



ICA Digest

Issue 44

3 November 2005

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Cartagena General Assembly "a great success"

The ICA's 2005 General Assembly in Cartagena, Colombia was "a great success".

In a wide variety of ways the General Assembly demonstrated that the ICA is in a real period of consolidation and growth.

It was also clear there was a degree of optimism about the future of the global movement. The content of the Assembly and related events highlighted both the economic and social successes of co-operatives. The outcome was very positive.



Over 1900 co-operators from 70 countries participate

The 2005 General Assembly, the first in South America was one of the largest ever.

Co-operators from at least seventy countries participated with a very strong South American,

particularly Colombian, presence.

The event once again showcased the strength and diversity of the global movement.





Garry Cronan
Editor

From the editor's desk

Welcome to the forty-fourth issue of the *ICA Digest*.

In this issue we report on the 2005 General Assembly held in Cartagena, Colombia, during the week 18-23 September.

This was a major global event. It is a credit to the national Colombian movement that it was such a success.

There was real progress on a range of issues during the General Assembly week. We report on the governance changes approved by the General Assembly. A welcome

improvement was also made in the gender balance on the global Board, although more needs to be done.

This year's General Assembly was also notable for the way it focused on how *Co-operative Principles and Values* can drive business success. We report on a range of these topics and direct readers to more online materials.

The ICA's sectoral organisations were well represented at the General Assembly — eight of the nine organisations holding events. Real progress also seems to be occurring both within and

between these sectoral organisations.

The ICA Youth Network has matured and is growing in confidence every day. Many of its active participants will be the future ICA leaders.

As you will see from our report, the briefing sessions on the Global Poverty Campaign, the Global 300 project and the online Co-operative Learning Centre were all very well received by delegates. As usual we would welcome readers comments.

Garry Cronan

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Colombian hosts very pleased with General Assembly



Carlos Palacino, ICA Vice-President Americas, President of SaludCoop and head of the Colombian Organising Committee for the General Assembly receiving a Colombian Government award for his contribution to co-operatives.

The 2005 General Assembly was hosted by Confecoop and SaludCoop on behalf of the Colombian co-operative movement.

Carlos Palacino, ICA Vice-President and Chair of the Colombian Organising

Committee for the General Assembly, expressed great satisfaction with the week of events.

"I feel very proud that the Colombian co-operative movement was able to host this first ever ICA General Assembly in South America", he said.

"The feedback from delegates, government representatives and others has been overwhelmingly posi-

tive."

"This has been a very important meeting for the ICA, with its focus on co-operative success and on new governance structures. I am delighted that Colombian co-operators have been able to play a part in helping the future development of the global movement while also showcasing the achievements of Colombian co-operatives" he said.



From left, Clemencia Dupont, President of Confecoop, Fabian Muñoz, SaludCoop and local Colombian General Assembly organiser and Gabriella Sozanski, ICA global General Assembly organiser



Three co-operators jointly share 2005 Rochdale Pioneers Award

Awards

The winners of the 2005 Award are:

- Hans Dahlberg
Sweden
- Yehudah Paz
Israel
- Ian MacPherson
Canada



Photo shows , from left, Hans Dahlberg, Yehudah Paz and Ian MacPherson waiting to receive their award at the 2005 ICA General Assembly.

The Rochdale Pioneers Award was first awarded in 2001.

Its purpose is to recognise a person or a co-operative organisation, which has contributed to innovative and sustainable co-operative activities that have significantly benefited their membership.

The first laureate of the Rochdale Pioneers Award was Dr. Verghese Kurien, India who re-

ceived the Award at the ICA General Assembly in Seoul 2001.

At the Oslo General Assembly in 2003 the award was shared between Francisco Luis Jimenez Arcila, Colombia and Lloyd Wilkinson, United Kingdom.

This year the joint winners were Hans Dahlberg, recently retired CEO of ICMIF, Yehudah Paz, retiring ICA Board member and long time co-operative and peace activist and Dr Ian MacPherson,

well known co-operative historian and researcher.

Each of this year's winners received a special certificate along with the award itself - this year a pre-Colombian artefact.

The importance of the award and its acknowledgement of a lifetime commitment to the co-operative cause was evident in all the recipients acceptance speeches.



