



# ICA Digest 67

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## Economic resilience, sustainability, Climate Change ICA General Assembly 16-20 November 2009

A clear leader has emerged, in the wake of global crisis—co-operatives and the co-operative form of business. Delegates attending this year's ICA General Assembly will have the opportunity to learn how co-operatives have tackled the crisis from the standpoint of economic resilience, sustainable and social practice and look at the future of co-operatives in this new economic environment. Be part of the discussions during the week long co-operative events in Geneva, Switzerland from 16-20 November.

Under the theme, *Global Crisis – Co-operative Opportunity*, and featuring world-renowned economist, Jeremy Rifkin, as keynote speaker, the Assembly will address how co-operatives are facing the economic, as well as the larger, sustainability and climate threat challenges, sharing lessons learned and looking to the

future. What are the new challenges faced by co-operatives and how can co-operatives take up the opportunities presented by these crises.



### ica general assembly geneva 2009

A highlight of the five days of events is the potential leadership role for co-operatives in a new economic model, that will enable a fairer distribution of resources. Rifkin and other speakers will discuss how co-operatives can take charge of

energy resources and create partnerships for sustainable development.

Participants will learn more on the research, commissioned to the ICA (ILO report, *Resilience of the Co-operative Business Model in Times of Crisis*) which found conclusively that the co-operative enterprise is more resilient in times of crisis than other forms of business.

Climate Change will also feature at the Assembly with updates on concrete actions taken at the regional and national levels.

With a large number of regional, sectoral and thematic meetings held in conjunction with the Assembly, this is a truly global co-operative event not to be missed!

Turn to *pages 8-10* for your guide to the GA—what's on and how to register for the event of the year.

## 'Driving global recovery through co-operative enterprise' - International Day of Co-operatives 2009

International Day of Co-operatives was celebrated on 4 July 2009 by co-operators around the globe. In its message to mark the day, ICA called on its members to strengthen their commitment to co-operative values and principles and to celebrate their successes in these difficult times.

ICA chose the theme, *Driving global recovery through co-operative enterprise*, to draw

attention to the evidence for co-operatives' increased resilience to crisis.

'The co-operative movement faces an unparalleled opportunity. It must rise to the challenge to demonstrate that the co-operative model of enterprise is an alternative ... that is the better business model for the future.' *Read the full ICA message at: [www.ica.coop/activities/idc/2009](http://www.ica.coop/activities/idc/2009).*



Turn to *pages 4-6* for a report on how the co-operative movement marked International Day of Co-operatives 2009.



Maria-Elena Chavez Hertig, ICA Deputy Director-General

## From the Editor's desk

This issue continues our reporting on co-operative resilience and how co-operatives are faring in the times of modest recovery. It also focuses on the important ICA General Assembly which will be looking to the future—to the opportunities that the crisis has offered to co-operative enterprise. However, the Assembly will also be electing a new President and Board thus will set the future of the organisation as well.

Raising awareness and co-operative visibility—key objectives of the ICA—were achieved in the celebrations of the 2009 International Day of Co-operatives as we report in this issue. The International Year of Co-

operatives which is currently under discussion in the United Nations may provide yet another opportunity and one that is very opportunely timed. The ICA calls on the support of all co-operators in lobbying their governments to make the Year a reality.

The co-operative commitment to Climate Change is also highlighted in this issue. Co-operatives in Europe and the Americas have made formal commitments to address the climate threat. Proving that the resolution of 2007 has led to action in many parts of our movement and a recognition that co-operatives can provide leadership. The ICA General Assembly will be addressing the issue in more detail.

We report on some of the events of the ICA GA and encourage all to join us in Geneva for what will be a historic Assembly.

Finally we provide information of leadership changes within the movement. We pay tribute to co-operators who have passed away. We recognise their invaluable contributions to the movement and remember how they touched our lives in very personal ways.

We know that they would want us to look to the future and take advantage of this unique opportunity of post-crisis to strengthen our reach and visibility. We hope to see you in Geneva where a new chapter in ICA history.

## Latest news



ICA Members:  
Register for the  
ICA General  
Assembly and  
vote for the new  
ICA Board

See:  
[www.ica.coop/  
calendar/ga2009/](http://www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2009/)

## ICA Board Elections—Candidates

ICA members will be voting in a new ICA President, three Vice-Presidents and 18 new Board members on 20 November 2009 at the ICA General Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland. The candidates are:

### ICA President

1. Dame Pauline Green, United Kingdom

### ICA Vice-Presidents

1. *Africa*: Stanley Muchiri, Kenya
2. *Americas*: Ramón Imperial Zuniga, Mexico
3. *Asia-Pacific*: Li Chung-sheng, China

### ICA Board members in alphabetical order by name (15 to be elected)

1. Kathy Bardswick, Canada
2. Deepak Prakash Baskoka,

- Nepal
3. Muhammad Sharif Bhariji, Pakistan
4. Won-Byung Choi, Korea
5. Jean-Claude Detilleux, France
6. Steiner Dvergsdal, Norway
7. Carlos Fissore, Argentina
8. Paul Hazen, United States
9. Lennart Hjalmarsen, Sweden
10. Surinder Kumar Jakhar, India
11. Evgeny Kuznetsov, Russia
12. Mamoru Moteki, Japan
13. Maria Lourdes Ortellado Senra, Paraguay
14. Janusz Paszkowski, Poland
15. Felice Scalvini, Italy
16. Seah Kian Peng, Singapore
17. Petar Ivanov Stefanov, Bulgaria

18. Tom Tar, Nigeria
19. İlhami Teke, Turkey
20. Americo Utumi, Brazil
21. Len Wardle, United Kingdom
22. Hajah Armi Haji Zainudin, Malaysia

### Sectoral Organisations Representatives to the Board (2 to be elected)

1. Jean-Louis Bancel, France
2. Anne Santamäki, Finland

### Youth Representative to the Board (1 to be elected)

1. José Antonio Chávez Villanueva, Mexico

Biographies of the candidates and election information will shortly be available on the ICA website. See [www.ica.coop/  
calendar/ga2009/](http://www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2009/)

## Director-General's report

The past few months have been difficult for us. Summer, often a quieter time, was particularly so this year, in the absence of Ivano Barberini. It was decided to wait until the General Assembly in November before appointing a new president, so I have had to travel more than normal - but without the good counsel of our late president. Ivano's death has been compounded by the passing of our much-loved colleague, Marie-Claude Baan. Marie-Claude had been with ICA in Geneva for over twenty-five years, serving under several presidents and director-generals. Her knowledge of the ICA was second to none and her loyalty, commitment and support for colleagues, unsurpassed. She is irreplaceable.

