



Weekly Digest

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Editorial

Welcome to the third issue of the *Weekly Digest*.

This issue includes a number of items relating to the ICA's sectoral organisations and thematic committees. The nine sectoral organisations and four thematic committees play a key role in the ICA's global structure.

It also reports on a number of events and activities involving the ICA President. The office of ICA President is a voluntary one, elected by the global membership. To successfully carry out its responsibilities requires a significant personal commitment and the active support of the national co-operative organisation. The article below on the recent activities of the President amply demonstrates the level of commitment required.

Busy Time For ICA President

Since assuming the office of ICA President at the Seoul General Assembly in 2002, ICA President Ivano Barberini (Legacoop, Italy) has followed a hectic pace representing the ICA – no more so than over the last 4 months! During this period the President has visited each of the following countries, sometimes more than once: Israel, Slovakia, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Burkina Faso, (*photo opposite*), Kenya, Tanzania, Senegal, USA, Switzerland, Belgium, Kuwait and India. He has made over 10 major conference presentations and held numerous meetings with Prime Ministers, Presidents, and other government ministers. He has also met with the President of the World Bank and the European Union. Over the next two months he will continue this hectic schedule with a visit to Finland, to celebrate 100 years of SOK Finland as well as joining with the Co-operative Union of Serbia in celebrating the 110th anniversary of the first co-operative in that country.



Planning Underway for 2005 General Assembly in Cartagena

ICA General Assemblies (GA) are held every two years. They are the supreme policy making body of the ICA. Generally over 800 delegates attend the GA and the series of related sectoral, thematic and Board meetings. The next GA will be held in Cartagena, Colombia in 2005. Planning has already

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commenced on developing the programme, arranging venues and associated events for what will be the ICA's first GA in South America. ICA Deputy Director General, Maria Elena Chávez Hertig, and ICA European Director, Gabriella Sozanski, who also has responsibility for GA's, have met with ICA Vice President (Americas) Carlos Palacino in Bogotá to sign the agreement for the organisation of the meeting. They are also visiting Cartagena to inspect the meeting venues and hotels. A progress report will be included in *Weekly Digest No 5*.

Recent Changes Mean Larger Role for Sectoral Organisations

The new ICA Rules and Standing Orders approved in Oslo have led to changes to the way Sectoral Organisations (SO's) operate within the ICA. These changes resulted from the recommendations of a special working group set up by the **Task Force** (see *ICA Review of International Co-operation Vol 96 No 1 2003*) to make suggestions on how to increase the role and relevance of SO's within the ICA structure. Their brief also included examining ways to improve the co-ordination of intersectoral activities and information exchanges between the SO's and the ICA itself. The Board reviewed and accepted the recommendations of the working group during its meeting in Oslo.

Specific recommended action includes: establishing a series of "scientific councils" made up of professional experts to share experience and good practice between SO's, e.g. in the areas of finance, communications, training, development and marketing. Regular participation by the ICA President and Director-General in the meetings of the global SO's. Attendance by Regional Directors and ICA Regional Assembly Chairs in the activities of SO's at regional level is also proposed.

The Board also agreed that each Sectoral Organisation should be financially self-sufficient and responsible for its own administration. They also endorsed the proposal of the working group that a new position be established at the ICA headquarters to manage the intersectoral dimension and to be able to fully act upon the recommendations of the report.



ICA Sectoral Organisations Explore Ways for Closer Collaboration



Representatives of the ICA's SO's met in Geneva on 13 February 2004, (*photo opposite*) for their annual meeting with the President and Director-General of ICA. SO's shared reports on their past and future activities as well as their membership. However, the main focus of the meeting was a discussion based on a presentation from the ICA's Director-General Iain Macdonald, describing the various changes in the relationship between Head Office and Sectoral Organisations as a result of the decisions of the General Assembly and Board, described above.

The discussion centred on how best to increase liaison and collaboration between both SO's and the ICA. All agreed that further coordination was essential. One possible way discussed by the meeting was for such liaison to occur on an individual, case by case, project basis. This could be around specific proposals which would interest two or more SO's. Such an approach, it was suggested would ultimately lead to greater intersectoral co-operation among SO's. Suggested areas of collaboration included fair trade, food security, communications and social care. Mr Macdonald indicated that further discussions on the detail of any such initiatives would be taking place with individual SO's over the next few months.

Your Guide to ICA Sectoral Organisations

There are nine sectoral organisations covering industry sectors or co-operative types within the ICA structure. The ICA Board has asked Board member Jean-Claude Detilleux (*photo opposite*) to be the liaison person between the SO's and the Board.



The current SO's and their contact details are listed below.