One of the highpoints of the General Assembly was the intervention made by Francisco Luis Jimenez Arcila, the 104 year old joint winner of the 2003 Rochdale Pioneers Award.

ICA President receives Colombian Government award



ICA President, Ivano Barberini was presented with a special Colombian Government award of the Senate Commission on International Relations, honouring his services to the global movement, by Mr Higuera.

The ICA will be, over the coming months, interviewing the nominees and winners of the Rochdale Pioneers Award.

These interviews and additional related material will be made available on our website.

Election Results

Elections are an increasingly important feature of ICA General Assemblies

Further details relating to each of these sectoral organisations and the new ICA Board can be obtained from the ICA's website

www.ica.coop

New chair for Gender Equality Committee

The ICA's Gender Equality Committee has a new chair.

Retiring Board member Stefania Marcone, Legacoop, Italy

was elected at a meeting of the committee in Cartagena. Ms Marcone replaces Vanda Giuliano who has been the most recent chair of the Gender Equality Committee.



Stefania Marcone (Italy)

ICAO, CCI, and CICOPA elect new presidents

Three of the ICA's nine sectoral organisations have new leadership as a result of elections at the General Assembly in Cartagena.

Dae-Kun Chung, Korea, is the new president of the International Co-operative

Agricultural Organisation. He replaces the former President, Churll - Hee Won also from Korea.

Bob Burlton UK is the new Chair of Consumer Co-operative International. He replaces long serving Chair, Giuseppe Fabretti, (Italy). Javier Salaberria is the new

President of the International Organisation of Industrial, Artisanal and Service Producers Co-operatives. He replaces another long serving President, Rainer Schuler, now, ICA Europe, Director.

See www.ica.coop/ica/peoplesectors



*Dae-Kun Chung
ICAO, Korea*



*Bob Burlton
CCI, UK*



*Javier Salaberria
CICOPA, Spain*

New Audit and Control Committee elected

A new Audit & Control Committee was elected at the General Assembly. It includes three members from the old committee who were re-elected and two new members, Esther Gicheru and Rene Sittner. See www.ica.coop/ica/peopleauditcontrol



*Esther Gicheru
Kenya*



*Phil Holmes
UK*



*Shugo Ogura
Japan*



*Roy Berg Pedersen
Norway*



*Rene Sittner
Germany*

The new ICA Board: 2005-2009

The ICA Board is comprised of twenty elected representatives. The President is elected by General Assembly delegates in a separate presidential ballot. Ivano Barberini was elected unopposed for his second four-year term as President at the Cartagena General Assembly. The four Vice-Presidents are elected by their respective regional assemblies and confirmed by the General Assembly. The General Assembly also directly elects the other fifteen members of the Board. The fifteen new Board members include seven re-elected and eight new members. See also www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2005/election-results

Election Results

There are now 5 women Board members - the highest % ever!



President
Ivano Barberini
Italy



Vice-President Africa
Stanley Muchiri
Kenya



Vice-President
Americas
Carlos Palacino
Colombia



Vice-President Asia-
Pacific
Mu Li
China



Vice-President Europe
Pauline Green
UK



Rahaiah Baهران
Malaysia



Dae-Kun Chung
Korea



Alban D'Amours
Canada



Jean-Claude Detilleux
France



Steinar Dvergsdal
Norway



Paul Hazen
USA



Ramón Imperial Zuniga
Mexico



Gun-Britt Mårtensson
Sweden



Isami Miyata
Japan



Lourdes Sienna Ortellado
Paraguay



Janusz Paskowski
Poland



Felice Scalvini
Italy



Seah Kian Peng
Singapore



Elizabeth Smith
Ghana



Americo Utumi
Brazil

Reflections on General Assembly

“effective governance is an essential element of any co-operative organisation”

Iain Macdonald

DG highlights key outcomes

The main outcome of the General Assembly in Cartagena apart from the clear signs of satisfaction which were apparent for all to see, was a real feeling of togetherness - that the international co-operative movement was at last beginning to act as one.

Perhaps it was the theme which combined co-operative values with commercial success which struck a note with most of the participants. They could see the inevitability of having to compete successfully in the global marketplace.

