



Weekly Digest

Issue 40

16 May 2005

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ICA leaders deeply affected by visit to tsunami regions

ICA Director-General, Iain Macdonald and President, Ivano Barberini, recently visited tsunami affected regions in Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

The visit has only reinforced their determination that the ICA does all it can to help in the rebuilding. See pages 8 and 9 for more reports on the role of co-operatives in the tsunami reconstruction.



"...I don't think I have ever seen anything so dramatic as the Tsunami devastation in Banda Aceh. We spoke to a co-op manager who was away from his village when it struck - all 18,000 people were killed including all his family, absolutely nothing remains. He led us through what had been his shops - it was like Hiroshima.." Iain Macdonald

Palestinian – Israeli co-operators meet

Ivano Barberini, ICA President, met with Israeli and Palestinian co-operators in the course of a visit on April 3rd to 5th.

In addition to the exchange of information and to the strengthening of the ties between the ICA and the co-operative organisations, the visit focused on the future development of the co-operatives and particularly on the contribution which they could make to the furtherance of peace in the region.

The ICA President had the opportunity of meeting with both Israeli and Palestinian co-operators. He visited a kibbutz, an Israeli agro-industrial co-operative village; he also met with the leadership of the Agricultural Co-operative Union of Palestine in the Palestinian city of Ramallah. In Tel Aviv he met with central figures in the Israeli co-operative movement.

His two-day stay in Israel was coordinated by Ms. Elana Lapidot, executive director of the Co-operative Centre at Efal.

One high point of his visit was the luncheon-meeting held in Jerusalem and attended by both Israeli and Palestinian co-operative leaders.

Both Daoud Istanbouli, chairman of the Agricultural Co-operative Union of Palestine, and Yehudah Paz, member of the ICA Board and international relations chairman of the Central Union of Co-operative Societies in Israel welcomed Mr. Barberini to this Palestinian-Israeli meeting and reiterated their belief that co-operatives could indeed help further peace and development through joint endeavor and

activities.

Among those attending the meeting were Micah Brenner, chairman of the Central Union of Co-operative Societies in Israel; Jabber Kudieh, chairman of the Palestine Peasants Union; Rami Mandel, director general of the Jerusalem Consumers Co-operative and other Israeli and Palestinian co-operative leaders. Mr. Barberini also met with Gavri Bargil, secretary-general of the Kibbutz Movement. See related item on page 9.



A historic meeting of the ICA president with Israeli and Palestinian co-operators

From the editor's desk



Welcome to the fortieth issue of the Digest.

For all our readers who have been missing more regular issues of the "weekly" don't worry. We are currently making arrangements to ensure that extra heavy workloads, the reason for the delay over recent weeks, won't affect the regularity of our popular newsletter in future.

This issue is packed with

news and several new features. We report on the vital role of co-operatives in reconstruction and peace building. Whether in response to natural disasters, like the recent tsunami or as a way forward in helping to build a lasting peace in conflict regions of the world.

We introduce a new feature –*from the journals* – which will hopefully help spread knowledge among our members. The need

for reliable statistics to strengthen our promotional efforts is also mentioned.

Generational issues, including youth involvement in the ICA is covered. Finally we report on various sectoral and other ICA activities. As usual we would welcome your comments.

Garry Cronan

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Co-operative poverty campaign - various activities underway

COOPERATING
OUT
OF
POVERTY

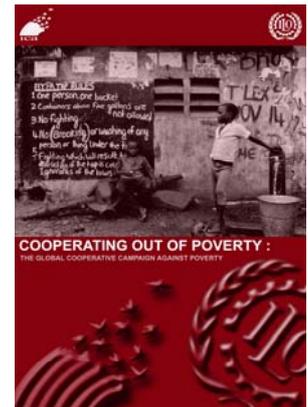
Much has happened since the ICA announced a global co-operative campaign against poverty at the Oslo General Assembly in 2003.

A background document *Co-operating out of Poverty* has been jointly produced with the ILO. A logo, see left and posters, see right are already in preparation as is a dedicated website.

The ICA/ILO has recently been exploring the possi-

bility of linking the co-operative poverty campaign to the *Global Call to Action against Poverty* campaign. This is a global alliance of organisations, networks and national campaigns committed to eradicating extreme poverty. It includes, among many others Oxfam.

A full report on the wide range of other campaign activities will be carried in a future issue of the *Digest*.



"This research raises a series of generational issues - how should we build on existing support and reach out to a younger generation"

Mark Lyons

Do baby boomers make better co-operators?

They do, at least in Australia!

A recent paper published in the *Australian Journal of Social Issues* by researchers at ACCORD, ICA's Australian member has found that of the three broad generation groupings, baby boomers (those born between 1946 and 1968) are 30% more likely to support co-operatives than those born before (pre WWII generation) or since, the so called

Generation X.

Professor Mark Lyons one of the authors, also said that of the baby boomers, women were more likely to be the strongest co-op supporters. Other indicators of support were prior involvement in a co-operative, high rates of employment in government and non-governmental organisations. Strong co-op supporters were also more

likely to have a degree and/or to be working in a professional occupation. Their values and attitudes are different too, since they are more trusting of people in general, but exhibit less confidence in certain institutions. Generation X respondents, although at present not as supportive of co-ops as baby boomers, nevertheless, were open to be convinced.