Despite these setbacks, the important work of ICA continues - Ivano and Marie-Claude would not have wished it otherwise. In particular, the General Assembly is taking shape, ready for Geneva in November. It is an election year and we already have a

very healthy number of nominations for the Board. In addition, most sectoral organisations and thematic committees will hold one or two events during the Assembly, and I am very grateful to those members who are supporting the GA. I am especially looking forward to the presentation and discussions by the Assembly keynote speaker, Jeremy Rifkin. Rifkin will seek to progress how the co-operative movement can address today's economic challenges, the energy crisis and the threat of climate change. I am positive that all this will encourage a healthy registration of delegates, and the signs are already there.

The ICA Board at its meeting in Norway considered a number of issues, not least, the organisation of the General Assembly. The Board's Governance Committee is making great progress in the remaining restructuring area, that of sectoral organisations and thematic committees. The Board also approved the holding of ICA Expo 2010 in India. Our co-operative colleagues in India have

agreed to support the hosting of Expo 2010. It is very good news to secure a new venue, and I am convinced that this is a venture which has a very promising future.

During October and the first part of November, the United Nations will consider whether to declare an International Year of Co-operatives - probably in 2012. Current signals are very strong, and so we are hopeful that the global movement will soon have a very useful way to seriously raise its profile over the next few years.

It is important to never forget our main objective - to show how co-operative enterprise is not only equal to but better than its investor-owned competitors in terms of good business practice and commercial success. Despite the best attempts of the media to divert attention away from the actions of avaricious bankers and the failings of the current system, we ourselves should continue to insist on the global promotion of our values and principles.

## DG's Report



Iain Macdonald  
ICA Director-General

## Co-operatives a priority in Latin American Common Market

In a strong statement to the MERCOSUR (Southern "Common Market" of the Americas) Parliament, incoming President, Juan José Domínguez (Uruguay), announced that the social economy, with particular emphasis on the role of co-operatives, would be a policy priority.

In his speech made on 18 August, to assume the presidency of the MERCOSUR

Parliament, Domínguez said that his key project was monitoring the passage of the MERCOSUR Co-operatives Statute, and urging the Common Market Council to approve the statute so that national parliaments can proceed to incorporate it.

Domínguez also expressed his strong support at the start of an interagency process that will culminate in

a conference to consider the inclusion of International Labour Organisation (ILO) Recommendation 193 on the promotion of co-operatives.

The Specialised Meeting of Co-operatives of MERCOSUR (RECM) in which ICA Americas participates, also convened to further progress on integration of co-operatives in MERCOSUR's processes.



Juan José Domínguez  
presiding over the  
MERCOSUR Parliament

## IDC 2009



## 'Driving global recovery through co-operatives' - United Nations' International Day of Co-operatives 2009

Co-operatives around the world joined the ICA in celebrating the 87<sup>th</sup> International Day of Co-operatives and the 15<sup>th</sup> UN International Day of Co-operatives on 4 July 2009.

The theme, *Driving Global Recovery through Co-operatives*, focused on recovery rather than crisis. It highlighted the role of co-operatives in promoting economic growth as well as ethical values - values that have been challenged during the current financial and food crisis; and it underlined the way in which co-operatives contribute to global economic recovery.

The Day was an opportunity for co-operative organisations to make the point that more than ever, in the context of the international crisis, co-operatives should be seen as a valid alternative to the market economy—co-operatives not only survive crisis, they drive recovery.

ICA members circulated the ICA message in their national languages to their members and policy-makers. The ICA message was made available in English, French, Spanish, Basque Catalan, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese and many other languages. However, the ICA message has a wider reach—it is requested by co-operatives not within its membership, government authorities which address co-operative issues, United Nations information offices and other organisations interested in co-operative development. It is a unique way to reach a

wide audience and raise awareness of the co-operative movement.

In Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires, co-operative growth was the topic, when more than two hundred co-operative leaders met to celebrate IDC and the fourth anniversary of the newspaper, *Cooperar* (Co-operate). Those gathered were told that the number of co-operatives was expected to surge in Argentina from nine per cent to nearly 20 per cent of GDP, over the next few years.

The Argentine Co-operative for the Provision of Community Broadcasting Services (COLSECOR) asked its members to share the vision and values that can potentially transform co-operative enterprises into entirely different businesses, with a clear message that the co-operative model is the best alternative for future commercial activity.

Carlos Garetto, President of the Agricultural Co-operatives Federation of Argentina (CONINAGRO) told members, 'In the face of the crisis confronting Argentina, the values of Co-operation take on an increasingly important role, providing solidarity, joint equality and a genuine commitment to all members.'

In Brazil, ICA's member, the Organisation of Co-operatives of Brazil celebrated the day around the country with seminars, events and message. One of its members, the Organiza-

ção das Cooperativas do Estado de Santa Catarina published its statement to YouTube ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuwlgJFp1IU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuwlgJFp1IU)) providing information on the worldwide movement and the co-operatives in their state.

Canadian co-operative organisations and ICA members, the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA), Conseil de la Coopération et de la Mutualité (CCM) joined the Credit Union Central of Canada, the British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies and others to focus their statements on the advantages of co-operatives and credit unions in uncertain economic times.

Carlos Palacino of Saludcoop, Colombia, made reference to co-operative resilience in Colombia at a national IDC event organised by ICA members CONFE-COOP and ASCOOP. He said that co-operatives had outperformed the national growth rates in the last six years and recorded a membership increase of 7% yearly.

On the other side of the globe in Uganda, Tourism, Trade and Industry Minister, Major General Kahinda Otafiire, urged Ugandans to use co-operatives in the recovery of the economy: 'Co-operatives have shown capacity to provide vital health, housing and finance services. They have also promoted education and gender equality, the environment and workers' rights,' he said.