This business orientation is

not new to ICA but perhaps it is the first time it was given such prominence. So we appealed to both co-operative philosophers and practitioners.

We also underlined successfully the importance of gender equality, with one woman from each region being elected to the global Board.

This fitted in well with the overall emphasis on governance with the unanimous endorsement of our working group's report - an essential element in any co-operative organisation.



ICA Director-General, Iain Macdonald, pleased with the outcome of the General Assembly

Governance

Governance renewal process approved and under-way



Gun-Britt Mårtensson and other members of the Governance Working Group presenting their report to delegates at the General Assembly

Copies of the GWG's report can be obtained from the ICA's website

The 2005 General Assembly endorsed the report of the ICA's Governance Working Group.

Adoption of the recommendations contained in the GWG's report starts the ICA on a path of governance renewal.

The report outlines a series of immediate and medium term actions which are needed to im-

prove the internal governance of the ICA. The main focus for immediate action is the global Board. Issues relating to Board procedures, responsibilities and priorities are spelled out in over 30 detailed recommendations.

In particular the report calls on the Board to:

- develop a *global strategic framework* and plans for the ICA linked to the multi-annual budget process
- commence work on developing a *code of conduct* for ICA global and regional board members
- develop a *set of standing orders* for the global and regional boards to

follow, hence facilitating more effective and inclusive meeting procedures

- Develop *induction and other training programmes* for the Board, the Audit and Control Committee and other ICA bodies

The GWG will be carefully monitoring the introduction of these recommendations and publicly reporting on progress.

The GWG will also be playing an active role in the ongoing debate on regionalisation, (decentralisation) membership, legal and other strategic issues. The priority issues identified by the European resolution sit very comfortably within the framework of governance reform spelled out by the GWG.

ICA nears gender equality target in recent Board election

Gender

For the first time ever, ICA can boast that 25% of its elected members of the Board are women.

The General Assembly elected one woman from each of ICA's regions to join Dame Pauline Green who is serving as the Vice-President from the European region. So, 5 of the 20 Board members are women.

ICA's Gender Equality Committee reminded participants in Cartagena of the organisation's commitment to promoting gender equality in all decision-making structures of the ICA as well

as in their own organisations. The election results show that ICA members manifested their support for gender-equality marking a turning point in ICA's history. Commitment was honored and progress made.

Nonetheless, continued work to ensure that co-operators understand the need for gender-balance in decision-making structures is needed. The target of 30% of decision-making seats set in ICA's Strategy for Gender Equality (www.ica.coop/coop/2000-gender-strategy.pdf) has not yet been reached. And we should note that this year's General Assembly had only

16.3% or 35 women as voting representatives.

ICA members will have an opportunity to continue to show their commitment to gender equality in 2006 during the Regional Assemblies.

The challenge is to ensure that more women participate as voting representatives, that ICA members nominate qualified women and men to ICA regional boards and that gender-balance not be forgotten at the time of voting.



Newly elected Gender Equality Chair, Stefania Marcone, addressed delegates on the importance of increasing gender equality

Resolution sets timetable for discussion on regionalisation

Governance

The process of decentralisation or regionalisation has been on the ICA's agenda since it was first introduced at the 1992 ICA Congress in Tokyo.

The process involves opening up the ICA network by giving greater autonomy to regional governance, programmes and priorities within an overall and reinforcing global structure.

The ICA Board meeting

held just prior to the General Assembly debated and passed a resolution submitted by a number of European members calling for further progress on this issue. In particular, the pilot initiatives under way in Europe be endorsed and that there be more clarity in exactly what regionalisation meant in each ICA region. What functions and powers should reside at regional level - what at the global.

The resolution, agreed by

the Board and then the General Assembly calls for an urgent meeting to consider these matters with the view to putting firm proposals before the various regional assemblies in 2006. The end of May 2006 has been set as a deadline for this issue to be resolved. Obviously, this issue is also closely linked to the governance report and governance matters generally.



Pauline Green, ICA Vice-President Europe, moved the resolution at the General Assembly

Special consultative meeting to be held in December 2005

Following the discussion of governance issues at the General Assembly, a special consultative meeting has been organised for 6-7 December in Geneva.

