



Weekly Digest

Volume 1, Number 9

5 April 2004

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Editorial

Welcome to issue nine of the Weekly Digest.

This week we can report that the Digest is now available in Portuguese as well as English. Thanks to ICA Board member Americo Utumi who is translating the Digest and distributing it to over 7,500 co-operative organisations throughout Brazil. The Portuguese translation of the Digest will also be available on our website www.ica.coop.

Discussions are underway for a Spanish language translation of the Digest. Additionally, to assist our members without email addresses we are distributing physical copies of the English language Digest once a month.

Over time we hope to further improve the weekly news service. As always we would welcome your comments.

ICA Invited to Participate in African Heads of State Conference

The ICA has been officially invited to attend the *Third Summit of African Heads of State and Governments of the African Union* in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso 8-9 September 2004. The ICA President Ivano Barberini received the official invitation on 30 March in Geneva from Mr. Moussa B. Nebie the Chargé d'Affaires of the Burkina Faso Government's Permanent Mission in Switzerland, (*see photo opposite*). The invitation will ensure the ICA's voice is heard in this important international forum.



The Future of the Internet is Now with .Coop



When it comes to the Internet, if you've seen .coop, you've seen the future according to Carolyn Hoover, of the National Co-operative Business Association (USA) and dotCoop, the Sponsor of the .coop domain.

"That much was clear from a just-concluded Rome conference of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, (ICANN). The international non-profit corporation is responsible for the security and stability of the underlying software systems for the Internet. That includes the domain names used to locate web sites. ICANN expects the Internet of the future to be further refined through sponsored top-level domain "communities" like .coop" she said.

"ICANN sees this as the way they would structure the name space going forward," said Hoover. "With sponsored domains like .coop, /....

people can see at a glance what kind of business they are dealing with simply by looking at the domain. Right now, there are only three sponsored domains. They are .coop for co-operatives, .aero for the airline industry, and .museum for museums. Sponsored domains are clearly the wave of the future for the Internet," said Hoover. "Co-ops that are already using .coop names are ahead of the curve."

The ICA has been a strong supporter of the dotcoop initiative and is represented on the dotcoop Board by two ICA Board members. ICA Deputy Director General, Maria Elena Chávez Hertig also attends as an observer. For more information see www.coop

ICA Audit and Control Committee Meets with Auditors

The current members of this ICA Committee include, Roy B. Pederson (Norway), Deputy General Manager, The Norwegian Federation of Co-operative Housing Associations (NFCHA); Shugo Ogura (Japan), President of JCCU, President and CEO of Co-op Kobe; Jakub Janiak (Poland), Deputy President of NAUWC, Board member of CECOP and Mr Philip Holmes (UK) Co-operatives UK. Mr. Pederson is the Chair of the committee and Mr Terje Halvorsen (NFCHA) is acting as secretary of the committee.

The functions of the committee include examination of the financial management of the ICA in relation to its constitutional obligations to ensure it is fulfilling of the financial obligations to its member organisations. It must also meet at least annually with the ICA auditor and report to the General Assembly and Board on such matters as they deem appropriate.

A meeting of representatives of the committee, ICA staff and the auditors took place at ICA Head Office on 31 March 2004. Those attending included Roy Pederson, Terje Halvorsen, Philip Holmes, ICA Director-General, Iain Macdonald, ICA Director of Finance, Guy Malacrida, and Mark Hawkins from the ICA auditors, Ernst and Young. The meeting examined the latest set of accounts and received a report from the auditors following their recent audit of the ICA. A full report of this meeting will be presented to the next ICA Board meeting in Beijing in late April.

Get to Know Your ICA - Meet the Staff and Officials

From time to time we will be featuring ICA staff and officials in the Weekly Digest. This week we meet the Director of Finance, Guy Malacrida (*photo opposite*).



Guy Malacrida joined ICA in March 2002 as its financial adviser. He has extensive financial experience working primarily with businesses involved in multinational activities. Of Swiss nationality, he is fluent in French, English, Italian, and Portuguese. Mr. Malacrida was officially appointed as ICA's Director of Finance on 1 July 2002.

His duties include responsibility for the overall management of the ICA's global finances, accounting, budgets and reporting. Guy explained his current priorities as "ensuring strong financial control is exercised from the centre of the ICA, while allowing for decentralised operational control within the regions. This is a fine balance, but we need to ensure the overall financial viability of the organisation. One of my jobs in the coming year is to complete a manual of financial procedures for the ICA. This should make it easier to follow a common system throughout the ICA". Guy noted that it was great to work for an organisation that represented a set of values, not just a pursuit of profit. He can be contacted at malacrida@ica.coop

Successful Meetings in Budapest

Next week's Digest will bring you a full report on the recent ICA European Council and ICA-ILO meetings which took place in Budapest, Hungary on 31 March – 2 April 2004.