United Nations Secretary-General says,

'Co-operatives can help pull the world out of recession'



Illustration based on artwork from ©iStockphoto.com/Florea Marius Catalin



## ‘Driving global recovery through co-operatives’ (cont’d)

IDC 2009

Other African political leaders stressed the importance of co-operatives in achieving their countries’ development goals. In South Africa, Premier of Ntuli and KwaZulu-Natal, Dr Zweli Mkhize, who launched celebrations at Pietermaritzburg City Hall to mark IDC 2009, said he believed the co-operative sector reflected the spirit of Ubuntu, ‘Because it encourages people to share their ideas, skills and resources when pursuing business ventures.’ He said the South African government regarded the co-operative movement as very important to economic recovery.

Speaking at the IDC celebrations held at the Nangwanda Grounds in Mtwara, bordering Mozambique, from 28 June to 4 July, Tanzanian President, Jakaya Mrisho Kikete, said he hoped co-operatives would help curb the impacts of the global financial crisis.

The Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Co-operatives partnered with the co-operative movement and over a fortnight marked IDC with the opening of co-operative stores, workshops and other events. A co-operative magazine was also launched. The aim was to increase co-operative visibility and sensitize the public at large on the principles, values and importance of the co-operative sector.

The theme of IDC 2009 was also an opportunity for co-operatives to highlight how they promote ethical business.

Ray Cassar, Chief Executive



*Ray Cassar, Chief Executive Officer of Koperattivi Malta*

Officer of Koperattivi Malta said, ‘In a co-operative, a member is safe in the knowledge that he or she is in a one-for-all and all-for-one type of enterprise. The implication is that safeguarding jobs is a priority, even when it means that little or no profit is made.’ Co-operatives had survived the crisis, unlike many other enterprises in key industries, Cassar concluded.



*Indonesian President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and ICA Asia-Pacific Regional Director, Shil-Kwan Lee*

Indonesian President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, in a speech to commemorate the Co-operative Day in Indonesia, highlighted the importance of co-operatives in the current crisis. He warned that if the national economy did not allow co-operatives to develop, then efforts to reduce poverty, unemployment and improve people’s welfare would be hindered:

‘Co-operatives, small and medium, would be more important for the country’s economy in the future, amid the increasing globalisation of the economy,’ he said.

Universities also marked the Day with lectures on co-operatives as was the case at the College of Co-operation, Banking and Management at the University of Kerala in India.

Other organisations timed their special co-operative commemorations to coincide with the International Day of Co-operatives. In Venezuela, IDC was celebrated early, on 26 June, in recognition of the date in 1975, when the National Co-operative of Venezuela was constituted to run regional power stations.

The new Council of Korean Co-operatives was launched on 3 July at NACF headquarters, timed for the IDC celebrations. The Council comprises six ICA members: The National Agricultural Co-operative Federation (NACF), National Forestry Co-operatives Federation, Korean Federation of Community Credit Co-operatives, National



*Launch of the Council of Korean Co-operatives*

## IDC 2009

## 'Driving global recovery through co-operatives' (cont'd)



Japanese Co-operative Movement poster for IDC 2009

Federation of Fisheries Co-operatives, National Credit Union Federation of Korea, and iCOOP Solidarity of Consumer Co-operatives.

Inaugural President, Won-Byung Choi, Chairman of NACF and ICA Board member said, 'Co-operators and co-operative employees should remember the importance of the co-operative values, principles, and their roles, and take the initiative to assist with economic crisis recovery efforts'.

The same issues were discussed in a lecture titled, *Community rebirth under the economic crisis and the new role of co-operatives*, given by Dr Naohiko Jinno, Professor of Kansei Gakuin University, at IDC celebrations in Tokyo. The Japan Joint

Committee of Co-operatives hosted the celebrations on 7 July.

The exemplary performance of co-operative banks was again highlighted in the media release issued on IDC, by the New Zealand Co-operatives Association.

NZ Co-operatives Association Chairman, Peter Macdougall, said, 'In the present financial crisis co-operative and mutual banks have shown more stability and resilience than their investor-owned counterparts.

'New Zealand institutions, such as Public Service Investment Society (PSIS), SBS and TSB Banks, as well as credit union memberships and deposits, will grow as Kiwis

[sic] move to trusted local co-operative and mutual financial organisations,' said Macdougall.

Although co-operatives sometimes had a low profile, they contributed significantly to economic recovery.

'In contrast to investor-owned companies that seek to maximise profits, often by forcing down labour costs through outsourcing, co-operatives limit the return on capital, generate skilled jobs and retain profits locally,' he concluded.

See the ICA and other messages for the International Day on the ICA website at:

[www.ica.coop/activities/idc/2009](http://www.ica.coop/activities/idc/2009)

## Russian co-operative expands retail outlets despite crisis



Consumer demand in more than two dozen new co-operative shops has been good despite the economic crisis. Pricing is attractive, often well below those of other retail chains' shops with an emphasis on environment-friendly produce grown in rural areas.

The Central Union of Russia (Centrosoyuz) plans to open

its retain stores throughout the major regions of Russia. It can be said without exaggeration that Centrosoyuz's new project is ground breaking within the Russian context. The new retail chains were launched in the midst of the current economic crises providing markets for Russian manufacturers and co-operatives, and contribute to lessening the impact of the crisis and even promoting an early recovery.

According to the head of Central Union of Russia, Evgeny Kuznetsov, this initiative is an example of social economy in practice. It represents a system of solidarity which was created on the basis of consumer co-operation to help with the marketing of farmers'

products; it unites purchasing, processing and marketing chains.

The initiative is also seen as contributing to the overall development plans put forward by the President of Russia with regard to making social services more accessible, supporting income-generating activities, and improving conditions of work.

In addition to the new sales outlets, the Central Union has initiated *Weekend Trade Fairs*. These fairs (*picture left*) are held in four Moscow districts and provide buyers with reasonably priced food products of high quality which are all supplied by consumer co-operatives. The future of this market is equally bright.