Contact Mark Lyons, Mark.Lyons@uts.edu.au

ICA Youth Network meeting - planning for the future

Youth

At the last ICA board meeting in December 2004 it was decided to hold a planning meeting for the youth network in the early part of the new year.

A meeting of youth network members was held in Geneva in early April 2005. Participants included, Jo Bibby Scullion (Chair), Claire Brenner, Juan-Carlos Mejia, Wilfrid Kamto, Thabo Shenxane, Jan-Eirik Imbsen. Also attending for part of the time were Marie-Elena Chavez, Gabrielle Sozanski, Fabian Munoz, Felipe Velasquez. The meeting covered a

work to organise a panel session during the ILO's Conference. This will look at how co-operatives can create employment for young people.

The Youth Network is looking at a new structure to spread the workload and to ensure representations from all the regions. The network hopes to have a new youth representative elected in time to attend the ICA Board meeting in Cartagena in September this year. It is also examining how to create a regional structure to ensure everyone is able to participate in its activities.



Youth network delegates, happy with the outcome, from left Wilfrid Kamto, Claire Brenner, Juan-Carlos Mejia, Jo Bibby Scullion, Thabo Shenxane



wide range of youth related activities.

The ICA is planning with the help of the Youth Net-

A special youth conference is being planned for the ICA General Assembly in Cartagena. Jane Stewart from the ILO has agreed to be the conference keynote speaker. A

draft programme is being drawn up.

The Youth Network has been involved, along with the British Columbia Cen-

tre for Co-operative Studies in the forthcoming book on co-operatives and youth. The youth network has contributed a preamble for the book. And several members have written articles.

A range of other future activities were discussed including, communications - the need for a newsletter and website, online discussion forums. It was also noted that there is a huge diversity of successful youth programmes around the world but nowhere for these successes to be shared. Contact: Jo Bibby-Scullion s0347030@sms.ed.ac.uk

".. The youth network has made a lot of progress recently...."

Bangladesh celebrates centenary of co-operative movement

The Bangladesh co-operative movement, the Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union, and the Ministry of Co-operatives of Bangladesh have organised the Centenary Celebration of the co-operative movement in Bangladesh.

ICA President, Ivano Barberini, Regional Director, Shil Kwan Lee, Dinesh

Rai, Managing Director of NCDC, India and Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, Chairman of the SANASA Development Bank, attended these functions. The ICA President and others spoke at the function.

Bangladesh is one of a number of Asian countries presently celebrating the centenary of their co-operative movements.



ICA President, Regional Director, Mr. Dinesh Rai, Dr. Kiriwandeniya with BJSU officials, and representatives of the Ministry of Co-operative Development of Bangladesh.

People

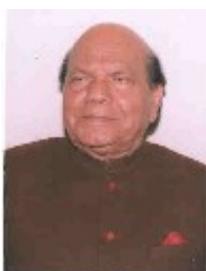


USA: new president for National Co-op Bank

National Cooperative Bank (NCB), a co-operative financial services company chartered by Congress in 1978, has appointed Stephanie McHenry, President and Chief Operating Officer of ShoreBank Cleveland in Cleveland, Ohio, to

Chair the NCB Board of Directors for the coming year. Previously serving as the Board's Vice Chair, Ms. McHenry replaced Stuart Saft, Partner at Wolf Haldenstein Adler Freeman & Herz LLP in Manhattan. Joining Ms. McHenry in the Board's leadership is Bill Casey,

President and Chief Executive Officer of The Co-operative Central Bank in Boston, Massachusetts, who will serve as Vice Chair for the coming year. Charles E. Snyder, NCB President and CEO of National Co-operative Bank, made the announcement.



India: Dr Sisodia reelected president of NCUI

Dr. Sawai Singh Sisodia has once again been elected President of the National Co-operative Union of India for the second consecutive term.

The NCUI is the national apex organization of the co-operative movement in the coun-

try. The term of President, according to the new Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002, is five years. Dr. Sisodia was first elected President in 2000.

His political career started in 1945 when he joined the freedom movement. He was Minister of State for Finance in the Union Government

headed by the late Indira Gandhi.

He has over 45 years association with the co-operative movement and functioned in various capacities including being a member of the current ICA Board.



ICA: new JCCU secondee for ICA Asia Pacific

Tsubasa Nakamura has been seconded from the Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union (JCCU) to succeed Mr. Ito. He commenced in March 2005.

Mr Nakamura has worked for the insurance division and dealt with the mainte-

nance of policies and the claim payment for six years.

Mr. Tsubasa will work as a Special Advisor, looking after consumer, gender, youth and health co-operative activities. He is also the secretary to ICA Regional Committee on

Consumer Co-operation for Asia and the Pacific, ICA Regional Consumer Subcommittee on University/College Co-operative, Asia-Pacific Health Co-operative Organization (APHCO) and supports ICA Regional Women's Committee for Asia and the Pacific.



ICA: new director settling into role

Rajiv Mehta has joined the ICA Asia Pacific as Director. He commenced his new role in November 2004.

Mr. Mehta has vast experience in the co-operative field. Prior to joining the ICA, he was working as Advisor (Development) at the office of the delegation of European Commission

in India.

Mr. Mehta also had worked with the ICA previously as Technical Officer (Co-optrade) and Advisor - CICOPA Programme in India.