- Agriculture International Co-operative Agricultural Organisation (ICAO) www.agricoop.org
President Won Churll-Hee (Korea) president@agricoop.org
Secretary General Keun-Won Lyu (Korea) secretariat@agricoop.org
- Banking International Co-operative Banking Association (ICBA) www.ica.coop/icba
President Eugeniusz Laszkiewicz (Poland) biurowaw@kzbs.pol.pl
Secretary Irmina Danilowska (Poland)
- Consumer Consumer Coop International (CCI) www.ica.coop/cci
President Giuseppe Fabretti (Italy) a.cosciotti@ancc.coop.it
- Fisheries International Co-operative Fisheries Organisation (ICFO) www.ica.coop/ica/ica/sb/fish
Chair Shoji Uemura (Japan) icfo@zengyoren.or.jp
Secretary Masaaki Sato (Japan) Kokusai-sato@r6.dion.ne.jp
- Health International Health Co-operative Organisation (IHCO) www.ica.coop/ihco
President José Carlos Guisado (Spain) jcguisado@fundacionespriu.coop
- Housing International Co-operative Housing Organisation (ICHO) www.ica.coop/ica/ica/sb/housing
President Jens Heiser heiser@bds-hamburg.de
Vice President Claus Hachmann (Germany) hachmann@gdw.de
- Insurance International Cooperative and Mutual Insurers Federation (ICMIF) www.icmif.org
Chair Jean-Louis Bancel (France) Jean-Louis_Bancel@fnmf.fr
CEO Hans Dahlberg ICMIF hans@icmif.org
- Tourism International Association of Tourism Co-operatives (TICA) www.ica.coop/tica/
Chair Maurizio Davolio (Italy) mdavo@tin.it
- Workers International Organisation of Industrial, Artisanal and Service Producers' Co-operatives (CICOPA) www.ica.coop/ica/ica/sb/cicopa.html
President Rainer Schlüter rsc@cecop.coop
Secretary Bruno Roelants BRoelants@compuserve.com

Gabriella Sozánski sozanski@ica.coop is the official currently dealing with SO's at ICA Head Office.

Meetings Set Stage for 2004 Regional Work Programmes

It is normal practice for the five regional offices of the ICA to hold annual planning meetings to develop detailed work plans for the coming year. ICA Head Office staff joins the Regional Directors and other regional staff at these meetings. The inclusion of Head Office staff ensures that regional priorities are developed within overall global priorities and resources. ICA Director-General Iain Macdonald, Director of Development Jan-Eirik Imbsen and Director of Finance Guy Malacrida recently met with Asia Pacific Regional Director Shil Kwan Lee and staff in New Delhi, India to discuss the 2004 regional work plan and budget. These meetings were timed to coincide with the 7th Asia Pacific Co-operative Ministers Conference (see last issue of *Weekly Digest*). During the current week, Directors Imbsen and Malacrida are meeting in Costa Rica to discuss similar matters with ICA Regional Director for the Americas, Manuel Mariño. Future issues will follow up these regional discussions and carry items detailing 2004 programme priorities.

Co-operative Research in 2004

Co-operative research has a long history in the global co-operative movement. It is the focus of one of the ICA's four thematic committees, the ICA Research Committee (www.ica.coop/ica/ica/sb/research) which is almost fifty years old. The Committee holds international research conferences, generally every two years. Selected papers from these conferences are published in special research issues of the *Review of International Co-operation* (www.ica.coop/ica/review) published by the ICA. National and academic research conferences along with regional ICA research conferences are also regularly held. A number of events are planned for 2004, they include:

- 22-23 March *Co-operatives and Nation Building in East Central Europe*, organised by European University Viadrina, Frankfurt, Germany www.wsgn.uni-ffo.de/team/lorenz.html
- 6-9 May *The Future of Co-operatives in a Growing Europe*, organised by IUDESCOOP (University of Valencia), CIRIEC-Espana and ICA Research Committee www.uv.es/iudescoop/ICA-2004/
- 3-7 Sept *Vertical Markets and Co-operative Hierarchies: The Role of Co-operatives in the International Agri-Food Industry* organized by Mediterranean Agronomic institute of Chania (MAIch), Crete, Greece www.esf.org/euresco/04/sc04171.
- 4-5 Sept UK Society of Co-op Studies Annual Conference www.co-opstudies.org/
- 7-9 Sept *XVth International Conference of Co-operative Economy: Competitive Advantage of the Co-operatives' Networks* organised by Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, Germany fb4-9924.uni-muenster.de/~06/igt/english/html/igt.html
- December *Third Asia-Pacific Co-operative Research Conference for the Asia-Pacific Region* organised by ICA ROAP and Asia Pacific Regional Co-operative Forum. Contact Mr. P Nair nair@icaroap.coop or Mr. Madhav V. Madane mvmadane@pn3.vsnl.net.in

In Memoriam

Jacques Moreau (*photo*) died on 8 January 2004 at the age of 76. He will be remembered for his lifelong service to the State, the co-operative movement and the social economy, both in France and throughout the world. His achievements included contributing to the modernisation of the co-operative banking sector and the social economy in France. He was President of the Foundation of Crédit Coopératif until 2003, President of the Groupement National de la Coopération from 1984 until 1998, and Member of the Board of the ICA from 1988 to 1992. He will be remembered as an important co-operative leader, thinker and author. Michel Rocard, former Prime Minister was among a number of distinguished French personalities who attended a ceremony held in his memory on 2 February 2004.



Current and past issues of the Weekly Digest can be found on the ICA's website www.ica.coop.