It is expected that up to eighty people will be attending, including ICA

global and regional board members, and the leadership of the ICA's sectoral organisations.

The main aim of the consultative meeting is to look at the best ways to progress regionalisation within the ICA. The meeting will

focus particularly on the issues identified in the European resolution but position these within the wider context of the governance renewal process outlined in the Governance Report. It is planned to present concrete proposals to the 2006 ICA Regional Assemblies.

Governance issues are now a top priority for the ICA

Keynote Addresses



Ivano Barberini, "we must be proud of our values and culture."



Johnston Birchall "in the next 10 years the emphasis should be on making co-operative values count in business practice."



Alban D'Amours "the co-operative model is really a very successful business model."

Speakers stress need to act on values

We need to act on our values — this was the message delivered to delegates by the keynote speakers at the General Assembly.

Ivano Barberini, ICA President stressed in his opening address that co-operatives must not just talk about values but act on them if they are going to show others that the co-operative difference is real and meaningful.

Keynote speaker, Sherron Watkins, the Enron "whistleblower" delivered a powerful presentation on the role and importance of having a set of values in your organisations and acting on them. Ms Watkins praised co-operatives for their accountability to their members and concern for sustainability but warned co-operative bosses never to violate their values system.

"Never break the rules if you are at the top of your organisation...you as leaders must have pristine ethics" she said.

Johnston Birchall, co-operative researcher and

historian, said "Co-operative Principles provide clear competitive advantages and managers should be motivated to use them".

José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, ILO Executive Director of Employment, said "The current processes of globalisation are generating unbalanced outcomes...the values, activities and structures of co-operatives embody much of what is important in making globalisation fierier. Co-operatives are proving convincingly that they can combine their values with successful business models".

Alban D'Amours, President of the Desjardins Group, Canada, focused on the competitiveness of the co-operative business model. He pointed out that although the performance of co-operatives is rarely monitored by leading analysts and commentators - and thus not widely published - this does not mean they have not chalked up very considerable success.

José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs "the values, activities and structures of co-operatives embody much of what is important in making globalisation fairer."



Sherron Watkins, "ignoring core values, ethics and responsibilities can drive any successful business into bankruptcy and ruin."



José Antonio Ocampo, "Co-operatives have traditionally emphasised the importance of ethical and socially inclusive dealings in the marketplace."



Colombian President challenges co-operative movement

Colombian President, Alvaro Uribe addressed a packed closing session of the General Assembly.

In a powerful presentation the Colombian challenged co-operatives to assume a large role in the global economy. To the surprise

of the assembled delegates and the large media contingent, he provide an immediate challenge for the international movement. He suggested that it might like to purchase the Colombian Government's Bank. The President also spent well over one hour answering questions from delegates.



Business Sessions

Co-operative values driving activities

This year's General Assembly included a series of four special business sessions. They focused on successful co-operative business models, legislative and policy frameworks for the operation of co-operatives, global solidarity - co-operating out of poverty, and sectoral perspectives on innovation. We report briefly on these sessions below. All of the presentations are or will be shortly available on the ICA's website.

Successful co-operative business models

This forum explored four co-operative models of commercial success.

They were *Capricorn*, Australia, *Saludcoop*, Colombia, *The S Group*, Finland and *NTUC Fairprice* from Singapore. Although, each of

these co-operatives have contrasting business models, depending upon their industry sector they have all stressed their co-operative values and have all been successful. See our website for presentations.



Speakers from the successful co-operative business models session, Trent Bartlett, (Australia), Seah Kian Peng, (Singapore), Carlos Palacino, (Colombia), Kari Neilimo, (Finland).

Legislation, accounting standards and other issues discussed

This session focused on the legislative and policy environment in which co-operatives operate. International organisations such as the WTO, the International Accounting Standards Board and

regional groupings such as MERCOSUR are playing an increasingly important role in the way co-operatives operate. This session explored these issues.

Dr Hagen Henry, Co-ordinator of the ICA Legislative Advisory Group, one of the speakers at this special session on policy and legislation



Global Solidarity - Co-operating out of Poverty

In this session Ramón Imperial Zúñiga from Caja Popular Mexicana talked about poverty reduction in the Americas context. Dave Sitaram, President of the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) gave insight into his organisa-

tion's poverty reduction strategy and work. The forum provided an opportunity to learn about the tragedy and poverty reduction in post-Tsunami countries. H.M. Hanafia, Chairman of DEKOPIN-WIL, Indonesia, Dr.