Prior to joining ICA, Mr. Mehta was working in the senior management cadre

of the Rajasthan State Co-operative Land Development Bank Limited.

ICA International Accounting Standards Group to meet

Issues

The first meeting of the ICA's new International Accounting Standards Working Group will be held in Glasgow, Scotland on 20 May 2005.

The members of the group are Jean-Claude Detilleux, Crédit Coopérative, France (Chair), Hervé Guider, Groupement Européen des Banques Coopératives, Belgium, Toshifumi Yamashita, JCCU, Japan, Paul Hazen, NCBA, USA, Alain Fortier, Conseil de la Coopération du Québec, Canada, Pauline

Green, Co-ops UK, Chris Knowles, New Zealand Co-operatives Association, and Niklas Widebeck, HSB, Sweden (Secretary).

The terms of reference for the new working group are:

- To examine ways of improving coordination within the global co-operative movement in dealing with the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)
- To ensure full recognition and understanding of the special nature of

co-operative enterprise by the IASB at the highest level, similar to that afforded by UN and its agencies

- To establish, with the IASB, a method of corresponding and liaising to ensure the participation of co-ops in the elaboration and implementation of international accounting standards.

For more information contact: Iain Macdonald, macdonald@ica.coop



Jean-Claude Detilleux, ICA board member and chair of the new ICA International Accounting Standards Working Group

Reminder to members to provide statistical information

Good statistics are vital for effective co-operative promotion.

ICA member in the USA, the National Co-operative Business Association, (NCBA) recently talked about the *Co-op Data Gap* in an article in their April 2005 edition of their Co-operative Business Journal. "Put simply, if you can't demonstrate through well compiled statistics the importance of co-operatives, then your job of protecting their inter-

ests and promoting new opportunities for co-operative development is that much harder".

ICA shares NCBA concerns. We need better more reliable statistics on co-operatives, on our members and their activities. The ICA regularly asks its members to provide some basic statistical information about their organisation. The provision of this information enables the ICA to compile global figures on the overall size and importance of the

international movement. This information is constantly used not only by the ICA, but by our members, governments, and United Nations agencies, amongst many others.

For almost half our members the latest statistics we have are from the year 2002 or earlier. Please take the few minutes it requires to complete our member statistics questionnaire and return to head office. For more contact Marie-Claude Bann baan@ica.coop

Help us to help you - please complete your questionnaire and return to the ICA head office

Round table meeting in Prague

Vit Vanicek, President of the Union of Czech and Moravian Housing Co-operatives - an active member of ICA Housing - hosted a round table meeting in Prague in early March with Mr Angelo Grasso, President of the European Liaison Committee

for Social Housing (CECODHAS) on the topic of utilising EU structural funds as leverage to finance refurbishment and urban regeneration programmes.

Angelo Grasso, President of National Federation of Housing Co-operatives (Italy) also participated in his

capacity as President of CECODHAS in an annual meeting of EU Housing Ministers in Prague (14 - 15. March 2005) and delivered a speech to Ministers outlining the position of CECODHAS regarding the main housing issues.



from left to right - Angelo Grasso, Vit Vanicek, Jiri Stanek

Sectors

Health co-operatives - a basic element in public systems



Keynote speakers at the international seminar on healthcare and co-operatives

Health co-operatives are an indispensable element in the viability of the health public systems. That was one of the conclusions of the International Seminar on Healthcare and Co-operatives held in Barcelona on April 20-21. It

was organised by the Espru Foundation with the sponsorship of the Groups Assistència and ASISA, with the collaboration of IHCO and ICA. The meeting was attended by more than 200 co-operative leaders and experts in this field.

During the two day seminar participants analysed the evolution of the health co-operatives in the world and also the present situation of the health public systems in the different countries, showing the increasing importance of the collaboration between both the public and private models for the purpose of guaranteeing an attention of quality to the citizens.

The Seminar also paid tribute to Dr Josep Espru, who died in 2002. He was one of the pioneers of co-operative health models. Contact: José A. Pérez adjuntodireccion@fundacionespru.coop

Presentation on co-operative tourism



Maurizio Davolio, (Legacoop), chair of TICA

Maurizio Davolio, chair of the ICA's sectoral tourism organisation, the International Association of Tourism Co-operatives, (TICA) recently presented a paper in Bogotá on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Colombian insurance co-operative La Equidad Seguros.

The paper addressed the growth and trends affecting Italian and European tourism co-operatives. It highlights the different forms tourism co-ops have taken throughout Europe.

He noted that there are 350 tourism co-operatives in Italy that belong to Legacoop. They have a total turnover of around 400 million Euros. The paper also

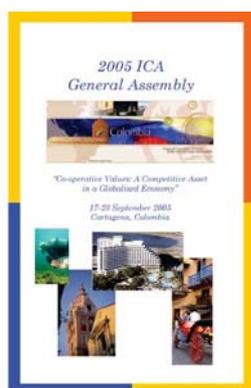
highlights trends affecting social and co-operative tourism. Copies of the paper can be obtained from davolio@emiliaromagna.legacoop.it

TICA are considering holding a meeting on tourism at the ICA General Assembly in Cartagena, Colombia in September, possibly in collaboration with BITS.

