



Weekly Digest

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Editor: Garry Cronan
Email: cronan@ica.coop

ICA
15 Route des Morillons
1218 Grand Saconnex
Geneva, Switzerland
Tel +41 22 929 8888
Fax +41 22 798 4122
Website : www.ica.coop

Editorial

Welcome to issue eight of the Weekly Digest. When the Digest started two months ago, some doubted whether it would be possible to fill its pages every week with items on ICA activities. This has not been a problem; in fact what the ICA has been accomplishing has been something of a well kept secret. We have not within the last couple of months suddenly started doing more. What we are doing is more regularly reporting it. We hope this increase in information and communication is demonstrating what is being done on your behalf. In other words showing the benefits of membership. As always we would welcome your comments.

Scottish Homecoming for Director General

ICA Director General, Iain Macdonald received a special hometown welcome when he was guest speaker at *Co-operation and Mutuality Scotland's* annual conference at New Lanark, Scotland on 20 March 2004.

Mr Macdonald started his co-operative career as Scottish Educational Officer at UK Co-operative Union. He commented “it was a real pleasure to address this conference and meet up with old co-operative colleagues. I feel the historic venue of New Lanark is particularly apt for a conference which was about the regeneration of the co-operative and mutual sectors in Scotland. New Lanark was the site of one of Robert Owen’s earliest co-operative experiments. Owen, a famous 19th social reformer was very influential in the development of co-operative thought. His ideas helped lead to the formation of the Rochdale Pioneers Co-operative and ultimately the modern co-operative movement”.

The conference also saw the launch by the Scottish Government of a consultative process which is expected to ultimately lead to the establishment of a Co-operative Development Agency in Scotland. The above photo shows Iain Macdonald meeting with Scotland’s First Minister, Jack McConnell.



New Information Channel

The challenge of improving information flows within the ICA has received another boost. The Director General, (DG) Iain Macdonald will be shortly introducing a Weekly DG’s Report. This report, initially intended for an internal ICA audience will be sent to ICA Board members and other key ICA officials. It is designed to ensure the leadership of the ICA is regularly updated on all the activities being undertaken by the DG and when necessary other senior ICA staff. Iain Macdonald can be contacted at iain.macdonald@ica.coop

HRD Executive Moves Ahead on Global Learning Centre

The first meeting of the ICA's Global HRD Executive Committee for 2004 took place on 25-26 March in Geneva. It agreed on an extensive work programme for the coming year together with a more pro-active approach to HRD related issues within the ICA.



The establishment of the Co-operative Learning Centre (CLC) will be pursued in co-operation with various development partners such as the ILO and the Italian Programme for Distance Learning. The Portal Website of the CLC is now planned to be operational by December 2004. The CLC will be supplemented by a networking centre for co-operative training institutions worldwide with its focal point in Poona, India.

Interaction with other ICA thematic committees and the sectoral organisations will be intensified. In addition, the request of the Director General to provide substantive input to the ICA discussion on "co-operative governance" was very positively received by the HRD Committee. The Committee agreed to establish a global advisory panel and encouraged initiatives to establish a European HRD Committee alongside existing regional HRD committees. The meeting was attended by 9 of its 12 members, the Director General, ICA, the ICA's Manager for Communications and the ICA's Agricultural Adviser. The top photo shows the Chair of the HRD Executive, Yehudah Paz opening the meeting. The photo above right shows Professor Daniele Pulcini, Istituto Europeo di Biorigenesi European Networks, making a presentation on the proposed Italian Programme for Distance Learning.