P.A. Kiriwandeniya, Chairman of SANASA Development Bank, Sri Lanka, and Robby Tulus, ICA Special Envoy, showed the potential of co-operatives to alleviate suffering after natural disasters, like the recent tsunami.



Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, Chairman of SANASA Development Bank, Sri Lanka speaking at this session

Innovation within sectors

This session focused on innovation with a number of co-operative sectors. Speakers included Bruno Roelants, on worker co-operatives,

Vivian Woodell from the UK's Phone Co-op and Martin Lowery and Luis Fernando Añez Pereyra on electricity co-operatives.

Bruno Roelants, General Secretary, CICOPA, one of the speakers in the session on innovation



Sectors

CICOPA welcomed the increased worker co-op representation on ICA Board. - the newly elected ICA Board has two members (10%) from the worker co-operative sector, the first time for many years

Increased visibility and co-operation for sectors within ICA

One of the most pleasing aspects of the 2005 General Assembly was the higher visibility of the sectoral organisations.

The ICA Taskforce Report which was adopted at the 2003 Oslo General Assembly and which helped kick-off the current governance renewal process recommended a high profile and role for sectoral organisations.

As evidence of progress in this area, the ICA and IHCO signed an agreement at the General Assembly for closer co-operation. This is the

fourth such agreement between the ICA and its sectoral organisations.

Sectors are also assuming a much higher profile at ICA events. Eight of the ICA's nine sectoral organisations held meetings or conferences in Cartagena. Within the General Assembly itself a number of speakers specifically from sectoral organisations made presentations in the special business sessions of the Assembly.



ICA Director-General, Iain Macdonald, congratulating José Carlos Guisado, chair of the International Health Co-operative Organisation, on the signing of an agreement between ICA and IHCO at the General Assembly



Clemente Jaimes, CICOPA Executive Committee member presents the World Declaration to the General Assembly

General Assembly passes declaration on co-operative worker ownership

The World Declaration on Worker Co-operatives, defining the basic characters and modes of functioning of worker co-operatives, was unanimously approved by the ICA General Assembly in Cartagena.

Among a range of matters covered in the seven page

declaration is that worker co-operatives are committed to being governed by the ICA's Statement on Co-operative Identity.

You can read the full text of the declaration by going to www.cicopa.coop



Joint inter-sectoral seminars are a very good way to encourage the further development of co-operation between sectors

Joint seminar on integration of agricultural marketing



A joint ICAO, CCI and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, (IFAP). seminar was also held in Cartagena.

It highlighted the need to better integrate co-operative agricultural and consumer activities.

From left, Raul Montemayor, (Philippines), Carlos Simancas, (Colombia), Chikara Sato, (Japan) and Michael Boland, (USA).

Successful series of sectoral statutory meetings and seminars

Sectors

Eight of the ICA's nine sectoral organisations held meetings in Cartagena in conjunction with the General Assembly. In a number of cases these included executive and general meetings which were concerned with statutory business such as elections. Also, a number of sectoral conferences/seminars were held.

International Co-operative Banking Association



Photo, from the left Bhagwati Prasad (India), Gideon Muriuki (Kenya), Eugeniusz Laszkiewicz – President, ICBA, (Poland), Miguel Cardozo (Uruguay), Gérard Leseul (France).

For more information on the ICBA activities at the General Assembly see their website www.coop-banking.info/ or contact the secretariat@coop-banking.info

Consumer Co-operative International



Photo from left, Sonia Buglione, (Italy), Bob Burlton, (UK) the new Chair of CCI, and Guisepppe Fabretti, (Italy) the former Chair.