## Urgent call to lobby for support for a UN International Year of Co-operatives

UN news



ICA is calling on its members to lobby their governments to support the proposal for a United Nations International Year of Co-operatives (IYC). Discussions on the IYC began in early October at the 64<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly being held in New York (USA).

Following a short period for discussion of the 2009 Secretary-General's Report on co-operatives, delegates will begin negotiations to reach a consensus on a draft resolution to present for final approval in the plenary and closing sessions of the UN General Assembly, most likely taking place in late November or early December.

ICA members are asked to make sure that their governments are aware of the discussions, provide information on the co-operative movements in their countries and ensure their delegates are fully briefed about how to support the IYC initiative.

In July 2009, the UN Secretary-General reaffirmed the important role of co-operatives in economic, social and cultural development, in his biennial report, *"Co-operatives and Social Development"*.

In light of the global food and financial crises, the report suggests that it is an opportune moment to proclaim an International Year of Co-operatives, to highlight the critical role they play.

A resolution, '... to consider effective ways and

means of raising public awareness of the overall socio-economic impact of co-operatives, including the desirability and the feasibility of proclaiming an International Year of Co-operatives,' was first adopted following discussion of the 2007 UN Secretary-General's report.

Generally resolutions on co-operatives are adopted by consensus on the basis of the text agreed in the informal consultations. It is therefore important that governments actively support the International Year of Co-operatives proposal when the resolution is discussed this year.

ICA has been involved in the shaping of the initiative for the proposal for IYC since its inception. In 2007, ICA and the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Co-operatives (COPAC) were consulted by a UN member state regarding supporting a proposal for an International Year of Co-operatives. The ICA Board after consideration gave the proposal its full backing. ICA has also worked to ensure input to the UN Secretary-General's report by requesting that ICA members respond to a questionnaire regarding the desirability and feasibility of an International Year and that they work with their governments on ensuring a government reply.

As reported in *Digest 66*, ICA was invited to participate in a UN Expert Group Meeting, where the IYC was discussed.

There are many reasons to support the proposal for an IYC—firstly an IYC will raise awareness about co-operatives and how they benefit their members and contribute to internationally agreed development goals including the UN Millennium Development Goals which include the elimination of poverty.

An IYC will encourage people to organise themselves into co-operatives as self-help measures to address their economic needs and as a means to empowerment.

An IYC would prompt governments and other policymakers to establish policies, laws and regulation conducive to co-operative formation and growth.

Finally, the Year will promote awareness of the global network of co-operatives and their efforts in community building, democracy and peace making.

The first year available for IYC is 2011; however 2012 has also been suggested to allow more time for planning of activities. The actual year will be decided by government delegates during their negotiations on an International Year of Co-operatives in October and November.

The 2009 UN Secretary-General's report titled, *Co-operatives and Social Development* (document reference: A/64/132 of 13 July 2009), is available in five languages – English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese.

See: [www.copac.coop/publications/unpublications.html](http://www.copac.coop/publications/unpublications.html).

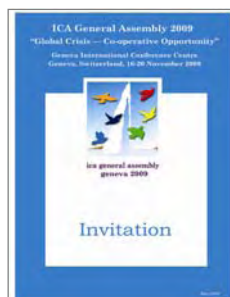
### Lobby your Government!

ICA has written to all members requesting immediate action to support the proposal for an International Year of Co-operatives.

For more information, contact ICA Deputy Director-General, Maria Elena Chavez Hertig: [chavez@ica.coop](mailto:chavez@ica.coop)



## ICA GA 2009



The ICA General Assembly and related meetings will be held on 16-20 November 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland.

See:  
[www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2009/](http://www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2009/)



Jeremy Rifkin—ICA GA  
keynote speaker

## ICA General Assembly 2009 'Global Crisis—Co-operative Opportunity'

The unprecedented challenges of the global financial and confidence crises and the threat of Climate Change, have created increasing opportunities for co-operatives to demonstrate their readiness and capacity to deliver positive economic, social and environmental outcomes for people and communities. In their resilience and growth, co-operatives are demonstrating that they are the best business form to combine market efficiencies and social purpose.

The ICA General Assembly sessions on 19-20 November in Geneva, Switzerland, will focus on the important role of co-operatives in the new economic environment. ICA maintains that the resilience of co-operatives is because they operate in accordance with the co-operative values and principles. The General Assembly will make this case by addressing 'co-operative opportunity' from three perspectives:



**1. Towards a Sustainable Energy Economy** *How can co-operatives take charge of energy resources?* Professor Jeremy Rifkin, President of the Foundation on Economic Trends and a noted economist and advisor to leaders in Europe and the US, will deliver his keynote address on 19 November, examining new developments in energy resources and partnerships

for sustainable development - the "Third Industrial Revolution" concept. He will share his ideas on the key role of co-operatives in addressing the global economic meltdown, energy security, and climate change, and invite the movement to help shape a new economic order based on mutual benefit, environmental concern and a more ethical approach to development. A CNN video clip of Rifkin introducing the concept of the 'Third Industrial Revolution' can be viewed at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=vitxJrFb3Mw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vitxJrFb3Mw)



**2. Co-operative resilience to global crisis**—*Why has the co-operative model enabled the survival and growth of co-operatives even in this time of economic challenge?* An update on co-operative resilience will set the stage for an examination of the future of the co-operative model and policy challenges that lie ahead in terms of legislation, regulation and accounting standards.



**3. Climate Change and the Co-operative Response** — *What action has been taken since the ICA General Assembly 2007 resolution on Climate Change?* ICA members have been active at the regional

and national levels to address climate threat at political and practical levels in all regions.



The Assembly will also address statutory matters. Members will elect the new ICA Board including the ICA President and three ICA Vice-Presidents. Members will consider ICA Rule and Bye-Law amendments, will be asked to approve the ICA Americas Rules, and have a series of resolutions related to the Assembly's theme before them for approval.

They will also be provided with a series of reports on ICA activities including an update on the successful recognition of the co-operative difference in International Accounting Standards. Members will be updated on the continued efforts to implement ICA's restructuring with a report on "sectoralisation".

This General Assembly will be dedicated to the memory of ICA President, Ivano Barberini, will also be posthumously conferred the Rochdale Pioneers Award (see over page).