Sectoral meetings at 2005 General Assembly

Most of the ICA's global sectoral organisations will be holding meetings at the ICA General Assembly in Cartagena, Colombia, in September 2005. At this stage the following conferences and meetings are planned:

- 18 September: CICOPA Executive and General Meeting
ICA Housing meetings
ICFO meetings
- 19 September: CICOPA World Conference
IHCO meetings
ICBA Executive meeting
- 20 September: CCI Workshop and General Meeting
ICBA Seminar
ICAO meetings



Focus on worker and artisan co-operatives

CICOPA, the ICA's specialised organisation for industrial, service and artisans' co-operatives, groups two broad types of enterprises: worker co-operatives (including social co-operatives) and second degree co-operatives of independent artisans or small producers. Both types are multiplying in various parts of the world.

CICOPA's ongoing activities

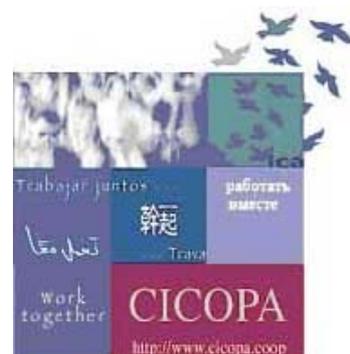
New national federations of worker and artisan co-operatives are being established continuously. Examples over the last few years include Brazil, Slovenia, South Korea, and the USA.

One of the main tasks of CICOPA is to identify such organisations and advise them during their constitution process. CICOPA is also promoting regional networks among its members, in particular the extension towards the East of CECOP/CICOPA-Europe, while other regional focuses in this mo-

ment are the Mercosur part of Latin America and East Africa. Other ongoing tasks are a data collection initiative on worker and artisan co-operatives in the world and information exchange through the newly created website www.cicopa.coop

On the social dialogue front, contacts have just been initiated with the trade unions, focusing on the specific labour situation of worker-members in co-operatives. Availing itself of its direct development experience gathered since the 1990s,

CICOPA is now launching a new phase of advising and facilitating development initiatives promoting worker and artisans' co-operatives, with organisations of the co-operative movement and other institutions involved in development work, with two main ongoing focuses: co-operativisation of enterprises in crisis, and the promotion of artisans' co-operatives as a way for small producers in developing countries to pass from the informal towards the formal sector.



CICOPA is holding its 6th World Conference in Cartagena, Colombia in September 2005.

Establishing world standards for worker cooperatives

In 2004, CICOPA published the *World Declaration on Co-operative Worker Ownership* after various rounds of consultations with members worldwide and a general assembly decision.

The Declaration defines the basic character and identity of worker co-operatives, their internal functioning rules, the

relations of this typology of co-operatives with the co-operative movement in general, with the state, regional and intergovernmental institutions, trade unions and employers' organisations.

The declaration is designed to be an application of the ICA Statement on the Co-operative Identity and of ILO Recommendation 193

on the Promotion of Co-operatives to worker co-operatives. It has already been used in Brazil in discussing policy issues regarding worker co-operatives and in Colombia in the preparation by parliament of a worker co-operative law. It was formally endorsed by a MERCOSUR parliamentary meeting in Buenos Aires in November 2004.

CICOPA World Conference, Cartagena, 19 September

At the occasion of the ICA General Assembly, CICOPA's 6th World Conference will discuss the worldwide contribution of worker, social and artisans' cooperatives to local development. In particular, some new trends will be examined,

such as the management of social services by co-operatives and the transformation into co-operatives of industrial enterprises in crisis. The impact of those phenomena on integrated territorial development, including sustainable employment,

social inclusion, socio-economic justice, enterprise networks and clusters, fair trade etc will be analysed. For more information, please go to www.cicopa.coop or write to Bruno Roelants, CICOPA Secretary General.



Bruno Roelants, broelants@compuserve.com

Tsunami Update



Iain Macdonald and ICA Regional Director, Shil Kwan Lee in front of a scene of total devastation caused by the tsunami in Banda Aceh. All the buildings, everything has been destroyed.

If you would like more information, copies of reports, needs assessments etc please contact our global tsunami coordinator Gabriella Sozanski sozanski@ica.coop



A media conference, held during the ICA visit to Indonesia to highlight the role of co-ops in the reconstruction

Summary of ICA post-tsunami actions

This is a brief overview of how the ICA has addressed the tsunami disaster, defined its role and the actions it has undertaken.