For more information on the presentations made at the CCI consumer workshop and more generally on CCI's activities contact Bob.Burlton@midcounties.coop see also www.ica.coop/cci/

International Health Co-operative Organisation



José Carlos Guisado, IHCO President, second on left, leads the debate at their meeting

IHCO held both board and general meetings. Further details are available from the secretary at direccion@fundacionespriu.coop or visit www.ica.coop/ihco/

CICOPA



Photo from left Javier Salaberria, Ivano Barberini, Carlos Palacino and Felice Scalvini at CICOPA's World Conference

The VIth CICOPA World Conference, attended by 145 delegates from 17 countries, was held in Cartagena on 19 September. For full details visit CICOPA's website www.cicopa.coop/

International Association of Co-operative Tourism



From left, Victor Moneira, Fernando Martinho, Mauricio Davolio, Chair TICA, Leyla Solano and D.S.K.Pathirana

For more information on TICA's activities at the General Assembly and generally contact mdavo@tin.it or visit www.ica.coop/tica/

ICA Housing



Members of ICA Housing at their meeting in Cartagena.

For more information about ICA Housing, [Contact: mdoyle@chfhq.org](mailto:mdoyle@chfhq.org) or visit their website at www.icahousing.org/

ICAO and ICOF also met. For information contact:

- International Co-operative Agricultural Organisation, contact: secretariat@agricoop.org
- International Co-operative Fisheries Organisation, contact: icfo@zengyoren.jf-net.ne.jp

Communications

Four editions of General Assembly newspaper produced

A regular feature of General Assemblies is a daily newsletter. This year the newsletter took the form of a tabloid size, eight page newspaper produced in both English and Spanish.

Four daily editions of the newspaper were produced and distributed to delegates. It provided an up to the minute reference on all that was happening. Copies will be available on our website.



Communications Committee worked with local journalists



Some members of the ICA-Colombian communications team at the GA, from left P Nair, (India), Felix Lozano, (UK), Sofia Villa, (Colombia), Iain Williamson, (UK) and David Lara, (Colombia).

The ICA Communications Committee joined forces with local Colombian journalists and media consultants during the General Assembly.

Communications activities included the production of the daily newspaper, media conferences and briefings with

visiting and overseas journalists, interviews of leading cooperative figures and other promotional activities.

The ICACC will be reviewing its range of activities with a view to further improving its efforts at the next GA in Singapore in 2007.

Colombian media give wide coverage to General Assembly

Close to fifty media representatives registered and attended the 2005 General Assembly.

The large attendance of so many representatives reflected the interest of the local Colombian media in the co-operative movement. A

number of overseas cooperative media representatives also attended and have reported on the GA in their respective countries publications.

Youth

Youth network maturing



Francis Talbot, (Canada), Juan Carlos Mejia, (Colombia) and Say Hong Teo, (Singapore).

The 2005 General Assembly demonstrated that very real progress is being made

by the ICA's youth network. The global network is being strengthened, regional groupings formed, plans and programmes developed and elections held and contested. Further reports on youth will be carried in future issues of the **Digest**.



Youth delegates at one of their workshop sessions in Cartagena

Co-operative Learning Centre showcased

Several meetings and briefings were held during the General Assembly week on the Co-operative Learning Centre.

The CLC is an initiative of the ICA's HRD Committee and is being developed by the British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies, Canada.

In essence the CLC is a collaborative online resource for co-operatives, co-operative educators and researchers.

It will be a multi-lingual, multimedia internet gateway to a valuable collection of information on the effective use of the co-operative model. To see a prototype of the site go to www.learningcentre.coop



Dr Ian MacPherson, chair of the CLC Board

Knowledge and Intelligence Services

Development of better knowledge and intelligence systems is a key priority of the ICA

Global 300 project receives strong endorsement

A briefing on the ICA's new global 300 project was another popular session during the General Assembly week.

This project is compiling a list of the largest 300 co-operative and mutuals organisations in the world. The briefing session provided background on the project and invited members and others to join the project. The response was very encouraging with a number of members

committing resources to this project.

It is clear that members welcome ICA's initiatives in the area of knowledge and intelligence services, such as the Global 300 project.

It was announced at the briefing that the formal launch of the first ever global ranking will be on International Co-



operatives Day 2006. Anyone wishing to participate in this project should contact:

Garry Cronan
cronan@ica.coop

Garry Cronan, project director, Hans Dahlberg, project chair and Jacques Terrenoire, Managing Director of the International Economic and Social Forum in Lyon, (France) speaking at the Global 300 forum

Microfinance seminar popular with delegates

The characteristics of microfinance and its relationship with co-operatives was one of the central issues of a special microfinance seminar.

