

2012 International Year of Cooperatives @ UPLB, Philippines

Opening Program and Plenary

The keynote address of the President of the Philippines will be delivered by Secretary Gregory L. Domingo of the Department of Trade and Industry. Officials of the University of the Philippines (UP), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), and other institutions will grace the opening program.

There will be sharing of country experiences from the Philippines and Japan under the plenary topic "Policy Issues and Framework for Sustainable Co-operative Development".

National issues and the role of co-operatives will be presented under the major program areas of agricultural development, agrarian reform, and mobilization of government and private sector support for farmers' cooperatives.

THEME: Co-operative Enterprises: Key to Sustainable Economic and Social Progress

Parallel Sessions

Co-operative champions, practitioners and researchers from various countries* will be presenting papers in different parallel sessions. The sessions will cover six focal areas:

- ✚ Co-operative education
- ✚ Co-operative enterprise development and challenges
- ✚ Co-operative finance
- ✚ ICT/ database management for co-operatives
- ✚ Women and youth in co-operatives
- ✚ Role of co-operatives in environmental sustainability and natural resources management

* Czech Republic, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam

Banquets

There will be a welcome dinner for conference participants on day 1, November 8. The popular UPLB Choral Ensemble and Sandayaw will captivate the guests with their music and dance.

A Fellowship Night and Dinner will be held on November 9 with the top officials of Laguna Province as Guest of Honor. The highly acclaimed Sining Katutubo Dance Assembly of Pagsanjan, Laguna (SIKADA) will perform, showcasing the country and region's unique culture.

Exhibits and Tours

Co-operatives from around the country will be showcasing their products, services, and stories of success through exhibits.

On November 10, two optional tours are offered:

- ✚ AM – National Arts Center and Lumban Embroidery Association MPC;
- ✚ PM – Liliw footwear enterprises.