- The earthquake followed by the tsunami occurred on 26 December 2005. It hit 6 countries in Asia and 2 in Africa where the ICA has members.
- The ICA immediately established global and region appeals and circulated all member organisations calling for assistance. It appointed a global tsunami coordinator, Gabriella Sozanski.
- The co-operative world mobilised its members for immediate relief. Many donations from co-operatives throughout the world were directly channelled to relief organisations like the Red Cross or national relief and emergency appeals.
- A special edition of the *Weekly Digest* on the tsunami was published on 10 January. Subsequent issues of the digest carried further regular reports on the tsunami.
- ICA members transferred payments to the ICA Global Appeal account. At 9 May 2005 this totalled over CHF 370,000. Some members indicated the organisation to be supported, others asked the ICA to use the funds wherever most needed.
- The ICA wrote to its 19 member organisations in the 6 Asian countries asking for information on co-operatives affected and their specific needs. Our African regional office was also asked to see if any co-operative in Africa were affected.
- A number of organisations reacted and provided information. SANSA, Sri Lanka and DEKOPIN, Indonesia have been regularly publishing updates on their websites.
- A number of agencies and co-operative organisations sent fact-finding missions, made needs assessments and drafted projects.
- At a meeting organised by COPAC with agencies in Berlin on 19 January it was decided to create a forum to collect and exchange information and promote collaboration for more effective impact and reach of reconstruction assistance and to avoid duplication. It was agreed to share information using ICA as a platform, thus ensuring an equitable distribution of funds collected for co-operative reconstruction.
- Based on information received from members and agencies ICA identified the gaps and appointed Mr. Robby Tulus as its tsunami field coordinator. He started with a needs assessment in Indonesia. Our Asia Pacific office also organised a fact finding mission, with the participation of the Israeli co-operative movement and Robby Tulus to affected regions in Sri Lanka and India. As an outcome, two projects proposals were drafted addressing needs in India and Sri Lanka. These were circulated to agencies and members.
- Robby Tulus' assessment report on Nias, Indonesia was circulated to members/agencies.
 - The visit, 21-30 April, of the ICA President and Director-General to Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Its aim was to directly meet with local co-operative organisations, victims of the tsunami, and high level government officials in order to get more recognition for co-operatives as vehicles for efficient reconstruction. The May ICA board meeting will consider this report and our overall response. so far.

Next steps

- Consideration and evaluation of the visit by the ICA President and Director General
- Final report from ICA tsunami field coordinator expect in late May. Preparation of detailed project proposals, which will be circulated to members and agencies - these proposals will be action oriented projects designed to immediately help with on the ground reconstruction efforts
- A special session on the tsunami will be held at the General Assembly in September.
- ICA consultative meeting with all tsunami affected co-op organisations together with agencies in Indonesia, late October or early November 2005.

Legacoop reconstruction projects in Sri Lanka

Tsunami Update

Responding to the global appeal launched by the ICA, Legacoop, Italy launched a fund-raising campaign within its membership (co-operatives, members, employees) with the target of 500.000 Euros.

The response has been overwhelming with many societies and Legacoop structures also launching at local level, several additional solidarity and emergency projects in support of tsunami affected areas.

At national level, in order to prevent the dispersion

of resources and to be more effective and efficient in action, Legacoop, in line with the Italian Government's focus, decided to concentrate its efforts on Sri Lanka.

Legacoop has identified two well-known Italian NGOs, GVC and UCODP, as partners. It is working with them in identifying and implementing the project together with the National Co-operative Council of Sri Lanka.

The districts of Ampara e Tricomalee, Matara, Hambantota e Kalutara have

been identified as priority areas of action, because of the extraordinary emergency situation with hundreds of thousands of displaced people, shortage of water, loss of income generating activities, complete destruction of civil and social infrastructures such as schools, hospitals, hygiene facilities and sewage. Among the beneficiaries of the project will be privileged women, youth, and children.



For more information on Legacoop's tsunami efforts contact Stefania Marcone

s.marcone@legacoop.coop

Briefly in other tsunami news

The following brief items highlight the continuing role our members are playing in supporting tsunami reconstruction.

- CHF International has been implementing tsunami response activities in the Aceh since mid-January. CHF initiated a series of quick impact projects working with NGO partners. Projects include: an economic livelihoods programme focused on fishing communities and repair of small fishing boats among others.
- The CUMIS Group has committed \$50,000 to the Canadian Co-operative Association to assist with rebuilding efforts, Ontario Credit Union Charitable Foundation is offering to match the first \$50,000 donated by credit unions in Ontario.
- Cyprus Co-operative Confederation has contributed CYP £50,161.14 for tsunami.

Israeli co-op movement helping Sri Lankan co-ops

Ivano Barberini's recent visit to Israeli, reported on the front page also allowed him to be briefed on the initiatives being undertaken by the Israeli co-operative movement in regard to support for co-operative reconstruction in Sri Lanka, following the tsunami disaster.

Mr. Mully Dor, who had just recently traveled to Sri Lanka on behalf of the Israeli co-operative movement for a needs-

assessment mission which he carried out together with Roby Tulus who is coordinating the ICA post-tsunami effort.

Together with other Israeli co-operators, he set out the project which the Israeli co-operative movement has developed in coordination with the Sri Lankan co-operative movement and the ICA-ROAP, which is designed to further co-operative reconstruction in the devastated

areas.

As an expression of co-operative solidarity, the Israeli co-operative movement, together with the Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development (NISPED) would be prepared to initiate this project, to work on it in partnership with Sri Lankan co-operatives and to help find the resources needed to carry it out. Ivano Barberini welcomed the initiative and the concrete proposal.



