



# Weekly Digest

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## Editorial

Welcome to issue fifteen of the Weekly Digest. This week we feature recent ICA visits to Russia and the UK as well as reporting on a forthcoming international co-operative conference in Italy. Co-operative research in the Americas is also featured. We foreshadow a number of important surveys. As usual we would welcome your comments on the style and content of the newsletter.

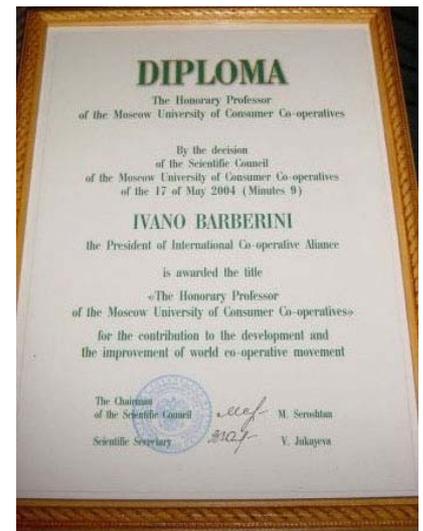
## President Receives Honorary Title from Centrosoyus



ICA President, Ivano Barberini was awarded an honorary Professorship by Centrosoyus Consumer Co-operative University during a recent visit to Moscow. The award was in recognition of Mr Barberini’s efforts on behalf of international co-operation. Since assuming the office of ICA President, Mr Barberini has maintained a frenetic pace travelling extensively throughout the world representing the ICA. He was delighted by the honour.

ICA Director-General, Iain Macdonald who accompanied the ICA President was greatly encouraged by the visit to Russia. He noted that “the ICA is looking to strengthen and broaden its representation in Russia. Russian co-operatives have long been important members of the ICA.” During the visit the ICA President and Director-General held detailed discussions with representatives of Centrosoyus.

The top photo shows ICA President, Ivano Barberini third from left with ICA Director-General, Iain Macdonald fifth from left with ICA Board member and Centrosoyus Chair, Valentin Ermakov first right along with colleagues at the Russian Parliament.



## UK Congress Hears About “Twinning” Opportunities

Bernard Kadasia, ICA Regional Director for East, Central and Southern Africa was a keynote speaker at the recent Co-operatives UK Congress held in Manchester on 22/23 May 2004.

The theme of his presentation was the mutual benefits to be derived from “twinning” co-operatives in developed economies and those in the developing countries such as Africa. In a powerful and compelling presentation he outlined how trade based development strategies can improve the lives of ordinary Africans. He listed ten African co-operatives



as possible partners for any UK co-operatives wishing to establish direct bi-lateral links. The list of ten co-operatives will shortly be posted to the ICA website. Over the course of the two day Congress representatives from over thirty UK co-operative expressed interest in being involved in these twinning projects.

The Congress was also notable for the confidence of the UK co-operative movement and its positive view of the future of co-operation. For more details of the Congress visit the Co-operatives UK website <http://www.co-opunion.coop/live/welcome.asp> For information about twinning opportunities please contact either Bernard Kadasia, [kadasia@icaroecca.coop](mailto:kadasia@icaroecca.coop) or ICA Director of Development, Jan-Eirik Imbsen [development@ica.coop](mailto:development@ica.coop)

## International Conference on *the Culture of Co-operation*

A major international co-operative conference is to be held shortly in Genoa - the European capital of culture for 2004. It is being organised by Legacoop Nazionale e Legacoop Liguria, under the theme “*Culture of Development, Globalisation, Co-operative Enterprise*”.

It will be held on 2 and 3 July, coinciding with the International Day of Co-operatives.

[Stefania Marcone](#), see photo opposite, ICA Board member outlined the aim of the conference. “We want to provide a high level forum for co-operators from different parts of the world to discuss issues of global concern. Globalisation means that there is an increasing socio-economic interdependence of all parts of the world. The conference will highlight the unique contribution of co-operative enterprise towards creating a more equitable and solidarity-oriented globalisation. One which promotes a culture supportive of world development, based on sustainable economic, social and cultural growth.”



Cultura dello Sviluppo,  
Globalizzazione,  
Impresa cooperativa

*The Culture of Development,  
Globalisation and  
Cooperative Enterprises*

PALAZZO DUCALE SALONE DEL MAGGIOR CONSIGLIO  
2 - 3 LUGLIO 2004 / 2<sup>nd</sup> AND 3<sup>rd</sup> OF JULY 2004  
GENOVA ITALIA

legacoop

in collaborazione con

CE NOVA  
Cooperativa Nazionale  
della Cultura

LESEY

Roberto Rodrigues, Ian MacPherson, Johnston Birchall. An extensive range of Italian academics, government and co-operatives representatives as well as United Nations, European Commission and other ICA speakers are also featured.

## Co-operative Research Conference Held in the Americas



do Sul. (OCERGS/SESCOOP – RS).

Over 100 Latin American researchers attended the International Conference *Latin American Co-operatives and the Challenges amid a New Regional Setting* held 28-30 April 2004 in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The conference was jointly organized by the Latin American Research Committee and the Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos - UNISINOS - (Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciências Sociais Aplicadas, Instituto Humanitas y Cátedra Unesco) It was supported by the Sindicato e Organização das Cooperativas do Estado do Rio Grande

The Conference focused on problems and current trends within Latin American co-operatives. It featured over 110 presentations from five countries including Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Chile and Uruguay. The papers were presented in concurrent sessions on the following topics: description of co-operatives in the region, co-operatives and territory, innovative experiences, work co-ops, training, legislation and accounting aspects, social economy and associative and entrepreneurial management. The Conference provided an opportunity for new scholars to present their papers together with many of the most experienced senior scholars in the field. In addition, UNISINOS established an award to acknowledge and help stimulate outstanding presentations. Delegates noted the importance of publishing a number of selected papers and the main results of the Conference in the ACI magazine. Finally, the “Carta Cooperativa de São Leopoldo” was encouraged to set up an agenda of joint research among researchers of the region for the following two years.