More information on the Assembly events including on-line meeting registration and hotel reservations at:

[www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2009/](http://www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2009/)



## Rochdale Pioneers Award 2009 - Ivano Barberini honoured

ICA GA  
2009



sustainable co-operative activities that have significantly benefited their membership.

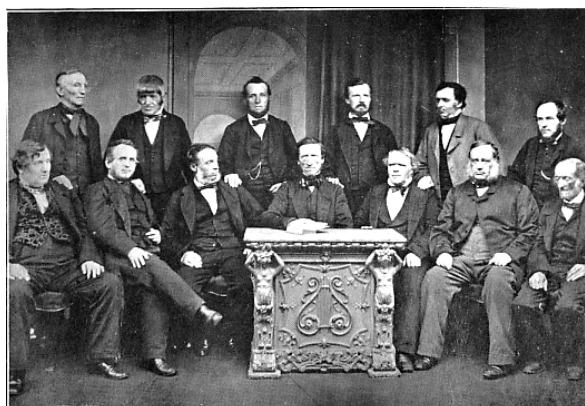
At the Assembly, the 2009 Rochdale Pioneer Award will be posthumously conferred on Ivano Barberini for his life-long contribution and legacy to the world co-operative movement. Read more: [www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2009/ga2009-rochdale-award.pdf](http://www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2009/ga2009-rochdale-award.pdf)

Shortly before his death, Ivano Barberini completed a book on Co-operation.

In the concluding sentences of his book, Ivano wrote: 'The commitment, the spirit of sacrifice and the lack of personal interest have been rewarded with precious treasures - self-esteem, freedom to act, the feeling of

being socially useful ... And it is all this, that gives a meaning to life, makes it all worth living'.

Barberini's book will be made available to Assembly delegates. It is dedicated, 'To the poor children of the world: May they find answers to their demand for a future'.



*The original Rochdale Pioneers*

In 2000, the ICA Board established the Rochdale Pioneers Award, given in recognition of a person or, in special circumstances, a co-operative organisation, having contributed to innovative and financially

## ICA Gender Equality Strategy: 10 years after ...

Women are the economic engine of the future according to a recent study by Goldman Sachs. Studies confirm the vital role of women in the marketplace; they are the largest commercial opportunity of our time and some are even saying that women can save the world from recession. Other studies suggest that as women gain increasing opportunities to influence decision-making, they are likely to also change the spending trends on things that are linked to human well-being—education, healthcare, etc—spending on what really matters—people.

The ICA Gender Equality Strategy adopted in 2000 had similar conclusions—co-operatives need to embrace

gender equality not only because it is the right thing to do, but it is also economically savvy. Ten years later, the ICA and its Gender Committee want to know what progress has been made and what challenges remain to achieve gender equality in co-operatives.

A survey was sent out to all ICA members in August asking them to provide updated data and information on gender equality progress. The information will be presented at the ICA Gender Equality Conference, *Global Crisis: Gender Opportunity?*, to be held on 17 November 2009 in conjunction with the ICA General Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.

Keynote speakers will

include representatives of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Labour Office (ILO) as well ICA Vice President for Europe, Dame Pauline Green. Good practice and updates on progress will be presented by ICA members. More information will be shortly available on the ICA GEC website [www.ica.coop/gender](http://www.ica.coop/gender).

The ICA Gender Strategy 2000 is available from the ICA website at [www.ica.coop/coop/2000-gender-strategy.pdf](http://www.ica.coop/coop/2000-gender-strategy.pdf).

The Gender Survey can be downloaded from the ICA Gender Equality website [www.ica.coop/gender](http://www.ica.coop/gender).



## ICA GA 2009



### Co-operative banks contribute to green growth

The International Co-operative Banking Association (ICBA) will discuss “green growth” solutions to fight global warming and meet energy needs at its annual seminar. *Co-operative Banks’ contribution to Green Growth* will be held on 18 November 2009, just prior to the General Assembly in Geneva.

This new growth model is a solution to Climate Change and an opportunity for long-term investment and relationship building between investors and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

International Co-operative Banking Association  
Association Internationale des Banques Coopératives  
Asociación Internacional de los Bancos Cooperativos



Co-operative banks have specific expertise in this area. They can contribute by adopting an environmental credit policy, financing innovative and efficient environmental businesses, establishing or investing in environmental investment funds, and improving their environmental performance through improved management of natural resources (gas and electricity) thus reducing their impact on the environment.

ICBA’s seminar will be an opportunity for delegates to assess innovative projects developed by co-operative banks, and identify best practice and strategies for contributing to “green growth”.

The ICBA seminar is open to all ICA General Assembly delegates.

For more information, [www.icba.coop/activities/seminaire-aibc-2009.html](http://www.icba.coop/activities/seminaire-aibc-2009.html)



### CICOPA recommits to sustainability goals

CICOPA, the International Organisation of Industrial, Artisanal and Service Producers’ Co-operatives, will hold a General Assembly, Seminar and Executive meeting on 17-18 November 2009 within the framework of the ICA General Assembly.

CICOPA’s seminar on 18 November will focus on how industrial, service, social and artisans’ co-operatives contribute to a sustainable environment.

Best practice examples of energy saving, waste reduction and direct engagement with environment-related activities will be presented.

The event is an opportunity to analyse the actions and contributions of industrial and service co-operatives and to exchange ideas and renew a commitment to sustainability goals.

CICOPA said, in view of those major commitments, it

is time for its co-operatives to evaluate where they stand and how they can contribute to a sustainable future.

Those ICA General Assembly delegates interested in participating, should register for the seminar by contacting Olivier Biron at the CICOPA Secretariat: [cicopa@cicopa.coop](mailto:cicopa@cicopa.coop).

More information: [www.cicopa.coop](http://www.cicopa.coop)



### Dotcoop Global Awards to be presented at ICA GA

With almost forty entries in the initial dotCoop Global Awards for Co-operative Excellence, the international panel of judges faced difficult choices in selecting the top three award winners. This new award focuses on identifying co-operatives around the world that use co-operative values and principles to create successful organisations.