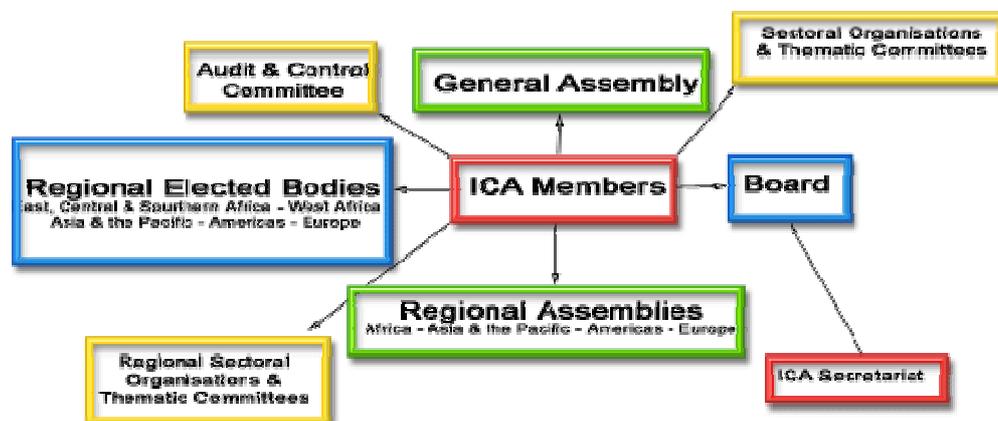
Photo shows representatives from the Cyprus Co-operative Confederation presenting a cheque to the country's Foreign Minister, Mr. George Lacomou

Governance

ICA Structure and organisations

The ICA is a decentralised global organisation, democratically governed by its members. Over coming weeks we will detail the various component parts of what is one of the world's oldest and largest non-government organisations. We start with the ICA Board.

This week we look at the global board



The ICA Board is comprised of a President, four Vice-Presidents (one from each geographic region), and 15 members. In addition, the Board can co-opt additional members to ensure that specific groups of the ICA membership is adequately represented (women and youth).

The President and 15 board members are directly



elected by the ICA General Assembly and serve a four-year term. The General Assembly also ratifies the elec-

tion of the four ICA Board Vice Presidents which have been directly elected by the ICA's four regional assemblies.

Under the ICA's rules, the Board has, among others, the following powers:

- to develop and monitor a global strategy for ICA;
- to control the affairs of ICA between the meetings of the General Assembly;
- to prepare the agenda and organise the meetings of the General Assembly;
- to decide on all membership applications and related issues;
- to approve and moni-

tor the ICA budget;

This year's General Assembly in September in Colombia, will elect a new board to serve until 2009. Members from one country shall not have more than one representative on the Board, excluding the President of the ICA.

No person shall be entitled to serve on the Board whose organisation is no longer in membership of ICA or is in arrears with its membership fee without a valid reason approved by the Board, or who has ceased to be an accredited representative of the nominating member or, in the case of Vice-Presidents, of the respective Regional Assembly.

Composition of the board

Since the 1992 ICA Congress in Tokyo, when a new decentralised global and regional structure was introduced, there have been 3 consecutive global ICA boards. One from 1993-1997,

one for the period 1997-2001 and the present board 2001-2005. During this period 45 people (40 men, 5 women) from 26 countries have been elected by members to served on the

board. Nine countries have been continually represented on the board for the period 1993-2005. They include: Canada, UK, USA, Japan, France, Italy, China, India and Israel.

From the journals

One of the key benefits of participating in a broad network organisation like the ICA is the access it gives you to similar organisations. One of the best sources of information is found in member journals, either printed or online. This week we have one from the Americas, one from Europe and one from the Pacific.

USA: NCBA's bi-monthly co-operative business journal

The National Co-operative Business Association (NCBA) publishes a bi-monthly 16-20 page business magazine.

CBJ is a high quality publication and contains a combination of news and features. Recent issues have contained detailed coverage of items on governance, competitiveness and performance, international co-operative development, hybrid equity

structures, co-op values and community involvement, membership issues, dot-Coop, co-operative legislation and the threat of conversions or demutualisations to mention a few!

The publication covers all the sectors where co-operatives are represented in the US and also features many items on overseas co-operative developments. It also focuses on education and training issues. Regula-

tory and disclosure items are featured as well as items on political lobbying. It is a very good source of the latest news on the co-operative sector in the USA. US co-ops account for almost 20% of the largest 300 co-ops by turnover in the world.

Go to www.ncba.coop/pubs_cbj.cfm for more information.



France: SCOP Enterprises

Confédération Générale des Sociétés Coopératives de Production (CGSCOP) produce a printed/online newsletter - *Participer*.

The publication is focused on reporting on the French Scop enterprises and French worker co-operative movements.

A recent issue carried a lead story on the implications to the French co-operative movement of the impending retirement of the "baby boomer" generation.

The article notes that the percentage of people in SCOP enterprise over the age of 50 is rapidly increasing. This has major implications as these people start to retire. Loss of know-how,

ageing of the co-operative leaders, impoverishment of the co-operative life are just some of the issues identified in the item.

Participer also covers a wide range of issues related directly to worker co-ops. Many of these items are also of considerable general interest. See www.scop.coop/



Item on baby boomers and succession planning in co-ops in recent issue.

New Zealand: NZCA's bi-monthly newsletter

From the other side of the world comes the newsletter produced by NZ's national co-operative apex organisation.

The most recent issue of the New Zealand Co-operatives Association bi-monthly publication features an interesting range of items. It includes a lengthy piece on the speaking tour by leading

US co-operative academic Prof Michael Cook. Prof Cook had been invited by the Shareholders Council of Fonterra, NZ's largest company/co-op. Fonterra is also the largest dairy exporter in the world.

