

Malaysia hosts global cooperative conference

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MALAYSIA plays host to the Global Conference and General Assembly of the International Co-operative Alliance 2017 (ICAKL 2017) for the first time today.

Held from Nov 13 to 19, this edition welcomes more than 1,000 representatives from 98 countries including the United States, United Kingdom, China, Japan, South Africa, Canada, Kiribati, Gabon and Russia.

Angkatan Koperasi Kebangsaan Malaysia Berhad (Angkasa) president Datuk Abdul Fattah Abdullah said keynote speakers for the conference are First Female Prime Minister of Norway and Deputy Chair of Elders Gro Harlem Brundtland and Economist and Member of World Economic Forum Linda Yueh.

Themed "Cooperatives: Putting people at the centre of development", the conference focuses on four topics; learn, experiment, network and explore.

Fattah said Angkasa wants cooperatives to establish relationships between the governments, youth development, cooperatives to cooperatives business (C2C) as well as create cooperatives in colleges and educational institutions.

"Malaysia is honoured to have been chosen to host this renowned conference via competitive bidding.

"We started campaigning for this since 2013 in Cancun, Mexico and managed to beat our competitors, Australia, New Zealand and Iran.

"Malaysia is the second Muslim nation to host the event in the world after Turkey two years ago," he said.

Fattah said there will be 35 working

papers up for discussion during the conference on topics such as housing, healthcare, education, environment as well as refugees and foreign workers.

He said it will be the first time for the cooperative alliance to speak on the issue of refugees and foreign workers, adding that it has been a "hot topic" for the past few years following the massive refugee crisis happening worldwide.

"On the topic of the refugees and foreign workers, we will look at how the cooperatives can help them, how they can be monitored and cared for by the working committee in relations to the country's regulations and policies.

"This is just one of the many sectors and topics that will be discussed.

"The things discussed during the conference will be made into a resolution and will be upheld by all the countries and to the United Nations," he said.

The alliance's General Assembly for the presidential and board member's election will be held on Nov 17.

The election happens every four years, where members will vote for a new president and 15 new board members.

Fattah said it will be a tight fight between Ariel Guarco from Argentina's Cooperative Federation of the Argentine Republic and Yogeshwar Krishna from Fiji's Nasinu Land Purchase and Housing Cooperative Limited.

Malaysia's Datuk Kamarudin Ismail, who is also Angkasa's vice-president, is one of the 26 candidates vying for a seat on the board.

Kamarudin said he strongly believes that the sustainability of future cooperative not only in Malaysia but in other countries, begins from youth at school level. After serving 30 years as



Datuk Abdul Fattah Abdullah



Angkasa vice-president Datuk Kamarudin Ismail (fourth, right) is one of the candidates vying for a seat on the International Co-operative Alliance's General Assembly presidential and board member's election on Nov 17, this year.

an educator, he joined the Education Ministry as the Senior Assistant director and throughout his 13-year tenure, he managed to become the person behind many changes in terms of how school cooperatives should be operated.

Kamarudin's initiative in making school cooperatives a member of Angkasa allowed school cooperatives to receive numerous benefits such as special grants to develop their business.

"Kamarudin's never ending spirit in developing school cooperatives in Malaysia has been widely recognised in the country, which has led to other nations such as Japan, South Korea, Timor Leste, Thailand, Singapore, Iran,

Bangladesh, Mauritius to take notice and invite him to present papers and hold workshops about school cooperatives," Fattah said.

He also leads Angkasa's retail and wholesale sector, which assist cooperatives to develop and market their products and services through their special programme "100 Product Champion". These products have not only made it to the shelves of local supermarkets but also exported to Brunei and Singapore.

ICAKL 2017 will also host the inaugural Asean Cooperative Organisation Annual Conference on Nov 19 with veteran politician and former International Trade and Industry Minister Tan Sri Rafi-

dah Aziz as the keynote speaker.

Fattah said this seminar is to introduce the concept of Asean Economic Community, to engage with the community members and increase cooperative business movements between.

Themed "AEC and Asean Regional Cooperative — The Next Imperative", among the speakers include Standards Malaysia director-general Datuk Fadilah Baharin, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) chief executive officer Dr Mohd Shahreen Zainooreen Madros as well as representatives from Malaysian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce and UMW Technology SB.

Carnival of cooperatives

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THE Malaysian Carnival of Cooperatives' Products and Services (Maccops 2017) returns with a bigger bang for its third time starting tomorrow at the Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre.

The five day event will host 162 exhibitors including 20 international cooperatives from India, China and Iran.

The event is organised in conjunction with the Global Conference and General Assembly of the International Co-operative Alliance 2017 (ICAKL 2017) which Malaysia is hosting for the first time.

ICAKL 2017 welcomes more than 1,500 delegations from 98 countries from Nov 14 to 17. Themed "Embrace

the Difference", the carnival focuses on eight major economic sectors that highlight the specialised products and services of the Malaysian market.

Among the products and services that will be showcased by the local cooperatives include food and beverages, healthcare, property, agriculture, tourism, finance as well information technology.

Angkatan Koperasi Kebangsaan Malaysia Bhd (Angkasa) president Datuk Abdul Fattah Abdullah said the carnival acts as a platform for the people to interact and communicate not only with their local business cooperatives and entrepreneurs but also foreign ones.

"This year's carnival is a bit different as we have invited international cooperatives to participate. They are from

India, China and Iran.

"With international participation, we hope our local cooperatives could focus on transforming their businesses to the international level, expand their outlooks and reach for higher target.

"The carnival also aims to promote and create a cooperative-to-cooperative network as well as host various seminars, product demonstrations, business matching and product launches," he said.

Angkasa, he said, estimates a total of RM200 million or USD\$50 million of future business transaction to come from this exhibition.

Fattah said there will also be a "100 Champion Products" programme held during the carnival whereby Angkasa would assist in developing the chosen



Datuk Abdul Fattah Abdullah during a previous Maccops event.

product to enter a bigger market and achieve global recognition.

He said the chosen products, which fulfills specified requirements, will not only get to work with experts from Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (Sirim) but also packaging and labelling experts to ensure it is of international standards.

"Angkasa hopes this carnival will

create more business relationships between the local and international cooperatives and also widen our cooperative networks," he said.

Maccops 2017 is open to the public from 10am to 10pm from Nov 15 to 19. Visitors who register for the lucky draw stand to win laptops, mobile phones and a motorcycle, while the grand prize winner will be bringing home a Proton Iriz.

Perpustakaan Koperasi
Malaysia