Exciting entries came from every continent (except Antarctica!) and from almost every co-operative sector. The co-ops provided a variety of materials including videos and brochures to illustrate how they continuously educate their members and community about the ethical framework that guides co-operative organisations. Because of the

superior level of entries, the judges also chose to recognise additional entrants with Honourable Mentions and Special Recognitions which will be announced at the same time as the three category winners at the ICA General Assembly in Geneva.

See [www.globalawards.coop](http://www.globalawards.coop) for more information.

## European co-operatives ACT! on climate change

**A**CT! Co-operatives Addressing the Climate Threat—launched by Cooperatives Europe at its General Assembly in Sofia, Bulgaria, in June—calls on European nations to take steps to reduce the threat of climate change.

ACT! is a self-funding unit within Cooperatives Europe, aimed at coordinating and promoting the climate activities of co-operatives in Europe. The worldwide conference on climate change in Copenhagen in December 2009 is crucial, and the European Union will have an important voice at this summit. ACT! encourages co-operatives to campaign for the EU to set strong carbon reduction targets and to work towards an effective Copenhagen agreement.

A new website, [www.actonclimate.coop](http://www.actonclimate.coop), and an on-line petition went live on 21 September, coinciding with a week of climate change activity organised by the United Nations for the G20 meeting. The petition enables co-operatives to register their support for a Fair, Ambitious and Binding (FAB) agreement in Copenhagen.

The petition will be sent to the United Nations as part of its global “Seal The Deal 2009” petition, and to heads of government, Members of the European Parliament and the ICA members. Co-operators in Europe should sign quickly to influence important EU meetings taking place at the end of October to decide on the EU’s stance at Copenhagen.

Whilst most of the political discussion is about carbon reduction targets for 2020 and 2050, ACT! encourages everyone to start to reduce their emissions as early as possible. The ACT! website features and supports the 10:10 campaign, [www.1010.coop](http://www.1010.coop), which asks organisations and individuals to cut emissions by ten per cent in 2010, as a step towards the emissions reductions that are necessary.

ACT! is a follow-up to the ICA Resolution, “Climate Change: Our Co-operative Commitment” adopted in 2007.

For more information you can contact ACT! Principal Bob Burlton: [bobburlton.climatethreat@coopseurope.coop](mailto:bobburlton.climatethreat@coopseurope.coop)

## Climate Change



‘We hope that you are encouraged to see the work that is being done to ensure that the co-operative voice on the climate threat is heard in the right places, and is effective.’

## ICA Americas members sign on to the “Co-op Green Pact”

**T**he Pacto Verde Cooperativo (Co-operative Green Pact): A commitment to Planet Earth was signed by ICA Americas members during the 1st Co-operative Summit of the Americas on 24 September 2009 in Guadalajara, Mexico.

In the presence of more than 1,200 co-operators from North, Central and South America, ICA members of the region recognised that the deterioration of the environment, reflected in phenomena such as global warming, the depletion of natural resources including deforestation, water and air pollution, the destruction of the biological diversity and desertification highlights the need for the ICA Americas take action. Reminding members of the 2007 ICA

General Assembly resolution on Climate Change, ICA Americas members concretely committed to:

1. Take actions both within their organisations and movement as well as outside the movement to preserve the environment beyond what is expected by law, demonstrating their leadership and as a sign of their genuine co-operative responsibility.
2. Include environmental concerns for the environment in the everyday conduct of business and as part of their competitive business strategies.
3. Provide institutional support, within the scope of ICA Americas, to member organisations addressing

environmental issues.

4. Disseminate information on events related to the conservation of the environment and natural resources.
5. Adopt the following distinctive symbol (pictured left) developed by the Confederation of Colombian Co-operatives (CONFECOOP) when it approved its Green Pact in 2008, which will be used by co-operatives to highlight actions taken in compliance with the Green Pact.

ICA Americas will be putting together a strategy for approval by the ICA Americas Board in December on how to ensure effective actions.

More information: [info@aciamericas.coop](mailto:info@aciamericas.coop)



Logo to be used by co-operatives in the Americas region for actions taken to implement the “Co-operative Green Pact: A Commitment to Planet Earth”



## Member News Iran, Vietnam, Thailand sow seeds of collaboration

Iran Central Chamber of Co-operatives (ICCC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Vietnam Co-operative Union, and also with the Co-operative League of Thailand, to boost co-operation in economic and production sectors between the regions.

Reporting on the Iran-Thailand pact, Hossein Rahmaninia, Secretary-General of the ICCC said, 'The agreement consists of 12 articles such as holding co-operative exhibitions in both countries, encouraging investment in co-operatives of Iran and Thailand, and supporting an increase in

electronic trade between the co-operatives of both regions.' Joint training and exchange of research are other goals. The MOU shows the benefit of ICA membership—bring co-operatives together, which then develop opportunities for commercial and other collaboration.

## Legacoop leads on environment

Legacoop of Italy has commenced a national project on the environment and energy called 'CooperAmbiente'. It is now organising participation at Ecomondo-Keyenergy, a trade fair of energy and environmental technologies, will be held 28-30 October in Rimini, Italy.

The Fair is an opportunity to hear from international speakers, such as the *Stern Report on Climate Change* author, Sir Nicholas Stern, and US economist and 2007 Nobel Prize winner, Erik Maskin. Political representatives will speak, including the Italian Minister of Environment and the

President of the Italian Industry Federation.

Contact: Stefania Marcone, Head of International Relations and European Policies Office, and Vanni Rinaldi, Coordinator of CooperAmbiente: [s.marcone@legacoop.coop](mailto:s.marcone@legacoop.coop), [v.rinaldi@legacoop.coop](mailto:v.rinaldi@legacoop.coop)

## CCA virtual 'Hall of Fame'



Credit union pioneer, Alphonse Desjardins, has been named history's Greatest Canadian Co-operator and inducted into the virtual Canadian Co-operative Hall of Fame, located on the Canadian Co-operative Association

(CCA) website: [www.coopscanada.coop/public\\_html/hof/](http://www.coopscanada.coop/public_html/hof/)

The site recognises the achievements of outstanding Canadian co-operators. Earlier this year, nominations were called for the pioneers believed to have made significant and lasting contributions to the development of Canadian co-operatives.

