



Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC)-an inter- governmental organization for the cause of coconut industry

Remany Gopalakrishnan



A sian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), is an intergovernmental organization headquartered at Jakarta, Indonesia which fulfils the mission to promote, coordinate and harmonize coconut developmental activities of the Asian Pacific region to achieve maximum economic development. APCC stimulates regional cooperation across national boundaries.

APCC came into existence in 1969 under the aegis of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) for strengthening the regional cooperation among the coconut producing countries.

Vision and Mission of APCC

The vision of APCC is to improve the socio-economic conditions of the coconut growers, processors, traders and all those who depend on this crop and crop based industries in the member countries through proper promoting, collaborating and harmonizing of various coconut related activities.

Its mission is to assist the member countries to develop, provide or exchange technologies for the following mission mode programs to make the coconut industry vibrant in the years to come.

- Increasing productivity
- Reducing cost of production
- Adopting integrated coconut based farming system
- Encouraging organic farming
- Promoting farm level processing
- Promoting product diversification/ value addition and by-product utilization
- Improving quality standards
- Increasing market promotional activities, market survey and market research
- Helping in trade related issues

Deputy Director, CDB, India

- Developing human resource for effective transfer of technology

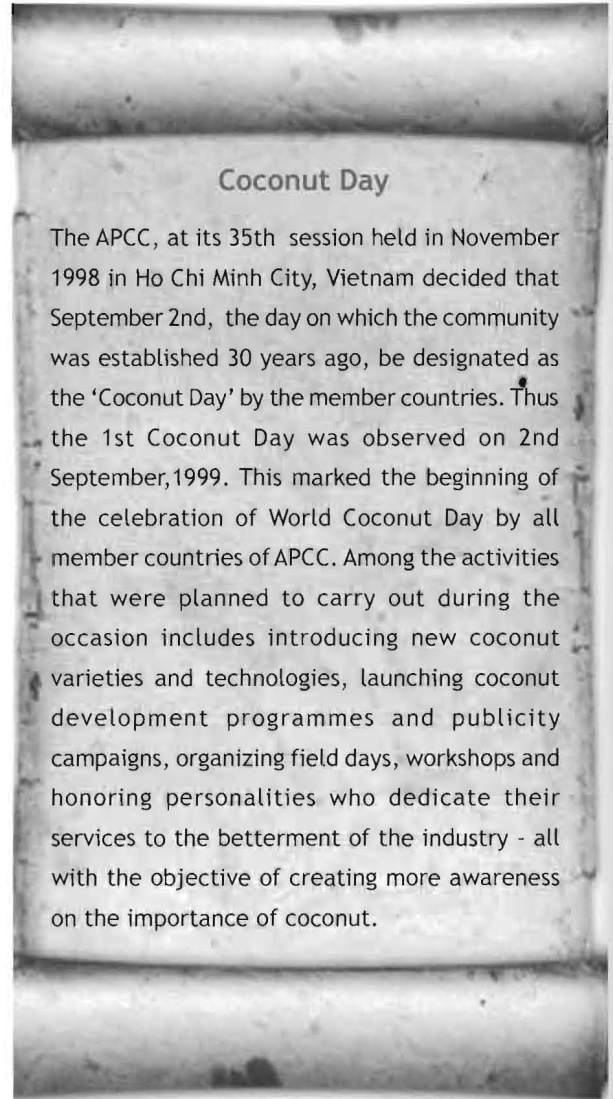
The mission encompasses implementation of projects relating to different aspects of the industry, provision of technical assistance, collection and dissemination of information on coconut and assistance in transfer of technology. APCC also brings together different segments of the industry to facilitate closer co-operation and collaboration among them.

Membership

Developing countries which are state members within the geographical limits of Asia and Pacific are eligible to become members of the Community. Its associate membership is open to any dependent territory within the Asia and Pacific region and to developing countries outside the geographical limits of Asia and Pacific.

India was one among the first 3 signatories. Indonesia, Philippines and India signed the Agreement on 12th December 1968. Ceylon, Thailand and Malaysia signed on 11th March, 26th June and 30th June 1969 respectively. During its 13th session the nomenclature of the community changed to Asian and Pacific Coconut Community. This regional grouping provides essential tools for coordination, growth and understanding across national boundaries. Its long history of cooperation and achievement has to its credit many incredible contributions to the coconut industry.

The Community now comprises of sixteen regular members namely; Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Vietnam. Jamaica and Kenya are associate members of APCC. These countries account for more than 90 per cent of the world production and export of coconut products. APCC member countries produces more than 55 billion nuts a year and export more than 33 million metric tonnes of coconut products including coir.



APCC Session and COCOTECH

APCC Session is the policy making body of the community. The session is held once in each calendar year and the member states are represented by plenipotentiary representatives. The technical arm of the community is christened as COCOTECH which is the Permanent Panel on Coconut Technology. It meets once in two year and sets the guidelines for the community's work programme. Cocotech serves as an open forum for researchers, processors, traders and policy makers to meet and exchange information relating to coconut industry. The APCC session of Plenipotentiary members in its annual meetings approves the theme and venue of the COCOTECH meeting for the succeeding year.