The seminar was organised by the ICA's Gender Equality Committee and proved to be one of the most popular events during the week.

A range of case studies

were presented. Francisco Estevez from the World Council of Credit Unions highlighted the role of microfinance in addressing poverty. "We do not wait for people to come to us, we go to them and present them with the idea

of microcredit" he said. Other speakers highlighted a variety of other co-operative and microfinance approaches which were working. You can see all the presentations at www.ica.coop/gender/seminars/2005-gec-ica.html



Speakers at the microfinance seminar from left, Francisco Estevez, WOCCU, Leonel Roland, Oikocredit, Maria Elena Chavez Hertig, ICA, Stefania Marcone, ICA GEC, Rahaiah Baheran ICA GEC-ANGKASA and Gerard Leseul, Crédit Mu-

Microfinance

People and scenes from the General Assembly.....



Apart from the General Assembly itself there were over 20 other meetings, conferences and forums, plus numerous less formal opportunities to network and socialise.

People and scenes from the General Assembly.....

The ICA will be shortly posting to its website a full range of photos from the General Assembly for downloading



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Copies of the ICA
Digest are ar-
chived on the
ICA's website
www.ica.coop

2005—2006 Calendar of ICA Events and Activities

15-18 Nov	ICMIF Conference, Singapore. See www.icmif.org/
5 Dec	ICA Audit and Control Committee, Geneva, Switzerland. Contact: Roy Berg Pedersen, rbp@nbbl.no
	ICA Africa Executive Committee, Geneva, Switzerland. Contact: Ada Suleymane Kibora, skibora@icaafrica.coop
	ICA Europe Executive Committee, Geneva, Switzerland. Contact: Rainer Schluter, r.schluter@coopseurope.coop
	Asia Pacific Standing Committee, Geneva, Switzerland: Contact: Shil-Kwan Lee, sklee@icaroap.coop
6-7 Dec	ICA Special Consultative meeting, ICA global, regional executives, plus sectoral chairs, secretaries, Geneva, Switzerland. Contact: Iain Macdonald macdonald@ica.coop
7 Dec	ICA Board meeting, Geneva, Switzerland. Contact: Iain Macdonald macdonald@ica.coop
8 Dec	Meeting of ICA Housing Committee, Geneva, Switzerland. Contact: Mike Doyle, MIbrahim@chfinternational.org (to be confirmed)
<hr style="width: 20%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 2006	
26 Jan	COPAC and co-op development agencies meeting, Sri Lanka. Contact chavez@ica.coop
Feb	Meeting of Executive Committee of International Co-operative Banking Association, (ICBA), Colombo, Sri Lanka. Contact: biurowaw@kzbs.pol.pl
March	Seminar, International Co-operative Fishing Organisation (ICFO), Colombo, Sri Lanka. Contact: icfo@zengyoren.jf-net.ne.jp
March	African Research Facility Conference, Ethiopia. Contact: macdonald@ica.coop
31 March	International Health Co-operative Organisation (IHCO) Board meeting, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Contact: direccion@fundacionespriu.coop
21 June	International Health Co-operative Organisation (IHCO) Board meeting, Stockholm, Sweden. Contact: direccion@fundacionespriu.coop
23-28 June	Peace and Co-operation Workshop, Vancouver, Canada. Contact Ian MacPherson, cluny@uvvm.uvic.ca
19-23 July	ICA Americas Regional Assembly, Lima, Peru. Contact: Manuel Mariño, direccion@aciamericas.coop
August	ICA Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Contact: Shil-Kwan Lee, sklee@icaroap.coop
August	Annual General meeting, International Co-operative Fisheries Organisation (ICFO), Colombo, Sri Lanka. Contact: icfo@zengyoren.jf-net.ne.jp
23 Sept	ICA Europe Regional Assembly, Manchester, UK. Contact: Rainer Schluter, r.schluter@coopseurope.coop
Oct	ICA Africa Regional Assembly, Arusha, Tanzania. Contact: Ada Suleymane Kibora, skibora@icaafrica.coop