The latest issue outlines the key messages Prof Cook delivered on how co-operatives could succeed against for profit competi-

tors. The NZCA newsletter has also been regularly featuring items on how the new international accounting standards are affecting co-operatives. Detailed reports are also provided on a wide range of co-operative activities in NZ plus a range of international developments. This newsletter is worth a look. See www.nzco-ops.org.nz



NZCA's newsletter - strong business and agricultural focus

Special Feature

.COOP – the name for co-ops on the internet

After three years of active use of the .coop domain by co-operatives from around the world, there has been a confirmation of the value of this Internet name for co-operatives from all corners of the globe.

The ICA continues to work with dotCoop, the sponsor of .coop, to provide contacts throughout the co-operative world as

well as support at ICA events so that members can take advantage of .coop and become part of the growing co-operative community on the Internet. .Coop continues to provide new services to those that use their .coop names such as the new directory at www.directory.coop that makes it easier than ever to be able to locate co-

ops around the world.

We illustrate below the examples of co-op organisations in Colombia, the Philippines and in France which have all found their home on the Internet with .coop. For more information about how .coop can help your organisation position itself on the Internet, please contact Carolyn Hoover at choover@dotcoop.coop.



Carolyn Hoover, responsible at NCBA for dot-Coop

SaludCoop – new services and a new name

In today's world, co-operative organisations are obliged to be highly competitive, to offer innovative services, and to disseminate the advantages and achievements of the co-operative model. To achieve these objectives, it is important that co-operatives venture into new technologies and means of communications while maintaining and even promoting their co-operative identity.

As one of the most important co-operatives in Latin America, SaludCoop is a leading health provider in Colombia, offering services to more than 4.5 million people. Because of this position of leadership, SaludCoop has come to understand the importance of communicating the organization's cooperative structure at every opportunity. In an effort to speed its processes, SaludCoop created HeOn, for Health Online. The goal was to ensure that people could easily use SaludCoop's website to obtain informa-



tion and to quickly reach online services. Together with the adoption of the saludcoop.coop domain in May 2003, these efforts allowed SaludCoop to develop a distinct presence on the Internet.

The first stage of development involved collecting information about the organization, with an emphasis on its cooperative character and its benefits for society. The site also allowed users to provide SaludCoop with ideas and suggestions for improvements to support continuous quality improvements.

The second stage, to be

launched shortly, will make the co-op's services easier to obtain and more efficient to use. Improvements will allow the submission of requests for medical or dental consultations, affiliating with the mandatory health plan, and consulting on accounts.

SaludCoop continues to look for ways to provide Internet-based services combined with clear identification of its cooperative character. This allows the co-op to differentiate itself from its competitors and stand out in the crowd. The .coop name continues to be an important part of the technology program and plans for the future of the SaludCoop on the Internet.

"...SaludCoop continues to look for ways to provide Internet-based services combined with clear identification of its cooperative character..."

NATCCO and .Coop – Revitalizing Co-ops Together

It seemed destiny that the National Confederation of Co-operatives Network in the Philippines would use the .coop domain. After all, NATCCO Network celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2002, the same year .coop was formally presented by the ICA to the Philippine co-operatives.

It was well-received by the members of NATCCO Network, who then decided to fully embrace .coop. NATCCO quickly changed its web site and email addresses and never looked

back! NATCCO also became the Verification Partner for dotCoop in the Philippines and became a reseller of dotCoop names see www.natcco.coop to buy your name! NATCCO chose .coop to promote its co-operative identity and continues to use the site to promote the competitive advantage of co-operatives. NATCCO was formed by Philippine credit union pioneers, who believed that the task of co-operative development lies primarily in the hands

of the private sector. Today, NATCCO is the biggest and strongest national federation of co-operatives in the country in membership, geography, finances, and services. .Coop fits right into NATCCO's mission of helping develop the co-op sector in the Philippines and around the world.



NATCCO homepage

SCOP Chooses .Coop

One of the primary missions of the French SCOP Entreprises and the Confédération générale des Scop, which supports the movement at the national level, is to ensure the promotion of workers cooperatives. This is promotion not just of the cooperatives themselves but of their work, their contribution to the business and local communities and their co-operative network in France and with similar co-ops around the world.

However, what truly differentiates the SCOP companies from other small businesses is their co-operative organization. Promoting the co-operative "difference" is important not only to clearly distinguish these businesses, but also to totally change the image that many people have of co-ops being old-

fashioned and static organizations. Using .coop provides an entirely new, positive image of co-ops as innovative and progressive businesses and can be used as part of revitalizing the image of a cooperative.

From this perspective, .coop provides some powerful responses to these needs. 1) It is part of the new means of communication: the Web. 2) Thanks to the Web, it makes information about co-ops available to important communities that actively use the web and are interested in the co-operative movement: young people and the educational and teaching community. 3) .Coop is

an international domain and can reach across borders and become a contact point amongst the world of co-operatives 4) In external communications, it becomes an international label for the co-operative world, its values and its practices, both within the co-operative community and to the general public.

.Coop is therefore the short answer to an objective of the White Paper on co-operative development which was adopted by the worker co-op movement: to be an open organization that promotes and publicizes the co-operative movement.