Administration

Chairmanship of the community is held in turn by representatives of full member states in their alphabetical order and the chairmanship is valid for one year. Vice Chairmanship too follows the same pursuit. Mr. Do Ngoc Khai, Director General of National Company for Vegetable Oils, Aromas & Cosmetics of Vietnam (VOCARIMEX), Vietnam presently holds the Chairmanship of APCC. Vice Chairman becomes the Chairman in the succeeding year. Mr. Namio O. Nanpei, General Manager, FSM Coconut Development Authority, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia holds the present Vice Chairmanship.

The secretariat of the community is located in Jakarta, Indonesia. Government of Indonesia provides host facilities to the secretariat under an agreement signed by the Government and APCC. Secretariat serves as a global centre and assists in collecting, organizing and exchanging information relating to all aspects of the coconut industry and disseminate it through journals, proceedings of meetings, country studies, technological sheets, directories, statistical year books and video documentaries. The national information centres, in turn, through their participating agencies, disseminate information to end-users in their respective countries.

The coordination of activities of the community with the member states is through a network of National Liaison Officers (NLOs) drawn from government agencies which are responsible for the coconut industry in the member countries. NLOs liaise with all stakeholders. India's present NLO is Shri. Sanjeev Chopra IAS, Joint Secretary (NHM), Government of India. Shri. Shailendrakumar IAS, Director (Hort), Government of India is the alternate NLO.

Executive Director (ED) heads the Secretariat. The ED is elected by the session for a period of 3 years which can be


extended to one more term if the session desires. The Executive Director is assisted by Assistant Director who is also selected by the session. Executive Director appoints its other skeleton staff as desired by the session. The office of the Executive Director is presently occupied by Shri. Romulo N. Arancon.JR., who hails from the Philippines.

India and its association with APCC

As mentioned earlier, India was one among the first signatories of the APCC. The country so far hosted three sessions i.e., 4th APCC during 12-16 April 1971 at New Delhi, 25th session during 28th Nov - 2nd Dec 1988 at Cochin and 38th session during 5 - 8 Nov 2001 at Bangalore. India was also the host country for three COCOTECH meetings. Viz. 4th Cocotech during 12-16 April 1971 (along with 4th APCC

The original signatories of the contracting parties
 for the establishment of the
 Asian and Pacific Coconut Community

FOR INDONESIA:

 Dec 12, 1968

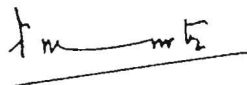
FOR PHILIPPINES:

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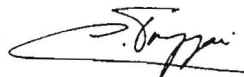
FOR INDIA:

 12 Dec. 1968.

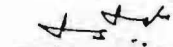
FOR CEYLON:

 11th March 1969.

FOR THAILAND:

 Jan 26, 1969

FOR MALAYSIA:

 June 30, 1969.
 (Teong Ngee Kohanad).

session), 32nd COCOTECH during 17-21 July 1995, at Cochin and 37th COCOTECH during 24 - 28 July 2000 at Chennai. India is hosting the 45th Cocotech at Kochi which is being held during 2 - 6 July 2012.

India has held the Chairmanship twice and Executive Directorship once since its formation. Mr. M R Sivaraman IAS, the then Joint Secretary to Government of India was the Chairman of APCC in 1988 and Dr. H P Singh, Horticulture Commissioner, Government of India and the former Chairman of the Coconut Development Board was its Chairman in 2001. Dr. P Rethinam, former Chairman of the Board was the Executive Director of APCC during 2002-2006.

The major source of funding for the Secretariat is from the member countries through contributions and special funds from outside funding agencies for taking up collaborative projects. Many useful projects with the assistance from donor organizations have been undertaken with a view to strengthen coconut industry in the region.

Important studies undertaken in India with the funding of APCC as well as other donor Agencies like BUROTROP and COGENT include 'Assessment of Performance of Hybrid coconut varieties', 'Developing sustainable coconut based income generating technologies' etc.

The APCC region has recorded perceptible improvement in area, production and productivity of coconut during the span of the previous four decades. The area and production grew from 6.547 million ha and 4,691million nuts to 10.62 million ha. and 55,625 million nuts respectively during this period recording a growth rate of 1.22 % in area and 6.38% in production.

No doubt, the APCC will continue to work productively to meet the future challenges in the member countries to make the coconut industry vibrant.

Contact address of APCC: Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, 3rd Floor, Lina Building, Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav. B7, Kuningan, Jakarta 12920 - INDONESIA. Tel.☎ (62-21) 5221712 to 13 , Fax: (62-21) 5221714. E-mail: apcc@indo.net.id. Website: apccsec.org