Another highlight of the CCA's centenary celebrations was the launch of a book titled, *A Century of Co-operation*, by pre-eminent co-operative historian, and former Rochdale Pioneer Award recipient, Prof. Ian MacPherson.

The book can be ordered from CCA's website: [www.coopscanada.coop](http://www.coopscanada.coop)

## Food crisis tops ACDI/VOCA concerns



ACDI/VOCA of the United States has announced food security as its newest practice area. Carl Leonard, ADCI/VOCA President, and Chair of the

14-NGO Alliance for Global Food Security, said the food crisis starkly illustrated how vulnerable poor people are: 'Since the vast majority of the world's poor have agriculture based livelihoods, broad-based agricultural development is the only sustainable road to food security,' he said. Based in

Washington DC, ACDI/VOCA, promotes economic opportunities for co-operatives and communities through the application of sound business practice. It has around 70 projects in 40 countries and revenues of USD 110 million. Visit their updated website: [www.acdivoca.org](http://www.acdivoca.org)

## COOPERAR Argentina, new leadership

COOPERAR Argentina elected a new President, Edgardo Form (*pictured right*), on 17 July, taking over from Juan Carlos Fissore. Fissore, a member of the ICA



Americas Board, will head the International Relations Service of COOPERAR. For information on the new Board of COOPERAR see: [www.sitiocooperativo.com.ar/notas.asp?idNota=3155](http://www.sitiocooperativo.com.ar/notas.asp?idNota=3155)

## Co-op people

## UNIMED Brazil welcomes Aquino

UNIMED do Brasil has a new president. Dr Eudes de Freitas Aquino (*pictured right*) was elected to serve from 2009—2013. He replaces Celso Barros who will now head UNIMED-Rio.



UNIMED has 377 medical co-operatives and provides health care to over 15.4 million individuals.

For more information: [www.unimed.com.br](http://www.unimed.com.br)

## NCUI India elects Manchanda

Anita Manchanda (*pictured right*), was named Chief Executive Officer of the National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI) in August after the

retirement of Bhagwati Prasad on 31 July. Prasad continues to be active within the ICA as Co-Chair of the ICA Human Resources Committee.

NCUI is the apex organisation of the Indian Co-operative Movement bringing together over 200 million co-operators in a number of national federations.



## Nagato joins JWCU

Yuzo Nagato (*pictured right*) is the new president of the Japanese Workers' Co-operative Union (JWCU). Nagato was elected at JWCU's 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, replacing Naomichi Furutani.

'While major companies face bankruptcy and deficits, co-operatives of associated work are becoming the universal players in our society as creators of jobs that make real contributions to communities and

human lives,' said Nagato.

Read more:

<http://english.roukyou.gr.jp/index.html>



## Consumer champion joins Co-operativesUK

Co-operativesUK announced its new Chief Executive, Ed Mayo (*pictured right*) will take over after the retirement of Dame Pauline Green, ICA Vice-President for Europe and Co-President of Cooperatives Europe.

As Chief Executive of Consumer Focus, Mayo helped found the Fairtrade Mark.

'In the current economic climate, I see more interest than ever in mutual and

co-operative ownership models...

I feel privileged to be taking over the reins at Co-operativesUK at such an important time,' said Mayo.



## New ICA representative on dotcoop Board

Teo Say Hong (*pictured right*), ICA Board member, Chair of the Singapore National Co-operative Federation Youth Committee and Coordinator

of ICA Youth Network, is the new ICA representative on the dotcoop Board of Managers. He is joined on the Board by newly elected Erbin Crowell, Cooperative

Fund of New England, USA and NCBA Board Member, and Alan Miller, Chief Technical Officer, Midcounties Co-operative Society, UK.



## In Memoriam Marie-Claude Baan-Sonzini



It is with great sadness that ICA announces the passing of a dear friend and valued colleague, Marie-Claude Baan-Sonzini (pictured left), who died peacefully on 30 June, following a courageous struggle with cancer.

Marie-Claude was ICA's longest serving staff member and a pillar of the Geneva office. Over more than 25 years of dedicated service, Marie-Claude worked across many ICA departments, including the Co-operative Education Materials Service (CEMAS), development and member-

ship services, administration and database management.

Marie-Claude was an invaluable member of the ICA team and will be greatly missed. Colleagues and friends have drawn attention to her hard work and dedication, her collegial spirit, kindness, patience and sincerity. This small sample of the flood of tributes that have poured in from around the globe, are testimony to the high regard in which Marie-Claude was held:

'She was a wonderful person in all ways, and a part of ICA's history will certainly

end with her passing.'

'Marie-Claude was such a bedrock of support and quiet hard work. I know that she will be sorely missed.'

'She was always very kind and we appreciated her activities and positive character very much.'

'Marie-Claude's passing is a loss to the co-operative world.' ICA wishes to express its sincerest condolences to the Baan and Sonzini families—in particular to her husband and two children.

## Augustine Kang



With deep regret, ICA announces the passing of the Korean credit union pioneer, Augustine Kang (pictured left), who died peacefully, aged 85, of complications from a stroke on 22 August.

Kang began promoting credit unions in Asia when he joined the international department of the Credit Union National Association (CUNA). He was manager for the Asia region of the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) in 1970 and was

seconded to General Manager of the Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU) from 1971 to 1983.

He inspired many credit union leaders to take on the challenge of organising the credit unions and the national federations that now serve millions of people in Asia. Kang received the ACCU Recognition Award in 1985—the first recipient of this prestigious honour.

In 1981 he received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for

International Understanding, for his practical democracy and use of regional co-operation to foster economically and humanly sound credit unions.

Kang was born in 1923 and educated at Chinnampo, in what became North Korea. He fled south in 1951 during the Korean War. His deep commitment to Christian values in daily life was at the core of his sustained efforts to make credit unions effective co-operatives for better living.

## Abdul Rahim Abu Bakar



The National Co-operative Organisation of Malaysia (ANGKASA), is greatly saddened to announce the sudden death of Dato' Hj Abdul Rahim Abu Bakaron (pictured left), on 24 September, after only nine months as the organisation's President. Despite his short tenure, Abdul Rahim

brought his vast experience of the co-operative movement to ANGKASA.