New Journal of Co-operative Management

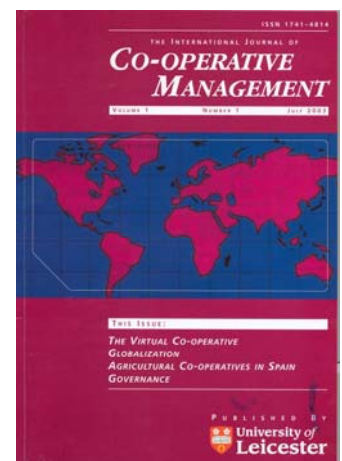
Dr Peter Davis (*see photo below*) a member of the ICA's HRD Executive has recently launched a new peer reviewed co-operative journal entitled *The International Journal of Co-operative Management*. The first issue was published in July 2003. It is produced by Dr Davis's Unit for Membership Based Organisations, Department of Management, University of Leicester, UK <http://www.le.ac.uk/ulmc/umbo/>

Peter Davis explains why he decided to produce this journal. "First and foremost the answer must be to provide a platform for discussion and debate concerning the management of the co-operative sector. This is a social and economic movement with its own distinct history, identity, structure and purpose... A movement that combines this



level of social relevance with some of the biggest agri-business, financial services and retail business in the world is surely so unique as to offer a serious area for academic research and management consulting specialisation. Without a basis for publication much work in this sector remains invisible to the wider movement and policy makers".

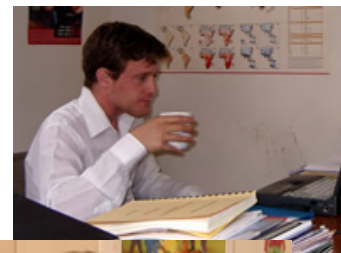
The first issue focuses on the theme of strategic problems facing co-operatives. It includes papers on "Values and their impact on the Virtual Co-operative", "Challengers for Agricultural Co-operatives in the EU", "The Problematic Nature of the Globalisation Thesis: its strategic implications for co-operative and social economy enterprises" and "Co-operative Management and Corporate Governance". As well, more detailed case studies are included on NUTC (Singapore), Coop Atlantic, (Canada) and Heart of England Society, (UK). The second issue is due out shortly. Dr Davis can be contacted at p.davis@le.ac.uk



Internships with the ICA – A Winning Investment for All

The ICA offers internship opportunities for interested students or young co-operators. Interns from both universities and ICA member organisations have been working in ICA Offices and on ICA programmes for many years.

There are 3 interns currently with the ICA. Josh Goldstein from Kent State University, (USA) who is working on development issues in the ICA's Head Office in Geneva. Two interns Tom Stark (*top photo*) and Jenny Struyk (*bottom photo*) both from the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) are attached to the ICA's ROECSA office in Nairobi, Kenya. See item below on Tom Stark's work and Weekly Digest No 6 for reports on Jenny Struyk's recent gender initiative in Kenya.



ICA Director General, Iain Macdonald is a strong supporter of the ICA's internship programme. "I think we are all winners. The intern obviously gains unmatched experience in seeing how the international co-operative movement works. The ICA wins from the contribution the interns make while they are with us and the intern's organisation, whether a university or a co-operative, benefits because the returning intern can make an immediate contribution. There is great scope for this programme to be increased, along with more formal secondment arrangements. I see these programmes as a real, but underutilised benefit of membership in the ICA" he said. If you would like to discuss the possibility of being involved in the ICA's Internship Programme please contact Iain Macdonald iain.macdonald@ica.coop

New Website for ICA ROECSA



A new website <http://www.icaroecca.coop/> has been developed for the ICA's Regional Office for East, Central and Southern Africa. The site was developed by CCA intern Tom Stark.

Main features include a section on the office, its activities and ICA members in the region. A message board has been included on the site to allow registered members to communicate with each other. A segment on networks and ICA committees links to information on the new regional ICA Gender Committee, ICA Against AIDS and Co-op Micro Finance Network. Other parts of the new site include a section on partner organisations, interns, resources, links and a calendar.

The Future of Co-operatives in a Growing Europe

The ICA's European Research Committee is organising a major conference on the topic of *The Future of Co-operative in a Growing Europe* for the 7-8 May 2004 in Segorbe, Spain. The conference is being jointly organised with CIRIEC Espana and IUDESCOOP, Universidad de Valencia see <http://www.uv.es/iudescoop/ICA-2004/>.