The top photo shows left to right: Paulo Francisco José Pizzinato, Gerente do Desenvolvimento Humano da Organização das Cooperativas do RS; Mirta Vuotto, Coordenadora Regional da Rede Latinoamericana de Pesquisadores em Cooperativismo da Aliança Cooperativa Internacional; Vulmar Leite, Secretário para Assuntos de Reforma Agrária e Cooperativismo; Marcelo Aquino, Vice-reitor da UNISINOS; Vera Lúcia Oliveira Daller, Coordenadora Geral de Formação e Capacitação Cooperativa do Ministério da Agricultura; Flodoaldo Alves de Alencar, Chefe de gabinete da Organização das Cooperativas Brasileiras; Luís Humberto de Mello Villwock, Coordenador do Comitê Organizador da Conference

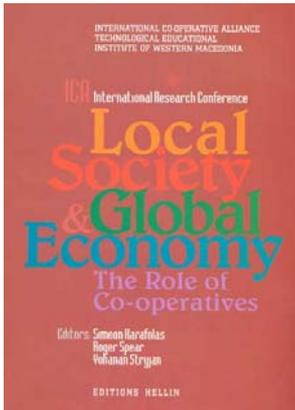
## ICA Surveys

Over the next 2 to 3 months the ICA will be conducting a number of surveys. We would encourage all members to complete the questionnaires. The information gained will help us to help you. We will be doing our best to ensure that the surveys are quick and easy to answer.

- *Co-operatives in Europe* will be surveying EU members as part of its mapping exercise to determine their priorities and help build a more complete database on member activities.
- ICA Head Office will be undertaking a survey of its members to help the ICA map the size and role co-operatives play in international (multi and bi-lateral) co-operative development.
- ICA Head Office will be surveying members to determine their communication needs and priorities.

Once the surveys have been completed and analysed we will ensure the results are communicated to our members, something that doesn't always happen with surveys.

## New Co-operative Publications



Two new co-operative publications have been recently published.

Firstly, an edition of the papers from the ICA European Research Conference held in Naoussa, Greece in May 2002. The collection *Local Society & Global Economy – The Role of Co-operatives* is edited by Simeon Karafolas, Roger Spear and Yohanan Stryjan. It draws together research papers on co-operatives under the themes of credit unions, co-operative organisation and management, co-operatives, the state and civil society, paths in local development, agricultural co-operatives and development, women and tourism co-ops, economic models of co-operatives and solidarity and quality – wine and olive oil co-operatives. For more information please contact Simeon Karafolas [skarafolas@yahoo.gr](mailto:skarafolas@yahoo.gr)

Dr. Gabriele Ullrich, *see photo opposite*, Co-Chair of the ICA Global HRD Committee, recently published a book on the “*Development of co-operative human resources – Experiences of putting concepts into practice*”. Dr Ullrich notes “human resources have a specific importance for the success of co-operatives. Despite this importance and its recognition in the early decades of the co-operative movement the development of co-operative human resources has sometimes received little research attention. The need to invest in human resources has been underestimated in co-operative practice over long periods of time. Only during the last decade, with increased economic competition and the appearance of the “knowledge society” has interest been re-activated among co-operatives.”



Gabriele Ullrich gives an overview on the characteristics of all groups of persons within the co-operative systems and those who influence the development of these persons from outside the co-operative system. The information is drawn from experiences not only in Germany, but also in other countries and at international level. The book only available at this stage in German can be obtained from the Institut für Genossenschaftswesen, Am Plan 2, D-35032 Marburg, Germany.

## Co-operative Trade Fair to be held in Poland

[Digest No 12](#) reported on the recent successful Beijing International Co-operative Trade Fair. Another fair is planned for Poland later in the year. The 9<sup>th</sup> International Co-operative Movement Fair will be held in Kielce, Poland 14-16 October 2004. The aim is to showcase products and services of Polish co-operatives. A wide range of commodities including industrial, artistic, food, pharmaceuticals, banking, housing and medical services will be on show. Contact Aldona Matia [mts@targikielce.pl](mailto:mts@targikielce.pl)



## IHCO Board Meeting and Health Co-operative Forum in Canada

The Board of the [International Health Co-operative Organisation](#) (IHCO) will meet in Ottawa, Canada on 11 June 2004. The IHCO is one of the ICA’s nine global sectoral organisations. IHCO was founded in November 1996, by UNIMED of Brazil (a co-operative of doctors), JCCU Medical Committee in Japan (a user co-operative) and Espriu Foundation of Spain (an integrated user and provider health co-operative).

The Board meeting will be preceded by a one day forum entitled *Health Co-operatives: An International and Canadian Perspective*. The forum will feature a number of presentations highlighting the role of health care co-operatives in Japan, Sweden, Spain and Canada. The forum is being organised by [Conseil Canadien de la Coopération](#), the [Canadian Co-operative Association](#) and the [Co-operative Secretariat](#).

Copies of the Weekly Digest are archived on the ICA’s website [www.ica.coop](http://www.ica.coop).