Malaysia's Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Minister, Datuk Noh Omar, commended Abdul Rahim's service to his country: "I have always admired his high values and struggles. Despite

coming from a poor family, he achieved tremendous success," he said.

ANGKASA Deputy President, Dr Mohd Ali Baharum, (ICA-AP Standing Committee Member) will be Acting President until the next AGM in December.



## Welcoming new members to the ICA family

ICA welcomes the newest members and associate members.

### Members

**Co-operative Council of Ghana (GCC)** is the apex body for Ghana's co-operative movement, promoting co-operative development and also providing services to non co-operative enterprises. It represents 14 associations and more than 1.5 million members.

**Cooperativa Crl Francisco Bolognesi Ltda. (CAC FB)** of Peru is a savings and credit co-operative supervised by the National Federation of Co-operative Savings and Credit (FENACREP). It was founded in 1970 and provides more than 14,000 members with financial services. CAC FB has deposits of almost USD 4 million (CHF 1.4 million): [www.cacbolognesi.com.pe](http://www.cacbolognesi.com.pe)

**Republican Union of Consumer Societies (Soyuz Tadjikmatlubot)** of Tajikistan unites and coordinates the activities of the regional consumer societies and its unions. It also promotes the co-operative movement nationally. In 2007, it had 30 member societies representing nearly 20,000 individuals.

**Caja Morelia Valladolid**

**National Federation of Forest Owners' Co-operative Associations (Japan)** has a new president, Shigenori Miyazakion, elected on 23 June 2009.

of Mexico promotes the socio-economic development of its members through high quality financial services. It is the second largest co-operative in Mexico, with over 250,000 members: [www.cajamorelia.com.mx](http://www.cajamorelia.com.mx)

**National Association of Building Co-operatives (NABCo)** is the co-operative housing movement's development federation in Ireland. Its membership comprises local housing co-operatives and district co-operative housing societies. More information: [www.nabco.ie](http://www.nabco.ie)

**Cooperativa Policial de Ahorro y Crédito (COPAC)** of Uruguay is a savings and credit co-operative that provides loans and other financial services to individuals affiliated to a national security service such as the police or armed forces. It represents some 24,000 members: [www.copac.com.uy](http://www.copac.com.uy)

**National Federation of Fishermen's Co-operatives Ltd (FISHCOPFED)** of India develops fishing co-operatives and provides capacity building and marketing support for export. FISHCOPFED represents some 100,000 Indian fisherfolk. See more information: [www.fishcopfed.org](http://www.fishcopfed.org)

**National Association of Mongolian Agricultural**

**The new address of Iran Central Chamber of Co-operatives' (ICCC) is:** No. 13, Corner of Vezvaei St, Malek St, Dr. Shariati St, Tehran, IRAN  
Tel: +98-2188475013 (14)  
Int. Affairs: +98-2188475023

**Co-operatives (NAMAC)**, formerly The Supreme Council of Agricultural Co-operatives, represents the interests of agricultural co-operatives to government and helps to ensure rural people have secure sources of food and consumables. NAMAC represents 80,000 members and 360 primary co-operatives. See: [www.namac.nm](http://www.namac.nm)

### Associate members

**The Plunkett Foundation (UK)** joins the ICA supports co-operatives and social enterprises in rural communities worldwide, helping them implement practical solutions to the challenges they face. It also lobbies for an enabling environment for the development of rural co-operatives. The Plunkett Foundation was a member of ICA's sectoral organisation, the International Co-operative Agricultural Organisation (ICAO). More information at: [www.plunkett.co.uk](http://www.plunkett.co.uk)

**The Central Housing Co-operative Union of Egypt** supports its members with administration, legal advice, advocacy and housing contracts. The Union represents 2,370 societies with 2.5 million members. It became a full member in three to five years. More information at: [www.housingunion.net](http://www.housingunion.net)

**Koperattivi Malta** is the new name for the Apex Organisation of Maltese Co-operatives, found at: 18 St Francis St  
Balzan BZN 1421, Malta  
Tel: +356-21484835

## New members



The new ICA Membership statistics are 230 member organisations - i.e. 205 Members and 25 Associate Members from 89 countries.



## News in brief



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**More events:**  
[Calendar of ICA events  
& related co-operative  
activities](#)

Copies of the ICA  
Digest are archived  
on the ICA's web-  
site [www.ica.coop](http://www.ica.coop)

## 2009 Calendar of ICA events and related co-operative activities

### 2009

- 22-24 October 9th ICA Africa Co-operative Ministerial Conference, Nairobi (Kenya)  
[imbsen@ica.coop](mailto:imbsen@ica.coop)
- 27 October Cooperatives Europe Board Meeting, Brussels (Belgium)  
[office@coopseurope.coop](mailto:office@coopseurope.coop)
- 15-16 November ICA Board Meeting, Geneva (Switzerland)
- 16-18 November Meetings of ICA Sectoral Organisations & Thematic Committees in conjunction with ICA General Assembly, Geneva (Switzerland)  
[www.ica.coop/calendar/](http://www.ica.coop/calendar/) for full listing.
- 19-20 November ICA General Assembly, *Global Crisis: Co-operative Opportunity*, Geneva (Switzerland) [www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2009](http://www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2009)
- 21 November Meeting of the newly elected ICA Board, Geneva, (Switzerland)
- 10-11 December ICA Americas Regional Board Meeting, Cali (Colombia)  
[info@aciamericas.coop](mailto:info@aciamericas.coop)
- 14 December Cooperatives Europe Executive Committee Meeting, Brussels (Belgium) [office@coopseurope.coop](mailto:office@coopseurope.coop)

### 2010

- March ICA Board Meeting (*tentative*)
- 19 April Cooperatives Europe European Regional Assembly and European Convention, Moscow (Russia) [www.coopseurope.coop](http://www.coopseurope.coop)
- October ICA Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly and ICA Board Meeting, China
- December ICA Expo 2010, India [www.icaexpo.coop](http://www.icaexpo.coop)

### 2011

ICA General Assembly