	Ms. Farida Aryanthy

Provisional Program of APRACA EXCOM/GA and Regional Forum

May 30, 2012	
09:00-10:00	Grand Opening
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcoming Address by NBC Governor - Opening Address by APRACA Chairman - Congratulatory Address by Cambodian Government VIP - Congratulatory Address by International Organization VIP - Vote of Thanks by APRACA Secretary General
10:00-10:30	Introduction of Cambodian Agriculture and Agricultural Finance
10:30-11:00	Break
11:00- 17:30	Regional Forum on Strengthening the Resilience of Smallholder Framers through Rural Finance Innovations
11:00-12:20	(Forum Session 1) Strengthening the Resilience of Smallholder Farmers through Linking Farmers to the Value Chain
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional View by: Dr. Prasun Kumar Das, Associate Professor, KIIT University, India - Country Case (1) - Country Case (2) - Country Case (3)
12:20-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:20	(Forum Session 2) Strengthening the Resilience of Smallholder Farmers through Linking Rural People to Green Financing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional View by Dr. Jung-Sup Choi, Professor, Yeong-Nam University, Korea - Country Case (1) - Country Case (2) - Country Case (3)
15:20-15:50	Break
15:50-17:10	(Forum Session 3) Strengthening the Resilience of Smallholder Farmers through Appropriate Risk Management Strategies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional View by Mr. Benedicto S. Bayaua, Former Secretary General of APRACA - Country Case (1) - Country Case (2) - Country Case (3)
17:10-17:30	Wrap-up Session
18:30 -	Welcoming Dinner
May 31, 2012	
AM :	61st APRACA Executive Committee Meeting
PM :	18th APRACA General Assembly