



Weekly Digest

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Editorial

Welcome to issue fourteen of the Weekly Digest. This week we cover a wide series of ICA activities ranging from reports on social tourism, research, health and civil society conferences to forthcoming development forums. As usual we would welcome your comments.

COPAC Forum to be Held in Washington

The Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Co-operatives COPAC, of which ICA is a member, is holding an Open Forum on “Co-operatives and the Millennium Development Goals”. The Forum, open to all who are interested, will be held on 27 May 2004 at the Churchill Hotel in Washington DC (USA). The aim of the meeting is to demonstrate that the co-operative movement can be a key partner in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and in particular reducing poverty worldwide.

The Forum is a response to the views of some development specialists who continue to see co-operatives as small organisations in poor countries that are government controlled. They therefore do not consider them to be as viable partners for their activities. The Forum would like to change that antiquated view by demonstrating through the presentation of case studies that co-operatives are thriving enterprises. Enterprises that are contributing in significant ways to achieve the MDG's of reducing poverty, tackling the HIV/AIDS pandemic, promoting gender equality, and ensuring environmental sustainability.



Agricultural Economist / Community Development Specialist of the Agriculture & Rural Development Department of the World Bank. He will provide an historical perspective of Bank collaboration with co-operatives as well as identify areas of future collaboration. For more information, contact Maria Elena Chavez Hertig, COPAC Coordinator copac@coop.org or see: www.copacgva.org/fora/washington2004.

COPAC OPEN FORUM
UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG)
By the year 2015, all 191 United Nations Member States have pledged to meet these goals

“Cooperatives are making global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals...”
Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General

A vast network of 760 million people who are making development happen!

Governments showing a renewed, and growing, interest in the cooperative solution to the problem of poverty

Thursday, 27 May 2004
The Churchill Hotel
1914 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington DC, (USA)

Meeting of Joint Agencies Involved in International Co-operative Development

The third ILO-ICA Joint Meeting of Agencies will take place in Washington on 26 May. (It will precede the COPAC Open Forum, outlined above.) Representatives from a range of international and national co-operative development agencies will examine how to better coordinate the wide range of activities undertaken by the major co-operative development agencies. This meeting follows two earlier such meetings in Sweden and Norway in 2003. The objective of the meeting is to exchange information, encourage discussion and facilitate networking among agencies involved in multi and bi-lateral co-operative development activities.



A presentation of the Belgian study on mapping co-operative development assistance will be a valuable contribution to this discussion, see report in [Weekly Digest No 5](#). The meeting will also receive reports on regional and national meetings on co-operatives and the PRSR process. The meeting will be occurring in the context of and seeking support for the proposed Global Co-operative Campaign on Poverty being promoted by the ILO and the ICA. The National Co-operative Business Association (NCBA) will host the meeting.



Additional Washington Meetings

Apart from the COPAC Forum and the Joint Agencies meetings senior ICA staff will also be attending several other co-operative meetings while in Washington. ICA Director-General, Iain Macdonald, Deputy Director-General, Maria Elena Chavez Hertig, Director of Development, Jan-Eirik Imbsen and Regional Director, Bernard Kadasia will be meeting with US based [Freedom from Hunger](#), see also [Weekly Digest No 6](#). It is expected that joint initiatives on poverty reduction programmes targeting women will be discussed. In addition, ICA staff will be meeting with Carolyn Hoover and Paul Hazen, from NCBA to identify ways to further promote dotCoop. Reports on all the forthcoming Washington meetings will be carried in future Weekly Digests.



ICA Flags Available for Purchase



New supplies of the ICA flag have arrived at Head Office and are now available for purchase. The flags have been one of the most popular ways to show membership in the ICA and support for the international movement.

The flag has an interesting history. The design for the first ICA flag dates from 1924 when it was developed to provide a visual symbol to help celebrate the new international co-operative day. Artists from all over the world submitted ideas and designs. Eventually, a famous French co-operator, Professor Charles Gide, suggested using the seven colours of the rainbow for the flag. He pointed out that the rainbow symbolised unity in diversity and the power of light, enlightenment and progress. An explanation of the meaning of the colours

and their relationship with co-operation is provided on the ICA website (www.ica.coop/kids/). ICA changed the flag in 2001. The new design carries the ICA logo, which was first designed for the ICA Centennial Congress in Manchester in 1995. It depicts doves of peace emerging from a rainbow, and represents the diversity of the ICA's membership. The new design was developed to more clearly promote and strengthen the co-operative image. If you would like to purchase the flag please contact Garry Cronan cronan@ica.coop. Please note new members receive a free flag when they first join. The photo shows from left ICA staff H el ene Stutz, Vivianne Dubini and Pascale Harris displaying the ICA flag.

Recent Visitors to ICA Geneva

The ICA regularly hosts visits by co-operative organisations to its Head Office in Geneva. Our most recent visitors of last week included a delegation from one of the ICA's Japanese members the National Federation of Agricultural Co-operative Associations. The visit by the Zen-Noh delegation was part of Zen-Noh's



continuing policy of member and staff improvement and education. The delegation received a detailed briefing on ICA activities and an overview of recent global trends affecting agricultural co-operatives. The group of 25 co-operative managers also visited a number of European agricultural co-operatives. The photo opposite shows the

delegation with ICA staff, Dr Choi Chan Ho, back row second from left and ICA Communications Manager, Garry Cronan.

