

51st Ministerial Meeting/Session of APCC Concludes in Kochi; Next session to be held in Indonesia

The 51st Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) Ministerial Meeting/Session concluded on 5th February 2015, which was being held at hotel Crowne Plaza in Kochi. Indonesia would be the next chairman of APCC. The 52nd APCC Ministerial Meeting/Session is scheduled to be held in Indonesia post March 2016. "The exact date and the venue will be declared after consulting with the government," informed the Indonesian representatives. "Considering the deliberation that we have in the past 2-day meeting, it is apparent that we have to strengthen cooperation among the producing countries and all coconut stakeholders, particularly with the aim to benefit small farmers," said Dr. Herdradjat N, Director of Perennial Crops, Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia while accepting the Chairmanship for the government of Indonesia. Dr. Herdradjat also handed over a memento to Shri. T.K. Jose, Chairman, Coconut Development Board representing the Government of India, which is the outgoing Chairman of APCC.

Coconut plantation in Indonesia is spread over 3.63 million ha. Of which, around 74 per cent of the palms are in the bearing age profile and 12 per cent are senile. The annual production of nuts comes to around 3.03 Million MT or 15.1 million nuts with a productivity of 1,128 kg/ha/year. The export earnings are to the tune of USD 1.11 billion. The 3 major producing

islands are Sumatera with 32 per cent of total plantation area, followed by Java (23 per cent) and Sulawesi (20 per cent). Most of the farmers still sell copra or fresh coconut but with the fluctuation and low price of copra, farmers get low income.

The major coconut development activities undertaken are establishment of Coconut Mother Palm Nursery and High Yielding Block, replanting, new planting, rehabilitation, empowerment of Farmers Group, pests and Diseases Management and providing supporting facilities and quality improvement (post-harvest equipments). An area of 14909 ha was replanted in 2014 and the area targeted for replanting in 2015 is 16900 ha. New planting was done in 1250 ha in 2014. Coconut oil continued to be the major product exported from the country, followed by copra meal, desiccated coconut, shell charcoal and copra. The major markets for coconut oil were USA, Netherlands, and Malaysia while desiccated coconut was exported to Brazil, Singapore and Germany. Copra Meal was exported mainly to South Korea, India and China. Among the non-traditional coconut products, viz., virgin coconut oil, coco fibre and coconut shell briquette, the major buyers were USA, Netherlands, Russia, Malaysia, China and South Korea.



Shri. T.K. Jose, Chairman, Coconut Development Board receiving memento from Dr. Herdradjat N, Director of Perennial Crops, Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia



Mr. Hiroshi V. Yamamura, Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, Marshal Islands receiving memento from Shri. T.K. Jose IAS, Chairman, Coconut Dev. Board



Mr. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Samoa receiving memento from Shri. T.K. Jose IAS, Chairman, Coconut Dev. Board