"The ICA is a strong believer in the potential of the dotCoop initiative - it is increasing its level of involvement"

Iain Macdonald

News in Brief

Short Bytes

- The 2005 International Day of Co-operatives message *Microfinance is our business! Co-operating out of poverty* is now translated into several languages including French and Spanish see COPAC website, www.copacgva.org/
- As previously reported ICA Asia Pacific has a new website. www.icaroop.coop It includes a trade section. ICA members and affiliated co-operatives are able to post information regarding their trade/business on this site. Members are encouraged to take advantage of this member service.
- At its general meeting on 21 April 2005, life insurer Kommunal Landspensjonskasse (KLP), one of Norway's largest financial services group, voted against the demutualisation of the company. The members did not reach the necessary two-thirds to demutualise and the demutualisation was prevented by a single vote. (Source ICMIF) www.icmif.org/
- BANGKOK – The deputy agriculture minister is preparing to propose a complete overhaul of the nation's agricultural cooperative system in a bid to increase sales. Mr. Newin Chidchob said that the plans were based on the idea of direct sales and the creation of networks to encourage more people to trade via the nation's 6,000 cooperatives. (Source MCOT news)
- Tareq Altamimi, a Palestinian and Master of Science student in the Business, Economics and Management Department of the "Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania" located on the island of Crete, Greece is completing research on the availability and acceptance of using advanced Information Systems for co-operatives in the future. He has developed a web based questionnaire on this topic and is asking co-operatives from within the European Union to spend 8-10 minutes completing the survey. If interested, please proceed to the following link <http://projects.maich.gr/p/tareq>



Currently the ICA has:

220 member organisations from 90 countries



Co-operatives Europe is the common platform bringing together the strengths and expertise of ICA Europe and the CCACE - Ray Collins

ICA membership growing

The National Co-operative Association of South Africa (NCASA) has joined the ICA. Initially admitted in April 2000 NCASA has now activated its membership.

The ICA through its global and regional offices continues to recruit new

members. Discussions have been occurring with possible new members in the USA, New Zealand, Iran, Netherlands, Jordan, Vanuatu, Tonga, Guyana, Egypt, and the Dominican Republic.

The forthcoming ICA board meeting in Scotland in May will be considering a number

of new applicants for membership as well as more general issues related to membership including, a report from the working group established to review the current subscription formula and to consider possible changes to it.

Co-operatives Europe's - 2nd Co-operative Convention on the theme of *Responsible Competitiveness and Development*

Co-operative economic enterprises are well placed to demonstrate the synergies between the economic, social and environmental pillars that form the core aims of the European Union's Lisbon Strategy for a dynamic economy. Following the European Council Mid-Term Review of the Lisbon Strategy, the 2nd Co-operative Convention will address the key issues of the strategy and will promote the co-operative path to achieving the goals of more and better jobs and greater social cohesion within a sustainable development strategy.

The Convention, as the premier event of Co-operatives Europe's 2005 work programme, will have the participation of European Union Commissioners and their officials with keynote sessions being led by the co-Presidents of Co-operatives Europe – Pauline Green and Etienne Pflimlin - with the full support of other leading members of Europe's Co-operative Movement. The Convention Programme and Registration details can be obtained from Antonina Guarrella on Office@coopseurope.coop.

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ICA's website
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Back Page - Calendar of ICA Events and Activities

- 17 May** ICA Housing Executive Meeting, London, UK. Contact Mike Doyle, mdoyle@chfhq.org
- 18-19 May** ICA Board meeting New Lanark, Scotland. Contact: macdonald@ica.coop
- 19 May** ICA Asia Pacific Standing Committee, New Lanark, Scotland. Contact: Shil Kwan Lee, icaroap@vsnl.com
- 19 May** ICA Communications Committee meeting, Glasgow, Scotland. Contact: Garry Cronan, cronan@ica.coop
- 20 May** ICA Governance Group meeting, Glasgow, Scotland. Contact: Garry Cronan, cronan@ica.coop
- 20 May** ICA's new International Accounting Standards (IAS) Group's first meeting, Glasgow, Scotland. Contact: Iain Macdonald, macdonald@ica.coop
- 20 May** ICA/Co-ops UK Communications Seminar,
- 22 May** CCI Executive Committee meeting, Glasgow, Scotland. Contact: Giuseppe Fabretti, giuseppe.fabretti@ancc.coop.it
- 21-22 June** ACME Annual Conference, Lisbon, Portugal. Contact Yvonne Hautenne yvonne@icmif.org
- 28 June** *Co-operatives in Europe* Convention in Brussels. Contact: Rainer Schlüter, rsc@cecop.coop
- 2 July** 2005 International Day of Co-operatives. Contact: Maria Elena Chávez Hertig chavez@ica.coop see www.copacgva.coop
- 24-27 July** WOCCU, 2005 World Credit Union Conference, Rome, Italy. See www.woccu.org/
- 11-12 August** ICA Global Research Conference, Cork, Ireland Contact: Olive McCarthy, o.mccarthy@ucc.ie see www.ucc.ie/acad/foodecon/CCS/ICA/index.htm
- 8-9 Sept** ICA African Ministerial Conference, Lesotho. Contact: A.S. Kibora, Regional Director, ICA Africa, skibora@icaroecca.coop
- 18-21 Sept** ICA board, sectoral, thematic, youth and other pre-General Assembly meetings. Cartagena, Colombia See page 10 for details
- 22-23 Sept** ICA General Assembly, plus related sectoral and thematic committee meetings. Cartagena, Colombia. Contact: Gabriella Sozanski, sozanski@ica.coop see www.ica.coop or www.iccartagena.coop
- 15-18 Nov** ICMIF Conference, Singapore. See www.icmif.org/