The ICA also played host last week to a visit from two Canadian co-operative researchers Marie-Josée Lapointe and Inmaculada Buendia-Martinez from the Centre D'études Desjardins en gestion des coopératives de services financiers, at the HEC Montréal, Canada. The visit was part of a broader initiative by their research centre to establish an International Observatory on Financial Services Co-operatives. The proposed centre would specialise in regular and detailed mapping and analysis of the performance of financial co-operatives worldwide. Contact marie-josée.lapointe@hec.ca for more information. The photo opposite shows Marie- José Lapointe and Inmaculada Buendia-Martinez with ICA Director-General, Iain Macdonald.



ICA Participates in Forum on Role of NGO's in WHO's Health Promotion



ICA Deputy Director-General, Maria Elena Chavez Hertig joined with a number of other invited representatives of international NGO's at a forum in Geneva on 19 May 2004. The forum was examining the role of NGO's in health promotion and the World Health Organisations (WHO's) 3 by 5 initiative. Ms Chavez Hertig had been invited to speak on the new HIV/AIDS strategy recently adopted by the ICA Board, see [Weekly Digest 12](#). Other speakers at the forum included representatives from the International AIDS

Society, WHO HIV/AIDS Department, International Planned Parenthood Federation, and the International Federation of Medical Students Association.

ICA Americas Office has Moved

As of 11 May the ICA-Americas are in new premises. After a prolonged search, they have managed to rent larger premises at a reduced rent! The new physical address of the office is: "sobre Boulevard de Rohmoser, de la farmacia Rohmoser 75 metros norte casa blanca con verde, Pavas", San José, Costa Rica. The telephone numbers and fax continue as before: Tel: (506) 296-0981, fax: (506) 231-5842

ICA President Addresses International Bureau of Social Tourism Congress

ICA President, Ivano Barberini, recently addressed the [BITS](#) (Bureau International du Tourisme Social) Congress which was held in Blankenberge in Belgium 28-30 April 2004. The BITS Congress was attended by over 200 delegates from 32 countries.

At the opening session the ICA President outlined his commitment to economic development which also takes account of social problems and the fight against poverty. He recalled the constructive relationship between TICA (www.ica.coop/tica/), the ICA's own sectoral organisation for tourism and BITS. This relationship extended to the field of sustainable social tourism. He highlighted the priority that ICA has selected for the next few years: that of supporting development in Africa, the forgotten continent.

The themes of the Congress included the social politics of tourism, European tourism policy in the light of the EU enlargement, the quality of work in tourism, ethical and youth tourism and the marketing of social tourism. Innovative experiences in France, Belgium, Brazil, India, Costa Rica, Canada and Italy were featured. The ANCST Legacoop Tourism Manager, Maurizio Davolio, in his role of President of TICA, co-ordinated the work session dedicated to ethical and responsible tourism. The Director of the [Red Ecoturistica Nacional Co-operative Consortium](#), Leyla Solano, presented the experience of eco-tourism structures in Costa Rica.



The Congress also provided the occasion for the meetings of CETS, the European Commission on Social Tourism, BITS America and the Scientific Committee. An important meeting for BITS Africa was also held which is working on the constitution of the African Section of BITS; eight countries are involved at present. Mr Davolio, in agreement with Ivano Barberini, has confirmed that the regional offices of ICA in Nairobi and Ouagadougou will also be involved. The meeting confirmed the appointment of the President, Norberto Tonini, and elected a new Board of Directors including, for TICA, Maurizio Davolio, see photo above, and Faruk Pekin (Fest Travel, Turkey). Davolio was also re-elected to the Executive Committee.

3rd Meeting of EU-Latin American-Caribbean Civil Society Organisations

The Third Meeting of EU, Latin American and Caribbean civil society organisations was organised by the European Economic and Social Committee, representing the economic and social components of organised civil society of the European Union, with the support of the EC and the co-operation of the State Secretariat for External Relations of Mexico. It was held in Mexico 13-15 April 2004. The meeting brought together the representatives of civil society from all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and representatives of the Mercosur Economic and Social Consultative Forum, the Central American Integration System Consultative Committee and the Andean Community's Labor and Business Advisory Councils. The meeting adopted a declaration, addressed to the Summit of Heads of State and Government to be held on 28 and 29 May in Guadalajara (Mexico).

A number of key co-operative leaders from Europe and the Americas were involved in helping to ensure account was taken of the role of co-operatives and social economy organisations in the final declaration. In particular the declaration includes paragraph 26, inspired by the common declaration signed by RECM, CCACE, ICA-Americas and ICA-Europe, which mentions ILO Recommendation 193 and the need for exchanges of experience and co-operation programmes. This is an important achievement in the run up to the EU-Latin America summit of heads of state and governments on May 28 and the request to have a paragraph on co-operatives and the social economy included in the final communiqué. For more information please contact Manuel Mariño, ICA Regional Director, Americas, direccion@aciamericas.coop or Bruno Roelants, Secretary, CECOP (European Confederation of Workers Co-operatives, Social Co-operatives and Participative Enterprises) BRoelants@compuserve.com.

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