The aim of the conference is to analyse and discuss the main challenges and options for co-operatives in the context of an enlarged European Union. ICA Research Committee Vice Chair Europe, Prof Yohan Stryjan (Sweden) is delighted with the response from co-operative researchers, "the conference promises to be one of our biggest yet in Europe with over 60 papers from more than 70 participants so far received".

There are four main themes for the conference: Governance, management and innovation; Co-operatives, policy and society; At the boundaries of the Union and Mapping knowledge. For more information on the conference or the activities of the European Research Committee please contact Yohan Stryjan Yohan.Stryjan@sh.se.

ICFO Fishing Seminar Held in Indonesia

The International Co-operative Fisheries Organisation (ICFO) is one of the ICA's sectoral organisations. It recently held a seminar on 16-19 March in Jakarta, on the *Promotion of Sustainable Development of Fisheries in Indonesia*.

The seminar was jointly organised with the ICA. It was hosted by Induk Koperasi Perikanan Indonesia, IKPI (National Federation of Indonesian Fishermen's Co-operative Societies) a member organization of the ICFO. A total of 79 participants attended including leading world marine scientists, the Indonesian government, fisheries co-operatives and their federations, and NGOs, (*see photo above*). This seminar was supported with funds from the Training Project for Leaders of Fisheries Co-operatives in the World-2003, contributed from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Japanese Government to ICA. MAFF has contributed project funds to ICA every year since 1987.



The keynote speech was made by Mr. Alimarwan Hanan, Indonesian Minister of Co-operatives & Small and Medium Enterprises. Following this, Professor Rokhmin Dahuri, Indonesian Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries gave a special lecture. As a result of the seminar, a recommendation was adopted. The main points included

Domestic markets need to be developed further in the fisheries sector. This will help substantiate dependable marketing of fishers' produce. The role of fisheries co-operatives should be improved in accordance to meet the demand for high quality fish products from consumers. The role should embrace the whole system ranging from production, distribution up to consumption

A network mechanism for supplying fuel oil, such as through fisheries cooperative chains headed by IKPI, should be considered in cooperation with PERTAMINA and the government; and

A study should be made of the possibility of introducing insurance programs in the fisheries sector (such as for life insurance, property insurance, fishing vessel insurance, business insurance etc.)

For further information please contact the Secretary of ICFO Masaaki Sato kokusai-sato@r6.dion.ne.jp

25th Anniversary of CECOP in Europe



The 2nd Congress and the 25th anniversary of the European Confederation of Workers' Co-operatives, Social Co-operatives and Participative Enterprises (CECOP) <http://www.cecop.org/> will be held in Nantes, France 13-15 May 2004. The 33rd Congress of the Confédération of Générale des SCOP (CGSOP) will be celebrated together with the CECOP Congress.

CECOP, headquartered in Brussels with an office for East Europe in Prague represents small and medium-sized worker-controlled enterprises across 42 member countries of the Council of Europe. CECOP's members include 37 national and regional federations of co-operative enterprises representing around 83,000 enterprises employing 1.3 million workers. CECOP is the European regional organisation of

CICOPA. CECOP works closely with ICA-Europe in representing the interests of co-operatives. The main speakers at the conference include Rainer Schlüter, Secretary General CECOP, Felice Scalvini, President of CECOP, (*see photo above*), Pauline Green, President ICA-Europe, Jan Olsson, President of the EESC "Social Affairs" Commission, Giovanni Pensabene, President of REVES, Jacques Defourny, President of EMES, Marie-Hélène Gillig, President of the European Parliament "Social Economy" Intergroup and Gérard Sarracanie, French Minister for social economy issues. For more information email cecop@cecop.coop

Copies of the Weekly Digest are archived on the ICA's website www.ica.coop.