ICA ROAP hold Training Workshop in Indonesia

The ICA Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ICA-ROAP) has conducted a workshop on leadership for co-operative women, in Bandung, Indonesia from 8-13 March 2004. The ICA ROAP Director Shil Kwan Lee (*photo below*) opened the workshop. A training of trainers approach using a manual for Co-operative Women Leadership Training, developed by the ICA ROAP in collaboration with the ILO COOPNET was followed. 25 participants from four Asian countries, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand participated at the workshop (*photo right*).



The workshop was hosted by LAPENKOP. Mr. Yusri Suhrid, CEO of LAPENKOP contributed significantly towards the success of the workshop. The participants found the training very useful and relevant to their work. It is hoped that this manual would be able to be used in training co-operative women leaders and potential leaders in their respective countries. Participants also mentioned that they will integrate the text of the manual in their own training curriculum. DEKOPIN has been requested to translate the manual into local languages so that it could be more useful to the co-operators. For more information please contact Mrs. Savitri Singh, Advisor-Gender Programme of ICA-ROAP savitrisingh@icaroap.coop

ICA and UN Habitat Discuss New MoU

The ICA is currently in negotiations with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on renewing its current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). ICA and ICA Housing have previously worked closely with UN-Habitat on a range of co-operative housing and shelter issues and activities.

The ICA Director-General, Iain Macdonald met with the UN-Habitat Chief of Housing Policy, Selman Ergüden in Geneva on 29 March to discuss the details of the new agreement, (*see photo opposite*). The new MoU is expected to cover a range of areas including: information exchange, joint conferences, seminars, thematic workshops at national and international level; training and capacity building within the co-op housing sector.



New University Programme for Co-operators in Americas

ICA Americas and the Foundation of the Universidad Nacional of Costa Rica (Foundation UNA) have started a programme of technical and academic co-operation. The project aims to develop and disseminate educational, cultural, social, scientific and economic programmes. This collaboration has led to the development of an International Programme for a Superior Technician Degree in Business Administration. The programme is aimed at co-operative leaders and officials with years of experience, but no formal certification/diploma.



The programme will begin in April with a two-day workshop on distance study techniques. So far over 60 people have registered in México, and 50 in Peru. Other countries in the region have expressed interest in being involved in the programme. It consists of 12 four-monthly courses of 4 credits each, two subjects per period. When the student completes 6 four-monthly periods, they will obtain a Superior Technician degree on Business Administration. The ICA Regional Director for the Americas Manuel Mariño (*see photo*) said “this new project is an important step forward. It will strengthen the knowledge and the work of co-operators in the region”. For more information, www.aciamericas.coop or write to incidencia@aciamericas.coop.

ICA Head Office and Regional Office Libraries

The ICA has for many years maintained a library at its head office in Geneva as well as in some of its regional offices.



The ICA Library was first established at the former ICA Headquarters in London at the beginning of the 1920's. This ICA Collection along with donations from members became the nucleus of the research library on co-operatives. The unique feature of the ICA Library is a complete collection of the ICA Congress Reports in official languages (English, French, German) from 1895, the complete collection of co-operative statistics from 1910 and the complete collection of the Review of International Co-operation, issued first 1908, (*see photos opposite*). Today the archival material is supplemented by publications from ICA Regional Offices and periodicals issued by Sectoral Organisations and Thematic Committees as well as member and annual reports, books, monographs and other material related to co-operatives. The collection consists of over 6,000 items. The above photo shows Patricia Vaucher, PA to the ICA Director General, assisting with the documentation of the Head Office library resources, info@ica.coop.



Regional Office Asia Pacific



ICA ROAP Library maintains perhaps the largest collection of co-operative literature within the ICA. It is a fully catalogued collection of more than 20,000 books and publications on co-operatives and allied subjects. To broaden its view and reach it accepted the membership of the Indian Library Association (ILA), Delhi Library Association (DLA), New Delhi (India) and Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC), Kolkata (India). The library is often visited by PhD researchers, members and others. The library provides an Inter Library loan service to satisfy the needs of its users. And to further enhance this service it is in the process of establishing a

Developing Library Network (DELNET) connection.

Archana Gupta the ICA ROAP librarian welcomed the opportunity to raise the profile of the ICA ROAP Library. She outlined the main services, which include providing reference material and exchanging information and documents for member organisations and other co-operative training institutions. The library also responds to specific requests from member organisations for detailed information on particular topics. It disseminates by email, news and information to member countries and acts as an agent for co-operative publications, published by ICA ROAP. For more information please contact Archana Gupta archna@icaroap.coop

Both the ICA libraries described above are at the disposal of all ICA members.

Reminder - Nominations for ICA Communications Committee Close 1 May 2004

For members interested in being nominated to serve on the ICA's reconstituted Communications Committee, you have a little over 3 weeks left to get your nomination in. This is an ideal opportunity for anyone interested in communications to become involved in the work of this important committee. Please forward your name and nomination to ICA Communications Manager, Garry Cronan cronan@ica.coop

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